

DEUTERONOMY 1-11

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 15: Deut 3-11*
 - b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*
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1. Look at what the Lord has to say about Himself in Deut 4:24, Deut 4:35 and Deut 6:4. What do these verses mean to you? How do they affect you? How would this self-revelation of God to you shape your relationship with Him?
 2. Read Deut 6:5, Deut 6:13, Deut 10:16, Deut 11:1 and also Deut 31:12-13. Fear and love do not seem to be related for most people. What do you think 'fear' means in these verses? What does 'circumcision of heart' mean in Deut 10:16? How can you show that you love the Lord?
 3. Take a look at the Ten Commandments in Deut 5:6-18. See also Exod 20:2-17. Which commandments do you find easiest to obey? Why? Which ones do you find the most difficult or nearly impossible to obey? Why?
 4. What does the third commandment mean to you? In what ways do Christians misuse the name of the Lord today?
 5. In the tenth commandment, what does "covet" mean? What does this commandment really mean today?

DEUTERONOMY 12-24

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 16: Deut 12-24.*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Take a look at the the following verses: Deut 6:13, Deut 13:4, Deut 15:10-11.
The Lord asks that we serve Him, But since He has created everything and owns everything and controls everything, how can we possibly serve Him?
2. Read Deut 11:26-28 and Deut 13:18. See also Deut 6:3, Deut 6:24, and Deut 28:1-14. What are some positive reasons the Lord gives us to serve Him? Think of ways in which you can serve God in the cell group, in the church and in the world.
3. How is the Israelite to help the poor in the town (Deut 14:29; 15:7-9)? Will the Israelite have to pay back the loan in the 7th year (Deut 15:1-3)? What does the Israelite has to do with the slaves they bought in the 7th year (Deut 15:12)? How are they to send their slaves away (Deut 15:13)? What spiritual principles are conveyed by the commands recorded in these verses? How do these verses speak to you?
4. What is the Passover (Deut 16:1-18)? When is it celebrated? What is its significance to the Israelites? What is its significance to you as a believer?
5. Read Deut 18:17-18 and Deut 18:22. What did God promise the Israelites in the future? How do these verses speak to you? Do you think that this promise has already been fulfilled by God? How so?

DEUTERONOMY 25-32

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 17: Deut 25-32.*
 - b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*
1. Read Deut 26:2 and Deut 26:12. What are the Israelites to offer after they settle in the land? What are the Israelites to offer in the third year? What lessons and principles do these verses convey to you? How are they applicable today?
 2. Refer to Deut 28. What did God promise if the Israelites are obedient (Deut 28:1-14)? What did God promise if the Israelites are disobedient (Deut 28:15-68)? Do you think these promises are applicable today and how so? Can you find support in the New Testament for your response?
 3. The Lord recognizes that people are not always going to obey Him, are going to be "stiff necked" and are going to backslide. What does the Lord say about this? Is there any sin that He will not forgive? How applicable are these verses today? Refer to Deut 4:30-31, Deut 29:18-21, Deut 30:3-5 and Deut 30:18.
 4. Refer to Deut 32. What is the significance of Moses' song? What does it foretell? Did this come to pass and how so? What lessons do you learn from this?
 5. Where did Moses die (Deut 32:49)? Why was Moses not allowed to enter the Promised Land (Deut 32:48-52)? What concession did God give Moses? Do you think God was too harsh towards Moses? Why do think so? Have you ever felt God was too harsh towards you? What does the New Testament teach about God's discipline?

DEUTERONOMY 33-34 & MATTHEW 1-6

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 18: Deut 33-34 and Matt 1-6.*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Deut 33:1-5. Who did Moses honour first before blessing the 12 tribes? What lesson(s) does this passage teach you?
2. What subject is discussed in Matt 1:1-17? Why do you think this genealogy is important? How did Joseph learn the truth about Mary's conception? What explanation was given to him? (Think: How would this solve the concerns that Joseph had?) What did the angel predict about the child that had been conceived (Matt 1:21)? What name would He be given? Explain the meaning of the child's name. Why was this name appropriate?

According to Matt 1:22-23, what Old Testament prophecy would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus? Where in the Old Testament is this prophecy found?

3. What was John's message (Matt 3:2)? Define repentance. List other passages about it. How did John compare himself to Jesus (Matt 3:11)? How did he compare their baptisms?

Jesus came to be baptized by John according to Matt 3:13-14? How did John respond to him? What response did Jesus give to John (Matt 3:15)? Explain the significance. (Think: Did Jesus have sins for which He needed to repent and be forgiven?) Some people believe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are just one individual. What can we learn from Jesus' baptism that shows whether or not this idea is true?

4. Where did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus, and for what purpose (Matt 4:1)? What did He do when He was there? For how long

(Matt 4:2)? How did Satan tempt Jesus and how did Jesus answer Satan?

What can we learn from Jesus' answer about proper priorities? What can we learn about proper applications of God's word?

Why is the temptation of Jesus important to us? Note Heb 4:15. What lessons can we learn about resisting temptation?

- 5. Read the Beatitudes in Matt 5. Contrast Jesus' teaching here to what people typically believe.**

Jesus pronounced the eighth blessing (beatitude) on whom (Matt 5:10-12)? What blessing did Jesus pronounce on those who are persecuted? (Think: Many people deny that heaven will be the eternal reward of Christians. What does this passage teach?) How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

- 6. State in your own words the theme of Matt 5:13-16. List three examples Jesus uses to illustrate His point. Explain how each example relates to the theme.**

Explain ways disciples can fail to be an influence for good. Give examples. Discuss problems caused when people who profess to serve God don't live a good life.

- 7. What does Matt 6:8 tell about the nature of God? If He already knows our needs, why do we need to pray?**

Do people sometimes use the prayer of Matt 6:9-13 as a vain repetition? Explain. Did Jesus or His disciples ever repeat the same ideas in prayers? Is it always wrong to pray the same things again? Give examples.

In 6:9 Jesus said for us to pray "in this manner," then verses 9-13 record a prayer. What does it mean to pray in this manner? Did Jesus mean for us to cite this prayer by rote repeatedly? Explain your answer.