

Lesson Plan for Lesson 25

Sources of Moral Truth

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 25, “Sources of Moral Truth,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each participant.
- Make copies of the handout “The Precepts of the Church” (Document #: TX003409), one for each participant.
- On a sheet of newsprint, list the numbers 1 through 7 down the left side. Next to each number, print a large “O” and a large “N” with enough space between them to record a check mark.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class is going to begin with a prayer. **Direct** them to find the prayer in the Pray It! “A Prayer for Moral Courage,” on page 277 in the handbook. **Ask** several volunteers to take turns reading the prayer. Conclude by **leading** the young people in praying the Glory Be together.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Natural Moral Law

1. **Brainstorm** with the whole class the types of moral dilemmas that youth between the ages of nine and twelve face daily. If some of the participants have younger brothers or sisters, they will have firsthand knowledge of such situations. Others might remember what it was like to be that age. **List** the situations or issues on the board.
2. **Direct** the young people to read the chapter introduction and the section “Natural Moral Law,” on pages 275–277 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 and 2 on the handout “Lesson 25 Summary” (Document #: TX003408).
3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also invite discussion on the Reflect questions on page 277 in the handbook.

B. Old Law and New Law

1. **Tell** the participants to form pairs and answer the following questions:
 - To whom do you turn when you have to make a tough decision?
 - How does this person help you?
 - What makes you turn to this person?



If there is time, **ask** a few volunteers to share their answers.

2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “Old Law and New Law” and “Church Law,” on pages 278–283 in the handbook. The content covers points 3 through 8 on the handout “Lesson 25 Summary.”
3. **(Optional) Distribute** a Bible to each participant, and ask the young people to read the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew, chapters 5–7. **Invite** them to share the teachings they find the most challenging to live out.

C. Conscience

Direct the participants to read the section “Conscience,” on pages 283–285 in the handbook. The content covers point 9 on the handout “Lesson 25 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (10 to 15 minutes)

1. **Distribute** a copy of the handout “The Precepts of the Church” (Document #: TX003409) and a Bible to each participant. **Tell** the young people that they may work alone or in groups of their own choosing.

Explain the task as follows:

- You are on a quest to uncover the biblical roots of the five Precepts of the Church. You might be able to uncover only one or two roots or you might discover several. Try to discover the roots of all five precepts, and write down your findings.
- Some Precepts of the Church might have roots in both the Old Testament and the New Testament—perhaps in the Old Law of the Ten Commandments or in the New Law of Jesus Christ. Others might have roots in just one of them.
- Use the handbook and the Bible in your search.
- If you find a root in the Old Law, write on the handout either the place in the Old Testament where you found it or which Commandment you think it is.
- If you find a root in the New Law, write on the handout a few words to describe the New Testament story that it comes from, or write the chapter and verse number of the New Testament passage that contains the root.

You might want to give the participants hints, for example, the location of the Ten Commandments is Exodus 20:1–17 or Deuteronomy 5:1–21, the Beatitudes are found in Matthew 5:1—6:34. You might also make correlations between the loaves and the fishes, the Last Supper, and the Emmaus story in relation to the Eucharist, and so on.

2. When everyone is done, **record** the results, 1 through 7, by placing a check mark next to the large “O” when anyone suggests a valid root in the Old Law and next to the large “N” when anyone suggests a valid root in the New Law for that particular Church law. **Invite** someone advocating a particular root to explain why the Church law stems from a certain Old or New Law. **Invite** others



to add reasons if the first person didn't name all of them. Gently **challenge** any reasons or connections that seem too far off the mark.

3. **Share** the following comment in your own words:
 - The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are a special expression of natural law, making perfectly clear through God's Revelation what he had already placed in the human heart.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **direct** the participants to page 448 in the handbook and pray the "Act of Love" together.

