

Caring for God's Creation

God Cares

As well as giving Moses the Ten Commandments, God gave many **smaller rules** that would help the people to live in health and peace together. God wanted them to be **fair** and **kind** to one another.

God showed his people by his laws that he cares about their safety, and wants to protect them.

In Moses' day, quarrels quickly broke out and often lasted a long time. If one member of a family was hurt, his relatives would pay back the injury. Their revenge often led to more raids and killings.

God taught his people not to have long-lasting feuds. If anyone was harmed, the man who did it must be fairly punished and there the matter must end. This law of **fair punishment** said that it should be 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' – and no more. This was not a cruel or vengeful law: God was setting a strict limit and softening ancient customs of savage vengeance.

God showed his people by his laws that he cares about those who are not strong enough to fight for their rights. He gave special laws so that the badly off, the foreigners and those unable to earn their living would be taken care of. And he spoke often of his special care for **orphans** and those with no one to provide for them. Farmers were to leave a little grain in the fields and some fruit on the trees to provide the **poor** with. If a poor man who was unable to pay his bills had his cloak taken from him in payment, God said that it must be given back to him at night, so that he could warm while he slept.

God showed his people by his laws that he cares for **animals** too. If a donkey fell under its load, God's law said that a passer-by must help it up again, even if it belonged to his worst enemy. If anyone found a mother bird sitting on her nest, God's law said that he was to let her go free and not harm her.

God's laws taught the people what God is like. They helped people to understand that God is **just** and **good** and that he cares about every detail of life. Even the least important people matter to him and ordinary everyday happenings are his concern. God wanted his people to be like him.

1. What are TWO things God wants people to do to one another? [2]

2. What does the law of punishment say? [2]

3. God spoke often of his special care for orphans. What is the meaning of orphans? [1]

4. How did God say to treat the poor that cannot pay their bills?

- a. Feed them and clothe them.
- b. Give a house and clothed them.
- c. Take care of their wounds and feed them.
- d. Grow fruits and grains.

5a. Does God care for animals? Write yes or no. [1] _____

5b. Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [2]

6. What does God's law help people to understand? [2]
