

**Luther's Legacy for Laity**  
**Disc 2: Dr. David Lose**  
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This study guide will follow the 8 parts of Dr. Lose's DVD. Each part will include a brief summary, a list of Biblical passages (if any were referenced) and questions for discussion. Key glossary terms will be listed at the end of each section.

**Part 2: The Use of the Law**

**Summary:**

While the first use of the law is primarily intended as a gift of God to help us to get more out of our life together, the second use of the law always accuses us and shows us our shortcomings. It holds us accountable before God. The order of the giving of the Law in Exodus 19-20 helps us to see this clearly. First God declared them to be his people (Exodus 19) and then God gave his people the law, not to earn the status of God's people, but because they were God's people.

However, because of our sinfulness, instead of using these laws for the sake of the neighbor, we instead use them to justify ourselves over against our neighbor. Therefore, the law turns on us and shows us who we really are! In fact, it destroys our ladders. We are not part way up the ladder to God, we are instead at the bottom, totally dependant on God's mercy and grace. It drives us to Christ. And to our total surprise, we discover that God has come down and meets us where we are as broken people.

**Biblical References:**

Exodus 19:3-8

Exodus 20

John 19:7

John 20:19-23

**Confessional References:**

(none)

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. How are the laws a gift?
2. React to this statement. The Law is not about religion, it is about relationship.
3. When does mercy have meaning?
4. When is grace/forgiveness offensive?
5. How are pardons problematic?
6. How did Christ's forgiveness of people threaten the Pharisees and the church establishment of his day? How did Luther's understanding of grace threaten the church of his day? What is our understanding of forgiveness today?

**Glossary:**

*Law* – A gift from God. It is not about religion, but rather about relationship. It is meant to be used by us to care for the whole world. However, we tend to use it as a club, to make ourselves appear to be more righteous than our neighbor.

*First Use of the Law* – (Included in Session 1)

*Second Use of the Law* – The Theological Use of the law (as compared to the first or civil use of the law.) Luther described the second use of the law as a mirror. It shows us who we really are and holds us accountable before God. Luther believed that it would drive us on our knees to Christ, where we would find mercy and grace.