



Bible Study Series:

Deuteronomy



Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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7. What qualities do we see in God's punishment for Israel's sin (vv. 34-40)?

Read Deuteronomy 2:1-23

8. On this occasion God spares the Edomites (vv.2-6), the Moabites (vv.9-12) and the Ammonites (vv.19-22), but consigns the Amorites and an earlier nation—the Rephaim (also called 'Emim' in verses 10-11, 20-21)—to destruction (vv.21, 24). Why? (See Genesis 15:12-16)

9. What do you think is the main lesson of the possession of land in the past by Moab and Ammon (remembering 1:28)?

Read Deuteronomy 2:24-3:3:29

10. How did the conquest of these kings prove the foolishness of Israel 40 years before? (2:24-37 cf. Psalm 135:8-12)

11. What is the main lessons that Israel should learn from those events? How would it encourage them?
a. 3:18-22

b. 3:23-29

Read Deuteronomy 4:1-31

12. What are the purposes of God's law for Israel (4:1-8)?

13. Why must Israel not make any image of God? What ought they pay attention to instead? (4:9-20)

14. Israel saw no form of any kind when God spoke to them. They heard only the words! What two conclusions should they draw from this fact for worshipping God truly?

a. v12-14

b. v15-20, 23

15. Why can't you have idols of God and pay attention to his word at the same time?

16. What is the warning and hope in 4:21-31?

Read Deuteronomy 4:32-40

17. How does Moses conclude his sermon? What is the appropriate response?

Application

18. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. What should we learn from the punishment of Israel in the desert?

19. What idolatries and other 'gods' tempt you to compromise your loyalty and devotion to God? Why does the God deserve our exclusive love and loyalty?

20. We have experienced an even greater salvation than Israel. How then should these chapters stir up faithful obedience in us?

Pray

- Thank God that despite our faithlessness, God remains faithful.
- Thank God that he alone is God and there is no other, and that he has demonstrated this by saving you from the kingdom of darkness and raising Jesus from the dead.
- Pray that God will strengthen your devotion to him alone.
- Ask God to help you learn from the example of Israel so that you "might not desire evil as they did". Ask for his help in enduring temptation, particularly in the areas in which you find it difficult to obey God.
- Ask for wisdom over the next seven studies as you study Deuteronomy.

Study 2: “A Gracious God & A Grateful People”

(Deuteronomy 5-6)

Getting Started

1. What relevance (if any) do Old Testament laws such as the Ten Commandments have to Christians? Why do you say that?

Context

Previously, we started off with the opening scene of Deuteronomy. The picture is that of Israel at the cusp of entering the Promised Land. In line with God’s judgement because of the disobedience of Israel during their first attempt at entering the Promised Land, God has kept the people wandering in the desert for 40 years until almost all of the previous generation has died off with the exception of Moses, Caleb and Joshua.

Now a new generation stands to enter the Promised Land and lay claim to their inheritance. As their leader, Moses speaks to them passionately to remind them of what their ancestors have done and remind them of God once again as a word of warning lest they also fail. Throughout the first 4 chapters of Deuteronomy, Moses reminds them of the history of their people, their actions as a people, pleads with them and exhorts them to remember the Lord and to be obedient to him.

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 4:44-49

2. What is the setting of this second sermon? Why is that significant?

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-21

3. Why Moses remind the people of the statutes and the laws that God gave? Why should the people listen? (5:1-6)

4. The Ten Commandments can seem like just a list of ‘dos and don’ts’. How does it change our view of them when we know that they are part of God’s covenant with Israel?

5. List out the reminder of the commandments that Moses reminded the people of in Deuteronomy 5:7-21. How would you group them or summarise them?

6. How is God described in the Ten Commandments (vv. 6, 9-11, 15)?

7. *Read Matthew 5:21-26 then Matthew 5:27-30.* How does this teaching stack up against the commandments in Deuteronomy 5:7-21. Based on these 2 models, how does Jesus interpret the Law?

8. How well are we able to follow these commandments? Why?

Read Deuteronomy 5:22-33

9. Read Deuteronomy 5:22-27. Why do the people respond this way? If this was you today, how would you respond?

10. Read Deuteronomy 5:28-33. What did God commend the people for and what did God ask Moses to do?

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

11. Consider Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Matthew 22:34-40. How do these passages help us to understand Deuteronomy 5?

12. How does question 11 help you to understand the list you made for question 5?

13. Why does the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ deserve our exclusive love and loyalty?

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-25

14. Read Deuteronomy 6:10-25. What is the reason they are to keep the commandments?

15. If you can't keep the commandments, what does it reveal about you?

Thinking it Through

16. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says he comes to fulfil the law. What does this mean to you in light of Deuteronomy 5-6?

17. Why do Christians do good works? Why should Christians do good works?

18. Imagine that a friend says to you: "It's OK for you, you're religious. But if you knew some of the things I've done, you'd know that I'm too bad for God to be interested in me. I'll never change." What would you reply?

19. Are there things in your life that you would like to change after thinking through today's study? Why?

20. How can we be helping each other in relation to Question (19)?

Prayer

- Thank God that our relationship with him does not depend on our good works.
- Pray that God will strengthen your devotion to him alone.

Study 3: “Remembering There is One God” (Deuteronomy 7)

Getting Started

1. What are our modern idols, the things that draw us away from loving God with all of our heart?

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 7:1-6

2. How do you feel when you read these commands to destroy other nations?¹

3. Is this destruction a general rule of warfare for Israel or specifically for these nations (see Deuteronomy 20:10-18)?

4. Why does God command Israel to destroy these nations? What is the cost of not destroying them?

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

5. Who / what is our war against today? How do we carry on that war?

6. Can we claim that a modern war is a holy war? Why or why not?

¹ The nations listed in 7:1 were generally considered to be nations within the land of Canaan, or remnants of invaders from empires of the same names.

Read Deuteronomy 7:7-11

7. Why did God choose Israel as his nation? Why did God choose us as his people?

8. In what way have we been redeemed? What is the connection between our redemption and our obedience?

9. What have we been redeemed from and what have we been redeemed for?

10. In what ways are we influenced by the idolatry of our culture? In what ways are we influenced by idolatry within the church? What is the solution to this problem?

Study 4: “Remember the Lord” (Deuteronomy 8)

Getting Started

1. Why can the comfortable life be dangerous for Christians?

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-5

2. What is the purpose of discipline in this passage?
3. In what ways might we be blessed by God by living in a cursed world?

Read Deuteronomy 8:6-20

4. How are Israel called to respond to the kindnesses of God?
5. What is the source of wealth? What was good about wealth for Israel? Is it similar or different for us?
6. What was the danger of comfort and wealth for Israel? Is it similar or different for us?
7. What does it mean to forget God? (v19)
8. What was the danger of forgetting God for Israel? Is it similar or different for us?

Application

9. What are some practical ways you can remember God when you are wealthy and comfortable?

10. How do we help each other to remember the Lord when we meet together? Do our meetings (Sunday, Growth groups) help us to do this? Are there things we should change?

Study 5: “God Warns His Stubborn People” (Deuteronomy 9-11)

Getting Started

What does motivation reveal about a person? Is motivation important if the outcome is the same?

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 9:1-12

1. What did Moses warn the people about and why? (9:1-6 cf. 7:7-8)

Read Deuteronomy 9:7 -24

2. Looking back, discuss the key events for each location below.

Key Locations	Passage	Event
Taberah	Numbers 11:1-3	
Massah	Exodus 17:1-7	
Kibroth-haataavah	Numbers 11:31 – 34	
Kadesh-Barnea	Deuteronomy 1:19-33	

The concept of “heart”: In Scripture, the “heart” is often understood as the center of hidden emotional-intellectual-moral activity of a person. “Man looks at the outward appearance, “says Samuel, “but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam 16:7)

3. From these events, what can you conclude about the state of Israel’s heart?

4. What was Israel’s sin, and why was it so serious?

5. How did God respond to it? What does this teach us about who God is?

Read Deuteronomy 9:25-10:11

6. What reasons did Moses give when he asked God not to destroy Israel?

7. Israel is condemned to judgment because they transgress the law. What do you learn about God's character in this passage? (*cf. Exodus 33:19b, Lamentations 3:22-23*)

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-22

8. What does God require of Israel? What are reasons they should do so?

9. What does circumcision of the heart look like? How is this different from circumcision of the body? (*cf. Roman 2:25-29, Jeremiah 4:4*)

Read Deuteronomy 11:1-32

10. Discuss the key points of the following sections below:

Section	Key Point
11:1-7	
11:8-12	
11:13-17	
11:18-25	
11:26-32	

11. Which one comes first: obey the law, or circumcision of one's heart? Why?

Thinking it Through

12. Summarise in a sentence, what you think the main point of Deuteronomy 9-11 is:

Study 6: “Keeping Covenant with the LORD” **(Deuteronomy 12:1-16:17)**

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 12

1. What does God command His people regarding the religious sites and practises of the nations which they are to dispossess?

2. How then are the Israelites to worship the LORD in terms of:
 - a) Religious site of worship

 - b) The manner of worship

 - c) The offerings and their condition

3. What important principles do we learn about how we are to worship God?

Read Deuteronomy 13

4. What is the similarity of the offenses conducted in each of the three cases in chapter 13?

5. What is the nature of the punishment in each case and what can we conclude about God’s expectation of His people to deal with this particular transgression?

Read Deuteronomy 14:1-21

6. What are some markers of those who are the 'sons of the LORD' in this chapter?

7. Why do you think God wants them to practise these markers?

Read Deuteronomy 14:22-29

8. Summarise the procedure of the practise of tithing for an Israelite.

9. What do you think is the purpose of tithing and what are the similar implications of this practice to offering sacrifices which we read earlier in chapter 12?

Read Deuteronomy 15

10. From verses 1-6, why should the Israelites "grant a release" every seventh year?

11. How does this reason motivate the way the Israelites are to treat their fellow Israelites who are poor and slaves?

Read Deuteronomy 16:1-17

12. In this chapter, instructions are given about three feasts or festivals that Israel is to celebrate every year. Fill up the table below:

Verses	Name of festival	What is involved	Purpose of Festival
1-8			
9-12			
13-15			

13. What do you think is the overall function of these feasts in the life of an Israelite?

Application

14. How might we apply the principles and the laws which we have studied above as God's people living under the new covenant and lordship of Jesus Christ?

Study 7: “God’s Justice League” (Deuteronomy 16:18-18:22)

Getting Started

1. Everyone loves to work under a great leader. What kinds of leaders do you think you will work best under?

Digging In

Skim read Deuteronomy 16:18 – 18:22

2. Who is Moses speaking to in the passage we have just read?
3. How many types of leaders over Israel do we see in this passage? List down the passages in which you find them.

Types of Leaders	Reference Passage
Judges	
Priests	
Kings	
Prophets	

Judges (Read Deut. 16:18 – 17:13)

4. Though the judges are to be appointed for each town by the Israelites themselves, what principles should guide the way they judge or not judge? (c.f. Deut. 10:17-18)

Ponder:

In today’s society, we still have the offices of judges and kings. How applicable do you think these laws are to our modern day national leaders?

5. From Deut. 17:2-7 & 18:1-8, in what ways do we see that the people of God are to reflect the just nature of God in their dealings?

Priests (Read Deut. 17:8-13; 18:1-8)

6. What is the role of the Levitical priests? (Deut. 18:1-8, 17:9, 18; 31:9-13 & Exo. 32:25-29)

7. Why do you think that going against the decision of the priest or the judge requires the death punishment?

8. For us Christians, why do we not punish someone within the church with the death penalty if they go against what the Law in the Old Testament prescribes as punishable by death? (e.g. defying the decision from the church leaders)

Kings (Read Deut. 17:14-20)

9. From this passage, what do you think is God's main concern regarding Israel's political ruler?

10. What do you think are God's concerns for leaders who lead the church today?

11. What are some temptations they might face? How can we encourage them as they lead?

Prophets (Read Deut. 18:9-22)

12. Why do you think v.9-14 has such prohibitions?

13. How do you think v.9-14 give us a better understanding about the role of the prophet? What else do you learn about his role from v.15-22

Fact:

Here, it is clear that divination and its similar practices are considered abominable to God. Did you know that rebellion against God's Word is ranked on the same level as the sin of divination? (1 Sam. 15:23)

14. Do you think practices similar to those in v.9-14 are still applicable today? What are some you can think of?

Ponder:

From Deut. 18:22, how should we evaluate if a "prophet" who spoke something does come to pass? Does it mean he is truly a prophet from God?

15. How do we guard ourselves and one another from going down these paths?

Thinking it Through

16. Out of the different types of leaders over Israel, who do you think has the most authority? Why?

17. As evident in Israel's history, the leaders who were in office were never able to truly fulfill the role God intended them to play.

God had often condemned the corruption of justice among the leaders of Israel who looked only to their own interest. Even her great kings were no exception from the grip of sin and temptation. We also know that the priesthood which God set up was never truly able to mend the problem of sin in God's people (Heb. 10:11). Towards the end of Deuteronomy (34:10-12), we are met with an unfulfilled prophecy of the prophet like Moses.

*It says "And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel **like** Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."*

Where does this lead us to eventually?

Study 8: “Loving God By Loving Others (Deuteronomy 19-26)

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 19: 1-13

1. What are the things to do?

2. What is the purpose of doing them?

Read Deuteronomy 20:1-9

3. What is the thing to do?

4. What do the groups of people being let back have in common?

Read Deuteronomy 20:10-18

5. What determines whether certain group of people are to be killed?

6. Why so?

Read Deuteronomy 20:19-20

7. What is the thing to do?

8. Why so, in light of this context?

Read Deuteronomy 21:1-9

9. What is the thing to do?

10. What is the purpose?

Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21

11. What is the thing to do?

12. What is the reason of doing so?

13. Read Deuteronomy 22:1-4,6-7, 8

Verses	What is the thing to do?
V1-4	
V6-7	
V8	Why do so?

Read Deuteronomy 23:1-7

14. What is the repeating word?

15. What kind of people aren't allowed in the assembly of God?

Read Deuteronomy 23:10-14

16. What are the 2 groups of people being referred to here?

17. What are they do to?

18. Why are they to do them?

Read Deuteronomy 23:19-25

19. What are the 3 things to do here?

20. 2 of them seem to have something in common, can you identify the both of them?

Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4

21. What is the thing to do?

22. What is the context?

23. Why is she considered defiled?

24. What is the problem of marrying a defiled woman?

Read Deuteronomy 24:10-15

25. What are the things to do?

26. What do they have in common?

Read Deuteronomy 25:1-3

27. What is the thing to do?

Read Deuteronomy 25:4

28. What do you think will happen if they ox is not muzzled?

29. What will happen to the ox when the ox treading is muzzled?

Read Deuteronomy 25:11

30. What is the thing to do?

31. Why do you think that it has to be done so?

Read Deuteronomy 26:1-4

32. What are the things to do?

Read Deuteronomy 26:5-11

33. What is the response they are to make?

Read Deuteronomy 26:16-19

34. What is the reward of obedience?

Thinking it Through

Read Romans 7:1-6, 15:4

35. What are Paul's views on the laws?

Prayer

- Effort to live out the gospel in every area of our lives
- Joy in our obedience (as Israelites were to do them with all their heart and soul)

Study 9: “The Curse of the Law” (Deuteronomy 28)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever known a Christian on the verge of throwing away their faith?

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14

2. Fill in column 2 by coming up with a category of the things that God promises to bless.

Verses 1-14	Category of things that are being blessed/cursed	Verses 15-44
3-6		
7		
8		
9-10		
11		
12a		
12b-13		

- a. All this blessing will come to the Israelites if they do what?
- b. How good is this blessing?
- c. Do the Israelites deserve these blessings?

Read Deuteronomy 28:15

2. Can you guess what the rest of the chapter is going to be about?
3. Split the following verses up between people in the group and see if they fit into any of the categories and insert them into column 3 (Question 1 Table):

1. 16-19	4. 25-26	7. 43-44
2. 20-21	5. 36-37	
3. 22-24	6. 38-42	

Read Deuteronomy 28:45-68

4. What struck you as most horrific thing in that?

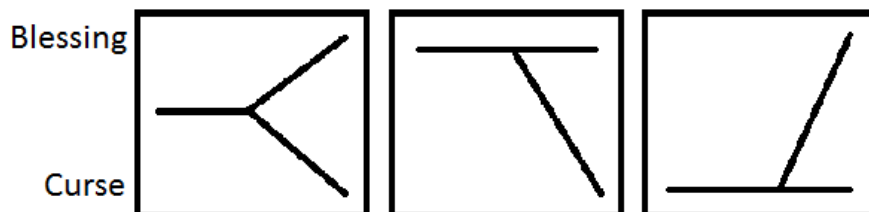
5. What ultimately happens to Israel if they disobey God?

6. What sort of disobedience is Moses talking about here?

7. Does this section fit into the table anywhere?

8. Which is longer, the “blessings” or the “curses”? Why?

9. Which of the following diagrams best fits the choice Israel has to make?



10. Did the Israelites deserve the blessings they've received so far?

11. Is it an option then for the Israelites to choose to throw these blessings away?

12. If the Israelites want to just continue on the same path they are on now, what do they have to do?

13. How would hearing these curses for disobedience make the Israelites feel?

14. Are you comfortable with Moses tactics?

Thinking it Through

After Jesus

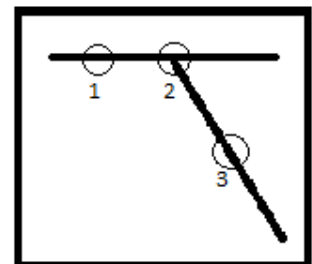
15. Has God blessed us as Christians?

16. Is it an option for us to throw those blessings away?

Read Hebrews 10:26-31.

17. What are the consequences here for choosing not to follow God?

18. How do the consequences compare to the curses in Deuteronomy?



19. What behaviour would invoke such consequences?

20. What is the writer's purpose in writing this section?

Application

21. Right now, where are you on diagram above? What is God saying to you?

22. Can you think of situations that might come up in the future where we might end up deliberately and persistently sinning?

23. What might we tell ourselves to justify our continued sinfulness?

24. What do these passages suggest will help me if I get into that situation?

Prayer

- for any people you know who are in danger of throwing the blessings in Christ away
- for ourselves - not to turn away from loyalty to Jesus

Study 10: “Repentance and Restoration” (Deuteronomy 30)

Getting Started

1. Is it possible for someone who has walked away from God to be restored?

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 28

2. Did Israel experience more of these blessings or curses? Why?

Read Deuteronomy 30:1-10

3. Under what condition does God allow Israel to be restored?
4. Does that condition impose any additions to the condition of blessing in chapter 28?
5. Is there any evidence that Israel did repent in this way? What was the result?²

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20

6. Does this text suggest that the curses are inevitable or can they be avoided?
7. What must Israel do to choose life?

² For an example consider 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

Read Romans 10:1-13

8. Does Paul think that Israel can be restored? (read further into chapters 10 & 11 if not sure)

9. According to Paul, what must we do to choose life?

10. On what basis can someone who has walked away from God be restored to him?

Study 11: “Looking to the Future” (Deuteronomy 31-34)

Digging In

Read Deuteronomy 31

1. F___ God, do not F___ the enemy

- a) What commands were given to the people? To Joshua?

- b) What will make them strong and courageous?

- c) What role(s) does God’s law play?

- d) In what ways are a) – c) fulfilled in Jesus?

Pause to pray.

Read Deuteronomy 32

2. R_M_____R The LORD

Using the words of the song, list:

- a) Israel’s (Jeshurun) character

- b) God’s character

- c) Read *Deuteronomy 33*. Would you expect the blessing of Moses as an outcome/result of Israel’s character? Why or why not?

- d) Do the songs we sing teach the truth?

