

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: Deuteronomy 3-23; Psalm 57-63

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Questions for personal reflection
3. Questions for group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal reflection at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: the people, relationships and events described in the section.

Overview of Numbers

The book of Deuteronomy is essentially Moses preaching a series of sermons about the law again to the people of Israel and in particular the wilderness generation. The name in Greek literally means, second law. It's not a different law, but a retelling of the law as Israel prepares to enter the Promised Land.

This generation would have either been very young when they left Egypt, or were born in the wilderness.

God warns this generation again and again to be different than their parent's generation. He recognizes toward the end that they are going to fail, but that ultimately God will fulfill His promise to bless the nations through His people.

Once again, we will be confronted with the realities of how God is dealing with an ancient culture that is very foreign to our way of thinking. He calls them into a way of life that is unique to the surrounding cultures and pointing them toward ways that lead to live rather than ways of death and destruction.

For a brief, but great overview of the book of Deuteronomy, please go to <http://www.jubileestl.org/my-jubilee-bible/>

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Questions for Personal Reflection

Deuteronomy chapters 3-4 God Creates and Shapes History

- Moses is recounting Israel's history. They have no power to take that land that God has promised. Only he can give it to them and he is faithful even while they aren't.
 - How does Moses use the victory over King Bashan to motivate Israel to continue trusting God with their future?
 - What points in your past help remind you of God's faithfulness for the future?
- Moses will not get to see the Promised Land, but he gets to train Joshua to lead. He does this willingly and invests deeply in Joshua.
 - How can you relate to Moses' situation?
 - Have you had to lead when you knew that you weren't going to get to participate in the fruit of the project?
 - How does Moses' example help you to think differently?
- God's covenant faithfulness shines brilliantly against the back drop of the god's of the nations.
 - How is Israel to shine brightly in the darkness of sinful surrounding nations? (4:5-8)
 - How are they to prepare future generations for occupying this new land? (4:9-14)
- God demonstrates His unique character by choosing Israel to be His people.
 - What is God's purpose in choosing people? (4:35)
 - How does God describe himself? (4:39)
 - What is his desire in giving Israel laws and commands? (4:40)
 - How does knowing that God wants good things for you help you to want to know him more?

Deuteronomy chapters 5 The Law

- Moses gathers Israel and re-teaches the Ten Commandments. Moses describes God's covenant as being given to them, not their forefathers and it was given up close and personal.
 - Why is it helpful to understand that the Law was given in this context?
 - How do these laws help you in determining how God is to be treated?
 - How do these laws help you in understanding how people are to be treated?
 - What outcome does God desire in giving this Law to this people? (5:33)
 - How does this cause your heart to respond to God?

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Deuteronomy chapters 6-11 God Deserves Our Love and Service

- Israel looked at the way of life that God desired for them and found it so different from what they had known that they filled the gap with suspicion. We have a similar dilemma. We look back at these laws that are so different than our current laws and they are so different. Will we fill the gap with trust, or suspicion? These chapters call God's people to exam God's faithfulness and fill the gap with love and trust.
 - God has continually identified Himself with His people, now Moses calls His people to be lovingly identified with their God. (6:4-9)
 - What part of life is missing from the command to love God?
 - Who is responsible for passing on the attitudes of love, trust and commitment to the next generation?
 - What are some ways that you put God front and center of your life?
- God makes it clear that He has chosen Israel to be His unique people. (7:6-11)
 - How is this knowledge to help them resist fear of the future? (7:17-21)
 - How is this knowledge meant to keep them from idolatry? (7:25-26)
 - In what ways do you relate to the fear of the future and the temptation to make other things besides God, ultimate?
- God is promising the people of Israel that if they will follow him they will be successful. But with that success there is a huge temptation. (8:11-0)
 - How has success in an area tempted you to forget God?
 - Why is it helpful to acknowledge God in the midst of success?
- God reminds Israel that they are not getting what they deserve, they are rebellious and stubborn. But they are His because of grace. (9:1-5)
 - In what ways are you tempted to forget God's grace toward you?
 - Why is God's delight in you greater than a good self-image?
 - What incident does God use to remind them of their stubbornness? (9:13-23)
 - How can Israel's rebellion serve as a reminder to you to stay humble?
- It's often tempting to look at the Old Testament as merely a book of rules to follow, but God requires more than rule keeping, he wants heart devotion. (10:12-22)
 - How is God's love the impetus for us loving Him? (10:15)
 - Are there hardened areas in your heart that need to be cut away? (10:16)
 - How can you relate to God being your praise? (10:21)
- Love always means that a choice must be made. God has chosen to love, now we can chose to love in return.
 - How is our love demonstrated? (11:1)
 - What is the result of responding positively to God's love? (11:8-9)
 - How have you experienced that?

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Deuteronomy chapters 12-16 God Defines the Worship He Deserves

- The indictment against Israel is that each person is doing as he pleases, doing what they think is right in their own eyes, but not God's eyes. (12:8)
 - Where are pockets of resistance to God's will in your life?
 - How does resting in Christ's finished work on the cross lead you to wanting God's will over your own?
 - How does worship of the One True God necessitate putting aside any other worship? (12:29-31)
- Idolatry is essentially loving, trusting and putting your ultimate hope in anything other than God. The clearest threat to God's people is placing our faith in something other than Him.
 - What does Moses command to defend against the infiltration of idolatry? (13:3-4)
 - Checking for idolatry requires vigilance and ruthlessness.
 - Who have you given permission to examine your life?
 - How ruthless are you in dealing with idolatry?
- How do the dietary, tithing and sabbath laws in chapters 14 and 15 set Israel apart from the surrounding nations?
 - What is it about your life that reveals to others that you are set apart for God? (read 1 Peter 2:9-12)
- The rhythms of rest, worship and work helped to focus Israel on God and depend on him to provide. (chapter 16)
 - How do the rhythms of community life remind us of God's faithfulness to provide?
 - Why is a good system of justice necessary for a peaceful community? (16:18-20)
 - What part do you play in ensuring just laws and practices in our community?

Deuteronomy chapters 17-18 Effective Leadership and Orderly Society

- Moses views that theology and public life are inseparable. Kings were to be model citizens, representing the ideal and priests were to be responsible for justice according to God's law. Prophets with a good track record truthful, God-honoring direction were to be heard and heeded. These are the standards that future leaders will be assessed by the prophets in Israel's future.
 - How does good leadership provide security and stability in the community? (17:13, 20)
 - How do the standards for prophets help with leading the community?
 - We no longer have a death penalty for people who prophesy, but how do these standards help us to take prophecy seriously?

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CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Briefly explain BLESS, then ask: Who did you BLESS this week?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

This section of Scripture is known as the Shema, or Listen. It's not just about hearing words, but about whole-hearted devotion to God that means we listen to, treasure and do what God is saying to us. Jesus is God's clearest word. Let's consider how to listen to Him.

- Listen up
 - How does your relationship effect how you listen to them?
 - Who are some people that you listen more closely to?
- The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
 - How does a commitment to there being only one God effect your relationships?
 - While this statement is a commitment to monotheism, it is primarily a commitment to the God of the Bible.
 - How do you express your commitment to God?
 - How does the fact that God is also Lord change the way you live your life?
 - How does the reality that He is **OUR** God help to build us into community?
- You shall love the Lord your God with all...
 - How does listening with a heart to respond communicate love and commitment?
 - How does the command to love keep you from merely complying to rules?
 - How does loving commitment keep you from mere compliance, or legalism?
- You shall teach them...
 - What are some practices that you have found helpful in leading your children into a relationship with Jesus?
- You shall bind them...
 - How are you keeping your time listening to God a priority?
 - What challenges do you need to overcome to spend time in God's word?

Prayer

- Pray for those who may be struggling with commitment to God
- Pray for those who may need help connecting to God with love
- Pray for those who struggle to lead their children to know Jesus

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Notes: