

### OPENING QUESTIONS

This week's *Opener* is one that calls for transparency if it's possible. What Biblical character comes to your mind when you think about someone who deliberately chose to disobey God? What were the consequences of their disobedience? Now, at a deeper level: Can you think of a time when you chose to disobey God when you knew His clear calling on your life to obedience? What were the consequences of your disobedience?

### READ TOGETHER

To begin our study, read through **Deuteronomy 4**. As you read, remember that you are reading the words of a sermon Moses "preached" to Israel as they stand on the verge of entering the Promised Land.

### BIG IDEA

**Obedience is how we experience God's best.**

### GOAL

Our goal in this study is to understand the background to the book of Deuteronomy which focuses on a people on the verge of entering the Promised Land.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Look at verses 1 and 2. What does Moses tell the Israelites to do? What reason does he give for commanding what he does?
- 2) Read verses 3 and 4. Moses refers to a previous episode of disobedience in Israel's history – following the Baal of Peor. Turn back one book and read Numbers 25:1-13. This is a tough story to read – difficult because of Israel's action and difficult because of God's judgment. What sin or sins was Israel guilty of?
- 3) What does this story from Israel's history teach us about how God views sin? Read Colossians 3:5-6 for further ideas.
- 4) Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8. What do these verses teach us about the benefits we experience when we live in obedience to God?
- 5) Read Psalm 51:1-12. This is a prayer of confession of David after he sinned (disobeyed God) by committing both adultery and murder. What does David say about the benefits he experiences when he comes clean with God?
- 6) Read Deuteronomy 4:9. What is Moses' concluding point about obedience? What tips does he give the Israelites (and therefore us) as to how we can obey?
- 7) What does "never forget what you have seen" mean for us today as followers of Christ? What is it that we should never forget we have seen?
- 8) What does "be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren" mean for us today? What might that look like in our lives?
- 9) The big idea of what Moses is teaching in this chapter is that obedience is how we experience God's best. As you close your study, turn to Psalm 103 and slowly read through the chapter by having each group member read a single verse as you go around the circle. When you're done, take note of your favourite "benefit" of obedience.

### CHALLENGE

This week commit to waking up every morning and making a covenant with God to obey Him that day so you can experience His best. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you, speak to you and give you power to obey throughout the day.





## PRAYER

Take time to pray as a group for one another about this issue of obedience. If you're comfortable, share an area in which you have trouble walking in obedience and ask for prayer.

## NEXT STEPS

You can apply and take this teaching deeper into your life by memorizing a key passage on obedience – **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. This centers on what we call "*the Great Shema*" with the word "shema" meaning "*to hear*". This is Israel's call to obey God and is a foundation passage every follower of Christ should commit to memory.