

## Week 9 :: Wilderness Finale Part 2 : Obey & Live

### Daily Reading for Week

Deuteronomy 7-9, Psalm 55  
Deuteronomy 10-12, Psalm 56  
Deuteronomy 13-14, Psalm 57  
Deuteronomy 15-16, Psalm 58  
Deuteronomy 17-20, Psalm 59  
Deuteronomy 21-23, Psalm 60

Deuteronomy 24-27, Psalm 61

### Resources for Week

Read Scripture Video: [Deuteronomy](#)  
Read: Deuteronomy 11, 28, & 30

### INTRO TO DISCUSSION

The two predominant themes in Moses' sermon-like speeches recorded in Deuteronomy are 1) remembering versus forgetting, which we discussed last week, and 2) choosing to obey God versus choosing to disobey, which we will focus on this week. These crucial themes have been developing through the narrative of the Torah, but Moses comes back to them again and again in Deuteronomy. Moses reiterates these as the primary lessons to be drawn from Israel's history thus far, and therefore the most important thing for the new generation to hear and consider before entering the Promised Land. And Moses' message isn't just for them. Remembering the Lord and choosing to obey Him remain dominant themes throughout the rest of the Old Testament as well. The prophets and authors of the historical books and psalms repeatedly describe Israel's successes as contingent upon their remembrance of God's wonderful actions in the past and their obedience to the statutes and decrees of the covenant. Similarly, Israel's failures are routinely tied to their forgetfulness and their disobedience to the covenant laws. The book of Deuteronomy challenges us as readers, saying in so many words, "If you learn anything from Moses' Book of the Torah, learn this: Obey God and you will live and prosper, but disobey God and you will suffer and die."

The following books (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings) prove this to be true by chronicling the stories of generation after generation of Israelites choosing either obedience or disobedience and reaping the consequences. (Spoiler alert: as God predicts in Deuteronomy 31, Israel's story as a nation in the land is mostly one of disobedience.) This week, we'll take the time as we wrap up the Torah to sit with this second theme of obedience both for the sake of understanding the message of the Scriptures and in order to personally reflect on our own call to love and obey God and thereby choose life.

### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

#### Questions for Basic Understanding

*These questions are to help us interpret and understand the text as it was intended to be interpreted and understood.*

1. Read Deuteronomy 11 and 30. According to Moses' words in chapter 30 and the rest of Deuteronomy, what difference will it make whether Israel listens to God or not once

they've occupied the land?

2. Specifically, what are the consequences of disobeying the covenant and the rewards for keeping it?
3. What exactly is it they are supposed to obey? What kind of stuff does God demand of them? (Hint: Think back on your reading through Deuteronomy this week. Chapters 12-26 are a recap and elaboration on the statutes and decrees that Israel is to adhere to.)

### **Questions for Listening to Scripture**

*These questions are to help us be affected by Scripture in the way it was intended to affect us.=*

1. What is your immediate reaction to these exhortations to obedience? When asked to obey God, do you respond eagerly like the Israelites first did at Sinai, saying, "We will do everything the Lord has said," (Ex 19:8)? Or is your natural reaction more resistant?

### **Questions for Interacting with Scripture**

*These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.*

1. What does the overall story of the Torah, concluding in Deuteronomy, say about mankind's general ability and willingness to be faithful and obedient to God?
2. Does the Torah end on a high note of hopefulness and enthusiasm, or is the story a more somber and sobering one?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **Questions for Self-Examination**

*These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.*

1. What is God calling you to be obedient to right now?
2. In what ways are you struggling to listen to Him and tempted to disobey?
3. If you are super honest with yourself, what do you truly believe to be the consequences of disobedience? What benefit, if any, is it to listen to God in this instance?