

Topic: God is Severe (Strict) (Lesson 37)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

This lesson should be taught after the lesson on "God is Kind." The lesson is necessary for the children to understand that God means what He says in His word, especially about consequences.

Elementary:

Verse: "Behold then the kindness and severity of God..." (Romans 11:22a).

Focus: God is both kind and severe (strict). When God says something He means it. We must follow God's way and not our own way.

Practical Application: Parents have rules and regulations at home that the children must follow. They cannot draw with crayons wherever they want, speak disrespectfully to their parents, or stay up as late as they want. Because the parents love their children, they are strict with their children in implementing the rules.

Intermediate:

Verse: "Jehovah has severely chastened me..." (Psalm 118:18a).

Focus: God is both kind and severe. Like loving parents, He knows that it will spoil us if He lets us get away with disobeying Him. Therefore, if God says there is a certain punishment for disobeying Him, then He will punish those who disobey Him according to what He said.

Practical Application: It is important for children to understand that there are consequences to our actions. Being kind does not mean that rules are not enforced. This is true in our family and also in society. The children could come up with a list of situations and state what the consequences should be. For example, what would happen if someone stole something from a store, lied to their parents, or cheated in class? What if a person brought something not allowed to school? Should they be punished or just allowed to do it? Why? What would happen if they were not punished?

Advanced:

Verse: "Behold then the kindness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but on you, the kindness of God..." (Romans 11:22).

Focus: God is severe in His judgment. If you commit an offense there will be consequences regardless of the size of the offense or who is committing it.

Practical Application: Suppose there was a mean boy at school who regularly bullied other children. One day he brought something that was illegal (like a weapon) to school. This act is very serious, and he should be suspended. Now suppose a nice, "straight-A" student brought something illegal to school. Should he or she be suspended as well? The answer is yes. The rule should be enforced in the same way, regardless of the student. God enforces His rules fairly but strictly. Regardless of who commits the offense, there will be consequences.