

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

# Being with Jesus

VOLUME 1: JANUARY - MARCH 2024

**NAME:**

*Love God Love People*

MARK 12:29-31

*Make Disciples*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

**READING SCHEDULE, JANUARY – MARCH 2024**

BEING WITH JESUS | 2024

|     | JANUARY |              | FEBRUARY |                 | MARCH |                            |
|-----|---------|--------------|----------|-----------------|-------|----------------------------|
| MON | 1       | Heb 10:1–4   |          |                 |       |                            |
| TUE | 2       | Heb 10:5–10  |          |                 |       |                            |
| WED | 3       | Heb 10:11–18 |          |                 |       |                            |
| THU | 4       | Heb 10:19–25 | 1        | Deut 1:5–8      |       |                            |
| FRI | 5       | Heb 10:26–31 | 2        | Deut 1:9–18     | 1     | Deut 14:1–21               |
| SAT | 6       | Heb 10:32–39 | 3        | Deut 1:19–33    | 2     | Deut 14:22–29,<br>15:19–23 |
| SUN | 7       |              | 4        |                 | 3     |                            |
| MON | 8       | Heb 11:1–3   | 5        | Deut 1:34–46    | 4     | Deut 15:1–18               |
| TUE | 9       | Heb 11:4–7   | 6        | Deut 2:1–23     | 5     | Deut 16:1–17               |
| WED | 10      | Heb 11:8–19  | 7        | Deut 2:24–3:11  | 6     | Deut 16:18–17:13           |
| THU | 11      | Heb 11:20–22 | 8        | Deut 3:12–29    | 7     | Deut 17:14–20              |
| FRI | 12      | Heb 11:23–28 | 9        | Deut 4:1–14     | 8     | Deut 18:1–22               |
| SAT | 13      | Heb 11:29–31 | 10       | Deut 4:15–31    | 9     | Deut 19:1–21               |
| SUN | 14      |              | 11       |                 | 10    |                            |
| MON | 15      | Heb 11:32–38 | 12       | Deut 4:32–43    | 11    | Deut 20:1–20               |
| TUE | 16      | Heb 11:39–40 | 13       | Deut 4:44–5:5   | 12    | Deut 21:1–23               |
| WED | 17      | Heb 12:1–2   | 14       | Deut 5:6–11     | 13    | Deut 22:1–12               |
| THU | 18      | Heb 12:3–4   | 15       | Deut 5:12–15    | 14    | Deut 22:13–30              |
| FRI | 19      | Heb 12:5–11  | 16       | Deut 5:16–21    | 15    | Deut 23:1–14               |
| SAT | 20      | Heb 12:12–17 | 17       | Deut 5:22–33    | 16    | Deut 23:15–25              |
| SUN | 21      |              | 18       |                 | 17    |                            |
| MON | 22      | Heb 12:18–24 | 19       | Deut 6:1–9      | 18    | Deut 24:1–22               |
| TUE | 23      | Heb 12:25–29 | 20       | Deut 6:10–25    | 19    | Deut 25:1–19               |
| WED | 24      | Heb 13:1–3   | 21       | Deut 7:1–26     | 20    | Deut 26:1–19               |
| THU | 25      | Heb 13:4–6   | 22       | Deut 8:1–20     | 21    | Deut 27:1–10               |
| FRI | 26      | Heb 13:7–8   | 23       | Deut 9:1–24     | 22    | Deut 27:11–26              |
| SAT | 27      | Heb 13:9–16  | 24       | Deut 9:25–10:11 | 23    | Deut 28:1–14               |
| SUN | 28      |              | 25       |                 | 24    |                            |
| MON | 29      | Heb 13:17–19 | 26       | Deut 10:12–22   | 25    | Deut 28:15–68              |
| TUE | 30      | Heb 13:20–25 | 27       | Deut 11:1–32    | 26    | Deut 29:1–29               |
| WED | 31      | Deut 1:1–4   | 28       | Deut 12:1–32    | 27    | Deut 30:1–20               |
| THU |         |              | 29       | Deut 13:1–18    | 28    | Deut 31:1–29               |
| FRI |         |              |          |                 | 29    | Deut 31:30–32:18           |
| SAT |         |              |          |                 | 30    | Deut 32:19–47              |
| SUN |         |              |          |                 | 31    |                            |
| MON |         |              |          |                 | Apr 1 | Deut 32:48–33:29           |
| TUE |         |              |          |                 | Apr 2 | Deut 34:1–12               |

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear SSMCians,

Come 2024, and it will be two years since I stepped in to pastor SSMC. Officially, I completed one year as Pastor-in-Charge under TRAC churches. I see this as a role and function rather than a position or office. I remember “hearing” these words distinctively, “If you love me, love my people also” as the Holy Spirit brought me to the shore beside the lake of Galilee where Jesus reinstated Peter in John 21:15-19 with a command to “Follow me”. This was “why” I responded to His call.

We must never lose sight of the “why” in our lives. Should we do so, we will be lost, aimless, listless, and easily distracted, intimidated and discouraged. The center for all decisions and reason must be Jesus, our Saviour, King and Lord. For in Him, were all things created and in Him, all things hold together (Colossians 1: 16-17). He alone commands our allegiance. We need to revisit the “why”, our *raison d'être*\* intermittently to rediscover afresh our existential reason and purpose from the Lord. Not just memories of past and significant encounters, but of a fresh experience with the I AM in the here and now that will reignite the white hot flame of that first love. My prayer for all of us this year is to intentionally create space and opportunities for fresh encounters with the Lord Jesus, being in a posture of surrenderedness and a yearning spirit for renewal. Those hungry and thirsty for God shall be satisfied indeed. Therefore, have this mindset for personal and corporate renewal.

Our BWJ Q1 reading will take us through the books of Hebrews and Deuteronomy. These were written to bring the people of God back to their “why”. Hebrews is written to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Jewish Christians, to encourage them to stand firm and not to turn their backs on Jesus Christ by returning to the safe harbour of Judaism in the face of increasing persecution from the Roman empire. Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets, angels, Moses, the Aaronic High Priest, the old covenant, the tabernacle and blood sacrifices in Judaism. In Jesus Christ, better promises of the new covenant are found! Similarly, in Deuteronomy Moses speaks to the new generation of Israelites on the plains of Moab before the Promise Land. They are to remember their history (what went wrong), to review the present (what is needed) and to reveal the future (choices and consequences). In essence, to highlight who they are and whose they are. Deuteronomy ends with Moses’ farewell message. As you read and reflect, may the Holy Spirit bring encounters and renewal.

I want to thank the CE team for their commitment and passion in preparing this material.

Mercy, peace and love be yours abundantly from God the Father, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Love God, Love People, Make Disciples.

*Humbly,*

*Pastor Robin Liew and the Leadership Team*

\*The French word *raison d'être*, the important reason and purpose for our existence.

*Love* GOD. *Love* PEOPLE. *Make* DISCIPLES.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

"All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness". As we continue to read through Scripture, may the Spirit guide our understanding and motivations. May God's power transform our circumstances as well. And may we, together with our families, children, and other loved ones, know the joy of obedience to Him who is eternal.

This quarter, we complete the book of Hebrews and then continue into readings from the book of Deuteronomy. The historical events described in Deuteronomy may be the most ethically challenging part of Scripture, especially in the context of current events surrounding the promised land and the modern nation-states which exist in conflict there. Let us take a high view of Scripture, without falling for the trap of instead taking a high view of our own interpretations and imperfect understanding of Scripture. May the whole testimony of God's Word, from creation to resurrection to sanctification, guide our understanding.

The provided questions for each day's readings are intended to encourage us to chew on God's Word, not just with our minds, but with our heart and soul. The pronouns "I", "me", and "my" are used to indicate the personal nature of the proposed reflections. Let us remember too that our faith is walked together in communities, and that "we" and "our" pronouns are often also appropriate. The noun "faith communities" is also used to represent this same idea, that it is the communal aspect which matters more than the organisational structure of what we traditionally refer to as "church". As always, none of the provided questions rise to the level of Scripture, and we should all remember the Author is higher and greater in wisdom than any man.

May God's Word do its refining work in each of our hearts. May our minds be edified in the reading of His Word. May our hands demonstrate fruit in keeping with the heart of God. May the body of Christ always reflect His heart and not the schemes of imperfect and fallible men.

*Yours truly,  
Ng Oon-Ee (Christian Education)*

This edition of Being With Jesus has seen significant contributions from various disciples in the body. Special thanks to the Christian Education team for their efforts and time in preparing this material, as well as to Rosalind for her valued contributions to the final copy and Zachary for the cover design.



# HEBREWS

Shadow or Substance?

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What does today's passage tell me about the relationship between the sacrifices according to the law and the Heavenly sacrifice?</li> <li>2) What does the phrase "once for all" in Hebrews 10:2 mean for me? How is my understanding of sin-removal different from that of Jewish worshippers?</li> <li>3) Does the exercise of my faith sometimes include practices or rituals which attempt to supplement Christ's sacrifice? How can I avoid this?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 2, TUESDAY

Hebrews 10:5-10

Doing His Will

Psalm 40:6-8

Context

*Questions*  
to ponder

- 1) Who was it who instituted the sacrifices, burnt offerings, and sin offerings referred to in Hebrews 10:5-6? Why would God not be pleased with them?
- 2) By implication, what pleases God according to today's passage?
- 3) Christ's obedience made us holy. What would our obedience to the Father accomplish?

*Head*

What can I  
understand?

*Heart*

How do I respond?

*Hands*

What must I do?

Forever by One Sacrifice

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How do the daily sacrifices compare with Christ's one sacrifice? Were those sacrifices, therefore, pointless?</li> <li>2) The priest stands every day to repeatedly offer sacrifice, but Christ now sits at the right hand of God. What does this contrast tell me about assurance and holiness?</li> <li>3) What does it mean for me that God has "put His law in my heart" and "written them in my mind"?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |



JAN 4, THURSDAY

Hebrews 10:19-25

Draw Near, Hold Unswervingly, Consider

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What are the two things that we have, according to today's passage (Hebrews 10:19, 10:21)? What do these mean to me?</li> <li>2) What are the three things we are encouraged to do according to today's passage (Hebrews 10:22-24)? How am I doing these things right now?</li> <li>3) Today's passage is not addressed to any individual believer, but to "brothers and sisters" together. How are we living this out in our faith community?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

Sinning on Purpose

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How does today's passage compare law-breaking (Hebrews 10:28) with turning away from Christ (Hebrews 10:29)?</li> <li>2) What is the difference between "deliberately keep on sinning" and falling into sin occasionally (refer also to 1 John 3:6)?</li> <li>3) How can I guard against deliberate sin? Similarly, how can I guard against falsely judging my brethren's doubts and hesitations (and thereby claiming what is God's)?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 6, SATURDAY

Hebrews 10:32-39

## Continuing in Perseverance

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The author of Hebrews reminds the readers of "those earlier days". What can I understand about their history based on today's passage?</li> <li>2) Hebrews 10:39 refers to two groups of believers. Which group is being addressed in the book of Hebrews?</li> <li>3) Today's passage exhorts continued faithfulness in perseverance. What promises does the author refer to? What does this mean to me?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

JAN 7, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JAN 8, MONDAY

Hebrews 11:1-3

## Faith Is

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Faith applies to what we do not see, for what we hope for. Is all faith God-centered, sure, and certain?</li> <li>2) Many of us live pragmatically, planning and deciding based on what we can see and know for certain. Can our faith practice also be based on the same principles? What else could it be based on (see Romans 10:17)?</li> <li>3) What do I hope for in life? Do I hope for more than what this world can offer? How does this hope change how I live?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         |  |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

JAN 9, TUESDAY

Hebrews 11:4-7

## Abel, Enoch and Noah

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What differentiated Abel and Cain (Genesis 4:2-5), according to today's passage?</li> <li>2) Among the ancestors of Noah, Enoch alone is described as "walking faithfully with God" (twice in Genesis 5:21-24). What was the consequence of his faithful walk?</li> <li>3) Noah, like his ancestor Enoch, walked faithfully with God (Genesis 6:9). What can I learn from today's passage about walking faithfully with God?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 10, WEDNESDAY

Hebrews 11:8-19

## Abraham, Father of Isaac

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Abraham's faith-story begins with his obedience in leaving his home. Did he receive the promised land within his lifetime (see Hebrews 11:13)?</li> <li>2) Abraham was also promised many descendants at a time when he and Sarah had no more earthly hope for children. Did he fully see this promise come to fruition?</li> <li>3) Abraham, in faith, refused to hold on to his only son (and the presumed means through which God's promises to him would be fulfilled). How does Abraham's life demonstrate "looking beyond the things of this world"?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

JAN 11, THURSDAY

Hebrews 11:20–22

## Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Context                                       |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Isaac and Jacob's blessings were bestowed primarily to the younger sibling, either through deceit (Genesis 27) or through choice (Genesis 48:19). How do these blessings demonstrate faith?</li> <li>2) Joseph's faith was demonstrated in the prophetic word regarding the children of Israel (his grandfather) in the land of Egypt (Genesis 50:24). How is this faith linked with Abraham's faith in yesterday's reading?</li> <li>3) Abraham's faith looked beyond the things of this world, but Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph all saw through faith what lay ahead on earth. How can I exercise such faith?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |



JAN 12, FRIDAY

Hebrews 11:23–28

## Moses' Life of Faith

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Moses' faith-story begins even before his birth (Hebrews 11:23). Do I also have a legacy of faith to build on in my family? Am I leaving such a legacy?</li> <li>2) Moses had two inheritances to choose from, and today's passages make it clear which choice he made. What inheritance and citizenship have I exercised faith to claim?</li> <li>3) Hebrews 11:27 gives a reason for Moses' faith, that he "saw him who is invisible". What does this mean? How do I experience this in my own life?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

Faith During Great Events

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hebrews 11:29 summarizes the events of Exodus 14. What did the faith of the Israelites actually look like (Exodus 14:11-12)? Does my faith also feel the same?</li> <li>2) Hebrews 11:30-31 recounts another great miracle of God (Joshua 6). What did the faith of the Israelites and the faith of Rahab look like? Does my faith also feel the same?</li> <li>3) How can I exercise faith in facing great and tumultuous events today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 14, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JAN 15, MONDAY

Hebrews 11:32-38

## The Fruit of Faith

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The author of Hebrews covers hundreds of years of faith history in a few verses. What are the achievements borne of faith which they describe in Hebrews 11:32-35?</li> <li>2) What are the other fruits of faith described in today's passage (Hebrews 11:35-38)? Do these fruits serve to indict these heroes of faith, or the world they temporarily live in?</li> <li>3) Do I see in today's readings echos of the faith journey of our modern-day martyrs, missionaries, and other children of God? Am I myself called to living out my faith in this manner?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

God's Plan

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Who is it who commended those mentioned in Hebrews 11 for their faith (see Hebrews 11:4 for example)? Does He also commend my lived-out faith?</li> <li>2) What does it mean that "none of them received what had been promised"? What perfect reward is yet to come for all of us?</li> <li>3) Do I need an increased faith? Is there a brother or sister close to me who does? What should we do in this situation (see Mark 9:24)?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

My Life of Faith

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage involves a race. Who is it who has "marked out" and defined the boundaries and rules for this race?</li> <li>2) The past week of readings establishes the example of those who went before me — what role do they now play in my race?</li> <li>3) In running this race, I am called to discard "everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" so as to fix my eyes on Jesus. What specific action am I taking to do this today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 18, THURSDAY

Hebrews 12:3-4

## Persevering in Struggle

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Context                                       |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage follows up on yesterday's call to "fix our eyes on Jesus". What example did my Lord set for me?</li> <li>2) I am not to "grow weary and lose heart". How does weariness and losing heart look like in my life? How can a faith community support each other and stave off weariness?</li> <li>3) Hebrews 12:4 is true for most (but not all) of Christ's body today, yet it was not true of Christ Himself. What song of praise can I offer to Him today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

JAN 19, FRIDAY

Hebrews 12:5-11

## Disciplined for Righteousness

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The rebuke and chastening in today's passage refers to both verbal and physically painful punishment. Why do we undergo such discipline?</li> <li>2) How does the author compare God with our earthly fathers? Does this passage justify every act of discipline (abusive or otherwise) taken by our earthly fathers?</li> <li>3) By faith, we know ourselves to be sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father. What harvest of righteousness have I seen in my life as a result of God's discipline?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |



Ushering Into the Grace of God

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage emphasizes the communal nature of holiness ("with everyone", "no one", "many"). How does a communal reading differ from an individualistic reading of the exhortations in today's passage?</li> <li>2) Grace refers to unmerited favour that we have received from God? How could we "fall short" of something which is unmerited? Does today's passage primarily refer to holiness in the legalistic (avoidance of sin) context?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Reflect on the phrase "bitter roots". Do such roots grow in my heart? What do I need to do?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

JAN 21, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JAN 22, MONDAY

Hebrews 12:18-24

## Recognizing God's Holy Mountain

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The first mountain is not named, but every Israelite would instantly recognise it as Mount Sinai where the law was given (Exodus 19). What does this mountain represent in the context of today's passage (see also Hebrews 12:24)?</li> <li>2) The imagery of Mount Sinai is accurate to God's actions and commands in the time of Moses. Does today's passage point us toward a rejection of the old covenant as being terrifying and outdated?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) How does the imagery of Mount Zion challenge and reframe my understanding of a righteous God and His laws as given under the old covenant?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

JAN 23, TUESDAY

Hebrews 12:25-29

## The Heavenly Warning

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The two words translated "warn" in Hebrews 12:25 are different. The first word indicates transmission (passing on) of a message, while the second indicates direct speech. How does this reinforce the comparisons being made in today's passage?</li> <li>2) We are exhorted to not refuse Him who speaks. Has He been refused (and is He still being refused) by others? Is the "shaking" of the earth and of the heavens guaranteed to come to pass?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) What does it mean in my life when I say I belong to this unshakeable kingdom? Do I still hold on to other (shakeable) kingdoms as well?</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

How To Make Level Paths

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage provides practical ways to carry out the exhortation of Hebrews 12:13. The foundation is Hebrews 13:1 (see also John 13:34-35). Is this love on the basis of actions, affection, or shared identity?</li> <li>2) The first of two practical demonstrations of love (Hebrews 13:2) is hospitality (see also Matthew 25:35, 38). Who is this hospitality for? How should this impact my treatment of those who are different from me (such as the foreigner, alien, or immigrant)?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The second of two practical demonstrations of love (Hebrews 13:3) involves not just practical actions but also emotional empathy. How does my faith community practice empathy with those who are mistreated or in prison?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Holy Values

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Marriage in Christianity is not based on man-made laws, but is instituted by God (Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:6). How can our faith community honour the purity of the marriage bed and the covenantal relationship witnessed by God?</li> <li>2) Greed (the love of money) and the fear of lack is foundational to our economic system (which cannot function without it). How does the quote from Deuteronomy 31:6 (Hebrews 13:5) address both of these for believers? What is my own attitude towards money and possessions?</li> <li>3) Hebrews 13:6 reemphasizes that believers fear only God. In a society with many faiths and cultures, do legal/political decrees, even those apparently in line with holy values, actually help people of faith to live out said values?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Remember, Consider, Imitate

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Who has spoken the word of God to me and demonstrated a life of faith? How am I remembering them and imitating their faith?</li> <li>2) We are called to consider the outcome of our leader's way of life. How can this provide protection against idolizing a fallible man (or woman) of faith? How can we rightly consider the lives of those among us who, though faithful, have fallen short in some moral or ethical way?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Who is the ultimate leader who deserves unquestioning loyalty and imitation? How can I learn from my imperfect mentors to become more like Him?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 27, SATURDAY

Hebrews 13:9-16

Recognizing Strange Teachings

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What kind of "strange teachings" could the author of Hebrews be referring to in today's passage?</li> <li>2) In Christ, we look beyond the "here" where we have no enduring city. Are there any practices in my faith community which are overly focused on what will not endure?</li> <li>3) The harm of "strange teachings" is not limited to spiritual misguidedness. What does Hebrews 13:16 tell me about other practical implications of most "strange teachings"?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |



JAN 28, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

JAN 29, MONDAY

Hebrews 13:17-19

Honouring Leaders

John 13:3-17

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage urges us to have confidence, to submit, and to pray. How have I been doing this for my own leaders?</li> <li>2) What is the result of confidence in and submission to godly leaders? Whose authority is it that they wield?</li> <li>3) How can my faith community submit to godly authority while avoiding the pitfalls of blind obedience (idolatry) and the resulting culture of abuse? How can Jesus' leadership example (John 13:3-17) help me walk this narrow road?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

JAN 30, TUESDAY

Hebrews 13:20–25

## The Source of Our Obedience

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) This closing benediction summarizes why we are able to carry out the numerous exhortations in the book of Hebrews. What does today's passage say regarding the character of God?</li> <li>2) What role does the risen Christ play in my journey of faith and holiness?</li> <li>3) Whose glory will be exalted in my obedience (Hebrews 13:21)?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |



**DEUTERONOMY**

JAN 31, WEDNESDAY

Deuteronomy 1:1-4

## The Story Thus Far

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy begins with a historical recount by Moses. Where were these words proclaimed, and who were the audience?</li> <li>2) How does the stark difference between 11 days (Deuteronomy 1:2) and 40 years (Deuteronomy 1:3) summarize the price of Israel's disobedience and disbelief (e.g. Numbers 14)?</li> <li>3) How do the victories of Deuteronomy 1:4 provide courage for the near future of the nation of Israel? Do I have spiritual victories which testify to the power of God in my life?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

Acting on a Promise

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Israelites were at Horeb (Mount Sinai) for about a year. What was the focus of their time there? What did they receive at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19)?</li> <li>2) The Israelites were told to "break camp" — the Hebrew expression includes the idea of deciding to leave old things behind and setting one's face toward a new destination. How vast was their destination? Is God calling me to a vast (and difficult) task or assignment? How do I respond to God's call to "break camp"?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) How does the promise of God in Deuteronomy 1:8 remain relevant to me reading this today? Is Christ's body still in the business of claiming physical land?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Leaders Needed!

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Context                                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The cry of Deuteronomy 1:12 is familiar to anyone who has held leadership responsibility at any level. What is the solution proposed here (by Moses' father-in-law Jethro according to Exodus 18)?</li> <li>2) What does today's passage tell me about delegation and the ideal characteristics of leaders of every level?</li> <li>3) Moses does not bemoan the blessings which led to his impossibly increased responsibilities, nor does he (eventually) try to do the impossible scope of tasks himself. What lesson do I need to take from this?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Obedience Only to a Point

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How did Israel react to God's commands even in the midst of a "vast and dreadful wilderness" (Deuteronomy 1:19)? Where they disobedient from the beginning?</li> <li>2) Israel sent out spies instead of immediately obeying God's commands. Was this act an act of disobedience or rebellion? How does this compare with the parables told by Jesus in Luke 14:28-33?</li> <li>3) Israel chose to disobey and rebel based on fear. Despite Moses' reminders on God's concretely demonstrated power and faithfulness, they "did not trust in the Lord". Can I understand their reaction? Have I also allowed fear to prompt my disobedience and rebellion to God's commands?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |



FEB 4, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

Painful Discipline

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Following God's punishment and new commands, Israel again rebels in an apparent act of delayed obedience, to devastating consequence. What does this teach me about God's timing and plan?</li> <li>2) Moses himself is disciplined harshly for not obeying God's commands (Number 20:8-13). Is Moses' emotional reaction understandable? What does this teach me about God's standards of holiness (especially for leaders)?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Two young men are exempt from the discipline meted out to the nation of Israel in today's passage. Is my life such that I continue to obey God even when my brothers and sisters do not?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Years in the Wilderness

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How long were Israel wandering in the wilderness? What does this teach me about the consequences of sin?</li> <li>2) Other nations are mentioned in today's passage, giving us a glimpse into God's actions outside the primary Scriptural account of His chosen people. How do the statements "given as a possession" and "drove them out and settled in their place" reflect God's purposes even for pagan peoples?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) How did the Lord treat His people while they were paying the consequences of their sin (Deuteronomy 2:7)? Can I similarly extend the blessing of provision even to those who are not in total obedience to God?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Defeat of Two Kings

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The battles described today are the first faced by the new generation of Israel. Unlike the Moabites and Ammonites, these Amorites were not off limits by God's instructions. Does today's passage provide any clues as to how these nations differed?</li> <li>2) The Canaanite invasion is a morally thorny subject (which we will consider more thoroughly in our reading on February 21). What today's passage makes clear is that these new generation of Israelites were obedient unlike their ancestors. Is my generation also obedient unto the Lord?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Moses makes certain to emphasize the difficult battles faced by Israel against Og king of Bashan in particular. How did Israel's obedience lead to their victory?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

FEB 8, THURSDAY

Deuteronomy 3:12-29

## Instructions East of the Jordan

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The land divisions described in Deuteronomy 3:12-17 are written similarly to legal inheritance allocations. Why were these precise allocations necessary? Who ultimately owned the land being divided up?</li> <li>2) The eastern tribes are instructed to fulfil their duties to the rest of the nation in the coming battles. Disobedience would be a sin (Numbers 32:23). How can we apply these principles in Christ's world-wide body today?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Moses' heart longs to see the promised land (Matthew 17:1-3), but God has other instructions for him regarding Joshua. Has God given me the task of encouraging a younger brother or sister today in their service to God?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

Giving of the Law

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What distinction can be seen between the obedient and the disobedient at Baal Peor?</li> <li>2) What distinction can be seen between God's people and nation and other nations who do not belong to God, according to Deuteronomy 34:6-8?</li> <li>3) The Hebrew word "shema" means not just to hear and take note, but to hear and follow (to obey!). Am I also one who hears and follows God's decrees and laws?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

FEB 10, SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 4:15-31

## Idolatry Forbidden

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy (second telling of the Law) introduces the 'law' section (roughly chapters 5-26) with certain principle laws (or principles of law). Why is forbidding idolatry the first principle law?</li> <li>2) One reason given against idolatry is the experience the Israelites had at Horeb (Mount Sinai), where God spoke but did not reveal any visual form. How does this contradict the establishment of any form of image worship?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The other reason given against idolatry is the specific covenant Israel had made with God (expanded on in later parts of Deuteronomy). Israel is exhorted "not to forget" this covenant. How can modern idolatry arise from forgetting our own new covenant with God?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

FEB 11, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER



FEB 12, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 4:32-43

There is No Other

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage emphasizes the uniqueness of God in His actions and interactions with His people. What truths are to be "known" by Israel according to Deuteronomy 4:35, 39)?</li> <li>2) The heart of God for His people is shown in His great deeds (Deuteronomy 4:33-38) as well as in His love and care (Deuteronomy 4:37, 40). What testimony can I bring about God's greatness and love?</li> <li>3) The greatness and love of the one God is demonstrated practically by the cities of refuge, where the established cultural practice of life-for-life in the event of a murder or accidental death could undergo a just trial, possibly resulting in freedom for the innocent. How can the church today continue to uphold mercy when faced with vengeful systems of "justice"?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

Hear, Learn and be Sure to Follow

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Israel is exhorted to hear, learn, and be sure to follow the laws which will be recounted in the next 20 or so chapters of Deuteronomy. Are we subject to these laws as well?</li> <li>2) How can we in the 21st century read Deuteronomy 5:2-4 for ourselves? What is the covenant that I have personally with the Lord?</li> <li>3) Christ's sacrifice (as symbolized by the tearing of the temple veil) allows me to approach the Lord without any intermediary. Am I still afraid (as the Israelites were) to approach Him?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Commandments About God

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The preface (Deuteronomy 5:6) of the 10 Commandments is sometimes glanced over. What does this sentence tell us about the basis of God's commandments given to Israel?</li> <li>2) The commandments start with "vertical" concerns regarding the relationship between Israel and God. What is the common area of focus of the first three commandments?</li> <li>3) How does my attention, worship, and speech reflect the awesomeness and unique worth of my Father in heaven?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Commandment on the Sabbath

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The fourth commandment is unique in a few ways. Most obviously, this was the commandment which is repeatedly mentioned by Jesus (Matthew 12:1-13, Luke 13:10-17) as he challenged the legalism of the Pharisees. Has this commandment therefore been set aside for the Christian?</li> <li>2) How can I honour the Sabbath day and keep it holy without resorting to legalism?</li> <li>3) The fourth commandment uniquely addresses the "other" in Israel, rather than just the Israelites themselves. God bids His people to remember their slavery and give rest to all regardless of status, lineage, or species. How can I practice this in my professional circle of influence?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

FEB 16, FRIDAY

Deuteronomy 5:16-21

## Commandments on Horizontal Relationships

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The last 6 commandments concern "horizontal" relationships between people. Are all these commandments still generally accepted as righteous today?</li> <li>2) What standard did Jesus hold for His followers (Matthew 5:22, 28) compared to a literalist reading of the commandments? How do my own ethical standards compare?</li> <li>3) The 10 commandments are not written in a legal form (in particular, no penalties are specified for disobedience). This runs counter to how they are generally perceived by Christians today. What does this tell me about the nature of these commandments?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

FEB 17, SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 5:22–33

## Fearing God

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The reaction of Israel recorded in today's passage is fear. This fear prompted obedience (at least initially). Do I fear the Lord in the same way?</li> <li>2) In their fear, Israel asked Moses to be their mediator — to listen to God on their behalf and convey the message to them. Who is our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) today?</li> <li>3) How does Deuteronomy 5:29 apply to me and my faith community?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         |  |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

FEB 18, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

FEB 19, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Hear, O Israel!

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is the first stanza of the "Shema" (translated "hear"), the Jewish daily faith confession. What is the first statement in the Shema, and why is it of paramount importance?</li> <li>2) The next statement in the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:5) speaks of Israel's attitude towards God, in what Jesus would later call the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-30). What do the terms "heart", "soul", and "strength" mean to me?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The rest of this stanza focuses on the use of symbols (verbal reminders, visual symbols, inscribed writings) to keep these commandments "on your hearts". What symbols (visual or otherwise) do I keep around me to point me to God's greatness and remind me to love Him?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |



FEB 20, TUESDAY

Deuteronomy 6:10–25

## Be Careful with Your Blessings

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage starts with four things that Israel "did not" do. What is Moses emphasizing here? How can I apply this to my own life?</li> <li>2) Reading Deuteronomy 6:13-19 in the context of Deuteronomy 6:10-12 — how does a warning against idolatry relate to the prior warning (see also Matthew 6:24)? What is the most tempting "idol" that I face today?</li> <li>3) The last part of today's passage discusses the teaching of children, specifically those who have grown up used to the material comfort and blessings God has given. How well do children in my faith community recognise and appreciate God's provision?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

Destroy Them Totally

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <p>1) The Canaanite conquest is arguably the hardest account in Scripture to read (from a moral and ethical viewpoint). What are the boundaries to the total destruction that today's passage speaks of? How can I respond to Christians who try to apply these commands to modern day conflicts?</p>  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <p>2) The word translated "destroy them totally" or "destruction" in verses 2 and 26 is "haram" — a phrase many of us will be familiar with. What are God's primary concerns as shown in verses 3-6, 8-11, 12-16, and 25-26?</p> <p>3) It is not only the seven Canaanite nations who are declared "haram" in Scripture. Israel is declared "haram" in Joshua 6:12, as is the land of Israel in Malachi 4:6. What does this tell me about God's absolute holiness?</p> |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

FEB 22, THURSDAY

Deuteronomy 8:1–20

## Do Not Forget God's Blessings

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage calls on Israel to "remember" and to "not forget". What is it that they are to remember? How can I apply this to my own prosperity and situation today?</li> <li>2) Moses encourages the most natural response to remembering God's blessings — praise! How am I putting Deuteronomy 8:6-10 into practice daily?</li> <li>3) What are the consequences of forgetting God and His blessings? Am I in danger of experiencing these consequences?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Do Not Forget Yourself

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Israel is specifically warned not to claim their righteousness as the source of their victories and blessings. What is the truth that Moses has to tell them in Deuteronomy 9:6? Does this apply to me and my faith community?</li> <li>2) Moses proceeds to recount Israel's recent history of sin and rebellion. What is the purpose of this recounting? Could I approach a brother or sister with a similar account of their sin and rebellion?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) What is the antithesis to arrogance and self-righteousness, as seen in Deuteronomy 9:18-20? How can me and my faith community practice this?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Interceding for the Condemned

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In today's passage, Moses' actions provide an example of intercession on behalf of those who are condemned. How long does Moses intercede? Am I called to sustained and patient intercession today?</li> <li>2) Moses makes four points in his intercession before God — Israel is God's people and inheritance, Israel is redeemed by God's power and mighty hand, God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and God's reputation in Egypt. What is the common factor in all of these points, and how do they speak to Moses' understanding of God?</li> <li>3) When the Lord relented, he marked it by renewing the tablets of stone and instructing Moses to make the ark of the covenant. What new covenant do we have before God to mark our salvation from condemnation?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

FEB 25, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

What Does the Lord Ask of You?

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy 10:12-13 describes the attitudes and actions expected of Israel by the Lord. What would be the outcome of these attitudes and actions?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 10:14-16 explains how God's greatness extends throughout creation and can even change Israel's stiff-neckedness! Am I fully aware of God's infinite awesomeness? Is there a brother or sister I can share this with today?</li> <li>3) Deuteronomy 10:17-22 talks about God's value systems. Much emphasis is placed on the marginalized. The church, at its best in history, has been a refuge for those on the margins whom others reject or oppress, showing not just charity but even solidarity. Is this still true today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

FEB 27, TUESDAY

Deuteronomy 11:1-32

## A Blessing and a Curse

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage starts with a recounting of God's discipline applied to Egypt as well as to Israel — great signs witnessed by Israel themselves. What great things have I seen from the Lord's hand?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 11:13-21 is the traditional second stanza of the Jewish "Shema" (as previously discussed on February 19th regarding Deuteronomy 6:4-9). How would the daily repetition of these words have grounded generations of Jews in their obedience to God's commands?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The call to obedience comes with a blessing and a curse — both directly the consequence of Israel's actively chosen course of action. What choice of obedience is laid out before me today?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |



Worship at the Place the Lord Will Choose

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy chapters 12 to 26 gives detailed laws for the tribes to practice in the promised land. What is the first order of business (Deuteronomy 12:2-7), and what does that say about God's priorities for Israel?</li> <li>2) Israel is permitted to practice their daily necessities (e.g., regarding the eating of meat) with some restrictions throughout their territory. How does this compare with my faith community's current practice of worship and life?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Most of today's passage focuses on offerings only being permitted at "the place the Lord will choose", centralizing the offering of sacrifices, tithes, free-will offerings, and vow-gifts. Why are these practices only to be performed in one place? What do these commands foreshadow?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What is the primary command being emphasized in today's passage?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 13:1-2 shows that worshipping other gods is sometimes preceded by other related spiritual practices. How can I differentiate Christ-centered spirituality or mysticism from spiritual or occult practices that dishonour God?</li> <li>3) Today's passage lists three general "sources" of temptation towards the worship of other gods, yet the command remains the same — do not listen to them, and remove that "source" immediately. How is my faith community to carry this out today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

MAR 1, FRIDAY

Deuteronomy 14:1–21

## A People Holy to God

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage lists practices and foods which are not permitted for Israelites. What is the repeated justification for these laws (Deuteronomy 14:1, 2, 21)?</li> <li>2) Many have speculated over the scientific or nutritional basis for these dietary laws. However, permitting sale and consumption for foreigners (whom God specifically advocates for elsewhere in Scripture) suggests healthiness or nutrition is not the primary concern. Can I accept dietary laws that are not backed up by a scientific foundation?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Under the new covenant, Christians no longer observe these food laws (as Jesus instituted in Mark 7:19). What other ceremonial practices do we observe today that set us apart from other people?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

MAR 2, SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 14:22–29, 15:19–23

## Tithes and Giving

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In Numbers 18:21-24, God gave "all the tithes in Israel" (including the firstborn offerings described in Deuteronomy 15:19-23) to the Levites who had no inheritance. This is the tithe we are most familiar with (the Levitical tithe), given for those who serve God. What is the purpose of this form of tithing, and how do I continue to give to God in this manner today?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) A second tithe (the tithe of the feasts) is prescribed in Deuteronomy 14:22-27. Who is to eat of this tithe, and where shall they do so? What is the purpose of this form of tithing, and how do I continue to give to God in this manner today?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) A third tithe (the tithe for the poor) is prescribed in Deuteronomy 14:28-29. This differs from the first tithe as it is stored in each town, and not at the place of worship. What is the purpose of this form of tithing, and how do I continue to give to God in this manner today?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

MAR 3, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

MAR 4, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 15:1-18

## There Need Be No Poor People Among You

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Do Deuteronomy 15:4 and Deuteronomy 15:11 directly contradict each other? How are Christians today meant to engage with economic systems that bring "prosperity" by exploiting and propagating poverty?</li> <li>2) How does God's commands regarding debt and servitude compare with our current practice? What would our society look like if these commands were put into practice? What can my faith community do to reduce inequality and promote God's justice for the poor?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Personal charity and open-handedness is insufficient on its own, but remains an important part of God's commands (Deuteronomy 15:7-10, 15:13-14). How am I and my faith community practicing charity using the resources God has blessed us with?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

Communal Festivals

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) God's laws do not only consists of restrictions or prohibitions. Todays passage describes three pilgrimage festivals to be celebrated every year. What events do these festivals celebrate (Exodus 12, Leviticus 23:15-16, Leviticus 23:42-43)?</li> </ol>  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) These pilgrimage festivals involve the travel of all Israel to "the place the Lord will choose" (something which occurs multiple times a year in our culture as well). What is the primary activity of these festivals? Does my faith community consistently celebrate together in this way?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The command that "no one should appear before the Lord empty-handed" goes hand-in-hand with the second tithe of Deuteronomy 14:22-27 (see reading on March 3). How should I prepare for times of communal gathering with God's people today?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

MAR 6, WEDNESDAY

Deuteronomy 16:18–17:13

## Judges and Apostasy

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy 13 described the penalty for invitations to worship other gods, and today's passage describes the penalties for the act of worshipping other gods. What is the legal requirement for such persons to be found guilty (Deuteronomy 17:3-6)?</li> <li>2) What is God's requirements of judges and officials. Do the judges and officials over me today meet this criteria? What should I do?</li> <li>3) The penalty for contempt for the judge or priest is equivalent to that of apostasy. While we no longer practice such penalties under the new covenant, what does this tell me about the importance of honouring systems of authority and justice? How can I hold this in tension with the knowledge that many of our current systems of authority and justice (within and without the church) are flawed to various degrees?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |



Laws for the King

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage sets three prohibitions (he must not) in place for the king. What are the implications for good and godly leaders today?</li> <li>2) To help the king keep these commands, Deuteronomy 17:18-19 mandates that the king write down and repeatedly read a copy of the law. How am I internalising Scripture in my daily practice?</li> <li>3) Deuteronomy 17:20 speaks of a concept of leadership most fully embodied by Christ Himself (Luke 22:27). How am I currently exercising leadership within my sphere of influence? Do I consider leadership as a function or a status?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

MAR 8, FRIDAY

Deuteronomy 18:1-22

Laws Regarding Religious Practitioners

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Unlike yesterday's passage, today's passage primarily addresses how Israel should act with regards to various religious practitioners. First, verses 1-8 cover the provisions for the Levites, those who serve God's sanctuary. How well does my faith community support those who serve it in both pastoral and administrative roles (whether full or part-time)?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 18:9-13 warns Israel not to practice the spiritual practices of the Canaanite nations. How do these warnings translate to Christians who live in a multi-religious society?</li> <li>3) Instead of the "sorcery or divination" practiced by the Canaanite nations, God promises Israel a prophet "just like Moses" to be raised up from Israel. How would Israel recognise such a prophet? How do we recognise the gift of prophecy in our faith community today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |   |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

MAR 9, SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 19:1-21

## Justice for the Accused

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ancient cultures were no less vengeance-orientated than we are today. Deuteronomy 19:1-10 provides for refuge and a chance for one who is not guilty to avoid misguided vengeance. How does this contrast with the underlying principle of like-for-like retribution in Deuteronomy 19:21?</li> </ol>                               |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) The cities of refuge were not absolute sanctuaries, providing an opportunity to defend yourself before authorities rather than a free pass to the guilty. How does this opportunity directly lead to the instructions of verses 15 to 19? What is the importance of true and just testimony in such a system of justice?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) There are some parallels between Old Testament systems of justice and modern systems, but also significant differences. Can I hold these laws up as an ideal set of laws for God's people (see also Galatians 3:21-22)?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

MAR 10, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

MAR 11, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 20:1-20

How to Go to War

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Does today's passage focus on achieving victory or on the manner of conduct Israel is to apply to warfare? What does this say about God's priorities?</li> <li>2) How can the principles of Deuteronomy 20:5-9 apply to my faith community today, in the spiritual struggles we face? Is there a brother or sister who needs to retreat from the spiritual front lines?</li> <li>3) "Just war theory" is a largely Christian attempt to wrestle with the conduct of actual material warfare involving physical violence, death, and destruction. How does the offering of peace and the sanctity of fruit-bearing trees contribute to my understanding of violence and warfare?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

Upholding Rights

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage discusses a diverse set of situations, the first being a murder without a suspect. Whose rights are being upheld when the atonement sacrifice is performed on behalf of the nearest town?</li> <li>2) In most of the remaining situations, the welfare of a disadvantaged party (forced marriage, disfavoured son, executed criminal) is the primary concern. Why should their welfare be protected?</li> <li>3) In today's passage, verses 9, 21, and 23 all give a similar foundation for the law. How can this principle guide me today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

MAR 13, WEDNESDAY

Deuteronomy 22:1-12

## Laws for Civil Society

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The laws in today's passage provide practical guidance to living in harmony with those around us. How does Deuteronomy 22:1-5, 8 support healthy neighbourly relationships?</li> <li>2) Some of the laws demonstrate concern for animals and nature (Deuteronomy 22:6-7, 9-11). How can I practice creation care as we increasingly face the consequences of our poor stewardship of the earth?</li> <li>3) Deuteronomy 9:12 echos the commands of Deuteronomy 6:8-9. What visual reminders would help me remember to live rightly before God day by day?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

Laws Regarding Sexual Intercourse

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What is the punishment for adultery (for both parties)? Why is adultery such a serious sin?</li> <li>2) It is very notable that some of today's readings prescribes punishment for a guilty man which affect the female victim (verses 19 and 29). What cultural context must I understand when reading these laws?</li> <li>3) Women today are more equal with men in social stature, economic opportunity, and legal sovereignty than in the time when Deuteronomy was written. What values and principles in today's passage remain true even in today's changed context?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |



Purity in the Assembly and Camp

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The assembly of the Lord refers to the gathering of all Israel for worship, primarily during the three feasts/festivals. Who is to be excluded from this assembly, and what reason is given for their exclusion? Does the church today maintain such exclusions (see Acts 8:29-39 and Galatians 3:28)?</li> <li>2) The camp of Israel's armies is also treated as set apart. This is practical (to reduce the spread of disease) as well as symbolic — God fights for Israel and His presence is in their camp. How do the regulations of Deuteronomy 23:9-14 reinforce this idea?</li> <li>3) In today's church, purity is often seen as individual rather than communal. How can passages like today's help me see the importance of communal and shared purity before God?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

MAR 16, SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 23:15-25

Laws Against Exploitation

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Slavery, prostitution, debt slavery, and starvation leave individuals vulnerable to exploitation. How do the laws in today's passage provide some degree of protection for such individuals?</li> <li>2) God's law does not only provide for those who are vulnerable. How does Deuteronomy 23:21-25 provide some measure of protection for those who are less vulnerable?</li> <li>3) Economic and social inequality can seem to be intractable problems. How can I promote the reduction of such inequality rather than its perpetuation?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

MAR 17, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

MAR 18, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 24:1–22

## More Laws Against Exploitation

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage covers wives (who are socially and economically disadvantaged in this period of time), those in debt, hired workers, and other less valuable members of society. Why does God show so much concern for these people?</li> <li>2) Whenever Israel is instructed regarding those who are less fortunate, God reminds them of their past as slaves in Egypt (Deuteronomy 24:22). How am I able to empathise with those who are less fortunate around me?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) What sort of value system is being demonstrated when a lender returns a pledge without receiving payment, or when a landowner does not maximize their earnings through thorough harvesting? Are such actions anathema to our value system today?</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

MAR 19, TUESDAY

Deuteronomy 25:1–19

## Dignity and Honesty

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy 25:1-3 concerns the dignity inherently owed even to one who is guilty of a crime. Does my faith community understand how to maintain the dignity of those who are disciplined without enabling them to continue sinning?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 25:4-12 considers more situations where dignity is to be upheld — whether that of a beast of burden, that of a dead Israelite's name and inheritance, or that of an Israelite's ability to father children. How can I continue to uphold the dignity of all whom I come into contact with?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) The commands of Deuteronomy 25:13-16 are simple and obvious, yet perhaps the most difficult to obey up to the present day. Have I been dishonest in my dealings with others recently? How can I both repent and make restitution?</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

MAR 20, WEDNESDAY

Deuteronomy 26:1-19

## Liturgy for Tithing

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deuteronomy 26 repeats the tithing instructions of Deuteronomy 14:22-29 (March 3rd reading). What additional instructions are given in this passage? What would be the outcome of following all these additional instructions, according to Deuteronomy 26:16-19?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 26:3-10 instructs that the firstfruit offering be accompanied with a recounting of God's mighty works in bringing Israel into the land. How can I accompany my own offerings to God with remembrances of His favour and blessing on me?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Deuteronomy 26:13-15 instructs that the tithe for the poor be accompanied by declarations before the Lord of the fitness of the giver (not the receiver) to give. How should this change my understanding of charity?</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

Committing to Obedience

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                |  |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage begins the last section of Deuteronomy. What is Moses' primary command to the people of Israel according to Deuteronomy 27:1 and 10?</li> <li>2) Israel's first actions in the promised land would center around the "words of this law". How can I keep God's law written, not just in my heart, but visibly in a place which will regularly remind me of it?</li> <li>3) Israel is commanded to burn offerings and rejoice in feasting. Does my faith community have the same joyous approach to Scripture?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

MAR 22, FRIDAY

Deuteronomy 27:11–26

## Pronouncing Curses

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Are all the curses pronounced from Mount Ebal personal in nature? What does this teach me about the holistic nature of sin (and of righteousness)?</li> <li>2) What is the significance of the "Amen" (meaning "truly" or "may it be so") to be recited by all the people of Israel? What is it that they are affirming?</li> <li>3) Who is it who is being cursed in this ceremony on Mount Ebal? How could Israel avoid coming under these curses?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |



Blessings for Obedience

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage promises a multitude of blessings to Israel. How much obedience is required of Israel (Deuteronomy 28:1, 14) for them to receive such bountiful blessings?</li> <li>2) The blessings listed include fruitfulness, productivity, victory, belonging to God, economic prosperity, and honour among the nations. These blessings extend from city to country, from barns to womb to weather. What does this indicate about God's provision and concern for the lives of His people?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Can we today claim these blessings on an individual basis? How can this section of the old covenant be contrasted with the new covenant we have in Christ (for e.g. Mark 8:34-37)?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

MAR 24, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

MAR 25, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 28:15–68

## Curses for Disobedience

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Context                               |  |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Today's passage promises an array of curses and disasters to Israel. What does Deuteronomy 28:58 say would bring about all these curses and disasters?</li> <li>2) The curses and disasters here roughly parallel the blessings listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (though going into greater detail on some topics). However there is a very specific set of punishments (Deuteronomy 28:32, 36, 64-68) which have no parallel in yesterday's passage. Why does God promise this 'ultimate' punishment to Israel?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Just as with the blessings in yesterday's passage, the curses of the old covenant do not translate well to individual consequences for disobedience. What general lesson can I take from today's lengthy reading?</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |  |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |  |

MAR 26, TUESDAY

Deuteronomy 29:1–29

## Renewing the Covenant

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Who is it who stands before the Lord in today's passage (Deuteronomy 29:10-11)? What does this tell me regarding the value of status and power when faced with our covenant of grace?</li> <li>2) Deuteronomy 29:19 is an insightful description of how disobedience actually looks like (especially in the eyes of the disobedient). Is my heart persistent in seeking my own way instead of obeying God's commands?</li> <li>3) Deuteronomy is given to a new generation of Israel, as most of the Sinai generation had fallen in the wilderness. How can our younger members know and continue in the ancient faith Christ has established in us?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Grace Following Repentance

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Underlying the lengthy curses and punishments Moses has described in Deuteronomy is a recognition that they would certainly come to pass. In today's passage God's grace even to those who have already disobeyed is on full display. How has this grace been demonstrated in my life?</li> <li>2) In a society focused on measurable metrics, obedience and righteousness can easily become dependent on the amount of striving or effort put into them. What does Deuteronomy 30:11-14 say regarding overcomplicating God's commands?</li> <li>3) Deuteronomy 30:15-20 summarizes the entirety of the book of Deuteronomy. How can I, my loved ones, and my faith community "choose life" today?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Retiring from Service

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Context</p>                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Moses' final acts as described in today's passage exemplify the stepping down of a faithful and long-suffering leader. How does Moses establish and encourage Joshua, his successor?</li> <li>2) How does Moses attempt to ensure that Israel would remain faithful to God? How can I learn from Moses' actions here, especially those related to the Law in verses 9-13 and 24-26?</li> <li>3) What is Moses' priority at the end of his life? Was he concerned for his legacy and reputation? How should a righteous faith-leader approach the end of his or her time of service?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         |  |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |  |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |  |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |  |

MAR 29, FRIDAY

Deuteronomy 31:30–32:18

## The Story of Israel

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Moses' song, like many in antiquity, is sung to assist Israel in remembering. What does the first section have to say about the Lord (Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 10-14)?</li> <li>2) Today's passage focuses on the history of Israel and God's deliverance of Israel (Deuteronomy 32:7-14). What is the history of God's work in my faith community? How can I find out more about it if I do not already know it?</li> <li>3) Sadly, the story of Israel in Moses' song includes prophecy on their coming disobedience (Deuteronomy 32:15-18). Is there a brother or sister who I can pray for today who has deserted our Rock?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? |   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |

MAR 30, SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 32:19-47

## The Judgement of Israel

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Context                               |   |
| <i>Questions</i><br>to ponder         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Most of today's reading describes God's judgement on Israel (as already written in prior chapters of Deuteronomy) in poetic language. What is it which prompts this judgement (Deuteronomy 32:19-21)?</li> <li>2) Moses' song does not end in judgement on God's people. Deuteronomy 32:36-43 describes the Lord coming to Israel's rescue when "their strength is gone and no one is left". How does this give hope to believers in distress?</li> </ol> |
| <i>Head</i><br>What can I understand? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Deuteronomy 32:46-47 contains Moses' instructions to Israel regarding the Law. How can this inform my handling and treatment of Scripture?</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Heart</i><br>How do I respond?     |   |
| <i>Hands</i><br>What must I do?       |   |



MAR 31, SUNDAY

*Sunday Worship Celebration*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

PREACHER

APR 1, MONDAY

Deuteronomy 32:48–33:29

## Blessings for Israel's Tribes

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Context                                       |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Despite Moses' disappointment (see the reading on February 8th), he continues to be faithful to his calling as God's prophet. Unlike in the rest of Deuteronomy, the blessings recorded here are tribe-specific. Why are the tribes spoken of separately here?</li> <li>2) Moses' blessings include special callings (to warriors and priests), acknowledgement of specific agricultural blessings, and even foretelling of future prosperity or growth. How can I be guided to prophetically claim specific blessings when praying for my brothers and sisters?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Moses' blessings begin (Deuteronomy 33:1-5) and end (Deuteronomy 33:26-29) with praise for the God of Jeshurun (Israel). Who is the basis of all blessing? How can I praise Him today?</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

Eulogy for Moses

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Context</p>                                |   |
| <p><i>Questions</i><br/>to ponder</p>         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What final reward does God give to Moses His servant in today's passage? How did Christ further extend this reward in Matthew 17:1-3? How can this encourage me in my faithful service to God?</li> <li>2) What legacy did Moses leave behind (and what legacy did he not leave behind) according to Deuteronomy 34:5-9? Would it have been more appropriate to erect monuments (or perhaps pyramids) in his honour?</li> <li>3) The last three verses of Deuteronomy describe Moses' greatness before God, Israel, and Pharaoh of Egypt. Who is the prophet "just like Moses" (see reading on March 9) who was to come? Do I know Him personally?</li> </ol> |
| <p><i>Head</i><br/>What can I understand?</p> |   |
| <p><i>Heart</i><br/>How do I respond?</p>     |   |
| <p><i>Hands</i><br/>What must I do?</p>       |   |

*Notes*



*Notes*



*Notes*



*Notes*



*Notes*







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