

Leader Resources for Small Groups | September 8, 2019

Every week you will find resources on this “Sermon Follow-up” link to help you go deeper with Sunday’s Sermon and the Passages that were addressed.

Annual Focus Kickoff—The Bible

Focus Passage: Deuteronomy 31:9–13

Context: Deuteronomy 31:1–16

Other Passages Referenced: 2 Samuel 7:16; Matthew 1:18–23; 5:17; Mark 10:45; 15:39; Luke 24:27; John 1:16; 5:39–40; 20:31

Sermon Recap: The Bible is God’s story of **creation, rebellion, redemption, and new creation** with Jesus at the center. By the end of the year we hope everyone will know the overall **structure** and story of the Bible and see Jesus at its **center**. Throughout the year, we want to be alert to how **whatever** passage we are studying may point to Jesus. We want to be **listening to, learning from, living by, and letting others know** about the Bible—5-12-5-5-12 ... 4-1-21-1—with Jesus at the center. Moses wrote the first five books of Torah, meaning “instruction,” to instruct those who had not yet heard God’s story as well as to remind those who had. He wanted them all to hear it and believe. God instructed all of His people to formally review and renew the covenant He made with them through Moses, every seven years.

Grow: *Listening to and Learning from God’s Word*

Background Info

- Context – The passage describes a time when the people of Israel had been in the wilderness for 40 years with Moses as their human leader. God is about to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land of Canaan. Moses is fast approaching death and will not be going with them. God has chosen Moses’ faithful assistant, Joshua, to become their human leader under His dominion. Numbers 20:7–12 and Numbers 27:12–14 explain why Moses was not allowed to cross the Jordan and lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. You may find it helpful to review those verses.
- God had chosen the tribe of Levi to be the priestly tribe of the Israelites (Numbers 1:47–53). Moses and his brother Aaron were Levites.
- The Ark of the Covenant was a special piece of furniture made to God’s specifications. It represented His presence among His people (Exodus 25:10–22).
- The Feast of Booths commemorated how the Israelites lived in “booths” also known as “tabernacles.” These were tent-like structures the Israelites used when God led them out of Egypt in the wilderness (Leviticus 23:33–43).
- The “Year of Release,” also known as a “Sabbatical Year,” occurred every seventh year and released those in debt from their obligation to repay (Deuteronomy 15:1–18).

READ: Deuteronomy 31:1–16

1. Was there anything in particular from the passage that especially impacted you?
2. Was there anything in the passage that you didn’t clearly understand?

3. Can you recall from the sermon some connections between our passage in Deuteronomy 31 and Jesus? You may want to reference some of the “Other Passages Referenced” listed at the top of this document as well as the extended quote from the sermon found at the bottom of this page in the Further Resources section.
4. What promises do we find in this passage? (Deut 31:3–8)
5. What commands do we find in this passage?
6. What was the goal of having “men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns” hear the reading of the covenant? (Deut 31:12–13)

Serve: *Serving King Jesus and Others By Living Out and Letting Others Know God’s Word*

1. The assembling of the people and the reading of the covenant instructions were required so that the people would “hear the Lord’s word and do everything that He says.” When Jesus commissioned His disciples in Matthew 28:19–20, He told them to make disciples, “teaching them to observe/obey all that I have commanded you.” Jesus wanted His disciples to know His commands, but He also wanted them to obey His commands. Will you commit to reading the three stories from the Essential 100 reading plan during the coming week?
2. Will you be strong and courageous this week to let someone else know what you are learning from God’s word

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org
- The Cutting Room Floor — www.wcchapel.org/thecuttingroomfloor
- “Matthew, Mark, and John all begin with references to Genesis, the first book of the Bible. This is intentional to show that all you have read up to this point, from creation and rebellion to exile and expectation for restoration is about to be fulfilled in Jesus. The Gospel of Luke begins and ends in the temple pointing to Jesus as the living embodiment of God’s presence come to His people. Matthew takes a break 12 times in the narrative to make sure the reader knows that what Jesus does fulfills what is in the Old Testament, and at the end of Luke’s Gospel, we see Jesus plainly tell the disciples that the Bible is all about Him, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). At the center of the Gospel of Mark is the profession of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah, the long-awaited anointed King descended from David to whom God promised, “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16). At the end of Mark’s Gospel a pagan Roman centurion standing at the foot of the cross is astounded by what he saw he proclaims, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39)! And John makes sure we know what happens when we place our faith in Jesus as the Christ, “that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).” – Travis Simone, September 8, 2019 Sermon, “The Bible,” at Williamsburg Community Chapel