

LOVE

&

OBEDIENCE

*An Eleven Week Study
in Deuteronomy 1-11*

LOVE & OBEDIENCE

Week One

Day One | Deuteronomy 1:1-8

In your own words, what is the timing and setting of the writing of this book? Where is the nation of Israel located physically and what is about to happen? Why did Moses need to explain the law (v5)? What will Israel need to do to claim the land? Has obeying God ever led you to do something very difficult? Describe what that was like.

Day Two | Deuteronomy 1:9-18

How does God's multiplication of Israel point to His faithfulness to keep His promises (see Genesis 22:17)? As Israel emerged from Egyptian slavery, why was it important to establish leaders and to make sure that they created a just society? In what ways do you see God's order and justice established in our society? Where is it lacking? Why does God care so much about justice and righteousness?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 1:19-25

Why would Israel fear to do what the Lord had commanded? Are you ever afraid to be obedient to the Lord's commands? Why? What do you think motivated the people's desire to send spies into the land before marching forward as God had commanded?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 1:26-33

Why did the people think that God hated them? Have circumstances in your life ever led you to question God's love for you? How can we know that God loves us? Why do we tend to forget God's past faithfulness when confronted with a new challenge? What can you do to remind yourself of God's faithfulness in the past?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 1:34-46

Why did their response anger the Lord? Do you think the punishment that they received was fair? Why or why not? What made Caleb different from the others? Are there ways in which you have been following the crowd? What would repentance look like in those areas? Why was their attempt to take the land a failure? Were they truly repentant or just fearful of the consequences of their disobedience?

Group Question: Do you have a strong desire for a deeper relationship with Jesus? What could ignite that desire or help you to pursue a deeper relationship with Him?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

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Week Two

Day One | Deuteronomy 2:1-7

Why wasn't Israel permitted to take just any land that they came upon? What does this communicate about God's faithfulness to His promises? How do we know when God wants us to fight and when He wants us to make peace in our lives today? Israel has Moses to speak the word of the Lord to them. How do we hear the word of the Lord?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 2:8-15

What are some of the ways that God protected Israel and provided for them during their 40 years in the wilderness? Why did God wait until all of the men of war had perished before leading Israel into the promised land? Has God provided for you or acted in unexpected ways to bring blessing into your life, while teaching you to depend on Him?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 2:16-25

God finally called Israel to take action and go to war, but He was the one that brought fear upon the enemy & won the victory. Why does God call us to join in His work if He could do it all on His own? What is He teaching us? What determined who Israel would attack & whether they would win? Does the same apply to the things you are seeking?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 2:26-29

If God commanded them to fight, why did they reach out to the king with an offer of peace? What are some of the ways that you rationalize disobedience to God? Can you describe a time when God caused your plans to fail because he had something better for you? Why was it so difficult for Israel to learn obedience? Why is it hard for us?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 2:30-37

How much control does God have over what is happening? Do you ever find it hard to understand God's will for you? If he hardened a king's heart and caused him to fight with Israel so that His name could receive glory, is it possible that the difficult things you are facing may also have a greater purpose? What would it look like for you to trust God more fully today? What is the next step that you can take?

Group Question: Do you have a sense of God's specific calling on your life in this season? If not, do you think that is something that you should pray about & pursue?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Three

Day One | Deuteronomy 3:1-11

How much credit does Moses give to God for their victory? How much credit do you give to God for the victories in your life? Why was it necessary to destroy everyone in those kingdoms? Do you think God would command His people to do the same sort of thing today? In what ways is the Church different from the Nation of Israel?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 3:12-17

Even though they had not yet crossed the Jordan, they had begun to take possession of lands promised to them by God. What impact would this have on their confidence? What are some victories that the Lord has given you as He shapes you into His image?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 3:18-20

Even though some tribes were given land, they needed to keep fighting until everyone received their promised land. How important is community to God? How important is individualism to us? What are some areas where selfishness has taken root in your life?

How does Jesus set the example and empower us to live with others in mind? Can you describe a time you needed to make a sacrifice for the good of others?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 3:21-22

How do you think Joshua felt when he heard that promise? Do you think it is appropriate to claim that promise for ourselves today? Why or why not? How would you correct someone who says that the Lord will fight for us, so we don't need to do anything but sit back and wait? What does active & obedient faith look like for you?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 3:23-29

Why do you think that God would not let Moses enter into the land? Have you ever been put into a very humbling position, where you had to prepare another for success that you wouldn't see? How might a situation like that benefit you? What situations cause you to wrestle with jealousy? How can the Gospel free you from that?

Group Question: Is there anything in your life that you feel is unfair? How do those feelings impact your relationship with Jesus? How could you come to peace with it?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Four

Day One | Deuteronomy 4:1-14

How can our obedience to Jesus be an attractive witness to those around us? What prevents people from being drawn to faith in Jesus? What impact does your faithful obedience to God have on the next generation? When we live selfishly and disobey, what is the impact on the next generation and the unsaved people around us?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 4:15-31

Why is God so strongly against making a physical image to worship? Why is it wrong for us to be jealous, but right & good for God to be jealous over us? How has God proven to be faithful & merciful to Israel and to us? How did Jesus solve the problem of Israel's continual rebellion and disobedience? How does that apply to us?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 4:32-40

What are some of the ways in which God has shown His might and power? What was unique and amazing about His relationship with the people of Israel? How did Jesus amplify and increase that relationship? What are some of things that you find most amazing and praiseworthy about God? How often do you take time to praise Him?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 4:41-43

In your own words, explain what a city of refuge is. Why were these cities necessary? Why is murder such a significant crime? How does the Gospel offer us hope for forgiveness from every sin, whether unintentional or willful?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 4:44-49

Verse 44 sets the stage for a second speech from Moses. Why do you think it was important for Moses to reiterate the teaching of the law at this time? How can seasons of success cause us to focus less on obedience? What is the key to practicing obedience in all seasons? What were the times & seasons in your life when you felt closest to God?

Group Question: Would cities of refuge be a good idea today? Why or why not? Do you see a reflection of the Gospel in God's provision of these cities of refuge?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Five

Day One | Deuteronomy 5:1-11

How are these 3 commandments related to one another? In what sense is every sin a violation of the first commandment? In what ways is Jesus a better & greater mediator between God and man than Moses was? What does idol worship look like today?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 5:12-16

What does observing the Sabbath look like for you today? In what ways are we tempted to choose enslavement to prosperity & success? How does observing the Sabbath counteract that? Why is positional honor so important to God? What does it look like to honor a Father or Mother who is not good or godly? How does that show honor to God?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 5:17-21

Which of these commandments would our society still affirm today? Which would they reject? How has living in this culture impacted your obedience to those commands? How does the Gospel set us free from a covetous heart and mindset? Are there practical things that you can do today to decrease your temptation towards sin in these areas?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 5:22-27

What was the reaction of the people after hearing the voice of God speak to them? What can you do to cultivate a greater respect & reverence for God? Since Jesus has fulfilled the law perfectly on our behalf, what should our relationship with the 10 Commandments be like today? How does the sermon on the mount amplify this?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 5:28-33

Why was God pleased with the response of the people? What is the connection between the fear of the Lord and obedience? How is this different from the fear of punishment? Does obedience to God mean that you will never experience difficulty? In your own words, how would you explain the blessing that comes from obeying God?

Group Question: Did you come from a background where respect & reverence for God was emphasized? How does that impact your relationship with Him today?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Six

Day One | Deuteronomy 6:1-3

How would you explain the relationship between God's promise and their (our) need to be obedient to Him to receive it? In what way is faith & obedience best passed along to future generations? Which practices are most effective in multiplying disciples?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Why is it significant that the Lord is one? How can we grow in our love for the Lord? What are the things in your life that compete with the Lord for the affections of your heart? What does everyday discipleship look like in your life? How do you help others to walk more closely with Him? Is there one thing you feel inspired/convicted to do more consistently as a way to walk with Jesus more closely and lead others to Him?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 6:10-15

Describe the times in your life when you have drifted in your faith - were they seasons of trial or seasons of comfort? How could the prosperity of the land have been both a blessing & a temptation for the people of Israel? Are there blessings in your life that have led you to idolatry or complacency? What is the key to staying close to God?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 6:16-19

What happened at Massah (see Exodus 17:7)? Why is it so damaging to our souls to question God's character? What difficult or challenging thing is obedience to God leading you towards in this season of your life? What would it look like to "take possession of the good land" that He has placed before you?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 6:20-25

How is the fear of God "for our good always"? If someone asks you why we have to follow the teaching & instruction of the Bible, what would you say? In your own words, how would you describe the relationship between love, obedience, & reward?

Group Question: What are some of the ways that you have experienced the goodness of God? How can you meditate on those things more consistently?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Seven

Day One | Deuteronomy 7:1-5

God would drive the people out before them, but Israel would still need to fight the battles. What are the areas in your life where you need to fight for things, even though you know that God has already won? Why did they need to completely destroy these enemy nations? What was the danger of living with them & intermarriage with those who practiced idolatry? How does this apply to your life in our culture today?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 7:6-11

What made God choose the nation of Israel to be His people? What caused God to choose you to receive forgiveness and eternal life? In what ways has God redeemed you? What sort of things held you captive apart from Christ? Why was God bringing destruction on these 7 nations that lived in the Promised Land?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 7:12-16

What were the promises that God offered to Israel if they were willing to obey and follow Him? From what you know of the Bible, how successful were they at keeping His laws and obeying Him? In what ways have you experienced God's blessings?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 7:17-22

What reasons would Israel have to fear these nations? Were they valid reasons? What is causing fear for you in this season of your life? Why is it difficult to trust that God will be victorious over those things? Why did it benefit Israel to take over the land gradually? How might that relate to times when God seems to be slow to answer prayer?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 7:23-26

Why would it be dangerous for Israel to take on elements of these nation's culture and idolatry? How do you think God is calling you to deal with the culture around you today? Have you embraced elements of our culture that are hindering your relationship with God? What can you do to remove those things from your life?

Group Question: What do you think is the greatest cultural threat that we face today? Do you believe that Jesus has the power to overcome that issue?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Eight

Day One | Deuteronomy 8:1-5

As you think back on your life, what are some significant things that God has taught you? Can you describe a time when you were humbled? How did that experience impact you going forward? Why is the discipline of the Lord a blessing?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 8:6-10

God continually emphasizes walking in obedience and the fear of the Lord. What can you do to grow in each of those areas? What is the next step that you can take? What are some of the best gifts that God has given to you? What could you do this week to express your thanks & gratitude to Him?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 8:11-16

How does obedience to the law help us to remember God's faithfulness? Can you describe a time that someone failed to be grateful for something significant that you did for them? What impact did that have on your relationship? What lesson did God teach Israel when He provided manna in the wilderness?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Are you more likely to give God the credit for good things or the blame for bad things? In which areas of your life are you most prideful? Why does wealth tend to have a negative impact on most people's character? What is the deeper heart issue that causes you to be proud or ungrateful?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 8:19-20

Does this punishment seem harsh or appropriate to you? What made Israel superior to the nations that they were conquering? How confident are you that you will spend eternity in heaven with God? What is the basis for that confidence?

Group Question: How much are you leaning into your own strengths and abilities? Do you think God wants you to be more dependent on Him? What would that look like?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Nine

Day One | Deuteronomy 9:1-3

Describe a time when you needed to be totally dependent on God. What did you learn from that experience? What things in your life today seem too big to defeat? What would it look like to trust God to go before you? In what way has Jesus gone before us to claim the Promised Land of heaven for us? How is that situation similar to this?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 9:4-5

Why is God driving these nations out of the land? What reasons did Israel have to be arrogant or proud? What reasons do you have? Why do you think God chose this time to execute His judgment on these nations? Have you ever been tempted to become proud over something that God has done through you? How can you fight against that?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 9:6-12

In what ways have you been rebellious or stubborn before the Lord? What is the basis for your righteousness? Why do you think that Israel fell into disobedience so quickly? Why is pride such a dangerous sin? What do you do to maintain humility?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 9:13-21

Why was the Lord so angry with the people? How did Moses mediate for them? How does Jesus mediate for us? In the same way that Moses destroyed the golden calf, is there anything that you need to destroy, remove or eliminate from your life? Is there someone who has rebelled against God that needs your prayers right now?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 9:22-29

What effect did Israel's rebellion have on their relationship with God? What rebellion or disobedience in your life is hindering your walk with God today? Why did Moses say God should not destroy the people? Are there things that people are doing in the church today that damage the reputation of God amongst the nations and the lost?

Group Question: What are some of the ways in which our culture celebrates and encourages rebellion? Why does God take rebellion so seriously?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Ten

Day One | Deuteronomy 10:1-5

How do you see grace at work in this passage? Can you describe a time when you were given a second chance after failing the first time? What are some of the ways that God has led you towards greater humility & dependence on Him?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 10:6-9

Who will carry on your work of ministry when your time comes to an end? Why weren't the Levites given any land of their own? Would you have wanted to be a Levite? Why or why not? How did this arrangement impact the way that the tribe of Levi would do their job and also how they would relate to God?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 10:10-11

In what way is Jesus a true and better mediator and leader than Moses? How did Moses develop such a close relationship with God? How would you describe your relationship with God today? What is the next thing that you need to do in order to develop a closer relationship with God? What is the biggest obstacle to doing that? Who or what can help you to overcome those challenges?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 10:12-16

List the commands that are given in verses 12-13. Which one are you currently doing well with? Which one is currently the biggest struggle? Why is that? What does he mean when he says they must circumcise their heart? Are there areas in which your stubbornness is hindering your relationship with Jesus?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 10:17-22

Why is it safe to trust God with our future? In what ways have your past struggles given you compassion & empathy for those who share a similar struggle? What does it mean when it says “He is your praise”? What great and wonderful things have you seen God accomplish in your life?

Group Question: How can you serve as an ambassador between God and someone who needs to know Him? What would it look like to lead that person to Jesus?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week Eleven

Day One | Deuteronomy 11:1-7

What happened with Dathan & Abiram (see Numbers 16:1-35)? Why was that sin judged so quickly & severely? Can you describe a time when you experienced the Lord's discipline? How did it benefit you in the long run? As you think back on your life, what are some of the things that you believe God wants you to remember?

Day Two | Deuteronomy 11:8-12

What is the relationship between obedience and experiencing the blessings of God? Why is it significant that the promised land is watered by God rather than through hard work the efforts of the people? What things in your life are a product of your own efforts? Which things are a result of God's provision?

Day Three | Deuteronomy 11:13-17

What does it look like to love God and serve Him with all of your heart and soul? What makes that difficult? Why is God justified in His anger when His people turn away from Him? What are the biggest distractions and temptations that you have had to battle this week? Who or what could help you to remain faithful in your pursuit of God?

Day Four | Deuteronomy 11:18-25

What are some of the ways that you lay up the words of God in your heart and soul? What are some of the physical and tangible reminders that you have established in your life to keep God's word on your mind? Is there something new that you could do this week as a reminder? How would they accomplish the victory in the new land? In this season, is God calling you to something that feels impossible in your own strength?

Day Five | Deuteronomy 11:26-32

Did Israel ultimately experience the blessing or the curse? How do you see the fulfillment of both the blessing and the curse in Jesus? In your own words, what is the choice that is laid out before you today? What is the result of obedience? What is the result of disobedience? Which will you choose?

Group Question: How is this promise of life in the promised land similar to the promise of eternal life through Jesus? How is it different?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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