

Visuals With Points To Ponder To Help You Find Jesus' Principles

CLASS 12 OF 28 VIDEO COURSES

APRIL SORBONNE AND REFLECT VARIOUS RESOURCES, ONE OF WHICH IS THE "SEEKING JESUS" COURSE. PLEASE NOTE: If you have questions about this PDF file or have problems printing it, please contact:

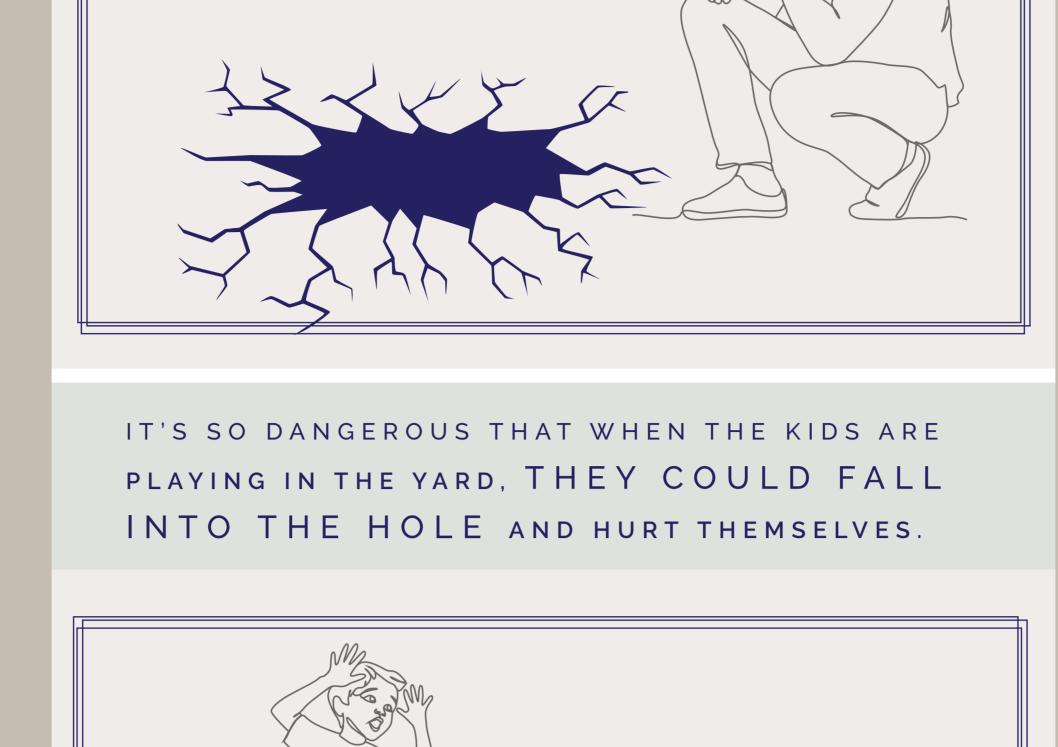
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SEEKING AN ANALOGY

YOU WAKE UP ONE DAY AND THERE IS A LARGE AND VERY DEEP HOLE IN YOUR BACKYARD.





SIN

WE CAN LIKEN A HOLE TO SIN.



alcohol. LET'S LOOK AT LAW-THERE ARE CORE LAWS AND FENCE LAWS

AS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE, CONSIDER THE WORD OF

WISDOM. DRINKING ALCOHOL WOULD BE FALLING

INTO THE HOLE OF SIN, SO TO PROTECT YOURSELF, YOU

It's NOT A SIN to go to a bar, but for some people it

could be helpful to have a FENCE LAW to help them avoid

MIGHT CREATE a FENCE LAW of NOT going to bars.

The Word of Wisdom is what we NOT going to a bar is a **FENCE LAW** —it's something that can protect you refer to as a CORE LAW—it's

FENCE LAWS

laws

from breaking the CORE LAW.

CORE LAWS

something that's required to have

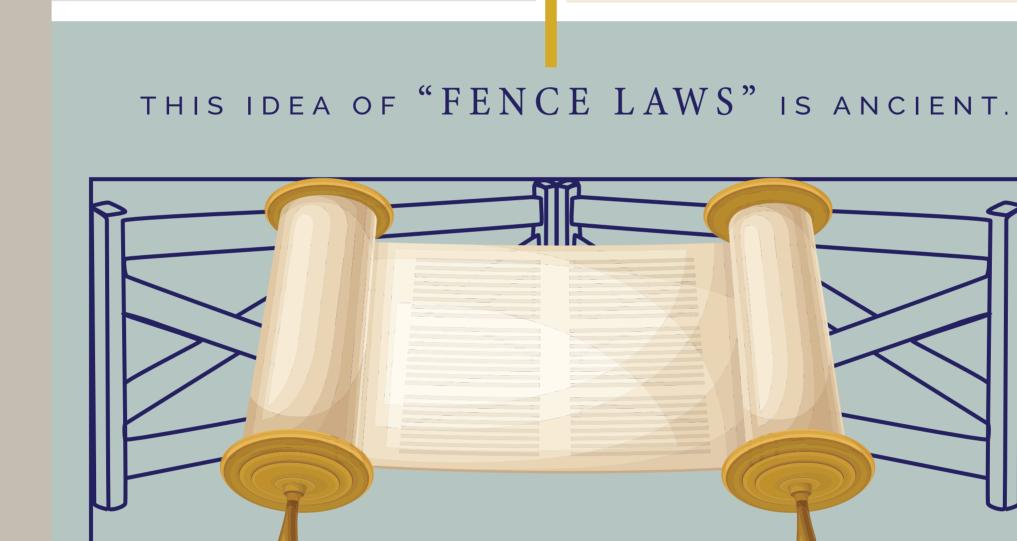
לא תחמד

a temple recommend.

fence

MIET F לא יהיה לא תשא

בבד את



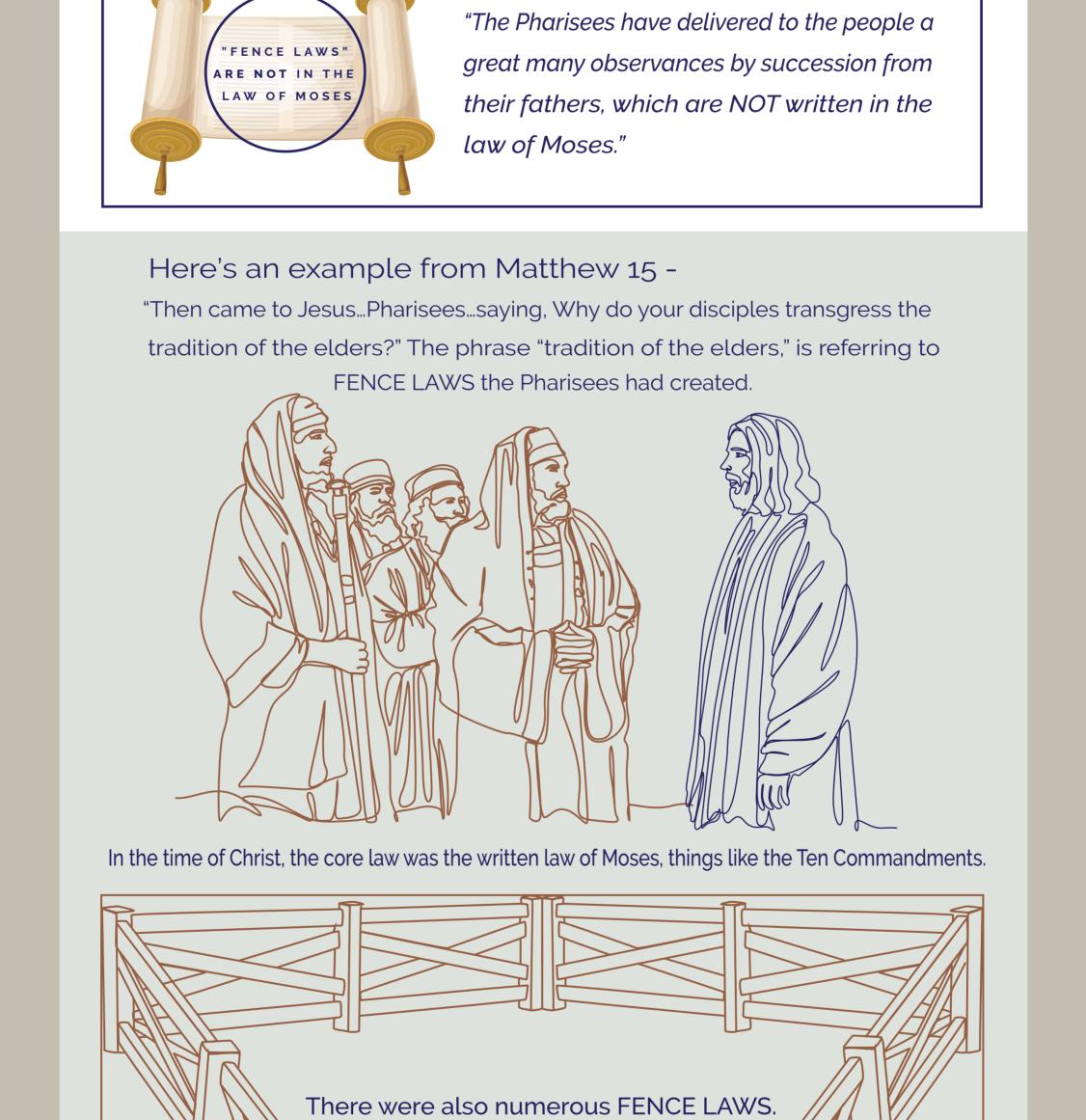
THE COMMANDMENTS. ONE GROUP OF JEWS THAT HAD PARTICULARLY STRICT fence laws was the pharisees.

EARLY JEWISH LEADERS USED THE PHRASE

"make a fence around the law"

TO DESCRIBE EXTRA RULES PUT IN PLACE

TO HELP PEOPLE AVOID BREAKING



Many of the Pharisees' fence laws

pertained to the Sabbath Day.

Keeping the Sabbath holy is a core law—it's one of the Ten Commandments.

To keep people from violating this commandment, the Pharisees created FENCE LAWS like don't

walk far distances, carry certain objects, or start a fire on the Sabbath. These things don't

necessarily violate the core law, they are fences to stop people from breaking the core laws.

DON'T walk far distances.

DON'T carry certain objects.

DON'T start a fire on the Sabbath

"You should never go into

the bedroom of a member

of the opposite sex."

"REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY,

לא תענה

EXODUS 20:8

TO KEEP IT HOLY"

לא תשא

THE ANCIENT HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS WROTE -

WE DO SIMILAR THINGS TODAY... Fence laws exist around many commandments. They come from a variety of sources, including teachers, families, culture, prophets, and the Holy Ghost. Whether or not we realize it, we frequently interact with $fence \ laws.$ CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: WHAT MOVIES ARE WHAT TYPES OF ARE APPROPRIATE? A SCENIC **SWIMSUITS ARE MODEST?** APPROPRIATE TO WATCH?

Your answers and reactions to these and similar questions will depend

For a concrete example of fence laws, consider the law of chastity,

an important core law. Because the temptation to be unchaste is strong, a variety of fence

on what types of fence laws you have and how deeply you hold to them.

For example, a mother might provide a **fence law** for her daughter. -

laws could be put in place to help us keep this law.

A FENCE LAW lovingly given to help keep the LAW OF CHASTITY. Other fence laws... An unmarried college student might prayerfully consider her standards and create a personal fence law, such as not kissing for more than a few minutes. A married couple could determine that it is wise for each of them to avoid being alone in a car with a member of the opposite sex.

These are protections put in place to help prevent people from breaking the core law of

SIX ASPECTS OF FENCE LAWS

JESUS interacted with fence laws,

so let's explore them a little more.

chastity. These fence laws, which are not required, might be helpful for some people.

Fence laws have both pros and cons. Let's start by saying one big benefit of fence laws is that they can help us avoid sin.



keeping track of them can be a challenge. Sometimes, well-meaning amplifications of divine principles—many coming from uninspired sources—complicate matters further, diluting the purity of divine truth Elder with man-made addenda. One person's good Dieter F. idea—something that may work for him or Uchtdorf her—takes root and becomes an expectation."

 $P\ R\ O\ S$: Fence laws can help us FOCUS ON THE MARK, and help avoid sin and its'

 $C\ O\ N\ S$: If we are not careful, fence laws can become our focus and we MISS

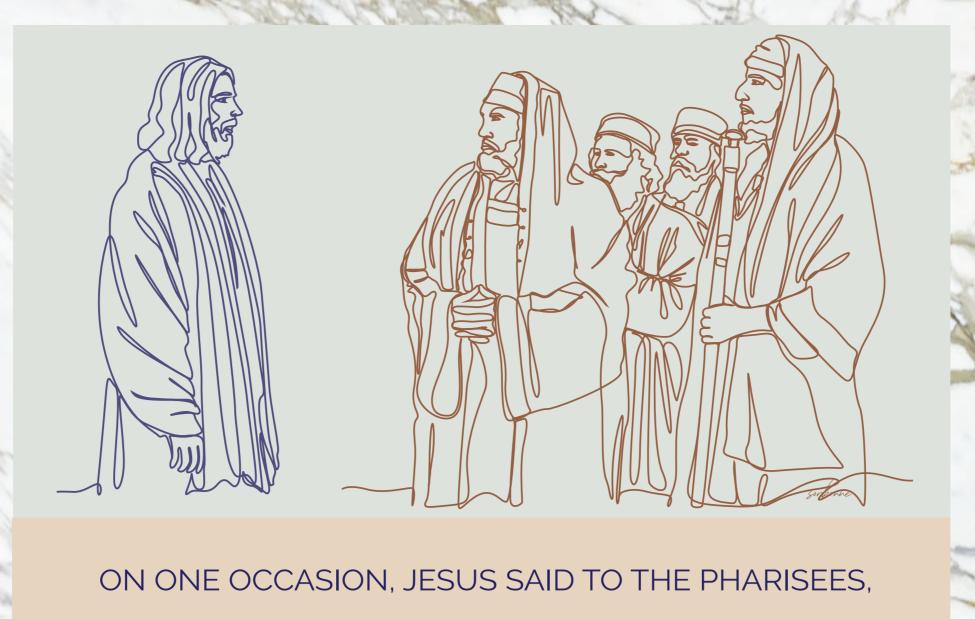
THE MARK as we are looking at the fence.

consequences.

"Keeping the commandments] may present

a problem for some because there are so

many 'shoulds' and 'should nots' that merely



"You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."

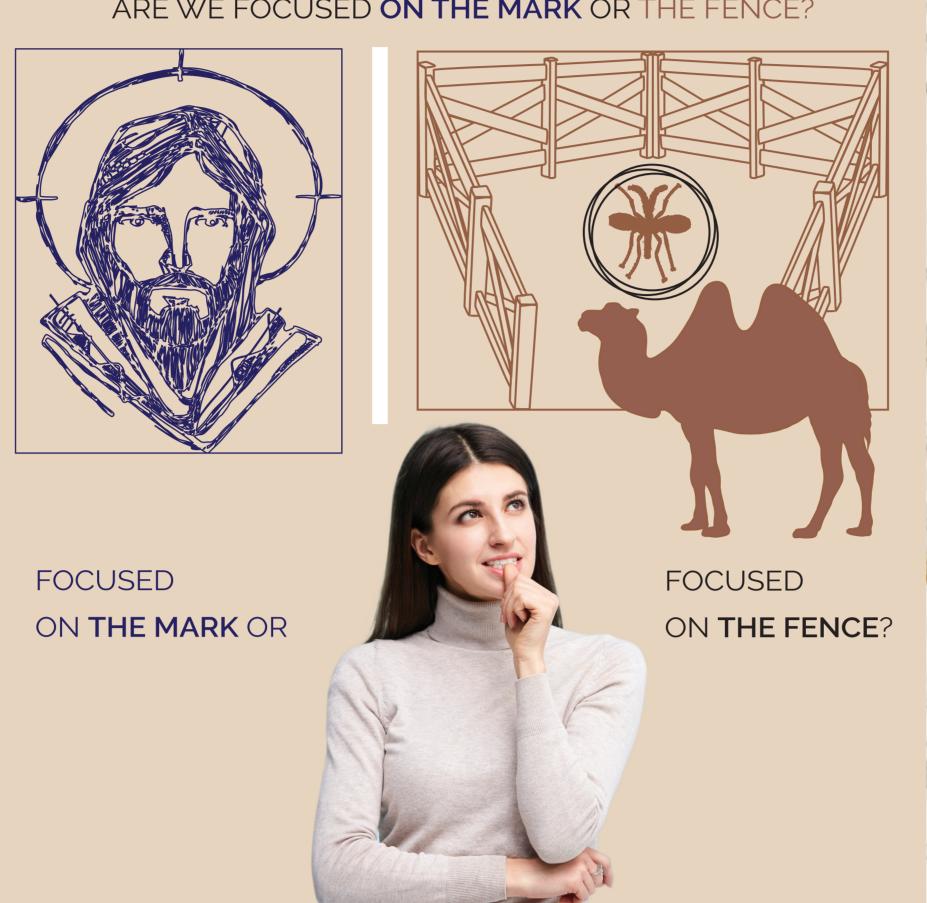
Now, just to be clear, under Jewish law you're not supposed to eat gnats, and you're not supposed to eat camels. These are both bad, but it is like Jesus is saying,

"You're going to all this effort to strain gnats out of your water to make sure you DON'T accidentally drink one, but then you turn around and swallow a whole camel.

In other words, "You're missing the mark."

WHAT ABOUT US?

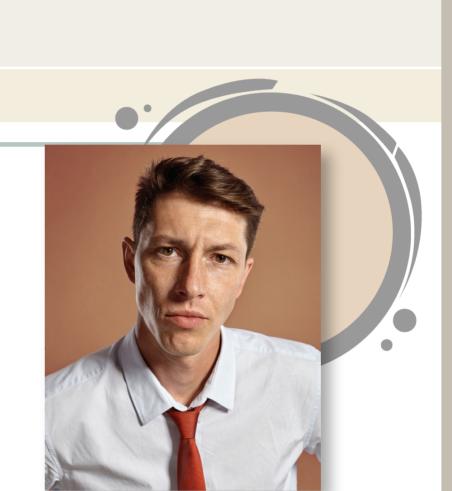
ARE WE FOCUSED ON THE MARK OR THE FENCE?



CONSIDER

A MODERN EXAMPLE

A man we'll call Brad was zealous in his observance of the Sabbath day. He read only Church materials on Sunday and did not consume popular media. **He also made** sure he stayed in a white shirt and tie throughout the day. For Brad, these fences were an important part of keeping the Sabbath day holy. When Brad lived on the East Coast of the United States, he didn't notice how other Church members observed the Sabbath because he did not often see them outside of Church meetings. When Brad moved to Utah, he did not approve of the actions of many of his neighbors whose fences were different from his own. He was particularly irritated when he saw a member of the bishopric out delivering goodies to ward members on Sunday wearing shorts and a T-shirt.



Nothing is wrong with any of Brad's fence laws— in fact, each of them could be very helpful in facilitating feeling the Holy Ghost on the Sabbath. However, Brad missed the mark by using his own fence laws to make judgments of others. This hurt Brad, as the mental energy he could have expended in drawing closer to Christ was diverted to judging others.

SABBATH fence laws



IMPORTANT FENCE LAWS TAUGHT BY THE PROPHET



When the Prophet teaches something, that puts it into a different category from many of the fence laws we've been discussing.

Speaking about a fence law given by a prophet, a person might say, "I don't understand why we need this fence," to which her friend responds,

"That's the point. Seers see things we cannot see."

We want to follow the prophets, seers and revelators.

One of the temple recommend questions is, "Do you sustain the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators?" THIS IS A CORE LAW.

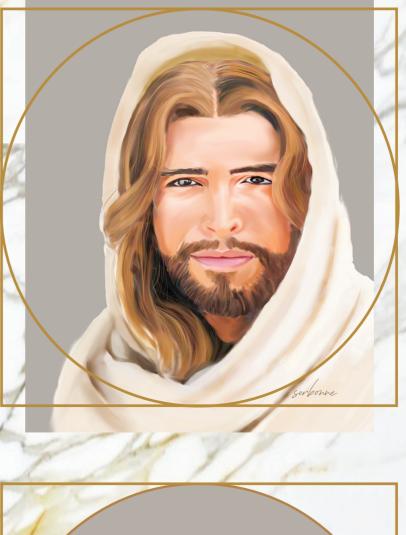
Jesus also taught it, saying, "Thou shalt give heed unto all [the Prophet's]

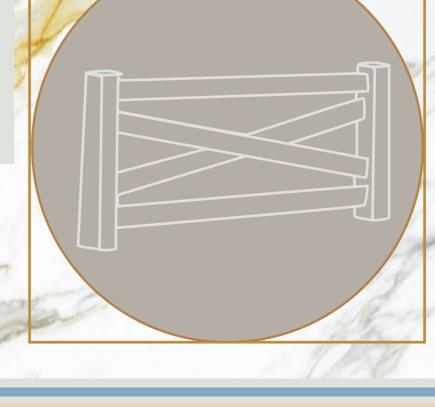
words and commandments which he giveth unto you as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me. For his word ye shall receive as if from mine own mouth in all patience and faith."



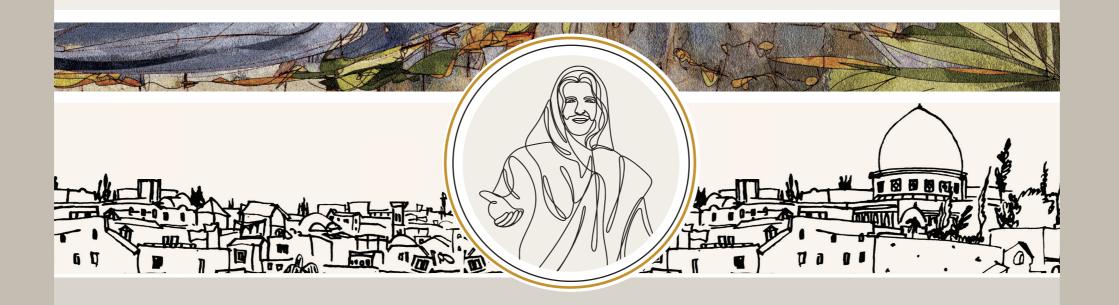
will help us see "things as they really are" (Jacob 4:13),

and if we listen carefully, will help us know what we need to do. At times this will be to set stricter (or looser) fence laws; at other times it may be instruction to be less (or more) strict in fence laws with our children or others we have stewardship over. We'll know how to handle specific situations by searching diligently in the light of Christ.









SEEKING JESUS

 $\frac{\text{visuals \& points to ponder / printables}}{\text{all to help } F \ I \ N \ D \ \text{Jesus' Principles}}$



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