

Week 1

Learn Now or Repeat Later

Deuteronomy 1:19-33

¹⁹ "Then we set out from Horeb and went through all that great and terrifying wilderness that you saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us. And we came to Kadesh-barnea. ²⁰ And I said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. ²¹ See, the LORD your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed.' ²² Then all of you came near me and said, 'Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us and bring us word again of the way by which we must go up and the cities into which we shall come.' ²³ The thing seemed good to me, and I took twelve men from you, one man from each tribe. ²⁴ And they turned and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and spied it out. ²⁵ And they took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, 'It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.'

²⁶ "Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. ²⁷ And you murmured in your tents and said, 'Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. ²⁸ Where are we going up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.'" ²⁹ Then I said to you, 'Do not be in dread or afraid of them. ³⁰ The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, ³¹ and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.' ³² Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the LORD your God, ³³ who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.

Week 1: *Discussion Questions*

Read **Deuteronomy 1:19-33** and discuss the following.

The first four chapters of Deuteronomy serve as a prologue to the rest of the book. This section provides important background information and introduces the audience being addressed by Moses in the text. In your own words, summarize the point of what is being said in this particular passage.

Moses sent twelve men to scout the land. What kind of report did they give upon their return? What reasons were given for entry? Why were they fearful?

Moses tried to encourage the people. On what did he base his appeal? Why is it important to remember God's past provision? Share an example of how this has proven to be a useful exercise.

Compare and contrast our generation with the one Moses is speaking to in Deuteronomy. What specific advantages do we possess? Are we in any way disadvantaged?

Moses later explains how Israel's fear and unbelief resulted in their failure to enter the promised land—their rebellion caused them to wander in the wilderness. Share a time when fear and unbelief were personally costly.

What are some takeaways from this passage? What does it teach us about God? What does it teach us about ourselves?

What do you hope to learn or better understand from this study?

Week 2

There is No Other

Deuteronomy 4:32-40

³² "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. ³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? ³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him. ³⁶ Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. ³⁷ And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, ³⁸ driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, ³⁹ know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. ⁴⁰ Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

Week 2: Discussion Questions

Moses concludes the prologue by reminding Israel that there is no other God—the Lord alone is God. Given their history and the future laid before them, why would this be especially significant to remember?

Read **Deuteronomy 4:7-8, 23-24, 32-40** and discuss the following.

Moses reminds the people how God has uniquely served and cared for them. List the particular examples he highlights.

How has God specifically shown Himself as mighty to you? How have you been delivered and disciplined by the Lord?

Moses says: *“The Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (v.24)*. How is this a positive characteristic? Explain the contrast between the Lord’s jealousy and our own.

An implication of the text is that other “gods” simply do not do this—they are not like this. They are not personally involved with and near their subjects, but God is. What causes this fact to so often go unnoticed? When you forget the intimate, compassionate nature of God, what is typically the source of your distraction and memory loss?

Moses concludes this passage with a promise that accompanies laying the truth of God to heart and obeying His commands. What is it?

How different might your everyday life be if you kept this truth before you: *“The Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.” (v.39)*?

Week 3

The Decalogue

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

⁶ "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ⁷ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁸ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁹ You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ¹² "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. ¹⁶ "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁷ "You shall not murder. ¹⁸ "And you shall not commit adultery. ¹⁹ "And you shall not steal. ²⁰ "And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ²¹ "And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

Week 3: *Discussion Questions*

Is it possible to love God and not love people? Asked another way, can one truly be in good standing with God while completely indifferent toward others made in His image? Why or why not?

Read **Deuteronomy 5:6-21** and discuss the following.

The Lord makes a significant declaration just before giving the Ten Commandments. What does this statement teach us about the Lord and our motivation for obeying His commands?

Consider the Ten Commandments for a moment. Which ones primarily involve our relationship with the Lord? Which ones are concerned with how we relate with others?

What do these commands reveal about God? When you consider what He has given us here, what does God value?

Read **Matthew 22:34-40** and discuss the following.

How does Jesus summarize the law? How does His response reflect both the vertical and horizontal nature of the Ten Commandments?

Imagine living as a Great Commandment people, marked by our love for God and others. How might we flourish? In what ways would you expect our local community to thrive as a result of our love? List some ways you would personally benefit. How might others be served by our collective adherence to this command?

Conclude by considering the gospel together. How does Christ's fulfillment of the law inform our relationship with and obedience to the law?

Week 4

The Shema

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Week 4: Discussion Questions

If you had to identify the primary obstruction that keeps you from regularly studying and sharing Scripture, what would it be?

Read **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** and discuss the following.

What is meant by “*the Lord is one*” (**v.4**)?

What is the chief commandment given to Israel in **v.5**, and how might you do this? List some of the helpful clues given in this passage.

What is Israel to do with “*these words*”? Describe how this might look in our present context.

In your own words, summarize the overall message of this passage. How does it portray the life of faith?

How could you be more intentional in studying and sharing God’s Word? Share some regular, informal opportunities that you could take advantage of this week.

What spiritual habit would you most like to start? Which one would you most like to continue and/or grow?

What promise accompanies the keeping of the Lord’s commands, and how does that personally encourage you today?