Why do we have rules and laws?

Interact Discovery Sheets
Social Science
Years 1-4

By Julie Owen
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INTRODUCTION

Why do we have rules and laws? This Interact Teacher Manual forms part of the theme, God is calling us to walk with him.

Life is full of rules and laws. Many are unwritten customs that have existed for as long as we can remember, while others have been negotiated in groups with whom we interact; still others have been dictated for us by those who have been given the responsibility to make decisions on our behalf. Whether we have been part of the process of formulating them or not, we follow rules and laws because they have been designed to help us.

As children, we first learn to listen and live in relationship through loving and obeying our parents or caregivers. We learn obedience by choosing to obey rules, just as the children of Israel learned through the Ten Commandments. As we grow up, we begin to understand the big ideas behind the rules.

Rules and laws remind us to consider how we can help each other. If people lived by God’s law of love, there would be no need for rules and laws - but because we are often selfish or unthinking, they help us to remember what is valuable to God, to other people, and to our environment. God calls us to follow his law of love. (John 13:34-35)

The origin of the word obey actually means to hear, or listen towards. When we hear, or listen towards others, our actions are not robotic and unthinking, but based in relationship. Those who learn to listen towards God, become the best leaders.

As we consider why we need rules and laws, may our understanding of God’s leadership grow. It better than even the best human leadership in every way. God leads us by calling us to walk with him.
the key competencies are:

Managing self
Understanding language, symbols and text

the habit of character focus is:

Obedience

the habit of mind focus is:

Managing Impulsivity
the big idea is:

God is calling us to walk with him

the key understanding is:

Leaders in our school, community or country make rules and laws to help us

the focus question is:

Why do we need rules and laws?
School Rules

Everywhere we go, there are rules to follow!
Some rules are for keeping people safe. Some are to show love or respect for people.
Other rules have been made so that we can look after the things that we own and the places that we share.

List some school or class rules that you remember, and then add these colours to show that you understand how each rule helps us:

Put a red circle around the rules that are about safety

Put a blue circle around the rules that are about love or respect

Put a green circle around the rules that are about caring for property and places

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
The Ten Commandments

God gave the people of Israel some rules about how they should live. Unscramble the words in the sentences below, and then circle whether the rule reminds about loving God or loving others.

1. Put God trifs ___________________
   God / Others

2. Whipsor ____________________ God only
   God / Others

3. Use God’s name with crepest __________
   God / Others

4. Keep God’s day lyho _______________
   God / Others

5. Respect your starenp ______________
   God / Others

6. Don’t drumer ____________________
   God / Others

7. Be halituff ____________________ in marriage
   God / Others

8. Don’t laste _____________________
   God / Others

9. Don’t tell sile __________________
   God / Others

10. Don’t yevn _____________________ others
    God / Others
Most families have rules. They are not usually written down like the rules at school, but you know what they are. Some of the rules might be about the way you should behave, or perhaps about where you can go. Sometimes there is a punishment for breaking the rules at home, because our parents want us to understand how to live well.

Write about and draw some of your family rules under the headings below.

**Family rules about how to look after myself**

1. 

2. 

3. 

   This is me following the rule about

**Family rules about how to look after others**

1. 

2. 

3. 

   This is me following the rule about

**Family rules about how to look after things**

1. 

2. 

3. 

   This is me following the rule about
True or False?

Answer True or False to the following statements about rules and laws.

We don’t need rules in our homes.  TRUE/ FALSE

All countries have laws.  TRUE/ FALSE

God wants us to do what we feel like doing.  TRUE/ FALSE

Police Officers make laws.  TRUE/ FALSE

Police Officers wear blue uniforms.  TRUE/ FALSE

Police Officers wear their uniforms all the time.  TRUE/ FALSE

Police Officers are allowed to punish people.  TRUE/ FALSE

If we had more Police Officers, people would not do anything wrong.  TRUE/ FALSE

Because God is kind, He doesn’t want anyone to be punished.  TRUE/ FALSE

We need rules in our community.  TRUE/ FALSE
Write some questions about rules and laws by writing words on the lines provided.

What ____________________________ rules and laws?

What ____________________________ rules and laws?

When ____________________________ rules and laws?

When ____________________________ rules and laws?

Who ____________________________ rules and laws?

Who ____________________________ rules and laws?

Why ____________________________ rules and laws?

Why ____________________________ rules and laws?

Where ____________________________ rules and laws?

Where ____________________________ rules and laws?

How ____________________________ rules and laws?

How ____________________________ rules and laws?
We are investigating:

1.0 What are rules and laws?
Rules, Rules, Rules

Wherever people live or work together, there are rules to help them live well.

What is a rule?

Draw or write about these rules:

A rule you followed at home this morning

A rule you obeyed at school today

A rule you observed on the way to school today

A rule you will use this afternoon
Which of these are rules, and which are laws?

Colour **yellow** the boxes that name a **rule**.

Colour the boxes **purple** that describe a **law**.

Rules and laws are different because ______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
What is a law?

In the boxes below, draw or write about four laws that people in our country must follow. Explain how the laws help people and what happens when people do not obey the law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How this law helps people</th>
<th>How this law helps people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
<td>_________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What happens when people do not obey this law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What happens when people do not obey this law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
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</table>

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<td>_________________________</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>How this law helps people</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
<td>_________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What happens when people do not obey this law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
key areas of investigation

We are investigating:

2.0 Who makes rules and laws for us?
Imagine that you were in charge for a day!
Write your ideas in the shapes below.

The people who would have to follow my rules would be ...

If people did not obey my rules then ...

If I were in charge for the day I would feel ...

My rules would be that everyone must ...

My rules would be good rules because ...

I think that being in charge for the day would be ...

My title would be ____________

but people should call me ____________

Name:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of group</th>
<th>Who makes our rules</th>
<th>Some of our rules</th>
<th>Some reasons for our rules</th>
<th>Consequences for breaking our rules</th>
<th>Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
key areas of investigation

We are investigating:

3.0 How do people make rules and laws for our local community?
Our country has laws that help and protect people and places. Members of Parliament, government employees, police officers, inspectors, and judges all care for, help or make our country safer or fairer for everyone. Cut out the squares below and use them to help your discussion about that our government provides for people and places in our country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>roads</th>
<th>rivers</th>
<th>transport</th>
<th>playgrounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>museums</td>
<td>libraries</td>
<td>rubbish collection</td>
<td>hygiene laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pollution laws</td>
<td>building permits</td>
<td>hospitals</td>
<td>postal services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telephone connections</td>
<td>electricity</td>
<td>land use</td>
<td>sports fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>street signs</td>
<td>animals</td>
<td>parking</td>
<td>drains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>footpaths and walking tracks</td>
<td>railways</td>
<td>police stations</td>
<td>swimming pools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: ____________________________

Research: ____________________________
key areas of investigation

We are investigating:

4.0 What happens if people choose to disobey rules and laws?
A Good Citizen

Answer True or False to the following statements about good citizens.

A good citizen obeys the law. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen throws his rubbish out of the car window. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen will help other people. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen helps to keep his/her town tidy. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen tries to make the world a better place. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen only does what he/she wants to do. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen is honest. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen looks the other way when someone else is in trouble. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen can be trusted. TRUE/FALSE

A good citizen does his/her part in making his/her community a safe place to live. TRUE/FALSE
Good Citizens

A citizen is someone who belongs to a community, a town, city or a country because he or she lives there. In our country, citizens vote for their leaders in government who will make laws for everyone. People who are good citizens show concern for others by obeying laws that have been made to help and protect people and their environment.

What kinds of things might a good citizen do?

The Bible gives us some guidelines about how to be good citizens. Read the verses below and then answer the questions.

Romans 13:1-2
What is an ‘authority’?

Where do our ‘authorities’ come from?

How should good citizens treat ‘authorities’?

Titus 3:1-2
What does it mean ‘to be subject’?

How should good citizens act?

1 Peter 2:13-14, 17
Who are some authorities that citizens should obey?

Why should citizens obey them?

How should citizens treat each other?

For you to think about:

Christians are citizens of another place. Where is it?

The ‘law of love’ is the most important rule for Christians to follow. Read John 13: 34-35. How does following this law help Christians to be good citizens?
Disobedient or Not?

Is it ever good to disobey? In both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, we read of people who loved God and yet made the choice to disobey the law. In the box below, write what the apostle Paul and his friends said when they were asked why they were not following the law that had been set.

Acts 5:29

Research to complete the diagrams below.

- Daniel and his friends
- What law they disobeyed
- What the consequences were

- Paul and his friends
- What law they disobeyed
- What the consequences were
Most rules and laws exist to help us keep safe and happy, or to protect our environment so that all can enjoy living there. When people obey rules and laws, the result can help everyone. When people disobey rules and laws, the consequences can affect everyone. Complete the table about the consequences when people obey or disobey particular rules or laws.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rules and Laws</th>
<th>When People Obey</th>
<th>When People Disobey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: ____________________________  

Reason: ____________________________
Talking about Rules and Laws

Circle true or false after each of the statements below, and then explain the reasons for your choice to a partner.

A leader is someone whom others follow  
True / False

Leaders can be good or bad  
True / False

God does not care if we obey or disobey those who are in authority  
True / False

When Jesus was growing up, he was sometimes disobedient to his parents  
True / False

If you are obedient, nothing will ever go wrong for you  
True / False

People who are obedient are usually happier than those who are disobedient  
True / False

It is not being disobedient if no one sees what you did  
True / False

Obeying your teacher is like obeying your parents, because they both have the responsibility of caring for you  
True / False

You should never question a rule or a law  
True / False

People are always punished for disobedience  
True / False

We should obey good rules and laws to show our love for God  
True / False

Name: _____________________________

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Follow the Leader

Read the following statements.
If you **agree** with the statement, **follow the leader's instruction**.
If you **disagree**, **do not follow the leader's instruction**.

- God does not care how we treat him
- Colour my hair blue

- God has not make it clear how people are to behave
- Draw a hat on my head

- God cares about the way we treat other people
- Draw some freckles on my nose

- The Ten Commandments that God gave Moses are good for everyone to follow
- Make my eyes brown

- God can be trusted as our leader
- Make my smile bigger
Following God’s Lead

When we love and care for others, we do not have to think so hard about how to follow rules and laws. Read Ephesians 6:1-9 and Colossians 3:22-25. Share your ideas about the following:

**Loving our parents**

How can you demonstrate your love for parents?

What kinds of actions do not show love for your parents?

**Slaves and Masters**

Who might we consider to be ‘slaves’ and ‘masters’ in our culture?

**Respecting our teachers**

How can you demonstrate respect for your teachers?

What kinds of actions do not show respect for your teachers?
Many of the people who lived in Jesus’ time thought that they had to work hard to follow rules and laws in order to please God. Jesus told them that they should just focus on just one, new rule:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

If everyone followed this rule, then:

People would not have to ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Children could __________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Everybody would be able to ______________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

No one would __________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

You would see __________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

You would not see ________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

I also think that:___________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Name: ____________________________
Praying for Our Leaders

God has given us many people to care for us, and to make decisions about how to help and protect us. Write some prayers below that you could pray for those who have this responsibility.

A leader in my family or school: ____________________________________________

Dear God,

A leader in my community: ________________________________________________

Dear God,

A leader in my country: ____________________________________________________

Dear God,
Rules are Cool!

Rules and laws are needed wherever people live and work together – in small groups such as families or sports teams, in larger groups such as classes or schools, or in big groups of people such as communities or nations.

In my family, a rule that is really important for everyone to follow is __________________________
______________________________. This is because _________________________________________
_______. I can lead the way by making sure that I ________________________________________.

At my school, a rule that is really important for everyone to follow is _________________________
________________________________. This is because __________________________________________
_____________. I can lead the way by making sure that I ____________________________________.

In my community, a law that is really important for everyone to follow is ______________________________________________
_____________________________. This is because _________________________________
_____________________________. I can lead the way by making sure that I _________________________
_____________________________________________________________.

In my country, it would be great if everyone __________________
______________________________. This is because __________________
________________________________. I can lead the way by making sure that I _______________________
______________________________________________________________.

I can lead the way!

Name:
In the box below, describe a situation, draw a picture or paste a photograph of something that is happening at your school or in your community, which could be improved if everyone followed a rule or law.

What rule or law is being ignored by some people to create this problem?
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

If everyone followed a certain rule or law, how would it make a difference to this situation?
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

How could you help to make people aware of the problem, and the way in which they could help to make a difference?
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________