



# Group Resources

Read: Deuteronomy 1-11

Video: [Deuteronomy](#)

Sermon: Cities of Refuge

## Proposed Group Agenda (2 hrs)

Fellowship/Connection Time (30 min.)

Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 min.)

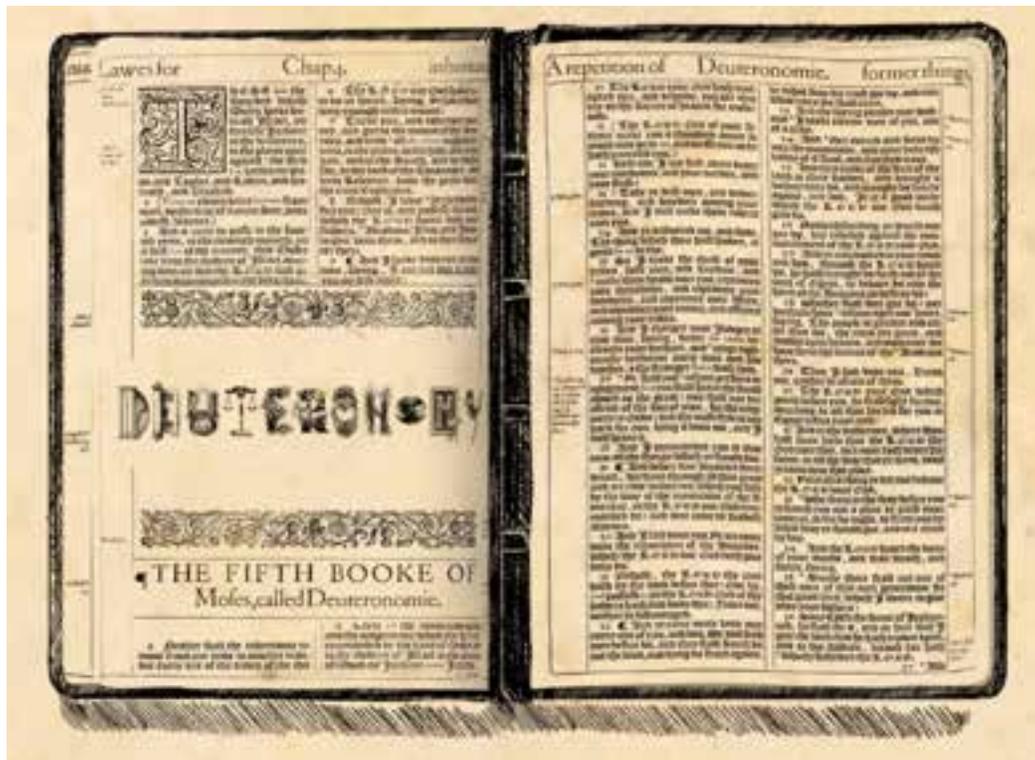
Warm Up (10 min.)

Video (15 min.)

Dig In (45 min.)

Grow (10 min.)

Closing Prayer (5 min.)



\* The individual reading plan for this week covers Deuteronomy 13-31 and Psalms 57-63.



## Warm Up

### Discussion Value - Remember

Our goal this week is to remember what God has done, what sets Him apart from other gods, and to reflect on the ways both Israel and we are tempted to forget.

### Opening Exercise - Mutual Invitation (A Discussion Technique)

Using the discussion technique of mutual invitation, share a short (two or three sentence) response to the statement below. The leader or a designated person should go first. After that, he or she then chooses another person across the room to share. Once that person has spoken they invite another to share and so on. Continue until everyone has been invited.

### Rejoice with others in remembering...

Share a moment from your day, week or past where you felt/perceived God was with you. If you have not experienced a moment like this simply say, "I'm still figuring out how God is active in my life" and invite someone else in the room to share.

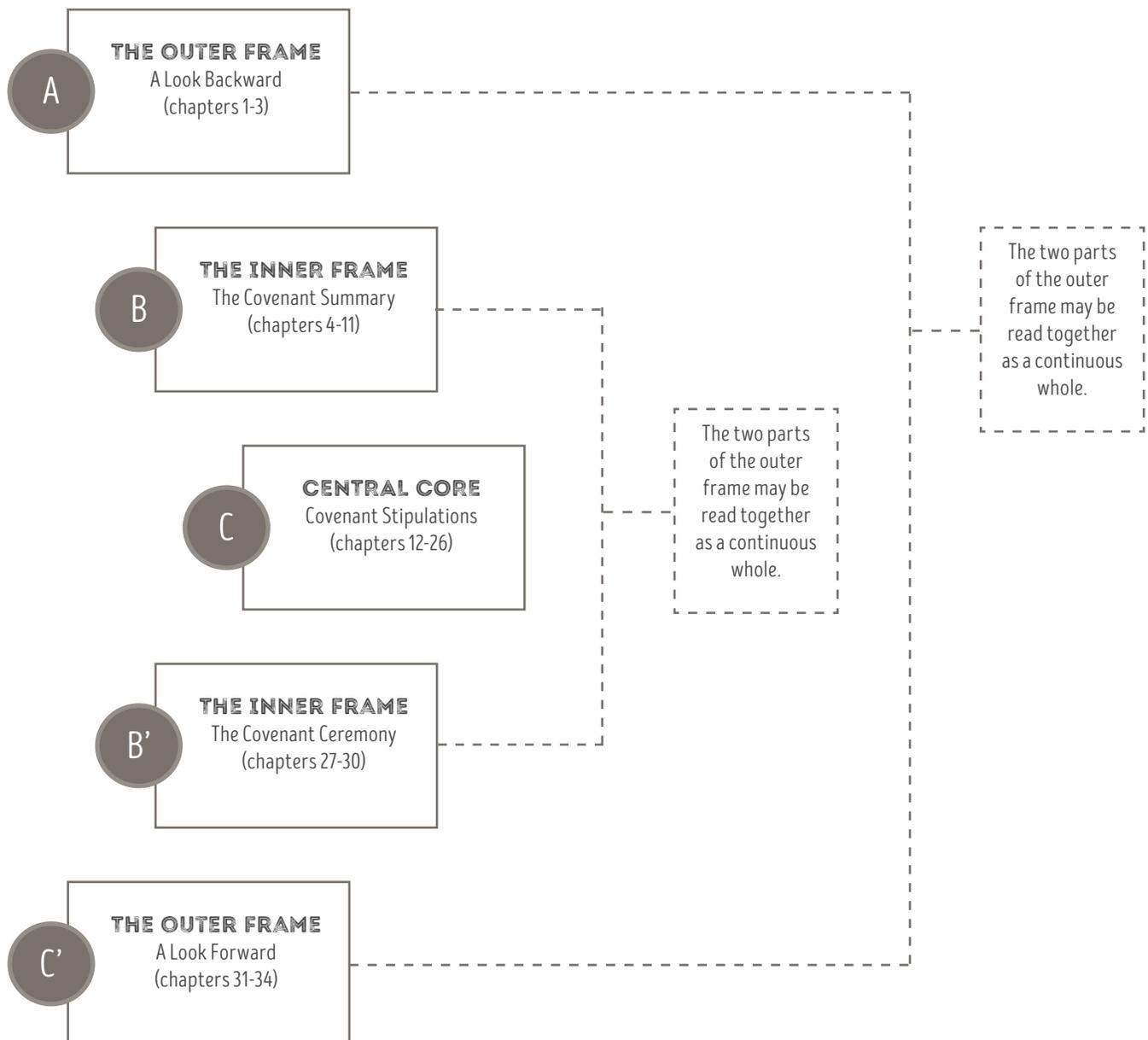
# Dig In

Q. Deuteronomy is organized in a five-part concentric literary structure known as a chiasm. This type of symmetrical pattern is used in ancient literature to accentuate or alert the reader to a central point, or particularly important part, of the text. What is the focal point of the book of Deuteronomy? Why should details like literary patterns even concern us? Is it possible to read an entire book of the bible and miss the deeper truth or point it's trying to convey without this kind of information?

1

Deuteronomy is arranged in a five-part concentric literary structure known as chiasm (ky'az-um)

This type of chiasm is structured in a repeating A-B-C-B'-A' pattern:

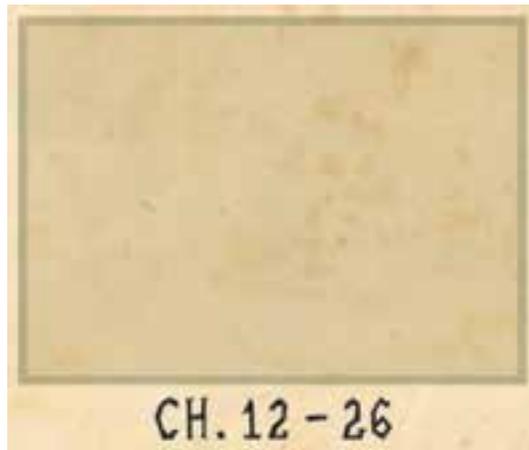
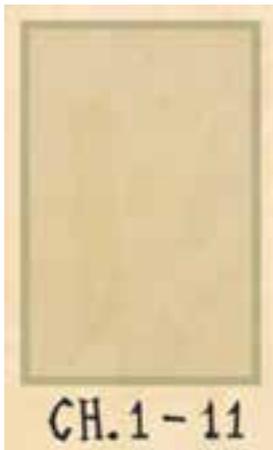


Q. Moses delivers a three-part speech to the new generation of Israelites just before entering the land of Canaan. In your own words, describe the main ideas or themes in each of the parts and what they are meant to convey? What do you think motivated Moses to deliver this sermon to the people at this point on their journey?

## 2

Moses' discourse is a strong encouragement to the Israelites to remember, renew and be faithful to the covenant-relationship God made with their ancestors at Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 20-23



The people were getting ready to leave their nomadic existence and settle down in the land of Canaan. The change of lifestyle would soon leave them vulnerable to apostasy (abandoning the will of God). Moses recounts God's saving acts, summarizes the laws of the covenant and expands on them, in order to prepare this generation for a successful future.

Q. Skim chapters 1 - 3. Why do you think this opening discourse was mainly a look back on Israel's recent history? What kinds of events did Moses highlight? Name one or two that were negative and one or two that were positive. After reviewing these events, can you discern what God's blessings are related to?

# 3

Moses' presents a theology of remembering or revisiting important events in the life of God's people in order to discover the benefits of covenant keeping and pitfalls of disobedience.

Deuteronomy 1-3

The Great Rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea and its consequences.

Deuteronomy 1:26-33

Obeying God's command to avoid confrontation with the surrounding nations.

Deuteronomy 2:1-3:22

A survey of Israel's recent past illustrates God's saving acts and the benefits of keeping the covenant as well as the pitfalls of disobedience

Refusal to listen to God and trying to reverse His judgment by entering the land.

Deuteronomy 1:41-45

Moses forbidden to enter the land.

Deuteronomy 3:23-27

God's blessings are often directly related to submission to His will.

Q. Chapters 4 - 11 are formative and intended to motivate the nation of Israel to keep the covenant and obey God's covenant laws. The heart of this section is a recounting of the Ten Commandments (5:1-33) as a summary of the principles of covenant living. Moses knows that when it comes to keeping covenant commitments, God's people have short memories. Partner with one other person in your group and share your answers to the following questions: What kinds of commitments have you made to God? How were you at keeping them? What stood in your way? Does your inability to keep your commitments to God help you view the Israelite's struggles any differently? Does this help you see the necessity of the Cross more personally?

# 4

Moses now turns from the past and exhorts God's people to wholehearted devotion in the present and future.

Deuteronomy 4 - 11

The laws and covenant stipulations that Moses "set before the Israelites" are to be the normative way of life after they enter the Promised land.

Deuteronomy 4:44 & 5:1-5



Q. Read the Shema found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5. The words “listen” (often translated “hear”) and “love” signify both a response and our motivation for responding. Together these two words - listen and love - result in obedience to God’s will. In Western culture, we tend to think of love more sentimentally. How is sentimental love different than the kind of love Moses calls the Israelites to? How has your love for God resulted in obedience to the Scriptures as His revealed will? Name one or two areas you know God is calling you to greater obedience in this regard.

5

Moses’ statement of the oneness of God flows into the greatest summation of God’s law.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5



Q. The underlying issue of Deuteronomy is not necessarily the need for a renewed covenant; the people seem willing to be in relationship with God, but rather the degree to which they will willingly commit to faithfully obeying God's laws in order to be in right relationship with Him. Why do you think the Old Testament doesn't make any distinction between faith and obedience? Do a quick search on the word "obey" in the New Testament using your electronic device or the concordance found in the back of your bible. What did your search reveal about its significance for us today?

6

The purpose of the discourse on the law is not primarily to inform the Israelites, but rather to form them spiritually.



We are called to obedience, not because we have to in order to garner God's acceptance; it was established for us on the Cross. Because we want to out of love and devotion for God who delivered us out of bondage and into new life through His son Jesus Christ.



# Where's Jesus?

Deuteronomy is one of the most authoritative books in the Jewish canon, it also appears to be Jesus' favorite during times of testing. He quoted from it repeatedly during His temptation by Satan in the wilderness:

- a. Matthew 4:4 | Luke 4:4 | Deuteronomy 8:3
- b. Matthew 4:7 | Luke 4:12 | Deuteronomy 6:26
- c. Matthew 4:10 | Luke 4:8 | Deuteronomy 6:13

And again as he was being tested on the "greatest commandment:"

Matthew 22:34-40 | Mark 12:28-34 | Luke 10:25-28 | Deuteronomy 6:5

Q. Why do you think Jesus would quote Deuteronomy while He was being tested? What should this revelation tell us about its importance for us today?

## Works Cited:

- Theme 1 | Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 1999. Pages 143 (excerpted).
- Theme 2 | *Ibid*, 142 - 143 (excerpted).
- Theme 3 | *Ibid*, 143 - 145 (excerpted).
- Theme 4 | *Ibid*, 145 - 146 (excerpted).
- Theme 5 | *Ibid*, 145 - 146 (excerpted)
- Theme 6 | Frank DeCanio, *Analysis and Synthesis of the Book of Deuteronomy*. © Copyright 2012, bible.org, used by permission. <https://bible.org/seriespage/5-analysis-and-synthesis-book-deuteronomy>
- Where's Jesus | Bob Utley, *Introduction to Deuteronomy*. © Copyright 2012 bible.org, used by permission <https://bible.org/seriespage/introduction-deuteronomy>

Other Study Materials, Questions, Graphics & Information | Generated from materials provided by Reality Church SF - Year of Biblical Literacy and The Bible Project. Used by permission.



# Grow

These questions and exercises are designed to help you look at yourself, be aware and honest about who you are in light of your interaction with Scripture, and consider any appropriate actions.

Take an honest look at your life. In what ways are you tempted to diminish the faithfulness of God? Are there times you failed to acknowledge or remember God's faithful activity in your life because it didn't align with your will or plan?

In light of our study value of remembering, spend a few minutes in silent reflection on moments or periods in your life where you experienced God's faithfulness. Record one or two and store them in a conspicuous place to draw from at a later date.

Now reflect on a time when it felt like God wasn't faithful. Be honest and lament that moment in writing to the Lord. See Psalms 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 85 and 90 for biblical examples of lament.