

Crucial Questions

Is It Ever Appropriate for a Christian to Break the Law?

CONNECT:

What are you most devoted to in your life?

PREPARE:

Read Luke 14:26. What is the meaning of this verse—especially when Scripture also tells us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbor as ourself (Matt. 22:37-39), as well as the call to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44)?

STUDY AND DISCUSS:

Discuss the following examples in Scripture of God's people not obeying the law. What was the law that was broken? How did they remain faithful to God in their circumstances?

- Moses' mom putting him in the Nile instead of killing him
 - Mordecai not bowing down to Haman
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not bowing down and worshipping the golden image
 - Daniel still praying to God
- What are some times in American history when Christians disobeyed the law in order to obey God's law?
 - Read Romans 13:1-2. In what way does this verse give instruction on when and when not to obey the authorities?
 - One of the Ten Commandments is, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12). Read Colossians 3:20-21 and Ephesians 6:1-4 in regards to children and their parents. Who are the audiences of these verses and what are some stipulations of them?

Community Group Discussion Questions

- Idolatry - Name what you are tempted to put in Jesus' place?
- Read Colossians 1:15-16. How, as Christians, is the preeminence of Jesus greater than our human rulers?

RESPONSE:

Read Philippians 2:9-11. How does this verse encourage you?

PRAY

Pray that you remain faithful to God's word and the truth found in it so as to be ready for any situation you may find yourself in that would require you to make a decision to follow Christ at the expense of another earthly authority in your life.