

LWML *Texas* District

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Bible Study

I Want That!

If you've ever had the opportunity to go grocery shopping when little kids are in the store, you can hear all kinds of comments and sounds from small children. Some children are vying for any toy or sweet treat. Other children are being yelled at to come back or get down. Siblings fighting over what to get or having a spat over any number of inconsequential ideas. Then you have the babies. Babies crying or throwing a tantrum. Yet amidst all this cacophony of sounds, you have laughter, cooing, respectful voices, and fun conversations. Do you have any memories of eventful shopping trips involving children?

A favorite moment of mine is when I have the opportunity to encourage a new mom who seems embarrassed or is struggling to wrangle her brood. Sometimes we find it easier to encourage others when we are less stressed or pressured ourselves. Encouragement throughout the Bible often follows a command from God. Read Joshua 1:1–9.

What commands does God give Joshua? What are the promises or encouragement found in the passage? How do these verses relate to you today?

Texans enjoy joking that Texas is the true promised land. While we might half-heartedly agree or disagree, somehow God has brought us to the place where we currently live. He has been with us and led us throughout our lives even when we have been rebellious or stubborn.

We are a lot like the Israelites. Sometimes we would much prefer to ignore that fact and look at them with dismay. How could they possibly ignore/disobey/rebel against God?! He was speaking directly to them, and they didn't listen! What about us? We know how the story ends, we know exactly what God has told us to do and what to run away from. Yet, upon even a second of reflection, we are painfully aware of our shortcomings and failures like the Israelites.

Deuteronomy means "second law." It is not only a restating of the law found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, it is also preparing God's people to enter and take over the promised land. Prior to Moses' death, he spoke the words in Deuteronomy. The people were going to enter and inhabit the land, and they needed some reminders. It was an entire generation of people who

likely barely remembered firsthand the escape from Egypt. Some reminders of who God is, what He had done in the past, how He would work mighty deeds on their behalf, and how He desired to protect them completely heart, body, and soul. He would provide for them if they followed Him. Read Deuteronomy 6:1–25.

What are the promises of God in Deuteronomy 6:1–3? Looking at the end of verse 2, do you think this promise still applies to God’s people today? How have you seen examples of this?

In Deuteronomy 6:4–9, God gives some specific instructions on what we are supposed to do with His commands. What are some of these specific instructions? How could you implement some of them in your life?

Today, there are many signs available with Bible verses written on them. There seems to be one for every occasion and every room in the house. What passage would you chose to display in each room within your home?

When you find yourself speaking to your friends, what types of conversations do you find yourself having? Do you talk about people, ideas, how you’ve seen God moving, or what you’ve recently learned about God through His Word?

Deuteronomy 6:10–14 speaks about the things the people will receive when they enter the promised land. How do you think verses 12 and 14 apply to us today? What are some false gods that surround us in America today? What are some false gods that tempt you to stray from God’s desires for you? Do you think it’s easier for the Israelites or for Americans to forget who God is? What amazing things has God brought you through? Do you tell these stories to others so they can know the glory and power of our mighty God, or do you hide them away in your past forgetting His provenance?

On a recent trip to Rockport, Texas, a shop owner welcomed a group of women. As the women began to pay for their newfound treasures, the owner said, “God has blessed me with new life, so I have to share with you the power of God through Jesus His Son. Through faithful prayer, God healed me of a disease. I have been disease free for seven years. He granted me a new life so I could live it for Him and share Him with others. He allows strong people to go through tough things so those who aren’t as strong can find hope in their struggles too.” It was an unexpected testimony. The women praised the Lord with her for how amazing God is. Her story was an encouragement to them all.

Which brings us back to encouragement from God. Where do you find encouragement? Who are you encouraging? Who has been the most encouraging person in your life recently? Many of us are not presently enduring the greatest test in our lives, but others truly are. Some of our struggles seem inconsequential or minor in comparison to others, but that doesn’t mean that our loving Father does not care or encourage us through them. Romans 8 has quite a few powerful verses. Read Romans 8:18–26. What do these verses have to do with encouragement, or how might they encourage you?

We long for the promised land. Our true home of heaven. Hebrews 11 is often called the “heroes of the faith” chapter. Read Hebrews 11:13–16. What are believers referred to on earth?

Those who follow Jesus can be assured of Christ being with us always, to the end of the age, when we gather to pray, and whenever we seek after Him. We know our time on this earth will be full of trials, suffering, and tribulations, but we can be encouraged knowing heaven is our home.

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