Refreshed IN THE WORD
For thy word hath quickened me
PSALM 119:50

Torah Studies

Connecting the Torah and Jesus

STUDY 25

Honor God and Love Your Neighbor

Day 25 · Leviticus 24

Read Leviticus 24 and consider faithful worship, careful speech, and fair justice. Follow Jesus' teaching about light, mercy, and freedom from revenge.

For personal reading and study with friends

King James Version · Complete Scripture passages

Read and share online

Read one section at a time. Take turns reading the verses aloud, discuss the questions, and choose one practical response. Every passage referenced in the teaching is included in full.

Let’s begin together

Father, guide our worship and our words. Help us understand Your holiness, practice fairness, and follow Jesus when we are hurt. In His name, amen.

Leviticus 24 begins with the lamps and bread in the sanctuary. It then records a case of blasphemy and gives laws about injury and justice. These subjects share a concern for honoring the holy God in the life of Israel’s community.

Main truth: Honor for God should shape our worship, speech, and treatment of other people.

1. Faithfulness includes ordinary care

Leviticus 24:1-4

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

3 Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.

4 He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually.

The people supplied pure olive oil, and Aaron tended the lamps before the Lord. Faithful worship involved regular attention. Someone brought the oil; someone cared for the light. Small tasks mattered because they served the worship God had established.

Leviticus 24:5-9

5 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake.

6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD.

7 And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

9 And it shall be Aaron’s and his sons’; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute.

Twelve loaves were arranged before the Lord, renewed each Sabbath, and eaten by the priests in a holy place. The bread belonged within Israel’s covenant worship. These repeated acts show a community learning to keep its commitments before God, week after week.

2. God’s name was not to be treated lightly

Leviticus 24:10-16

10 And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp;

11 And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:)

12 And they put him in ward, that the mind of the LORD might be shewed them.

13 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

14 Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

15 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.

16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

During a fight, a man cursed and blasphemed the Lord’s name. Blasphemy here means speaking against God with serious contempt. The community held him while seeking the Lord’s instruction. The punishment given is severe and belongs to Israel’s ancient covenant law. It is not permission for Christians to punish someone violently for offensive speech.

The man's mixed family background is part of the story, but the stated offense is his blasphemy. The law addresses both the native and the foreigner. We should not turn this account into suspicion toward people of a different ancestry.

3. Justice must not depend on who you are

Leviticus 24:17-23

17 And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.

18 And he that killeth a beast shall make it good; beast for beast.

19 And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbour; as he hath done, so shall it be done to him;

20 Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.

21 And he that killeth a beast, he shall restore it: and he that killeth a man, he shall be put to death.

22 Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.

23 And Moses spake to the children of Israel, that they should bring forth him that had cursed out of the camp, and stone him with stones. And the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses.

The chapter distinguishes killing a person from killing an animal, requires restitution, and names proportionate consequences for injury. “Eye for eye” belongs to this setting of public justice. It must not become an excuse for a personal cycle of revenge. Verse 22 insists on one standard of law for the native and the foreigner.

4. Jesus calls us away from revenge

Matthew 5:38-42

38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.

41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Jesus directly names “eye for eye” and calls His disciples to a generous response instead of personal retaliation. He challenges the desire to make someone pay back every insult. This teaching does not require staying in an abusive situation. Seeking safety and truthful help can go together with refusing revenge.

Matthew 5:43-48

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Jesus goes further: love your enemies and pray for those who mistreat you. God’s kindness becomes our pattern. Loving an enemy does not mean calling evil good. It means refusing hatred as our guide and seeking a response shaped by the Father’s generous love.

5. Let your light be seen

Matthew 5:14-16

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Jesus calls His disciples the light of the world. This is a helpful connection with the chapter’s opening picture of tended lamps, though Jesus is not giving instructions about sanctuary oil here. Our good works should help people honor the Father. Steady kindness can make faith visible.

Talk it over with friends

1. Which small responsibilities help a community worship faithfully?

2. How is fair justice different from personal revenge?

3. What could loving an enemy look like without excusing harm?

Put it into practice

Before answering an insult, pause and pray. Choose a truthful, peaceful response. If harm is continuing, seek help from someone able to protect you. Then do one quiet good deed that points toward the Father's care.

A verse to carry with you

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Let your actions help others see the goodness of the Father.

Let’s pray together

Father, teach us to honor Your name and care for our neighbors. Guard our speech, make our decisions fair, and free our hearts from revenge. Help us seek safety where needed and show the steady kindness of Jesus. In His name, amen.

I love you, my friends.

Scripture and sources

Scripture text was checked against the King James Version published by eBible.org. The complete verses are reproduced with their historical wording. Verse numbers and layout are adapted for reading; editorial footnotes are omitted. Tap any Scripture reference to view its source.

Bible edition and text