

Learning God's Way

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 13**.

❖ When the Israelites reached Canaan, Moses sent scouts into the land. The Israelites discovered that the land was rich, but the people were fierce. The Israelites became fearful. They wanted to choose a new leader and return to Egypt. Caleb and Joshua suggested that the Israelites seize Canaan. Joshua believed that if the Lord was pleased with the Israelites, he would give them Canaan. In response to Joshua's words, the people threatened to stone him. Despite everything that God had done for them, they still did not fully trust him.

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❖ God appeared to Moses in the Tent of Meeting and said that he would disown the people. He was very disappointed that they still did not trust him. Moses offered a special prayer called a prayer of intercession. Thanks to Moses' intercession, God agreed to show mercy and forgiveness to the people.

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❖ God told Moses he could not lead the Israelites into Canaan because he struck the rock twice at Meribah to bring forth water. Moses showed his lack of faith.

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❖ The Beatitudes are guidelines to help us find happiness in the Kingdom of God. They give us choices that help point us toward better lives. Jesus gave us the Beatitudes during his Sermon on the Mount. Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3–12.

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❖ Obligations are duties that we have because we have agreed to them. We have obligations to our families, to our schools, and to our friends. We also have obligations to God, such as following the commandments.

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❖ Principles are truths we believe in strongly enough to act on them. Jesus gave us many principles in his Sermon on the Mount. Many of these principles teach us how to respect others and how to love God.

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❖ We must always consider the consequences of our choices. If a choice weakens our friendship with God or hurts others, then it is a poor choice.

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❖ A conscience is the ability to judge how good or bad an act is. A conscience is a special gift. We must give it accurate information and expose it to God's teachings so that it can help us make good choices. The Holy Spirit guides our consciences by helping us decide whether an act is good or bad.

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❖ If we make a bad decision, our conscience feels uneasy or unhappy. That uneasy feeling is a warning sign that we have made a decision that could lead us away from God. It is also a sign that we can be brought back to God by fixing our bad choices.

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❖ A good conscience helps us be more like Jesus. By following a good conscience, we are closer to finding true happiness in the Kingdom of God.

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