

Deuteronomy

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

BLESSING OR CURSING?
LIFE OR DEATH?
YOU CHOOSE

Deuteronomy Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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4th Edition (7/2013)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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**DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis

- Deuteronomy 1–4
- God

NOTE: For those who studied the Precept Upon Precept courses on Genesis through Numbers much of this discussion will be review. But for those who didn't study those courses, this lesson gave them the main events from Exodus through Numbers.

DEUTERONOMY 1

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group how Deuteronomy begins.

It begins by saying that it's the words spoken by Moses to all Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:1-9, 24-26

This says that Moses wrote these words in a book.
It's the words of the law.

2 Kings 14:6

This book is referred to as the book of the Law of Moses.

Matthew 19:1-8

Jesus also confirmed that Moses wrote the commandments.

Israel was across the Jordan River in the wilderness.

In the Arabah opposite Suph

Between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazeroth and Dizahab

Tell your group to look at their maps in the Appendix as a visual aid. Some of the places named in the text are not on the map.

Ask what they learned from the Numbers cross-references.

Numbers 36:13

Moses wrote all the commandments and ordinances / rules to Israel in Moab on the other side of the Jordan River from Jericho.

Numbers 14:26-40

God described Israel as an evil / wicked congregation who grumbled against Him.

All of the men who had been 20 years old and above when God brought Israel out of Egypt died in the wilderness because of their rebellion against Him. They rejected the land God promised them. Only two were left at that point in time, Joshua and Caleb.

When does Deuteronomy begin?

Although it was only an eleven-day journey from Horeb (another name for Mount Sinai) to Kadesh-barnea, it took 40 years for Israel to enter their promised land. Kadesh-barnea was where the spies were sent from.

Deuteronomy was at the end of the 40 years in the wilderness, the first day of the eleventh month, and immediately before they entered their land of promise.

Moses spoke to the second generation of those who had come out of Egypt. God killed the first generation during the 40 years.

According to verse 4, it was after Moses and Israel defeated Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan.

Next you might ask your group about the segments or addresses in Deuteronomy.

The first of Moses' three addresses in Deuteronomy is chapters 1–4.
The second is Deuteronomy 5–28.
The last is chapters 29–34.

It is a record of the covenant with that second generation, many of whom had come out of Egypt (if they had been less than 20 years old at the time of the exodus) and others who had been born in the wilderness during the previous 40 years.

What did Moses expound / explain in Deuteronomy 1? You can ask your group what they noted as the main theme or events of this chapter on their At a Glance charts.

Israel's history from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea

Verses 6-18

What are these verses about?

These verses tell what happened at Horeb.

God told Israel to leave Horeb and go to the land they were to possess. Verse 7 gives a description of the land.

Then Moses told of how God had multiplied Israel to be like the stars of heaven. God kept the promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of making the great nation, multiplying their number.

Deuteronomy was after Israel had rebelled against God, Numbers 14, by choosing not to go into the land because of the bad report of giants being there. They hadn't believed God would keep His promise because of fear. Israel had forgotten that God keeps His promises; they had forgotten who He was.

Verses 12-18 tell of the heads of the tribes and judges who were appointed.

Moses needed help to lead because of the vast number of Israel. The heads of the tribes were wise, discerning, and experienced men.

The judges were to judge righteously and impartially. They were not to fear others (ESV—be intimidated) because the judgment is God's. They were to fear Him. Israel had seen God's impartial judgment, His decisions, regarding the Egyptians and their own previous generation.

Was Moses warning the new generation about their future leaders by reminding them of their past?

Give time for your group to discuss any application or what they learned about the Lord.

Verses 19-46

Where did Israel get to? What happened?

In these verses, Moses recounted the events at Kadesh-barnea, 38 years previous.

Verse 2 states that the journey was only 11 days from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea. Their rebellion against the Lord had cost many lives and a lot of time.

The Lord placed the land before them and commanded them not to fear or be dismayed, but they didn't listen because they really didn't trust Him or His promises. Help your group to evaluate if they do the same.

Fear of giants is contrasted with trusting in God's promises. God Himself will fight the giants, just as He did the might of Egypt.

Israel had seen in the wilderness how the Lord had carried them, gone before them to seek out places for them to camp. He had led them by a cloud during the day (shade from the sun) and fire by night (light in the darkness and warmth).

But He became angry with them for rebelling against His commands. There is so much about who God is in these verses. Give time at any point to discuss application.

Verse 43 recounts the second time Israel went against God's clear command at Kadesh, and death was the result. Presumptuous sin has a severe penalty.

The Lord didn't listen as they wept before Him—they hadn't listened to Him.

Give time for your group to discuss what they learned about the Lord from this chapter.

DEUTERONOMY 2

Ask your group how they summarized this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Israel's history from Kadesh to Gilead

Verses 1-7

What are these verses about?

Israel left Kadesh after many days because the Lord told Moses that they were to move; compare this with 1:6. Then at His direction, after circling Mount Seir many days, they headed north.

Mount Seir was the territory of Edom, Esau's descendants / offspring. Esau and Jacob (Israel) were brothers. The Lord warned Moses not to let Israel provoke the sons of Esau because if there were a fight, He would not give any of Esau's land to Israel.

God had promised land to Esau's descendants, even though they were godless people. His promises are firm—His chosen people Israel could not even have any of Esau's land.

If He wouldn't let His chosen people have any of Esau's land, then how much more would He protect the land promised to Israel? Help your group understand how reliable His promises are.

Verses 6 and 7 remind Israel of God's provision for them; they hadn't lacked a thing for 40 years—even though wandering in a wilderness.

Verses 8-15

Who or where are these verses about?

Moab

After passing through Esau's land, Edom in the south of modern Jordan, Israel passed by Moab's land. God gave the same warning to Moses about the land He had specifically given to Moab (one of Lot's sons). Israel was not to harass nor provoke (ESV—contend with) Moab to war.

God's promise of land for Moab was firm—another group of people given land by God Himself and protected by Him.

Ask about the parentheses of verses 10-12.

There had been giants in the land God had given to Esau and Moab. Both Esau's descendants / offspring and those of Moab had destroyed the giants in their lands and dispossessed them. The contrast was that God's own chosen people Israel had not done the same at the time when they rejected their land, Numbers 14. But they were about to.

Not only had Esau and Moab taken land from giants, but God would not give any of their land to another nation, specifically Israel.

Ask about verses 13-15.

From the time Israel was at Kadesh-barnea to when they crossed the brook Zered, it was 38 years. During that time all the men of war perished because God's hand was against them.

What lessons could that generation of Israel learn from the godless nations of Esau and Moab? Are God's promises firm and sure?

Israel, of all nations, should have taken their promised land from the giants living in it, but fear had caused them to rebel and suffer God's judgment for it.

Verses 16-23

Who is in these verses? How does this compare with Esau and Moab?

Ammon

After the rebellious generation perished in the wilderness, the Lord led Israel by the land of Ammon. The same thing is said about Ammon and their land as about Esau and Moab.

The three make up the modern country of Jordan.

Ammon, Lot's other son and Moab's brother, also faced and conquered giants living in their land. They too destroyed them and possessed their land given by God.

Moses related these three examples to the people who were to go into their land of promise and take possession of it—the generation who had seen the fear and rebellion of their fathers. Their rebellion had caused them to wander for 38 years in the wilderness instead of being like the nations of modern Jordan who were living in their land protected by God.

Verses 24-37

Who is mentioned in these verses?

The next illustration of encouragement Moses presented to the people with him was that of Sihon king of Heshbon. He reminded them that they, the new generation of Israel, had seen God deliver a nation into their hands.

God gave Heshbon to Israel, as they obeyed His commands regarding destroying the evil people of that place. God used Israel as his instrument to judge Heshbon.

Verse 25 states that the peoples everywhere would fear Israel, not the other way around.

DEUTERONOMY 3

What is this chapter about? Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart.

Israel's history from Bashan to the valley opposite Beth-peor

Verses 1-11

What is the next encouraging illustration or reminder that Moses told Israel?

Og king of Bashan was a giant (verse 11) with 60 cities.

God delivered him with all his people into Israel's hand after Heshbon.

Verse 8 says that Sihon and Og were two kings of the Amorites.

NOTE: Some in your group might remember that in Genesis 15:16-21 when the Lord promised the land to Abraham, He mentioned the iniquity of the Amorites being complete.

Verses 12-20

What is described?

These verses are about the division of the land on the east side of the Jordan River for the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh.

Verses 21-28

How and where does this chapter end?

Moses reminded the people that Joshua, not him, would be the leader to take them across the Jordan to possess that land given to them by the Lord.

Give time for your group to discuss any application of verse 22.

This chapter ends with Israel in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

DEUTERONOMY 4

Ask how this chapter differs from the first three.

Deuteronomy 1–3 told of Israel's history from Egypt to their current location.

Chapter 4 addressed them where they were at the time Deuteronomy was written.

What is the repeated message of this chapter?

Listen, keep the commands; no god besides God, jealous and compassionate / merciful

Verses 1-8

What did Moses say in these verses?

Verses 1-2 present the condition for Israel to possess their land—listen to the statutes and judgments / rules. Do them, don't add to them, don't take away from them.

The other nations—Esau, Moab, and Ammon—had no conditions because they were not in a covenant with the Lord God Almighty.

Verses 3-4 are a warning about what happened with Baal-peor (Numbers 25). The people of Beth-peor were idol worshippers and enticed some of the men of Israel to sin, and God destroyed them with a plague—that was the existing generation, not their fathers.

So they also had experienced the judgment of God and His mercy and protection (verse 4). They had held fast to the Lord and lived.

Ask about verses 5-8, what is the main point?

Israel was a great nation at that time. They were to be known as wise and understanding because of calling on a God so near. It was a contrast to the idolatry of the nations surrounding them.

Another contrast was with the righteousness of their Law.

Verses 9-14

What is the warning?

Moses called them to remember that God Himself had spoken the Ten Commandments to them at Mount Sinai so that they would fear Him. It was to discipline them.

They heard His words but saw no form.

Verses 15-24

Ask what these verses are about and what they learn about God.

This is a warning against idolatry—they had seen no form.
They were to make no form to worship.

not human
not animal, creatures, fish
not heavenly bodies

Moses warned Israel not to forget the covenant they made with God because He is a consuming fire—as they had seen at Sinai. He's a jealous God, and they were not to turn to idols.

Ask your group how Colossians 3:5-6 compares with this and what application there is for them.

Verses 25-31

What and when are these verses about?

In the midst of the warning against idolatry, Moses gave a prophecy from the Lord. Israel would turn to idolatry after they had lived in the land for a while. As a result of that evil, God’s anger would scatter them among the nations and their numbers would greatly decrease.

When they turn and seek Him “in the latter days,” then they’ll listen to His voice.

He is also the compassionate / merciful God who will not fail His people nor forget His covenant.

Verses 32-40

What do these verses teach about the Lord?

He created man.

No one else had ever heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of fire.
No other god had been able to take a nation from the midst of another nation.

The God of Israel is the one who made heaven and earth, who personally took them out of Egypt, who spoke to them so that they would know that He is God and there is no other.

He is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

Israel was to teach His commands to their sons and grandsons so that they would keep them and assure long life in their land. Encourage your group to be doing the same.

Verses 41-49

How does this chapter end?

Moses set aside three cities of refuge on the east side of the Jordan.

It was the end of his first address to Israel at that time.

To end this discussion, give time for your group to discuss what they learned about God and how it applies to them.

DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 5–8

REVIEW

You might begin with a brief review of Deuteronomy 1–4. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this review.

- 1 Israel’s history from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea
- 2 Israel’s history from Kadesh to Gilead
- 3 Israel’s history from Bashan to the valley opposite Beth-peor
- 4 Listen, keep the commands;
no god besides God, jealous and compassionate / merciful

You can also ask about the time of Deuteronomy and who the people were.

It was the 40th year of Israel’s wandering in the wilderness before entering the land of Canaan. They left Egypt 40 years before this time.

The Lord had killed the first generation, men 20 years and over, when they left Egypt because they rebelled against Him and didn’t enter the land. At the time of Deuteronomy, it was the second generation.

They fought and defeated two kings of the Amorites—Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan. They were camped in the land they had taken on the east side of the Jordan River.

DEUTERONOMY 5

While they’re looking at their At a Glance charts, ask your group what they noted as the theme or main event of this chapter.

God’s covenant at Horeb—He spoke the Ten Commandments

Tell your group to look at their pages “Insights on God from Deuteronomy” as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-5

What did Moses say in these verses?

He called the new generation to hear, learn, and do God’s statutes and ordinances / rules.

He told them that the Lord made a covenant with them at Horeb. Some of them remembered that event. But some had been born in the wilderness and had not experienced it.

God spoke to them face to face.
Moses was between Him and the people.
They were afraid because of the fire on the mountain.

Ask what your group learned about the uses of “fear” in Deuteronomy. How is this applicable for Christians now?

“Fear” can mean “to stand in awe of,” “revere.”¹

The Word of God produces a fear of God (Deuteronomy 4:10; 17:19; 31:12, 13).

Fear of God causes one to keep His Word (Deuteronomy 6:2).

Fear of this kind can prevent people from wrongdoing.
It keeps the proper perspective in people’s minds.
God is God, and man is only man.

Give time for them to discuss application about God and His Word. Is His Word any less important for life today? His literal Word is the Bible for all to know and obey.

Verses 6-21

What are these verses?

This is what the Lord spoke to Israel at Horeb (Mount Sinai), the Ten Commandments.

This was in preparation for the new generation of Israel to go in and possess the land which the Lord had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The commandments were the most important things that they needed to know to live in their new home.

You could have a little fun with your group and ask if anyone can recite the Ten Commandments.

Then also ask if anyone knows the other chapter in the Torah, the Law, the Pentateuch, where the Ten Commandments are recorded.

Exodus 20

Verses 22-27

What is the content of these verses?

The Lord also wrote these words on tablets of stone.
He both spoke and wrote them for Israel.

¹ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001).

They were amazed that the Lord had spoken to them and yet they lived.

He had shown His glory and His greatness. And both can still be seen in His Word, from studying what the Bible teaches about Him and what He has done.

Compare this with Deuteronomy 4:10-14 and 32-40.

God let them hear Him: So they learn to fear Him
know He is God
For discipline

There is a short list at the end of this lesson's guide which you might use as a visual aid.

Verses 28-33

How does this chapter end? What was God's desire for them in verse 29?

His desire was for the heart . . . a heart to fear Him and keep His Word.
His desire was that all be well with them, the result of obeying Him.
Obedience to His Word, His way, was what would prolong their days in the land.

What does the New Testament say about God's Law?

Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law.

Romans 8:1-4

Believers fulfill the Law by living according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

DEUTERONOMY 6

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance charts as the theme or main event(s) of this chapter.

Hear, keep commands, and teach to children

Verses 1-3

Who was to teach who? Why?

Moses was to teach the second generation what the Lord said in His commands, statutes and judgments / rules.

The desired result was that they do what the commands say when they go into their land. It was so that they fear the Lord, keep His commands, and their lives be prolonged in their land.

Verses 4-9

What are these verses sometimes called? Ask your group what they learned from these verses.

The Shema

Israel was commanded to hear and to love God. His words were to be on their hearts. Not only is fearing the Lord a motivation for obedience, but love is also.

They were to love Him with all their heart, all their soul, and all their might.

This is a command. Love is an act of the will.

A life of obedience to God shows one's love for Him.

Give time for your group to discuss how this applies to them.

Who else was to teach someone?

Israel was to teach their children to love the Lord by obeying His Word. His Word was to be on their hearts all the time, teaching their children at every opportunity. His Word was to be every day a part of how they thought and what they did.

They were a new generation who had not had proper examples from their fathers who had all died as a result of disobedience. Israel needed to know how and when and what to teach their own children in the land of promise.

God promised the land, He was leading them into it, and He told them how to keep it by living according to His ways.

Discuss with your group what children are taught today, how they are taught, when they are taught about the Lord and what He has done in the lives of their parents. Use this as an encouragement to help them see how important it is to teach their children from an early age. They need to know not only the love of God, but also the proper fear of the Lord.

Verses 10-25

What was Israel to do when they entered the land?

Watch yourselves.
Do not forget the Lord.
Follow no other gods.
Keep His commandments.
Do what is right.
Fear Him.

Moses warned the new generation about keeping His commandments. They had seen firsthand what had happened to a generation who did not.

They were about to enter a land of idolatry and pagan worship.

God was going to give them cities which they didn't build and houses full of good things, things which would lead to their satisfaction.

They were not to forget that God had brought them out of slavery in Egypt into abundance.

When people are satisfied, there is a danger of forgetting the Lord.
One needs to be diligent in his obedience to God.
He alone is to be feared and worshiped; from Him are all good gifts.
He is a jealous God.

What is the definition of righteousness in verse 25?

Doing what God says

DEUTERONOMY 7

What is the theme or main event of this chapter?

God will clear the nations; make no covenant with them

Tell your group to look at their list about “Israel and the Nations” as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Verses 1-6

Who are these verses about? What is the warning for Israel?

God would clear away seven nations in the land.
Those seven nations were greater than Israel.

Israel was to completely destroy those nations.
to make no covenant with them.
not to intermarry with them.
to tear down their altars and burn their idols.

The Lord knew that making a covenant with or intermarrying with those nations would turn Israel away from following Him to serve their gods.

God chose Israel to be His holy nation; different from all others.

How does 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 compare with this?

Paul gave instructions to the Corinthians, who were saved in the midst of a pagan and idolatrous society.

There is no fellowship, unity, or completeness when a believer chooses to marry an unbeliever. Marriage is probably not the only union in reference here; other kinds of partnerships might also fall into this category.

Some believers are married to unsaved people because one was saved after marriage. That is not the same as knowingly disobeying the Lord and marrying someone unsaved.

Verses 7-11

Why did God love and choose Israel?

It wasn't because they were the largest nation at the time. But it was because He had made an oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

He is the faithful, covenant-keeping God.

He is the God of lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

He will repay those who hate Him; He will destroy them.

Verses 12-16

What would happen if Israel obeyed the Lord?

He would love and bless them in the land.
Bless them above all peoples, remove all sickness.

Verses 17-26

What other warnings did Moses tell Israel in the rest of this chapter?

Israel was not to fear the mighty people of the land, but only to fear the Lord.
They needed to remember. They had seen what He did to Pharaoh.
He was in their midst, a great and awesome God.

He would clear away the nations, but little by little to preserve the land for them.
He would deliver the kings of the nations into their hands.

Israel was to burn the graven images and not covet the gold and silver on them.
They were to utterly detest these things because they are an abomination to the Lord.

Discuss the cross-references about wealth and riches.

Matthew 6:19-34

There are treasures on earth and treasures in heaven.

One's heart is where his treasure is.

If on earth, then the heart is set on the things of this world.
But if in heaven, one has the heart which God desires.

Verse 24 says that it is impossible to serve two masters. If money is one's master, then that one cannot serve the Lord.

Believers are to seek first God and His kingdom. He is the one who will give to them what they need for life on earth. Believers are not to worry about food and clothing; God is the provider . . . just like He provided for Israel.

1 Timothy 6:1-19

There are false teachers who advocate different doctrines than Scripture. They twist the Word of God to use it to teach what is the opposite of what it says.

They make their living teaching false doctrine. Many of these are teaching that believers have a right to riches and should do whatever necessary to claim those riches. Caution your class about anyone who teaches that wealth is for all believers.

Believers are to live lives of contentment because the Lord is their Provider. He has promised to meet our basic needs of physical life.

Those who want to get rich fall into a snare and are ruined. The love of money causes all sorts of evil. Believers are to flee from such things and pursue righteousness. Take hold of eternal life as opposed to physical life.

There are believers who have been given riches by God. They are not to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God Himself. They are to use their riches for doing good and being generous, storing up treasure in heaven.

Colossians 3:5

Greed amounts to idolatry. Those who have or don't have riches can be guilty of greed. It is totally opposed to righteousness. Idolatry was not to be tolerated by Israel, nor does God Himself tolerate it. It is to have no place in a believer's life.

DEUTERONOMY 8

Ask what your group put as the theme or main event of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Remember God, don't forget

Verses 1-10

What are the main points?

Be careful to do the Lord's commands to possess and live in the land.

Remember the last 40 years.

The Lord tested and humbled you.

He fed and clothed you.

He was disciplining you.

Keep His commands and fear Him.

Verses 11-20

What is the warning?

When things are going well, don't become proud and forget Him by not obeying Him. He brought you out of slavery and led you through the great and terrible / terrifying wilderness.

If you forget Him and worship other gods, you will perish.

Listen to His Words.

Give time for your group to discuss any application from this chapter.

To end this discussion, you can ask your group what they learned about God from this lesson.

Hear

Fear Him

Obey His commands

Love Him

Teach His words to your sons

Beware when satisfied, don't forget Him

**DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 9–11

REVIEW

You might begin with a brief review of Deuteronomy 1–8. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this review.

- 1 Israel’s history from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea
- 2 Israel’s history from Kadesh to Gilead
- 3 Israel’s history from Bashan to the valley opposite Beth-peor
- 4 Listen, keep the commands;
no god besides God, jealous and compassionate / merciful
- 5 God’s covenant at Horeb—He spoke the Ten Commandments
- 6 Hear, keep commands, and teach to children
- 7 God will clear the nations; make no covenant with them
- 8 Remember God led you 40 years; don’t forget Him in the land

You can also ask about the time of Deuteronomy and who the people were.

It was the 40th year of Israel’s wandering in the wilderness before entering the land of Canaan. They left Egypt 40 years before this time.

The Lord killed the first generation, men 20 years and over, when they left Egypt because they rebelled against Him and didn’t enter the land. At the time of Deuteronomy, it was the second generation.

They fought and defeated two kings of the Amorites—Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan. They camped in the land they had taken on the east side of the Jordan River.

Warnings are repeated throughout Deuteronomy 1–8, and also in chapters 9–11.

DEUTERONOMY 9

You can ask what your group noted as the theme or main event of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Possess the land; not your righteousness but their wickedness; Israel rebellious, provoked God to wrath

Use the map and “Insights on God from Deuteronomy” as visual aids for this discussion.

Verses 1-3

What are these verses about?

Moses told Israel about dispossessing the nations who lived in their land. Those nations were greater and mightier than Israel and had fortified cities and the Anakim—the giants who caused fear the first time Israel was to enter their land.

Then he told them how they would dispossess them. The Lord was going before them. He is a consuming fire. He would destroy the Anakim and any others in the land.

Then the people of Israel would drive them out.

Verses 4-5

How do these verses relate to the first three verses?

The Lord wasn't going to drive out the nations in the land because of Israel's righteousness, but because of those nations' wickedness.

It was because of the oath / word the Lord swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is righteous and He keeps His promises.

Verses 6-29

What did Moses remind Israel of in these verses?

They were a stubborn and rebellious people, from Egypt to where they were then. The Lord's wrath was provoked more than once in the wilderness.

At Horeb, Mount Sinai, they had made a golden calf as an idol while Moses was up on the mountain for 40 days and nights. While he was on the mountain those 40 days and nights, he neither ate nor drank.

Verse 9 was the first time he went on the mountain.

Verse 16 says that they turned quickly from the Lord's commands.

The Lord was angry enough to destroy the people and Aaron at that time, but Moses prayed.

Verses 18-20 and 25-29 tell of the second time Moses was before the Lord 40 days and nights, after Israel made and worshiped the gold calf. Again, he neither ate nor drank.

Ask what your group learned from their study on Day Five about fasting.

Isaiah 58:1-12

Israel sought the Lord, but they were not righteous and had forsaken His ordinances. They asked why their fasting was not noticed by the Lord.

His answer told them information that believers today need to know about fasting.

Fasting is a time for believers to humble themselves, bowing, mourning.

A fast can be to loosen the bonds of wickedness and set free the oppressed, either the one fasting or the one(s) for whom the fasting is taking place. Moses fasted for Israel's sake. If a fast is not accompanied by righteous living and keeping the Lord's commands, it is not effective. The Lord takes no notice.

When one lives according to the Word of God, then he or she can fast and call on the Lord and He will answer. He will continually guide, satisfy, and strengthen.

Zechariah 7:1-14

Israel had been taken away to Babylon for 70 years of captivity because of continued rebellion and idolatry, after which the Lord allowed them to return to their land. They rebuilt the temple and the city of Jerusalem.

While in captivity they fasted and mourned in the fifth month because that was when Babylon had destroyed the temple and the city and took them captive. They fasted in the seventh month because Gedaliah was murdered then. He was appointed by the king of Babylon as governor of Jerusalem.

The Lord told them through Zechariah that it had not been for Him that they fasted those years in captivity. It was for themselves and their prosperity.

Moses fasted because of the peoples' sin, but the Israelites in captivity mourned for Jerusalem and the temple, rather than mourning over their sin which had been the cause of the destruction.

A fast does not guarantee that the Almighty God will hear or answer the request of the one fasting. He listened to Moses because his request was based on righteousness and the Lord's promises and character.

Lead your discussion back to Deuteronomy 9.
What was the result of Moses' fasting?

God didn't destroy Aaron or the people of Israel.

Again at Taberah the people provoked the Lord to anger.

This was the event in Numbers 11:3 where they had complained against the Lord, and He consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

At Massah

Exodus 17:7, they complained about having no water. Moses struck the rock and the Lord brought water from it.

At Kibroth-hattaavah

Numbers 11:34, the people complained about the manna; God sent quail for them to eat. Even while the meat was still in their mouths, He sent a plague to wipe out many of them.

At Kadesh-barnea

Israel rebelled and would not go into the land.
They did not believe God or listen to Him.

According to verses 28-29, what did Moses base his prayer on?

God's great power; he was concerned that people see what God can do.
God promised to bring Israel into their land—despite their stubbornness and rebellion, He was about to do that.

Moses warned the second generation by reminding them of what they saw the first generation do.

DEUTERONOMY 10

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance charts as the theme or main event of this chapter.

What does God require? Fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him with whole heart.

Verses 1-11

How do these verses continue the flow of thought from Deuteronomy 9?

At the end of Deuteronomy 9, Moses was speaking about what had happened at Horeb.

He went up the mountain again because he had broken the first tablets of the covenant when Israel made the idol. During this second period of 40 days and nights on the mountain, the Lord gave him another set of tablets to replace the first.

God told him to make an ark of wood to hold the tablets. It was later overlaid with gold and called the ark of the covenant. It was placed in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle. The Levites were chosen by God to carry the ark during the wilderness travels when the tabernacle was moved from place to place.

Written on the tablets were the Ten Commandments which the people had covenanted with the Lord to obey. Those were the words they heard from His voice at Horeb. Almost immediately they broke that covenant.

He didn't destroy them at that time because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob . . . His covenant of promise, promise of descendants and the land.

Verses 12-22

What is the question in verse 12? What is the answer? Discuss application and briefly list what the answer is. See the last page of this lesson's guide for an example.

What does the Lord require from His people?

Fear Him.

Review from Lesson 2 what your group remembers about fearing the Lord. Reverence, standing in awe of Him

Walk in all His ways.

“Walk” signifies living day by day. His ways are learned from His Word. Living life day by day according to what the Lord has said. Lives of obedience

Love Him.

Review from Deuteronomy 6 what your group remembers. God commanded His people to love Him with their whole heart and demonstrate that love by obeying Him.

Serve Him with all your heart and soul.

Loving and serving convey a heart attitude, not just a cold-hearted keeping of a list of laws and commands.

Keep His commandments.

The Lord requires obedience. He required it of Israel, and requires it of New Testament believers.

Ask your group what they learned about God in verses 14-22. Discuss application.

The heaven, highest heavens, the earth, and all in it belong to the Lord God.
Yet He set His affection on Israel and chose to love them.
The same is true of Christians, New Testament believers.

Moses called Israel to circumcise their hearts. Again he is saying that obedience is to come from the heart, from a love and reverence of the Lord. Understand who He is and learn why to love Him and fear Him.

He is

the God of gods,
the Lord of lords
the great, mighty, and awesome God

He does not show partiality or take a bribe.
He executes justice for all.

He is your praise and your God.
He is the one who has done great and awesome things which Israel saw.

In verse 22, again Moses reminded the new generation that the Lord kept His promise to Abraham to multiply his descendants as the stars as the heavens. Only 70 had gone to Egypt and approximately 600,000 men above the age of 20 came out.

Be sure to use some time in each of these discussions to help your group reflect on God's character—who He is, what He's like, His ways.

DEUTERONOMY 11

Direct your group to their At a Glance charts again and ask about the theme or main event of this chapter.

God disciplines; beware that your heart not deceived; blessing and curse

Verses 1-7

How do these verses continue the flow of thought from Deuteronomy 10?

The Lord multiplied Israel into the great number of people that existed at that time, even though He put to death an entire generation of evil and unbelieving people.

He did great and awesome things which the new generation saw with their own eyes.

“Therefore” they should love their great and awesome God and always keep His commandments.

Verse 2 is a reminder to Israel that they had seen the Lord's discipline.

What is the description of Him and the great work He did in the wilderness, verses 2-7?

His discipline

His greatness

His mighty hand

His outstretched arm

His signs and works / deeds in Egypt

He parted the Red Sea and engulfed Pharaoh's army

He disciplined Israel in the wilderness:

Dathan and Abiram were the ones who spoke against the priesthood.

The earth opened and swallowed them and all that was theirs.

God is still the God of discipline.

You might ask your group what discipline is for. What should be the result of discipline? Are they teaching and disciplining their own children as Deuteronomy 6 and 11 teach?

Direct your group to their chart on Day Five as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Verses 8-12

What's the command? The result?

Keep His commands to live a long time in the land.
Obedience provided that Israel would live prosperously in their land.

God Himself would water the land and cause its produce.
His eyes are always on His land.

Verses 13-17

What are the command and the warning in these verses?

If you listen obediently to love and serve, God will give rain in the land. That would produce grass for the cattle and food for the people to eat and be satisfied.

NOTE: Today the land of Israel does not get very much rain at all. There is much irrigation being done. Wonder why?

The warning begins in verse 16.
Beware (ESV—take care) that your hearts aren't deceived to worship other gods.
The result is God's anger and because of that no rain on the land.
Then they would perish.

Verses 18-25

What are these verses about? Relate this to Deuteronomy 6.

If you impress (ESV—lay up) His Words on your heart and teach them to your sons and write them on the doorposts of your houses, your days and the days of your sons will be multiplied in the land, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

If you keep all commands, love the Lord, walk in His ways, and hold fast to Him, then He will drive out all the nations and none will be able to stand before you.

Relate this to the beginning of chapter 9. Moses said that the people of the nations were greater and mightier, the sons of Anak. Not even these will be able to stand before Israel.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application.

Verses 26-32

What's the contrast?

Blessing if they listen to and obey God's commandments
Curse if they don't listen and turn away to other gods
This was and is for the nation of Israel from the time that they entered the land.


How does all of this relate to the body of Christ Jesus, New Testament believers?

The Lord still requires love and obedience from the whole heart, fearing Him as the great and awesome only God.

What does the Lord require?

- Fear Him
- Walk in His ways
- Love Him
- Serve Him with all heart and soul
- Keep His commands

Blessings if obey
Curses if don't



DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 12–16
- The place the Lord will choose for His name

REVIEW

You might begin with a brief review of Deuteronomy 1–8. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this review.

- 1 Israel's history from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea
- 2 Israel's history from Kadesh to Gilead
- 3 Israel's history from Bashan to the valley opposite Beth-peor
- 4 Listen, keep the commands;
no god besides God, jealous and compassionate / merciful
- 5 God's covenant at Horeb—He spoke the Ten Commandments
- 6 Hear, keep commands, and teach to children
- 7 God will clear the nations; make no covenant with them
- 8 Remember God led you 40 years; don't forget Him in the land
- 9 Possess the land; not your righteousness but their wickedness; Israel rebellious,
provoked God to wrath
- 10 What does God require? Fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him,
serve Him with whole heart
- 11 God disciplines; beware that your heart not deceived; blessing and curse

You can also ask about the time of Deuteronomy and who the people were.

It was the 40th year of Israel's wandering in the wilderness before entering the land of Canaan. They left Egypt 40 years before this time.

The people of Israel were the second generation of those who came out of Egypt.

They fought and defeated two kings of the Amorites—Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan. They camped in the land they took on the east side of the Jordan River.

Warnings are repeated throughout Deuteronomy 1–11.

What was Israel told to be careful about in Deuteronomy 6:3; 8:1 and 11:32?

Be careful to do God's commands

DEUTERONOMY 12

You can ask what your group noted as the theme or main event of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Seek Lord at place He chooses; be careful / take care

Verses 1-7

What are these verses about?

Israel was told to carefully observe (ESV—be careful to do) the statutes and judgments / rules when they entered their land.

The statutes and judgments / rules in this chapter have to do with places.

When Israel entered their land, they were to:

- Destroy the places where the nations worshiped their gods
Israel was to obliterate / destroy the name of their gods.
- Go to the place the Lord chose
Seek the Lord
Take tithes and offerings
Eat and rejoice

God would choose a place from the tribes. That place is where He established His name. It's where He would dwell (ESV—make his habitation).

NOTE: Some in your group might know more about this place. At the time Moses spoke this, God's dwelling place / his habitation among His people was in the tabernacle. When Israel entered their land, they would not be moving around anymore. God's place of dwelling would be permanent.

You don't need to bring this up, but if someone asks, this place is Jerusalem where the permanent dwelling of God was built—the temple. It's in the land of Judah's inheritance.

Verses 8-12

What is the point of these verses?

Verses 8-9 speak of the temporary situation Israel had been living in since they left Egypt. They'd not yet come to the place of permanence—rest.

Verse 10 describes the rest when Israel entered their land.

- Rest from their enemies
- Inheritance
- Live securely / safety

Again the place the Lord chose to establish His name is the central point of worship when Israel enters their land.

The Levite is mentioned for the first time in this chapter in verse 12. The Levites had no inheritance of land, but would be scattered throughout the other tribes in the land.

NOTE: This discussion might be detailed or not, depending on whether or not you group studied the Precept Upon Precept courses on Exodus and Leviticus. Much of what's in Deuteronomy is also in Exodus or Leviticus.

Verses 13-19

What are the warnings?

Be careful / take care

Don't offer in every cultic (ESV doesn't use "cultic") place—the places in verse 2.

Israel could eat whatever they desired in their gates / towns, except blood and the tithe. The tithe was to be eaten in the place the Lord chose. Again, rejoicing.

Another caution regarding the Levite—be careful / take care not to forsake the Levite. The tithe from the people was for the Levites.

Verses 20-28

How does the flow of thought continue?

When the Lord extends their border (ESV—enlarges their territory)
Compare with the beginning of verses 10 and 29.

When they want to eat meat, then they could eat it wherever they desired.
But the holy things, tithes and offerings, they had to take to the place God chose.

This repeats what verses 13-18 said.

Be careful is again in verse 28. This has to do with listening to all God commands.
Obedience means doing what is good and right in His sight.

Verses 29-32

How does this chapter end?

It's another warning about when they are in their land. Beware about being ensnared.
Don't ask about the nations' gods or how they serve them.

Give time for your group to discuss how this might be applied now.

This chapter ends with "be careful" about not adding to or taking away from God's command.

DEUTERONOMY 13

You might ask your group how they could sum up this chapter.

Stone prophet, family, city who leads to serve other gods

Verses 1-5

What was the first situation?

Prophet or a dreamer among you gives a sign or wonder that comes true
Counsels against God's Word—go after other gods

Don't listen; the Lord is testing you.
Put to death the one who counsels rebellion against the Lord.

Ask your group about any possible application for now.

Verses 6-11

What was this situation?

Relative or close friend who would secretly entice one to go after other gods

Don't yield or listen, pity, spare or conceal him. Put him to death; then the rest of Israel would hear and be afraid.

Punishment has a great effect on further evil in a society.

Verses 12-18

What's the last situation?

Worthless men who seduced their city to go after other gods

Israel was to investigate thoroughly.

Many quickly react to accounts of wrongdoing instead of making a thorough investigation of the matter.

If the account was true, the city and its inhabitants were to be destroyed, never to be rebuilt.

Give your group time to discuss any relevant application from this chapter.

DEUTERONOMY 14

Ask your group what they noted as the main theme or event of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Chosen and holy people; eat clean food; tithe

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

Don't cut yourselves or shave (ESV—make baldness on) your forehead for the sake of the dead. These were part of the cultic worship practices of the other nations.

Israel was a holy people, set apart to the Lord their God, chosen to be a people for God's own possession. He chose them out of all the peoples on earth. They weren't to be like the other nations.

Verses 3-21

What are these verses about?

This tells the new generation about not eating detestable things, unclean. This was another way they were not to be like other nations.

Verses 4-8, animals
Verses 9-10, fish
Verses 11-20, birds or fowl
Verse 21, anything that dies

Verses 22-27

What's the subject of these verses?

Tithe from the produce of the field every year; eat it in the presence of the Lord at the place where He would choose.

If the distance was too far to take the tithe, then they were allowed to exchange it for money and go to the place. There they could spend the money for whatever their heart desired and eat in the Lord's presence.

Another reminder to not neglect the Levite. The tithe was for the Levites.

Verses 28-29

What is the time reference? What are the verses about?

At the end of every third year the tithe for that year was to be brought and deposited in town for the Levite, widow, and orphan.

DEUTERONOMY 15

Again, ask about the main theme or event on the At a Glance chart.

7 years, then remission / release

How does this chapter connect with Deuteronomy 14?

Beginning in 14:22, Moses told Israel what they were to do every year and at the end of every third year. Then he told them what to do at the end of every seven years.

Verses 1-6

What were they to do?

Remission / release of debt was to be granted to fellow countrymen, the others of Israel.

God said that there would be no poor among them if they obeyed Him because He would bless them as a result of their obedience. They would lend to nations but not borrow. Relate this to 14:29—the Lord’s blessing.

Verses 7-11

Who are these verses about?

This presents the possibility of a poor man in Israel.
And verse 11 says that the poor will never cease to be in the land.
This indicates that Israel never really obeyed all the Lord said, verses 4-5.

God made provision for when Israel didn’t obey and, as a result, the poor were among them.

Others were not to harden their hearts toward the poor but generously lend.

God would bless for giving generously to the poor.

Discuss with your group how they feel about and treat the poor of today.

Verses 12-18

Refer your group to the chart in the lesson. Ask about Hebrew slaves and the 7th year.

A Hebrew man or woman in slavery was to be set free in the seventh year, furnished liberally by the owner as God had blessed him while the slave was in his service.

Israel was to remember that they had been slaves in Egypt.

If the slave chose to remain with the owner, then he would be his servant forever.

Ask your group what they learned from verses 19-23.

First-born males of the herd and flock were consecrated / dedicated to the Lord, to be eaten every year before the Lord in the place He chose.

No defects.

Malachi 1:6-14

Israel despised the Lord's name by presenting defiled food, with defects, on His altar. The one who did this was cursed, because the Lord of hosts is a great King and His name is to be feared.

Relate this to today. You might ask your group what they give to the Lord.

DEUTERONOMY 16

Ask about this chapter's theme or main event on the At a Glance chart.

Passover, Feast of Weeks, and Booths at place Lord chooses

Direct your group to look at the charts in the lesson about the feasts as they discuss this chapter.

Verses 1-8

How does this chapter begin?

Observe Passover in the month of Abib, the month God brought Israel out of Egypt.

NOTE: Abib is the Canaanite name of the first month of the year. The Babylonian name for this month is Nisan.

Passover was to remember that He brought them out of Egypt. They were to eat unleavened bread for seven days to remember how they left Egypt in haste.

Sometimes this whole Feast or Festival is referred to as Passover and sometimes as Unleavened Bread. Jews celebrate this today in the spring of the year.

Verses 9-12

Ask your group what they learned about the Feast of Weeks.

The Feast of Weeks was to be celebrated when Israel began to cut the standing grain.

This is also referred to in the New Testament as Pentecost, and is celebrated in early summer.

Israel was to bring a freewill offering as the Lord blessed them. Celebrating this feast didn't begin until after the Lord took Israel into their land.

Verses 13-15

What about the Feast of Booths?

Celebrated for 7 days after Israel gathered from their threshing floor and wine vat.
So this also was not celebrated until they entered the promised land.

Verses 16-17

How do these verses summarize or add to the three feasts?

Israel was to celebrate these 3 feasts every year in the place the Lord would choose for His name to dwell.

Three times a year all the males were to appear before the Lord and give as they were able, according to the blessing the Lord had given them.

These feasts are still celebrated in the country of Israel as holidays.

Verses 18-20

What are these verses about?

Appoint judges and officers to judge with righteous judgment, not distorting justice, being partial, or taking bribes.

Verses 21-22

Ask about the reminders at the end of the chapter and how the cross-references relate.

You shall not plant an Asherah of any kind of tree beside the altar of the Lord.
You shall not set up a sacred pillar which the Lord hates.

Exodus 20:1-6

The first two commandments are about having no gods but the Lord God.
Don't make idols to worship.

Deuteronomy 4:15-20

This tells what not to make idols of—man, animals, birds, creeping things, fish.
Also, Israel was not to worship the sun, moon, or stars.

Colossians 3:5-6

Believers are to consider their members dead to greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Let your group discuss how they think greed is idolatry in the modern world.

Give time for them bring up any other application from this lesson.

DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 17–21
- Judicial and leadership—judges, kings, prophets, and priests

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as they discuss this lesson.

You could begin with a review of what your group has learned so far from their study of Deuteronomy.

Moses' first address to Israel:

- Deuteronomy 1–3 Moses recounted the journeys of Israel in the wilderness.
4 He reminded the new generation that although God spoke the Ten Commandments to them at Horeb, they saw no form and should not make any form or idol.

In these chapters, Moses reminded the new generation of why it took 40 years instead of the short journey to Kadesh-barnea to get ready to enter the promised land. It was the disobedience of their fathers who rebelled against the Lord.

The Lord was presented as a consuming fire, a jealous God, a compassionate God. He is God; there is no other besides Him.

The second address Moses gave to Israel:

- Deuteronomy 5 Moses restated the Ten Commandments to the new generation.
6–11 Israel was to teach their children God's commands. If they kept His commands, the faithful God would keep His covenant with them. He would dispossess the nations of Canaan, but not because of Israel's righteousness. What does the Lord require? Fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him, and keep His commands.
12–16 These chapters are about worship of the Lord: the place, the times, the clean, and holy people.

You might ask what the chapters they studied in this lesson are about.

Deuteronomy 17–21 are about the judicial setup and how the people, from kings to families, were to keep God's commands. Don't participate in detestable things. Purge evil from Israel's midst, so people will fear God and not do evil.

DEUTERONOMY 17

What is the theme of this chapter?

Purge evil from your midst; when you want a king

Refer your group to the last statement of Deuteronomy 13:5 and verse 11. How do these verses relate to Deuteronomy 17–21?

17:7, 12-13; 19:19-20 and 21:21 all repeat the same statements.

Israel was to purge the evil from among them.

This would cause fear to others, so that they would not do the same evil.

Verse 1

Compare this verse with Deuteronomy 16:21-22.

Deuteronomy 16:21-22 are about not setting up idols or things that have to do with idolatry.

Verse 1 of this chapter seems to continue that train of thought. Don't sacrifice an animal with a blemish. It's detestable / an abomination to the Lord.

Use the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for discussing this chapter.

Verses 2-7

What are these verses about?

This is the first "if" situation in this chapter.

If anyone in a town in Israel's land worships another god, the sun, moon, or heavenly host

If you're told about it, you are to thoroughly / diligently inquire about it.

If it's true, it's detestable and the person is to be stoned.

There must be two or three witnesses to the sin, and they were to be the first ones to throw a stone.

Evil was to be purged from Israel's midst.

Verses 8-13

What is the next "if" situation in this chapter?

If a case is too difficult to decide in a local area, it was to be taken to the place. The place the Lord chose—where the tabernacle was to be.

The Levitical priest or judge there would make decisions or verdicts in cases that were too difficult for the judges in the cities of the land. Their verdict was final.

Their verdicts were to be based on God's laws.

It was presumptuous to act against the verdict since it was God's priest or judge who rendered it based on His Word. So the one who didn't listen was put to death.

Verses 12-13 again state that the evil was to be purged from Israel's midst. That was so others would see the punishment and not commit the sin.

At any point in this discussion, give time for your group to discuss relevant application.

Verses 14-20

What was the Lord telling Israel through Moses in these verses?

At some point when they were in their land, they would want a king like the other nations.

God would choose him.
A man of Israel, not a foreigner

He was to write his own copy of the law of God and keep it with him.

Read it
Fear the Lord
Obey His commands
His heart not lifted up
Not turn from the Lord.

Obedience would result in a long rule in Israel.

What was the king not to do?

Multiply / acquire horses
That might have represented military strength.
The Lord was the military strength for Israel.

Cause anyone to go back to Egypt to multiply / acquire horses
God said that they should never return there.

Multiply / acquire many wives
They could lead his heart away from the Lord.

Greatly increase silver and gold for himself

You can ask your group what they think about a king or national leader who did what was right based on these verses.

DEUTERONOMY 18

What is the theme of this chapter?

Priests and Levites; detestable / abominable things; prophets

Verses 1-8

Who and what are these verses about?

Priests and Levites

They had no inheritance because the Lord was their inheritance. He provided for them by the offerings and tithes of the people. He chose them to serve in His name forever.

They were to live all over Israel, but also came to the place God would choose for His name. They would come there and serve the Lord, eat equal portions with those who were there.

NOTE: Verse 8, the reference to a father's estate (ESV—patrimony) would not include land—they had no inheritance of land.

You might ask why all the repetition in Deuteronomy. These things are repeated in Deuteronomy and also from Exodus through Numbers.

This was a warning and reminder of God's laws for the generation who would enter the land. The time was right before they did that. At that point in time, it seems that there was only the one copy of the Law—the one Moses wrote. Repetition is good in verbal communication.

Verses 9-14

What is the subject?

Israel was told to be blameless before the Lord.

They were not to imitate the detestable / abominable things of the nations who lived in the land they were about to enter, sacrificing their children or following occult practices.

Is that still relevant for today?

Verses 15-22

Who and what is this section about? Use the charts in the lesson as visual aids.

Prophets—one God will raise up contrasted with those who are presumptuous
Moses said that the Lord would raise up a prophet like him from Israel. They were to listen to him.

Moses told the people of Israel what the Lord said to them—he spoke to them what God said. Because the people asked at Horeb (Sinai) that the Lord not speak to them Himself.

God was going to raise up another, or other, prophet(s) like that.

John 1:21, 25 and Matthew 21:10-11

This prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What makes a prophet presumptuous?

One who would speak a word saying it was from the Lord, but the Lord had not commanded it, was a presumptuous prophet, or the one who would speak in the name of other gods.

Discuss the question asked in verse 21.

Anyone can know the Word of the Lord. The Bible, the written Word of God, exists for people today, by which believers are to check out what they hear people say.

Verse 22 answered the question: if the thing spoken did not come true, then it was not from the Lord. The prophet presumed, but did not speak from God.

This still happens. There are self-appointed prophets all over the world who are speaking things which are not from the Lord God who is the only God. Many speak claiming His name, but not according to His Word or character. They speak false prophecies or things to lead people to other gods, Deuteronomy 13:1-5.

Some speak things which come true, but if it leads people to other gods, then that is not from the Lord.

The result stated in Deuteronomy 18:22 and 13:4-5 is that the prophet is not to be feared, but put to death . . . God alone is to be feared.

Jeremiah 23:16-32

Just because a prophet speaks a vision does not mean that it is from God.

There are visions of a man's own heart or imagination, and there are false dreams. These prophets tell people they can live in rebellion or stubbornness of their own hearts against the Lord and there will be no judgment for it. These furnish no benefit to people.

True prophets from the Lord speak to turn people from their evil ways and deeds, which is the only thing that prevents judgment from the Lord.

Give your group time to discuss any relevant application of this.

DEUTERONOMY 19

What is the theme of this chapter?

Cities of refuge for manslayer; moving boundaries / landmarks; witnesses

Verses 1-13

What are these verses about?

Three cities were set aside as cities of refuge after Israel entered the land. Moses was preparing the new generation with what he had told their fathers. There were to be cities to where innocent manslaughterers could flee for protection from the one who would avenge the death of a kinsman.

In all there were 6 cities of refuge, 3 on each side of the Jordan River.

This was to prevent the innocent blood of the unintentional manslayer being shed by the blood avenger. But murderers were handed over to the blood avenger to be killed because they had shed innocent blood.

Verse 14

What does this teach about the land of Israel?

God gave the land by inheritance to the different tribes of Israel. It was a perpetual inheritance for each of the tribes. No one was to move a boundary mark (ESV—landmark) of a neighbor, even within the inheritance of the tribes.

The people would cultivate their land to produce food. It was their survival, their possession, their inheritance, their property given by God Himself.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application.

Verses 15-21

Who or what are these verses about?

Witnesses

Nothing was confirmed by only one witness; 2 or 3 witnesses were required.

If one was accused of bearing false witness, then he and the one he witnessed against would stand before the judges and priests, and a thorough investigation was made. If found guilty of false witnessing, that one was subjected to what he intended to do to the one against whom he had witnessed.

How do the cross-references in John 5 and 8 relate to this?

Jesus said that even if He bore witness of Himself, His witness is true, but He also offered many other witnesses to who He is: the Father, John the Baptist, His works, the Scriptures, and even Moses.

The punishment

no pity

life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot

Again it says that this would purge the evil from their midst.

Evil infects a society.

DEUTERONOMY 20

What is the theme of this chapter?

When you go to battle / war

Verses 1-9

How does the chapter begin?

Moses prepared the new generation of Israel, who had only fought in the two battles / wars against the Amorite kings of Heshbon and Bashan, for when they would go to battle.

He warned them against being afraid when seeing people more numerous (ESV—larger army) than Israel. The Lord is with you.

The priests would speak to the people so that they wouldn't be fainthearted, afraid, panicked, or tremble before their enemies. The Lord fights to save Israel.

They had already experienced this in two battles / wars, but needed to be reminded. Most of Deuteronomy is reminder of Exodus through Numbers and a warning to the generation going into the land not to be like the preceding generation.

Who else would speak to the men before they went to battle?

The officers told the one who had not yet dedicated a new house, not yet used fruit from his vineyard, or was engaged but not yet married, to return home. This demonstrated the goodness of the Lord toward those to whom He was giving the land of His promise. He is a compassionate God, a faithful God who loves His chosen people.

It also demonstrated how important the land and its produce was to the nation of Israel, even to individuals in it, and the importance of marriage.

The officers also told those who were afraid and fainthearted to go home. This was so they would not cause others to be afraid. Fear can be infectious.

NOTE: If your group studied Numbers, relate this to what happened at Kadesh-barnea. Israel had to wander in the wilderness for 38 years because of that kind of fear taking over almost the whole nation. Ten of the twelve spies sent into the land had caused the whole of Israel to fear and rebel against the Lord by refusing to go in and conquer the nations of the land. Only Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. They were also the only two of those 20 years old and upward left alive from the previous generation when Israel entered the promised land.

Give time to discuss any application also.

What happened after the officers spoke to the men before battle?

They appointed commanders of armies—
leaders who fear the Lord and no one else.

Verses 10-18

How do these verses begin? What is this about?

When you approach a city to fight against it, offer peace
Verse 15 says this only relates to cities far away from the land God gave Israel.

If city agrees
Terms of peace—forced labor and serve Israel

If not
Israel would besiege the city, kill men; everything else is spoil for Israel

What was to be done to the nations and cities occupying Israel's inheritance land?

They were to be utterly destroyed.

Genesis 15:16

The iniquity of the Amorites was complete by the time Israel entered their land.
God used them to judge the Amorites and others for their iniquities.

Deuteronomy 9:5 and 18:9-13

The wickedness of those nations was one reason God drove them out of Canaan.
They practiced detestable things.

Verses 19-20

What is the last thing in this chapter about going to battle?

In a siege they were not to destroy the fruit trees (ESV—trees for food) so they could eat from them. It was Israel's land, and they weren't to destroy it. It would provide for them.

DEUTERONOMY 21

What is the theme of this chapter?

If—slain person, wives, rebellious son; remove guilt and evil

What is it about?

Moses presented situations that might happen to this generation of Israel when they entered the land of promise. The principles of the Word of God have the answers for all of life.

Ask your group what they learned about each of the situations in this chapter.

Verses 1-9

If a slain person was found lying in the open country, what were they to do?

The elders of the city nearest to the slain man would take a heifer to a valley, not plowed or sown, with running water. They broke the heifer's neck; washed their hands over the heifer, saying that their hands had not shed that blood; and asked forgiveness for Israel for the innocent blood. The priests were to be present also.

That would remove the guilt of the innocent blood from their midst.

Verses 10-14

If a man took a wife from among the captives of battle, what was she to do?

Shave her head, trim / pare her nails, remove her clothes of captivity, remain in the house and mourn for a month. Then the man could take her as his wife.

What happened to her if she was not pleasing to her husband?

She could go wherever she wished.
She could not be sold or mistreated.

Verses 15-17

What about a man having two wives?

If one was loved above the other, and the unloved was the mother of the firstborn son, then he was still to have the right of the firstborn over the son of the loved wife.

The right of the firstborn was a double portion of all the father had at his death.

In some present-day societies men have more than one wife.

Verses 18-21

What was the punishment of a rebellious son?

The men of the city would stone to death a son who was stubborn, rebellious, disobedient, who would not listen when corrected, a glutton and a drunkard.

That would remove the evil from Israel and prevent others from doing the same evil.

Give time for application discussion.

Verses 22-23

What are these verses about?

The corpse of one accursed of God, one deserving the punishment of death, was hung on a tree, but taken down before night so as not to defile the land. Death defiled; if one came into contact with it, he would need to be cleansed.

Galatians 3

All under the law are under a curse. That would mean that all under the law are deserving of the punishment of death. The wages of sin is death.

The law does not justify anyone; only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ gives life.

Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law because He died for our sins. All are worthy of death because of sins, but He took our place on the cross. He was the one hung on the tree as the curse of God.

Ask how this applies to believers now, to your group specifically.

**DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 22–26

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group if they remember what Deuteronomy 1–4, Moses' first address, is about?

He told of Israel's history to where they were at the time of Deuteronomy—Horeb to the plains of Moab, after overtaking two kings of Amorites.

What has the second address been about so far?

Deuteronomy 5–21

Moses reminded and warned this generation of what to do when they entered their land. There is a lot of repetition from Exodus through Numbers.

Beginning in Deuteronomy 13:5 statements about purging or removing evil from Israel have been repeated.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this discussion. Also, they should look at their list about the Lord God.

DEUTERONOMY 22

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Help countrymen / brothers; proof of virginity; adultery

What are the issues in this chapter?

NOTE: Give time for your group to discuss any of the various issues and associated application, but watch your time.

Taking care of a fellow Israelite's possessions, verses 1-4

Verse 5 says it's an abomination for a man to wear a woman's clothing and vice-versa.

The people of Israel weren't to take a mother bird along with her young or eggs. She could produce more for food in their land, verses 6-7.

A parapet is a low wall or railing that prevents someone from falling off a flat roof, verse 8.

Verses 9-11 again warn against mixing seed, animals, and materials.

Tassels on four corners of garments were to remind them to keep God's commandments, verse 12. Numbers 15:37-41 tells about this.

Then the subject changes to marriage, divorce, and sexual sins in verses 13-30.

If a man publicly defamed his wife saying he did not find her a virgin, the girl's father was to bring evidence of her virginity. The elders would chastise the man, fine him 100 shekels of silver, and the man could not divorce the girl all his life.

If the charge was true, the girl would be stoned in the doorway of her father's house, purging the evil from Israel.

Adultery was punishable by death to both the man and woman.

If a man lay with an engaged virgin in the city, both were stoned. The girl since she didn't cry out for help, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife.

If the same thing happened in the field, then only the man was put to death because it was assumed that the engaged virgin did cry out for help but there was none to save her.

If the woman was an unengaged virgin, the man was to give the girl's father 50 shekels of silver and marry her and he could not divorce her all his days.

DEUTERONOMY 23

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Who can enter holy God's assembly; interest and vows

Verses 1-6

Who and what are these verses about?

The Lord specifically said some were not to enter His assembly.

No one emasculated (ESV—crushed testicles) or has his male organ cut off
No one of illegitimate birth (ESV—forbidden union) to the tenth generation
No Ammonite or Moabite to the tenth generation

Ammonites and Moabites did not meet Israel with food and water when they came out of Egypt, and the Moabites hired Balaam to curse Israel. Israel was not to seek their peace or prosperity.

But, according to Deuteronomy 2:8-9 and 17-19, God gave land to Moab and Ammon that Israel could not take from them.

Verses 7-8

Who are these verses about?

Edomites were not to be detested, because Edom (from Esau, Jacob/Israel's brother) is their brother.

Egyptians were also not to be detested because Israel was an alien in Egypt. And the sons of the third generation could enter the Lord's assembly.

Verses 9-14

What is the situation in these verses?

The men of Israel were to keep their camp clean from evil when they went to battle / war.

The man unclean because of nocturnal emission must bathe and not reenter the camp until sundown. They were to cover their excrement outside the camp.

Holiness was identified with cleanliness. God walked in their midst to deliver them and defeat their enemies. He was not to see anything indecent among them or He would turn away.

How does the cross-reference in 1 Peter 1 go with this? What is the application?

1 Peter 1:13-16

For the believer, holiness involves having a clean life spiritually. They are not to be conformed to their former lusts, but to be holy in all their behavior.

Just as Israel was given regulations to govern every area of their lives to make them a holy nation, distinct from all other nations, so believers' lives are to be holy, distinct from the world. Believers are to be holy, for He is holy.

Lead your discussion back to Deuteronomy 23.

Verses 15-18

Who is this about?

Slaves and prostitutes

Escaped slaves did not need to be returned to their owners.

It seems that this might also apply to slaves who escaped from places outside Canaan.

None of Israel's women or men were to be cult prostitutes. People who did that couldn't bring an offering before a holy God.

Verses 19-25

What are the issues addressed in these verses?

They were not to charge interest of fellow Israelites, only foreigners.

If someone delayed paying a vow, it was sin.

One could eat from his neighbors' vineyard or grain until satisfied, but could not put any in a basket to carry away. That was provision for the one in need and protection for the owner.

Give time for application discussion of anything in this chapter.

DEUTERONOMY 24

What is the theme of this chapter?

Marriage and divorce; pledges; justice for alien, orphan, widow

Verses 1-5

What is the subject? What did Jesus say about it when He quoted this?

Marriage and divorce

If a man divorced his wife because of some indecency (not adultery since that was punishable by death) in her and she married someone else and then was again divorced or widowed, her first husband could not marry her again.

Matthew 19:1-12

In reply to the Pharisees' question of whether it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause,

Jesus quoted from Genesis 2 that the two become one flesh. No man is to separate what God has joined.

It was because of the hardness of their hearts that Moses permitted the Israelites to divorce their wives. Whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.

You might ask if your group thinks this still applies now. Why or why not?

What is the next situation regarding marriage in verse 5?

A man with a new wife was to be free at home for one year to give happiness to his wife.

Should this still be applied? Why or why not?

Verses 6-22

Who and what do these verses have to do with?

This is primarily about caring for and justice for others.

A handmill or upper millstone was not to be taken in pledge because they were needed to earn money. Don't take what another needs to survive in making a living.

The Levitical priests were to be teaching what God said. In obeying what the priests said, the people would be obeying God. Following the Levites' instructions concerning leprosy would also be protection for the people.

The information about a pledge taught respect for a neighbor and his privacy. One was not to sleep with a poor man's pledge, most likely his outer garment, but return it at sundown so that he could sleep in it since he probably had nothing else.

The poor were not to be oppressed as they are in many societies. They are still people even though they are poor. Even the poor were to be treated with respect and kindness.

Fathers were not to be put to death for the sin of their sons. There comes a point in a person's life when he is responsible for his own actions; the parents are not to blame for his actions.

Justice was not to be perverted.

Aliens, orphans, and widows were to be cared for—justice and provision.

DEUTERONOMY 25

What is the theme for this chapter?

Duty for dead brother's name; Amalek

How does this chapter relate to the others studied in this lesson?

For the most part, it's about justice.

Ask your group what they learned about each issue in this chapter. Give time to discuss application.

If a judge condemned a wicked man to a beating, it was to be done in the presence of the judge, not more than forty strokes / stripes. The penalty was not to be carried out by prejudice.

An ox was not to be muzzled while threshing. Most commentators think this means that the ox that trampled the grain should not be muzzled but rather should be allowed to share in the grain.

If brothers lived together and one died and had no son, the brother should take the wife of the dead man, and their firstborn would assume the name of the dead brother. This provided for the wife and prevented the dead man's name from being blotted out.

If the wife of one of two men struggling seizes the genitals of the other man, her hand was to be cut off, no pity shown.

A full and just measure was required.

Who are verses 17-19 about? Discuss Exodus cross-reference also.

Israel was to remember what Amalek did; and when they went into the land, they were to blot out memory of Amalek.

NOTE: The Amalekites were descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:12).

Exodus 17:8-16

The Amalekites fought against Israel at Rephidim, but Israel defeated them. The Lord told Moses to write in a book that He would utterly blot out the memory of Amalek.

DEUTERONOMY 26

Ask your group what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

When enter land, bring produce and tithe to worship and rejoice

Verses 1-11

What were the people of Israel to do when they entered their land?

Take some of the first produce of the ground, put it in a basket, and take it to the place where the Lord their God would choose—the place where the tabernacle was.

They were to give it to the priest, saying that they declare that they entered the land the Lord swore to the fathers to give them. This would be a way of recognizing God kept His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants to give them the land.

The priest would take the basket and set it down before the altar. The offerer would tell of what God had done . . . how He had multiplied Israel in Egypt; had seen their affliction; had brought them out with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm, and with terror, signs, and wonders; and had brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey. The offerer would worship before the Lord, and along with the Levite and alien among him would rejoice in the good the Lord had given him and his household.

Worship means “to bow down, prostrate oneself.” It showed submission.¹

¹ Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003). H7812.

Verses 12-15

Who and what are these verses about? Discuss cross-references and application.

In the third year, the tithe was to be given to the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow to eat it in their town and be satisfied. The offerer was to say to the Lord that he had given the sacred portion and that he had not transgressed or forgotten any of the Lord's commandments. He could then ask God to bless His people Israel and the land God had given them.

Genesis 14:17-20 and Hebrews 7:1-10

After Abraham's defeat of the kings, he gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High, and Melchizedek blessed him.

Leviticus 27:30-33

Israel was to tithe the seed of the land and the fruit of the trees.
The tithe was holy to the Lord.

Numbers 18:24-32

The tithe was given to the Levites for an inheritance.
Then the Levites were to give the best as a tithe to the priests.

Deuteronomy 12:6, 11, 17

The tithe was to be brought to the place the Lord chose to establish His name. It could not be eaten within the offerer's gates, probably the gates of his hometown or household, but was to be brought to the designated place.

Deuteronomy 14:22-28

Israel was to tithe from all their produce of the field. It was to be eaten in the presence of the Lord so that they would learn to fear Him. If it was too far to bring the tithe, they could exchange it for money, take the money to the place the Lord chose, and spend it for whatever they desired to eat in the presence of the Lord and rejoice. It also speaks of depositing the tithe in the offerer's town every third year.

It appears that both the offerer and the Levite partook of the tithe, and the priest received a tithe of the Levite's tithe.

Malachi 3:7-12

This is about a time when Israel was robbing God by not bringing their whole tithe.

How much of an Israelite's life did the Law apply to?

God gave them clear direction for every area of their lives.

Ask your group if they think that any of these Laws apply now to believers. Why or why not?

Verses 16-19

How does this chapter end?

Have your group use the chart in the lesson as a visual aid here.

“This day” was a day when Moses spoke to the new generation of Israel on the plains of Moab.

It describes a time when the new generation declared that the Lord would be their God and they would listen to His voice and be careful to do what He commanded with all their heart and soul.

The Lord declared they would be His people, a treasured possession, and that they should keep all His commandments. He would set them high above all nations for praise, fame, and honor, and they would be a consecrated people to Him.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about God.

**DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 27–30
- Blessings and curses

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group if they remember what Deuteronomy 1–4, Moses' first address, is about?

He told of Israel's history to where they were at the time of Deuteronomy. Horeb to the plains of Moab, after overtaking two kings of Amorites

What has the second address been about so far?

Deuteronomy 5–26

Moses reminded and warned this generation of what to do when they entered their land. There is a lot of repetition from Exodus through Numbers.

Beginning in Deuteronomy 13:5, statements about purging or removing evil from Israel are repeated several times through Deuteronomy 24:7.

Deuteronomy is a reminder and a warning. There are also words of encouragement to the generation who is to enter the land of promise.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this discussion. Also, they should look at their list about the Lord God.

DEUTERONOMY 27

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim; blessings and curses

Use the map as a visual aid.

Verses 1-10

What are these verses about? Who? When? Where?

Moses and the elders charged the people. Previously it was usually Moses alone who spoke to the people, but Moses was going to die soon.

When they crossed into the land, they were to set up large stones coated with lime (ESV—plaster) on Mount Ebal and write the law on them. Also they were to build an altar of stones and offer burnt and peace offerings to the Lord, eating them and rejoicing before the Lord. Refer your group to their sketches of these events.

They had become a people for the Lord; therefore, they were to obey Him.

Verses 11-26

What is the repeated word in these verses? What did Moses tell the people to do?

“Cursed” is repeated.

Stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people and on Mount Ebal for the curse.

Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin on Mount Gerizim to bless

Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali on Mount Ebal for the curse

Then the Levites would speak the curses in verses 15-26.

The people’s reply to each one was to be, “Amen,” which means “so be it.”

Give time for your group to discuss how the curses relate to the Ten Commandments and loving God and neighbors. How do these things apply now?

DEUTERONOMY 28

Ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance charts.

If obey—blessed; if not obey—cursed; nation besiege, plagues, scattered among nations

Verses 1-14

What would Israel be like if they obeyed God’s commands when they entered their land?

As a visual aid, tell your group to look at the lists they made on the last pages of the lesson.

If they obeyed the Lord, He would bless them. They would be blessed in the city and in the country / field. They would be blessed in their offspring, produce, herd and flock, and in all that they put their hand to. The Lord would cause their enemies to flee before them seven ways.

The Lord would establish them as a holy people to Himself if they kept His commandments and walked in His ways. The Lord would give rain in its season. Israel would lend to many nations but not borrow.

God’s law covered every area of Israel’s life.

He would bless Israel in every area of their lives if they obeyed.

What areas of their lives are in the curses?

Again, it is every area.

Verses 15-44

What were the curses for not obeying?

They would be cursed in the city and in the country / field. Their offspring, produce, herd, and flock would be cursed. All that they undertook to do would be cursed until they perished quickly. Verse 20 says it was because they forsook God.

There would be pestilence, consumption (ESV—wasting disease), no rain, defeat before their enemies, boils of Egypt, madness, and bewilderment of heart (ESV—confusion of mind). They would be oppressed and robbed continually with others benefiting from their work and even taking their children.

Verses 36-37 tell that the Lord will bring Israel's king and them to a nation. They'll serve other gods there.

Verses 45-68

Who and what do these verses warn about?

The curses would become a sign and a wonder on them and their descendants forever.

Because Israel did not serve the Lord with joy and a glad heart, they would serve their enemies—a return to the slavery from which God had delivered them.

A nation would besiege and destroy them.

Their towns, with the high, fortified walls in which they trusted, would be besieged, and they would eat the flesh of their children.

Verses 58-63

God would send extraordinary plagues / afflictions, sicknesses on them.

They would be left few in number, and the Lord who delighted to prosper them would delight to make them perish.

Verses 64-68

He would scatter them among the nations, where they would serve gods of wood and stone.

No assurance of life
Slaves

All of this would happen if they did not obey the law, to fear the honored and awesome name of the Lord their God.

DEUTERONOMY 29

What is the theme of this chapter? What does this chapter begin?

Covenant

It begins Moses' last address to the people of Israel in Deuteronomy.

Verses 1-9

What did the Lord say in these verses?

He commanded Moses to make a covenant with the people there in Moab. So Moses summoned them and reminded them of God's great signs and wonders they'd seen. But He'd not given them a heart to know / understand.

Moses reminded them of their history, the things they had seen and how their clothes and sandals had not worn out during the 40 years in the wilderness. All of this was so that they might know that He is the Lord. He also reminded them of the victory over Sihon and Og. They were to keep the words of the covenant that they might prosper in all they did.

Verses 10-29

How do these verses relate to the covenant?

This is a warning.

They were there to enter the covenant, to establish them as God's people. The individuals of this generation would personally have the opportunity to commit to the covenant that God had established with Israel.

He was making this covenant with them and those not with them, probably referring to their descendants, so that there would not be one whose heart turned away to serve other gods. The poison of idolatry would spread to others. This would be one who would hear the curse and say he had peace, even though he walked in the stubbornness of his heart.

The Lord would not forgive the poisonous one, but His anger and jealousy would burn / smoke against that man. All the curses would rest on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about being blotted out in verse 20.

Exodus 32:32-33 and Deuteronomy 9:13-14

Those who have sinned against the Lord, those who are stubborn against Him, will be blotted out of His book.

2 Kings 14:27

God did not say that He would blot out Israel, but He saved them by a king of Israel named Jeroboam.

Revelation 20:11-15

At the great white throne judgment, anyone whose name is not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. These are the lost.

Lead your discussion back to Deuteronomy 29:22-29.

Ask your group what they learned about God's anger.

The generation to come, their sons, and the foreigner would see the plagues / afflictions and diseases / sicknesses of the land which the Lord overthrew in His wrath and ask why.

Men would say that it was because they forsook the covenant of the Lord and served and worshiped other gods.

His anger would bring the curses, uproot them from the land, and cast them into other lands.

There are secret things that belong to the Lord, but the things revealed to Israel belong to them and their sons forever. They need to observe all the words of the law that He has revealed to them.

Give time for your group to discuss any application from what they've learned in this lesson.

DEUTERONOMY 30

Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

After blessings and curses; God will restore from captivity, circumcise hearts to love Him

Verses 1-10

What is going to happen to Israel?

These verses tell about Israel's future.

When:

all of these things had come upon Israel, the blessings and curses

Israel is in the nations where the Lord had banished / driven them

they return to the Lord and obey Him wholeheartedly

Then the Lord will:

restore from captivity (ESV—restore your fortunes)

have compassion / mercy

gather and bring back to the land

prosper and multiply

circumcise hearts to love Him

inflict curses on enemies

At that time Israel will obey the Lord God.

How do the cross-references from Jeremiah and Ezekiel fit with this chapter?

Babylon fit the description of the nation in Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 49-57.
Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied at the time when Babylon took Jerusalem.
The old covenant referred to is the covenant of the Law.
The complete fulfillment of these promises does not happen until the time of Jesus' return.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Lord will make a new covenant with Israel, not like the one He made when Israel came out of Egypt. He will put His law within them and write it on their hearts. He will be their God, and they will be His people. They will all know Him. He will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 32:36-44

The Lord will gather them from the nations and bring them back to the land to dwell in safety. He will give them one heart and one way, that they will fear Him always. He will make an everlasting covenant that He won't turn away from them, and will put the fear of Him in their hearts so that they won't turn away from Him. He will restore their fortunes.

Ezekiel 36:12-38

The Lord will cleanse them. He will give them a new heart and new spirit. He will remove the heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh, and will put His Spirit within them and cause them to walk in His statutes. Their desolate land will become like the garden of Eden. Then the nations will know that He has rebuilt. The cities will be filled with flocks of men, and Israel will know that He is the Lord.

Relate this to Deuteronomy 29:4.

This is when God will give them a heart to know / understand, eyes to see, and ears to hear.

Jeremiah 17:9

Jeremiah says that the heart is deceitful and desperately sick. Those who are part of the new covenant receive a new heart, so their heart is no longer this way.

Lead your discussion back to Deuteronomy 30.

Verses 11-14

Where is the commandment?

The commandment is not too difficult for Israel; not out of reach.
It is near them, in their mouth and in their heart, so that they may observe it.

Verses 15-20

How does this chapter end?

The Lord set before them life and prosperity / good, and death and adversity / evil, commanding them to love the Lord, walk in His ways, and keep His commandments, that they may live and multiply and be blessed.

If their heart turns away and they won't obey, they will perish.

He calls heaven and earth to witness against them.

To end this discussion, you can ask your group what they learned about the Lord from these chapters. How does that apply to their lives?

**DEUTERONOMY
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis:

- Deuteronomy 31–34

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about Deuteronomy 1–29. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this discussion.

New generation of Israel in Moab, preparing to enter their land
Moses reminded, warned, and encouraged them.

1–4 1st address, their history

5–28 2nd address,
beware, love and obey God from the heart
purge evil from your midst
blessings and curses

29–30 3rd address, renewal of the covenant; “choose life”

DEUTERONOMY 31

Ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Be strong and courageous; Moses wrote Law; Lord commissioned Joshua

Tell your group to use their journals or lists about God and the chart at the end of the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.

Verses 1-6

Who did Moses tell to be strong and courageous? Why?

He told all the people of Israel to be strong and courageous because he was 120 years old and about to die. He would not lead them into their land, but the Lord was to cross the Jordan River going into the land ahead of His people. He also would destroy the nations living there.

He told them they were to have a new leader, Joshua.

But they were to be strong and courageous, not be afraid or tremble / be in dread. God would go with them and wouldn't fail or forsake them. He is a covenant-keeping God.

Verses 7-8

Who else was told to be strong and courageous?

Moses told Joshua:

Be strong and courageous

The Lord goes ahead of / before you

He'll be with you, not fail or forsake you

Don't fear or be dismayed

It's the same thing he told the people.

Give your group time to discuss application of this.

Verses 9-13

What are these verses about?

Moses wrote the law and gave it to the priests and the elders of Israel. He commanded them to read it at the Feast of Booths every seven years, in the year of remission / release.

Men, women, children, aliens were all to hear the Law.

To hear, learn, fear God and do the commandments.

NOTE: The Feast of Booths was a reminder of their time in the wilderness living in tents. It was also a reminder that God lived, tabernacled among them.

Verses 14-18

Who is this about?

The Lord told Moses to call Joshua and the two of them go to the tent of meeting.

He was going to commission Joshua to lead the people.

In verses 16-18, He told what would happen to Israel in the future.

The people will turn to the gods of the land.

They'll forsake God and break His covenant.

He'll be angry and forsake them.

He'll consume / devour them.

Verses 19-22

What else did the Lord tell Moses to write, and why?

A song

Teach it to the people.

It will be a witness against them.

Verse 23

When the Lord commissioned Joshua, what did He tell him?

Again, be strong and courageous.

Joshua heard what Israel was going to do, but the Lord told him that He would be with him.

NOTE: Numbers 27:15-23 tells about Moses commissioning Joshua before all the people. This commissioning in Deuteronomy 31 was the Lord commissioning Joshua privately, just Moses and him.

Verses 24-30

What did Moses do when he finished writing the book of the Law?

NOTE: Moses wrote all of Genesis through Deuteronomy.

He commanded the Levites to place the book of the Law beside the ark of the covenant as a witness against Israel.

Moses also called the heavens and earth to witness against them, because he knew they would do evil after his death.

Three witnesses against Israel have been mentioned: the song, the law, and the heavens and the earth. The heavens and the earth were also called as witnesses against Israel in Deuteronomy 4:26 and 30:19.

Then Moses spoke the words of the song to all the assembly of Israel.

DEUTERONOMY 32

What is the theme of this chapter?

Moses' song

What is the song about?

After prophesying about Israel's future to Moses and Joshua, this song the Lord told Moses to write tells Israel what will happen in their future. Moses taught it to all the people as a witness against them.

Verses 1-4 lay the foundation.

The focus is on the Lord—ascribe greatness to His name.

The Rock is perfect, just, faithful, righteous.

Verse 5 introduces the contrast with Israel. They were corrupt toward the Rock.

God was their Father, verse 6.

Verse 8 says God is the Most High.

He gave the nations their inheritance. He set boundaries according to the number of Israel, the land God's people would need. Verse 9, the Lord's portion is His people, Israel.

Verses 10-14 tell what the Lord did for Israel.
Verses 15-18 again show the contrast in what Israel did.

NOTE: Jeshurun refers to Israel.

The rest of the song tells what God will do regarding Israel.
Verse 36 speaks of Him having compassion on His people again.
It ends with God avenging His people and atoning for / cleansing His land.

Verses 44-52

How does this chapter end?

Moses with Joshua spoke these words of warning to all Israel.

Take God's word to heart.

It's not an idle word.

It's life.

Obey it to prolong your days in the land.

Then the Lord told Moses to go to Mount Nebo to see the land, then die on the mountain.

The reason Moses could not go into the land is repeated here—because He did not treat God as holy in the midst of Israel.

Why did the Lord not let Moses enter the land?

Exodus 17:1-7

Israel quarreled with Moses because there was no water to drink. The Lord told him to strike the rock at Horeb, and water came out for the people to drink.

Numbers 20:1-13, 23-29

The people again contended / quarreled with Moses because there was no water.

The Lord told him to speak to the rock, but he struck the rock twice in anger.

Water came out, but the Lord told Moses and Aaron that they would not bring Israel into the land because they had not believed Him to treat Him as holy in the sight of Israel.

Aaron died at Mount Hor.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

The rock was Christ.

DEUTERONOMY 33

What is the theme of this chapter?

Moses' blessing on Israel before his death

Verses 1-25

Who are these verses about?

Verses 2-5 are about the Lord.

Then verses 6-25 name and bless eleven of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Who is not in this blessing? Why?

Simeon is not mentioned.

Genesis 49

Simeon and Levi were violent men.

Simeon's violence could have been the reason he did not receive a blessing by Moses.

Exodus 32

When Israel worshiped the gold calf, Moses called for those who were for the Lord. The Levites were for Him and executed His judgment on others.

Numbers 25:1-15

Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, from Levi, killed a man of Israel and the Midianite woman whom he had brought into the camp, stopping the plague on Israel.

Phinehas's actions secured for him the priesthood. The man who participated in idolatry and was killed with the Midianite woman was a leader of Simeon's tribe.

Joshua 19:1-9

When land in Canaan was allotted to the Israelites, Judah's share was too large for them, and Simeon was given an inheritance within Judah's inheritance.

Verses 26-29

Who are these verses about?

There is none like God.

He rides the heavens to Israel's help.

He is eternal and a dwelling place; underneath are the everlasting arms.

He drove out the enemy before Israel.

He is the shield of Israel's help and the sword of their majesty / triumph.

Give time for your group to discuss what they've learned about the Lord.

DEUTERONOMY 34

Tell your group to look again at their At a Glance charts. What is the theme of this last chapter?

Moses saw the land and died

Verses 1-8

Where was Moses? What did he see? What happened?

The Lord showed Moses the land of promise from Mount Nebo, saying that this was the land He had sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moses died in Moab, and God buried him in the valley. No one knows the place.

At his death, Moses was 120 years old. His eyes were not dim, nor his vigor abated. Israel wept 30 days for their leader/deliverer of 40 years.

Verses 9-12

How does Deuteronomy end?

Joshua is described as filled with the spirit of wisdom.
Israel listened to / obeyed him and did as the Lord commanded.

No prophet has risen in Israel like Moses. The Lord knew him face to face, and Moses performed for the Lord signs and wonders of mighty power and great terror in Egypt.

To end this study of Deuteronomy, you can give your group an opportunity to share how what they learned has made a difference in their lives.