



March 5th - March 11th

WEEK 10 OBEY & LIVE | DEUTERONOMY PART 2

The two predominant themes in Moses' sermon-like speeches recorded in Deuteronomy are: 1) remembering versus forgetting, which we discussed last week, and 2) choosing to obey God versus choosing to disobey, the focus of this week's study...

These crucial themes have been developing throughout the narrative of the Torah, but Moses comes back to them again and again in Deuteronomy. He reiterates they are the primary lessons to be drawn from Israel's history thus far, and therefore the most important thing for the new generation to hear and consider before entering the Promised Land. But this message isn't just for them! Remembering the Lord and choosing to obey Him remains dominant throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The prophets and authors of the historical books and psalms repeatedly describe Israel's successes as contingent upon their remembrance of God's wonderful actions in the past and their obedience to the statutes, laws and decrees of the covenant. Similarly, their failures are routinely tied to their forgetfulness and their disobedience to those same covenant statutes, laws and decrees. The book of Deuteronomy challenges us today by saying, "If you learn anything from Moses' Book of the Torah, learn this: Obey God and you will live and prosper, but disobey Him and you will suffer and die."

The books that follow - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings - prove these lessons by chronicling the stories of generation after generation of Israelites choosing either obedience or disobedience and reaping the consequences. Spoiler alert: As God predicts in Deuteronomy 31, Israel's story as a nation in the Promised Land is mostly one of disobedience. This week, we'll take a good long look at the theme of obedience. Both for the sake of understanding the message of the Scriptures and in order to personally reflect on our own call to love and obey God...thereby choosing life.

Group Resources

Read: Deuteronomy 12-34

Video: [The Book of Deuteronomy](#)

Sermon: Second Conversations | Transformative Moments That Rewire God's People

Proposed Group Agenda (2 hrs)

Fellowship/Connection Time (30 min.)

Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 min.)

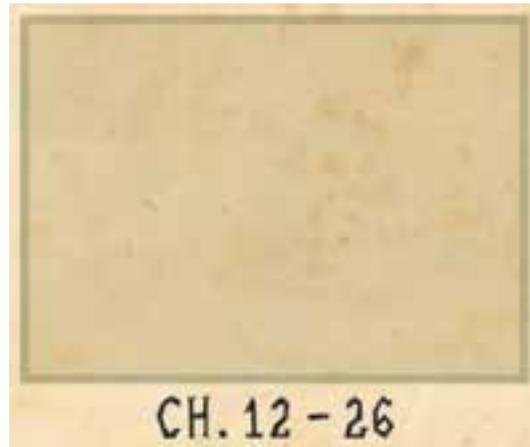
Warm Up (10 min.)

Video (15 min.)

Dig In (45 min.)

Grow (10 min.)

Closing Prayer (5 min.)



* The individual reading plan for this week covers Deuteronomy 32 - Judges 3 and Psalms 64-70.



Warm Up

Discussion Value - Memorization

Our goal this week is to discuss and practice the spiritual discipline of memorizing Scripture. Think back on your reading of the Torah. Did any verse(s) stand out to you as particularly significant, profound, or meaningful? Take a moment and locate the passage. Underline it or make note of the reference. Take time during the week to “hide it in your heart” (i.e. memorize it).

Opening Questions (Choose one or more):

Which verse from the Pentateuch did you choose to memorize? In two or three sentences, share why you selected that particular passage.

Have you memorized Scripture in the past? If yes, share a verse from memory and describe how God has used it over the days, months and/or years since you learned it. If not, why not? What’s keeping you from trying it?

Alternative:

Read the song of Moses aloud. Begin at Deuteronomy 31:30 and end with 32:47.

Once the reading is complete, have your group members do one of the following:

- Share a key word or phrase that stood out to them and why.
- Describe in one or two words the image of God the song supplanted in their hearts and minds (e.g. All Powerful, Sovereign, Lord, Master etc.).

Dig In

Q. Moses' second speech (chapters 12 - 26), once thought to contain a bewildering arrangement of haphazard laws, is now understood to be patterned after the four major issues the 10 Commandments address. This "second" giving of the law makes up the heart of the book of Deuteronomy. What do you think was God's purpose in repeating and expounding on these fundamental statutes through Moses? Why do you think the Israelites would need more specific instructions in the Promised Land than they required in the wilderness? Would there be greater temptations in Canaan? How adept had they been at obeying God's laws before entering the Promised Land?

1

The details of the law found in Moses' second speech expand upon the 10 Commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:1-33



MAIN ISSUES	REGARDING GOD	REGARDING HUMANS
Authority	Commandment 1 Chapter 12	Commandment 5 16:18 - 18:22
Dignity	Commandment 2 Chapter 12	Commandment 6, 7, 8 19:1 - 24:7
Commitment	Commandment 3 13:1 - 14:21	Commandment 9 24:8 - 16
Rights & Privileges	Commandment 4 14:22 - 16:17	Commandment 10 24:17 - 26:15

Q. Beginning in chapter 12 and carrying through to chapter 26, Moses does more than just present the laws, he gives specific application of the covenant obligations and how they will correlate to the Israelites in the Promised Land. Note how this section begins with the future replacement of the tabernacle with a central sanctuary as the place where God will choose to make His habitation (12:4-32). In light of this, is the statement “Who we worship is more important than how or where we worship” true or false? Why is a central place of worship so significant? What is the difference between worshipping God at church on Sunday or on the golf course etc.?

Q. In verses 12:1 - 16:17, Moses addresses specific laws governing worship. Recall from our studies of Exodus and Leviticus that “law” means divine instruction for righteous living. How complete was the destruction of the pagan altars to be (see 12:2-3)? Why would it be wrong to worship God as the Canaanites worshiped their gods? How would laws that govern worship help Israel to become a distinctive and holy people?

2

Covenant faithfulness is not just for abstract religious observance, but for everyday life - **LAWS GOVERNING WORSHIP.**

Deuteronomy 12:1 - 16:17

Destroy the idolatrous high places.

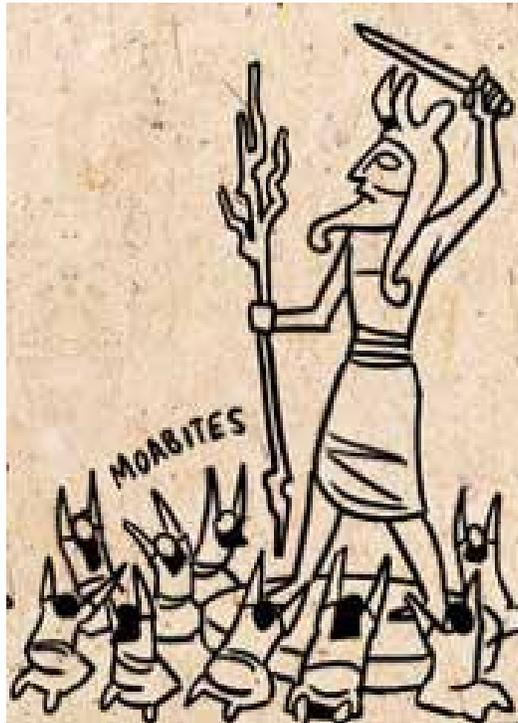
Deuteronomy 12:1-3

Avoid every vestige of idolatry

Deuteronomy 13:1 - 14:2

Obey the clean & unclean statutes.

Deuteronomy 14:3-21



Tithe from the field and the first born.

Deuteronomy 14:22-29 - 15:19-23

Care for the poor.

Deuteronomy 15:1-18

Celebrate holy feasts.

Deuteronomy 16:1-17

Q. In verses 16:18 - 18:22 Moses addresses the laws governing Israel's leaders - Judges, Kings, and Priest. What specific instruction does God give to the Judges about justice? How are their rulings to be treated by the people? What is the penalty for contempt? Why do you think the penalty was death? How does contempt for God's chosen leaders parallel contempt for God?

Q. Who chooses the kings? What should kings refrain from accumulating and why? What should guide them each day?

Q. What was the priests inheritance? Is their freedom from property and dependence on others a good thing? How were all of God's people involved with the priests' provision? Who do the priests serve? Today, should pastors and priests put God first or the people? Explain your answer.

Q. What safeguard does God provide for the people over their leaders? Who did the prophets speak for? Would it frighten or delight you to be a prophet? How so?

3

Covenant faithfulness is not just for abstract religious observance,
but for everyday life - **LAWS GOVERNING LEADERSHIP.**

Deuteronomy 16:18 - 18:22



Appoint judges that will not
pervert justice or show partiality.

Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:8-13

Set aside priests to minister
continually before the LORD.

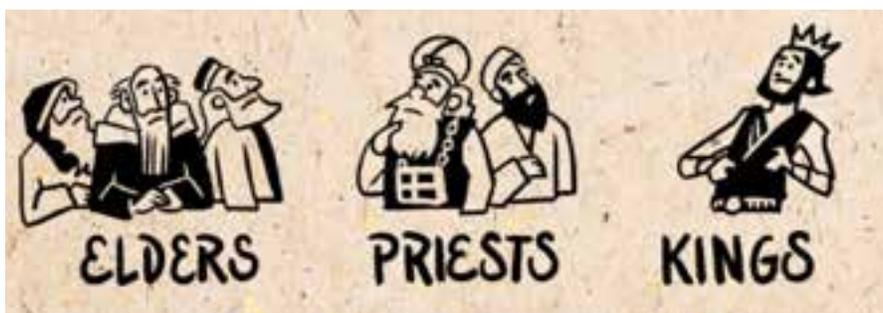
Deuteronomy 18:1-8

Appoint only kings the LORD
chooses and who obey the law.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Leaders listen to the prophets the
LORD raises up.

Deuteronomy 18:14-22



Q. In verses 19:1 - 25:19, Moses addresses the laws governing Israel's community life. What do these passages affirm about God's view of human life, justice, and mercy? Why do you think the penalties for improper social behavior were so harsh? In what way was Israel called to be "in Canaan" but not "of Canaan"? Why is it paramount for the people of God to look different than the world? How can we do that and still remain effectively in it? What does that look like practically?

4

Covenant faithfulness is not just for abstract religious observance, but for everyday life - **LAWS GOVERNING COMMUNITY LIFE.**

Deuteronomy 19:1 - 25:19

Notice that most of these exhortations deal with matters from the second half of the Ten Commandments and focus primarily on personal and communal relationships and social justice (especially care of the alien, widow, orphan and the poor).

Protect people who accidentally kill another person.

Deuteronomy 19:4-6

Always make an offer of peace before attacking an outlying city.

Deuteronomy 20:10-11

One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of a crime.

Deuteronomy 19:15-19



Return anything you find that does not belong to you.

Deuteronomy 22:1-3

Even in times of war, show special care for men & their families.

Deuteronomy 20:5-10

Show special concern for the alien, widows, orphans and the poor.

Deuteronomy 24:14 - 25:10

Q. In Moses final speech (Chapters 27 - 34), a strong emphasis is placed on obedience to the law and the resulting blessings and curses for keeping or breaking it. How is obedience to God itself a blessing? What does it look like to be God's holy people (see 28:9-14)?

Q. Note that there are approximately five-times more verses dealing with curses than with blessings. Why do you think this is? How can we reconcile curses with our understanding of God? What if God were just a God of blessing? Are Christians still under these curses? If not, how do we experience God's correction today?

5

The emphasis on obedience and covenant sanctions - **BLESSINGS AND CURSES.**

Deuteronomy 27 - 29

“You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him. And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD.”

- Deuteronomy 26:17-19 -



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?

Q. Look at Deuteronomy 18:15, 18. At the end of the Israelite's forty years of wandering in the wilderness, God spoke through Moses about "a prophet" He would raise up from among the people that would be like Moses. The prophet is clearly singular in number. In what way is Moses unique from all the other prophets that follow him throughout the Old Testament? How are these characteristics later revealed in Jesus?

A. Moses exemplified a uniqueness that was like no other prophet that came after him until Jesus. He spoke with God face-to-face. His messages came with a special directness and clarity. He was also distinct because of the miracles that attended his declarations to the pagan nation of Egypt. All characteristics that are later seen in Jesus of Nazareth.

Works Cited:

- Theme 1 | Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 1999. Pages 145 - 146 (excerpted).
- Table 1 | Walton, John H. *Deuteronomy: An Exposition of the Spirit of the Law, Grace*. *Theological Journal* 8, no. 2, 1987. Pages 213 - 225.
- Theme 2 | Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 1999. Page 146 (excerpted).
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- Theme 5 | DeCanio, Frank. *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>(excerpted).
- Questions | *Serendipity Bible for Groups: New International Version*. Littleton, CO: Serendipity House, 1989. Pages 302 - 304 (excerpted).
- Where's Jesus? | Kaiser, Walter C. *The Messiah in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1995. Pages 57 - 59 (excerpted).

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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.

What is God calling you to be obedient to right now?

If you're being super honest with yourself, what do you truly believe the consequences of disobedience are? What about the benefits of obedience?

If you believe God has prompted you to do something, in what ways do you subtly or not so subtly disobey Him? Most often, do these internal struggles end in obedience or disobedience? How have you been blessed by obeying? How have you been corrected by disobeying?

God's sheer power, as shown in the second half of Deuteronomy, makes reverence for Him the logical outcome. But anything that is pounded into humans heads can and will be resisted. Are you genuinely awed by God? Where in your life this week does reverence for God need to prevail?