

## Behar Leviticus - Vayikra (25-26.2)

God has brought the Hebrews out of bondage in Egypt to be a holy people to God. God spoke to Moses and said, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "When you enter the land that I give you, the land must be given a rest period. For six years you may plant your fields and gather your crops, but in the seventh year, the land shall have a Sabbath rest and you shall neither plant nor gather.

You shall count the Sabbatical years by sevens. When you reach the seventh Sabbatical year, 49 years will have passed. On the next Day of Atonement, you shall sound the shofar, the ram's horn. You shall sanctify the 50th year by declaring emancipation of Hebrew servants and the return of hereditary property. This is your Sabbath Jubilee Year and holy so do not sow the land but you may gather any crops grown on their own accord.

Keep My Decrees and safeguard My Laws. If you keep them you will live in the land securely and eat your fill. In the seventh year, you might ask, 'What will we eat?' Do not worry about eating in the Sabbath year for I will direct My blessings in the sixth year and it will be enough crop to last for three years.

The land is Mine and no land shall be sold permanently. The Jubilee year is a time of redemption for all your hereditary lands. Do not cheat one another in this process. You shall fear God for it is I Who am God, your Lord.

Now when your brother loses the ability to support himself in the community, you must come to his aid and help him survive, whether he is a convert or a native Israelite. Do not charge your brother financial interest, and if he comes to work for you, treat him not as a slave but as an employee or a hired hand. He is free to leave with his family in the Jubilee year.

You may have slaves from other nations but fear God and do not dominate or and break their spirits. Do not make slaves of your fellow Israelite. For all you Israelites are servants: you are My servants whom I, God, freed from slavery in the land of Egypt.

I, the Lord, am your God. Do not make for yourself false gods or sacred pillars.

I the Lord am your God. You shall keep My Sabbaths and honor My Sanctuary.

I am God."

**Questions:** 1) When have you had the opportunity to cheat and what did you do? 2) To whom do you serve?  
3) How have you been fair and kind and respectful to family members in trouble?

**Illustration ideas:** God's land with bumper crops d...the land taking a Sabbath in the 7th year...you resting....a family member resting.....Treating your family with kindness and respect...