

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday School Outline

TOPIC: Valley Floor - Memo for the Future

TEXT: Deuteronomy 4:5-24

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction - Israel is finally poised to enter the Promised Land after forty years in the desert. While there must have been a great deal of anticipation, there must also have been anxieties and concerns. Moses—the only leader the nation had ever known—was preparing to leave them. He knew God, he knew the law, and he always seemed to know what to do. Both Moses and the nation needed reaffirmation and reassurance. The word Deuteronomy means "the second law," and in this passage, Moses rehearses the Israelites' significant experiences and repeats the Ten Commandments. Because God waited until an entire generation had passed away before he allowed the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, those Moses is speaking to would have been small children or perhaps not even born when Moses first received the Ten Commandments

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you approach God when your way seems foggy, and your energy is low?
2. Sometimes churches and or Christian organizations seem to run out of steam, and morale / commitment drops. When that happens, what do you think leaders should do next? Discuss.

3. What words and phrases does Moses repeat? What are the benefits of observing God's decrees and laws (Vs. 4-8)?
4. The gods of other nations were not law-giving gods and had little concern for moral behavior. Should there be rules and regulations in the church of today?
5. What do God's laws, and the fact that he gave laws to his people, say about God himself?
6. What are some of the problems within a community or nation caused by poor laws or the lack of them? Should community or nation of today adopt in total, the Biblical Commandments received by Moses? Discuss.
7. Moses' admonition to the nation of Israel concerning God's laws is to not let the laws slip from their heart" (v. 9). How is Israel to keep God's commands alive and fresh in their hearts and minds (Vs. 9-14)? Discuss.
8. What help does your church provide for keeping the gift of God's instructions for living alive and fresh? How can you help others keep the gift of God's instructions alive and fresh in their lives?
9. Not only is Israel's God different because He is a covenant-making lawmaker but also because He forbids the use of idols or the worship of nature (Vs. 15-20). What do you think this command would help the Israelites understand about the God they serve?
10. Moses lays blame on the nation for not being able to enter the land (Vs. 21-22). How would you rate his leadership at this point? Why?
11. What are the implications of God being "a consuming fire" and "a jealous God" (v. 24)? Discuss.
12. God's love requires commitment on the part of His people and His leaders. What do you learn from Moses' example as he rehearses the circumstances and requirements of the covenant between Israel and God?