



## **Sabbath School Lesson 5 | Oct 23-Oct 29**

# Sabbath School Lesson Notes Outline

## *The Stranger in Your Gates*

### **A What do we need to love the stranger?**

- ❖ The Israelites were already transgressing the Law by making a golden idol while God was writing it on stone tablets (Deuteronomy 9:11-12).
- ❖ Moses broke the tablets God had written because the people had broken the Covenant. However, God forgave them and ordered Moses to prepare new tablets, giving them a new chance (Deuteronomy 10:1-2).
- ❖ They needed a circumcision of the heart (Deuteronomy 10:16). Only then they could “love the stranger.” (Deuteronomy 10:19)

### **B Why should we love the stranger?**

- ❖ **Because God loves them.**
  - Deuteronomy 10:17-18 enumerates the reasons why we should love the stranger.
  - God is almighty. He does not need anything and can do anything He wants to. Still, He loves the stranger and helps them. He also invites us to love them and help them.
- ❖ **Because we are strangers too.**
  - God encouraged the people of Israel to remember their own experience as slaves in Egypt, and to treat the stranger and the marginalized as a full citizens. The law should be the same for natives and foreigners.
  - We are also slaves. We’ve been enslaved by sin, and we are strangers on this Earth. We must be a light that shows the love of God through the way we lovingly treat others. We must treat others as we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

### **C How should we treat the stranger?**

- ❖ **Treating them fairly.**
  - God wants everyone to be treated fairly, no matter their social position: stranger or native, poor or rich (Deuteronomy 16:19; 27:17; 27:19).
  - These rules are based in God’s own nature. He is fair and does not accept bribes (Deuteronomy 10:17). The messages of the prophets are full of reprimands for subjecting the defenseless to the poor treatment (Jeremiah 22:3; Ezekiel 22:29; Zechariah 7:10; Malachi 3:5).

- We may not have legal authority to change the laws of our country or how they are applied. However, we can treat everyone we meet the same way regardless of their condition.

❖ **Caring for them.**

- Paying the wage of the workers promptly, returning the clothes borrowed from the poor, not going into someone's house to collect the debt. These are ways to show respect and care for those in need and for the stranger (Deuteronomy 24:10-15).
- James wrote about the same respect and care for those in need within the Church, rejecting the privileges of the rich which are a detriment to the poor (James 2:1-7).
- James considered partiality a transgression of the Ten Commandments (James 2:8-11). Pure religion involves caring for others (James 1:27).