Introduction: Draw attention to our attitudes toward laws.

Introduce today’s session by asking the question “What are some laws we have that you consider to be over-the-top or unfair?”

Share some of the seemingly silly laws, organized by state, at the following article, “Here Are 50 of the Dumbest Laws in Every State”: https://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/dumbest-laws-america/

Ask, “Do we consider some of God’s laws to be unfair? Why did God give His laws to Israel and preserve them for us to read?” Challenge group members to consider who gave the laws of the Old Testament and why He gave them.

Point 1: Play a video to supplement doctrinal comprehension.

After discussing the distinction between general revelation and special revelation, engage group members by asking for volunteers to explains these two terms in their own words.

After several volunteers have shared, show the following video, “What is Divine Revelation?” (3 minutes, 30 seconds), which gives a simple, visual explanation of the two types of revelation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n7aETt_9u0

Point 3: Distinguish between the vertical and horizontal.

After discussing that the Ten Commandments are both vertical (instructing us on how to interact with God) and horizontal (instructing us on how to interact with others), reveal that you have brought a needle and thread with you to the meeting. Put the following into your own words: “This needle represents my relationship with God; the thread represents my relationship with others.”
Invite a volunteer to thread the needle. Then invite that same volunteer to thread the needle while you hold it. (This is much more difficult.) Add the following explanation: “Just as it’s hard to thread a needle when the needle is not stable, it’s impossible to have a God-honoring relationship with others when our relationship with God is not secure.” Encourage group members to prioritize their relationship with the Father ahead of even their relationships with their family, friends, and community. Only when our vertical relationship is our top priority will we love others well, and we cannot divorce the vertical and horizontal commands from one another.

**Conclusion: Show law and grace as complementary.**

Say something like the following: “Most people don’t look at the Law of Moses in the Old Testament or even the teachings of Jesus and see grace. But we as those who believe the gospel should.”

Share the points made in this article, “Grace: The Reason for God’s Law,” to help group members pursue the correct attitude toward the Law: [https://www.godswordforyou.com/thoughts/75-understanding-grace/509-9-grace-the-reason-for-gods-law.html](https://www.godswordforyou.com/thoughts/75-understanding-grace/509-9-grace-the-reason-for-gods-law.html)

Challenge group members this week to thank God for His law, which reveals His love, points us to the necessity of grace, and gives Him glory.

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Lifelong church attenders may think they know and follow the Ten Commandments fairly well. Challenge them to obtain a book on the Ten Commandments to help them fully understand the extent of these commands, their high standards, wisdom, and implications. You might want to suggest *The Ten Commandments: Ethics for the Twenty-First Century* by Mark F. Rooker; *Keeping the Ten Commandments* by J. I. Packer; or *The 10 Greatest Struggles of Your Life: Finding Freedom in God's Commands* by Colin S. Smith.