

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 1

God requires obedience

Deuteronomy 4:1–40



DAY 1

Obey God's law in order to be blessed • Deuteronomy 4:1–8

READ

Deuteronomy 4:1–8

EXPLAIN

The truth of Deuteronomy 4:1–8

For 40 years Moses had faithfully led the Israelites. Can you imagine how worried Israel must have been as Moses was about to die, right before the huge task of conquering Canaan? So to encourage them, Moses pointed Israel to their true leader, the LORD. On the plains of Moab, Moses taught the people and passed on the covenant to the next generation. He urged the people to obey God's commands in order to live (4:1). Their obedience could not earn them a place as God's people, since God had already made them His own when He redeemed them from Egypt. But Moses urged Israel to obey as the right response to God's grace. It is good to obey because disobedience leads to judgment (4:3–4; Num 25:1–9) and obedience leads to blessing: (1) life (Deut 4:1); (2) wisdom (4:6; Ps 19:7); (3) nearness to God (Deut 4:7; John 15:10); and (4) righteousness (Deut 4:8; Ps 19:9). By keeping God's commands, Israel would also draw other nations to God's word (Deut 4:6), fulfilling their destiny to be a blessing to all nations (Gen 12:3; John 4:22).

ASK

1. What did Moses tell the people of Israel to do?
He told them to listen carefully and obey God's commands.
2. What do obedience and disobedience lead to?
Obedience leads to blessing, but disobedience leads to punishment.
3. What are some of the blessings of obedience?
Those who obey enjoy full life, wisdom, nearness to God, and righteousness.
4. Can we be saved by our obedience (Eph 2:1–9)?
No. We are saved by God's grace, just like Israel was redeemed from Egypt by God's grace.

DISCUSS

1. What does God save people for (Eph 2:10; 1 Pet 2:9–12)? Is this what you live for?
2. Obedience marks the life of every believer. Does it mark yours (1 John 3:10)?

DAY 2

Do not forget God's word by turning to idols •
Deuteronomy 4:9–31

READ

Deuteronomy 4:9–31

EXPLAIN

The truth of Deuteronomy 4:9–31

It can be hard to believe in someone we cannot see. Because we cannot see God, we are easily tempted to worship visible things in the place of the invisible God. But God is present with us through His word, not through a visible form (Deut 4:10, 12–14). So we should not try to worship God through images (Deut 4:15–16). We must flee from **idolatry**, from devoting ourselves to the physical things of this world instead of to God alone. This is very important, because God is a consuming fire (4:24). He is **jealous**: He will not share His glory with an idol. That is scary to think of, because we have all committed idolatry. But we can still have hope, because God is gracious. He is faithful even when His people are not (4:31). He would show Israel how miserable it is to worship idols (4:28; Judg 10:14). This would provoke them to repent and seek Yahweh from a sincere heart (4:29). As a result, they will one day be finally restored when they turn to Jesus as their Messiah (4:30; Matt 23:39; Rom 11:25–29).

ASK

1. What did Moses say would happen if they disobeyed?
They would be punished, and many of them would even die.
2. What were the Israelites supposed to teach their children?
They were supposed to teach their children God's word and the amazing experience at Mt Sinai. The way to have a relationship with God is through His word.
3. Did the Israelites see God at Mt Sinai?
No. They saw fire and thick, dark cloud, but they only heard His voice.

DISCUSS

1. What is "idolatry"?
2. Can you think of ways you have committed idolatry by loving something else, especially things you can see and feel, more than God?

DAY 3

Be in awe of the Lawgiver, for there is none like Him •
Deuteronomy 4:32–40

READ

Deuteronomy 4:32–40

EXPLAIN

The truth of Deuteronomy 4:32–40

Do you realize how amazing God is? Moses challenged Israel to answer for themselves, because they had experienced what God was like. No other god has so powerfully rescued any nation (Deut 4:33–35). No other God has spoken out loud to a nation (4:32, 36). God deserves complete obedience because of the amazing things He has done. And the most amazing thing is His love, which He pours out on people who

do not deserve it (4:37). God's actions are awesome, and they prove that He is the only God, the only One able to give life and blessing, and the only One worthy of obedience (4:39–40; Jude 1:25). If you are a Christian, you have also experienced what God is like. God has chosen you in love in order to bless you beyond imagination (Eph 1:3–6). This blessing comes by faith, the kind of faith that produces obedience (Eph 2:8–10). So are you in awe of God's worth? Are you thankful for His blessing on those who live out His purpose? And do you respond by joyfully obeying God's commands (1 Pet 1:9–12)?

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How did Moses conclude his speech?
By reminding Israel of how remarkable their God is.
2. Why did God choose Israel?
He chose Israel not because of their value, but because of His great love (Deut 4:37).
3. What produces obedience to God?
Faith (Eph 2:8–10).

DISCUSS 

1. Make a list of amazing things about God. Praise Him for these things.
2. When you are thankful for what God has done for you, how does that change your attitude and behavior (Eph 5:3–5; 1 Pet 1:9–12)?

DAY 4*Obedience is the key to experiencing God's blessing • John 15:1–11***READ** 

John 15:1–17

EXPLAIN **The truth of John 15:1–11**

Jesus used the metaphor of the vine and branches to show us how Christians live. Christians have spiritual life because they are like branches growing out of Jesus, who is the true vine (15:1, 5). The branches get their sap and life from the vine. They are also taken care of by God, who is the vinedresser. But there are two types of branches: (1) real Christians (those who bear fruit), and (2) false Christians (those who do not bear fruit). Branches without fruit are not actually drawing life from the vine. They do not have real salvation (15:2). These false Christians will be judged, like branches being cut off and burned (15:6; Matt 7:16–20; Rev 20:10–15). But true believers show their salvation through obedience, just like we know branches are connected to the vine because they have fruit (John 15:7–10). Believers still sin, but they cannot fall away and will grow and bear more and more fruit (Matt 13:23; Gal 5:22–23). Their obedience is the result of staying in God's love, and this obedience glorifies God and leads to joy (John 15:11).

ASK 

1. Who did Jesus identify as the “true vine”?
Himself (John 15:1).
2. How do you know who is a real Christian?
They obey, like a branch bearing fruit because it is connected to the vine.
3. How do you know who is not really a Christian?
They do not obey, like a branch without fruit because it is not connected.
4. If you don't have spiritual fruit, what should you do?
Not just try harder. Cry out to God: only He can connect you to Jesus.

DISCUSS 

1. Ask your parents if they see spiritual fruit in your life, and listen humbly?
2. What does it mean to abide in Christ (Gal 5:16–25; Phil 2:12–13)?

DAY 5

Christ's obedience brought about eternal life for His people •
Romans 5:15–21

READ

Romans 5:1–21

EXPLAIN

The truth of Romans 5:15–21

Moses told Israel to obey so that they would live. But who obeys perfectly? Even little babies are naturally disobedient and selfish! This is because Adam, the first man, brought sin and death to all humans (Rom 5:19). Adam died spiritually the moment he sinned against God. He also began to die physically too, even though He did not die right away (5:15, 17). His sin resulted in eternal death for him and for all who come after him (5:16–17). But there is good news! Jesus is the second Adam. While Adam caused death, Jesus restores and offers eternal life. While Adam made us all sinful, Jesus makes all believers righteous. While Adam made humans slaves to sin, Jesus gives believers victory over sin (5:16, 19). This is because Jesus' obedience counts for all believers, just like Adam's sin counted for all people. Jesus' perfect righteousness counts as the believer's own righteousness, so if you believe, you can live, now and forever (5:21). How can you live even though you have not obeyed like Moses said? Because Jesus obeyed for you.

ASK

1. Who brought sin and death to all mankind?
Adam, the first man, (Rom 5:19).
2. Who is the second Adam?
Jesus.
3. Why is Jesus called the second Adam?
Jesus' obedience is imputed to all believers. "Imputed" means that His righteousness counts as the believer's own righteousness.

DISCUSS

1. Why don't little children need to be taught how to sin?
2. Make a list of all the things Jesus suffered without sin so that we can have life if we believe in Him. Thank Him for doing this for us.

NEXT WEEK

God calls Israel
to love through
obedience

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

