

Families On Mission Week 7 Devotional Guide

Day 43- Deuteronomy 30

This chapter is once again very pertinent for parents. Throughout Deuteronomy 30, Moses talks about parents and their children, so we would be wise to take notes.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Maybe you could read over this short chapter a couple of times together, keying on the references to parents and children and discussing what God says about them.*
- *Part of “teach them diligently” parenting involves modeling for your children what loving and living for God looks like, so they have a solid foundation to build on as they grow.*

It is so important, mom and dad, that you are prioritizing your time with God, modeling what a godly life looks like, showing your children through your own example how loving God and others is lived out in today’s world.

Verse 19 reinforces that the choices you are making has an impact on your children-- and by extension on generations to come as you are actually teaching them to be “Teach Them Diligently’ parents by your example as well.

Choose life. Choose God. Choose to follow Him and pass that on to your children!

Day 44- Deuteronomy 31

This chapter details the transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua as Moses was about to die.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *What is a recurring theme in this chapter that we see in v. 6,8,and 23?*



- *What does that mean for you? Can you still trust God never to leave you nor forsake you? Should that make you more strong and courageous?*
- *What are some situations in which it would be helpful to remember that? (This is great to keep in mind as specific situations arise in your children’s lives after you read this chapter. You can always take them right back here as you rehearse these truths together.)*
- *Can you think of any verse in the New Testament that echoes what was said here? (Check out Hebrews 13:5-6. Isn’t it amazing how all of scripture agrees with itself and tells a single, seamless story? Only God could do that!)*

We will see over and over again throughout God’s Word that God will never forsake His own. He loves you. He loves your children, and He can always be trusted.

Day 45-- Deuteronomy 34

Can you imagine the scene? God Almighty, Who Moses had served faithfully for many years, took Moses up a mountain to give him a bird’s eye tour of the land of promise. As I read through this short closing chapter, I marveled at the tenderness of the scene.

No man would have ever conceived or concocted such a loving, personal God. You only need to do a brief study of the gods of the ancient world to see that they were neither loving nor personal. Too often, we have a “Zeus-throwing-lightning-bolts-at-us-every-time-we-si

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n” view of God. That could not be further from the truth, and if we pass that impression on to our children, we should not be surprised at all if they don’t continue to seek Him as they get older. Investing our time and energy into Knowing God better and helping our children to do likewise is a large part of our discipleship efforts.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Moses couldn’t go into Canaan because of a sin he committed years before, but God was so good to show him the land before he died.*
- *Did you know that Moses DID finally get to be in the Promised Land? The circumstances of his visit were exciting and miraculous-- and they further display the close relationship he experienced with God. (See Luke 9:28-36.) Isn’t that a “pinch me, I’m dreaming” twist to the story?*
- *Sometimes, we don’t get what we want in the timing we want to see it happen, and we’re sorely disappointed. That doesn’t mean that God isn’t at work or that God doesn’t love us. In Moses’ case, he finally got to not only be in the Promised Land, but he got to do so in the presence of the transfigured Christ. WOW!*

Day 46-- Joshua 1

The book of Joshua brings us back to the narrative or the account of how God was leading His people. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, it was finally time for God’s people to enter the Promised Land.

In the early part of this chapter, we see God Himself commission Joshua for the task ahead,

and then we see Joshua assume the leadership as he commands the officers of the people.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *Lists are awesome! Anytime you see a list in God’s Word, take the time to check it out, for it will be incredibly practical and instructive for you. There are a lot of “bullet points” in this list of God’s instructions to Joshua.*
 - *Arise. Go. I am giving you the land. No one can stand against you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Keep the law carefully, etc.*
 - *One of the things God tells Joshua is repeated 4 times in this passage. What is it and why do you think it is so emphasized?*
- *Why do you think Joshua and the children of Israel could be “strong and courageous” as they entered the Promised Land? (Hint: see the bullet points above.)*
- *Is there a practical application for us today, more than 3,000 years after Joshua lived?*
- *Can you think of any other Bible verses that assure us of similar things? (If you can’t think of any right away, do a search as a family for Bible verses with some of those keywords.)*

The children of Israel walked away from following God at this spot 40 years earlier. Since then, God had given them the law to follow and had shown Himself strong and able to meet their needs over and over again.

We, too, have access to know God and His ways well. We have seen Him provide and lead us. As He brings us to points where we are called to

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step and be a family on mission, will we be strong and courageous, too? Will we rest in the knowledge that He will go with us and through Him we will ultimately be victorious?

Day 47-- Joshua 2

This is a great chapter to discuss and read aloud together, for it features an exciting plot line about spies, a pagan woman, and the providence of God.

By the end of the chapter, we'll find that the spies sent in definitely came away with a different response to the land than their predecessors did. In verse 24, they tell Joshua, "Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands."

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *Do you think it was by chance that the spies ended up at Rahab's house? Why does that matter anyway?*
- *Rahab had clearly been following the unfolding story of the Israelites. How do we know that and how does that factor into her treatment of the spies and into God choosing her as the one to hide them?*
- *Rahab lied. Your children are likely to ask about that, for we definitely see the Lord using the lies of a pagan woman to further His plan. What can we take from that? This is a discussion that you will want to be sure you have answers for-- was the lie right? Can we expect the same out of unbelievers as we do of believers? Think this one through well-- it will help you in your own daily walk as well as helping your kiddos.*

Isn't it comforting to know that the God Who could see the heart of a pagan woman and would ultimately graft her into His family is still at

work today. He can still be trusted to direct our steps just as He did for the Hebrew spies, and He still loves His people and is willing to use imperfect people to accomplish His will. Praise the Lord!

Day 48-- Joshua 3

It was finally time for the children of Israel to **GO!** It was time for them to enter the Land of Promise, but there was an overflowing, quick running natural border in their way, the Jordan River.

God had chosen the roughest time of the year for crossing the Jordan-- showing His great power in awe-inspiring ways.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *Can you think of a day you have waited for and been excited about for a long time? This was definitely one of those big, exciting days. Starting your reading out with a question like this often helps your children get in the mindset of the people in the story and may make the account come to life even more for them.*
- *Why do you think God didn't tell the children of Israel to build a bridge or a dam? The Jordan River isn't terribly wide, even at flood stage. (When our family was in Israel, we were surprised to see how narrow the river actually is through most of the country.)*
- *How do you think the Children of Israel felt that day? (Before you answer, try to imagine you're actually there, seeing the Jordan, and knowing that your entire life is about to change.)*

It's a very good exercise to put yourself into the stories of scripture, especially in these narrative scenes. We want our children to understand that these were real people with real emotions. They

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were probably excited and scared all at the same time. They probably remembered what they were told about the time they didn't have the faith to cross. God was really at work and real people experienced it. These are not simply stories in a book-- it's the history of God's Work among His people in this world, and it's incredibly important for all of us even today.

Day 49--Joshua 4

Twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River were to stand as a monument to the power of God forever. Those stacked rocks served as a reminder and a conversation starter for all who saw them, and they afforded parents great opportunities to tell their children all about the amazing power of God.

When our children were very young (we only had 3 at the time,) David and I had been praying about a particular situation for a while. God chose to answer in a way that made His will for us very clear. To tell our children about the upcoming change in our lives, we took a trip to a nearby river and pulled rocks, telling them this story and what God was doing in our own family. We talked about how He was still very real and still very involved in the lives of His children. Our oldest was just starting first grade at the time, so they all had limited understanding.

Through the years, though, as we have told our stories and answered their questions, they have seen the power of God on display in their lives countless times that they CAN remember. Instilling in them an awareness of what God is doing and a purposeful remembrance of His works will go far in deepening their faith and making their relationship with Christ their own.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *What are some of your own stories that you could memorialize with your children?*
- *Ask your children to contribute some of the ways they have seen God work in their own lives. Depending on the age of your children, you may get some really sweet, fun answers. I have had my children note that God kept them from stepping on a caterpillar in the sidewalk, thus saving that caterpillar's life. That meant a lot to them at their young age, so we celebrated God's intervention on their behalf.*

Are you in the habit of looking for the ways God is working in your own life and family? I realized several years ago that God was answering specific prayers I was praying, but I hadn't been really engaged in looking for those answers. After I started seeing His hand more clearly, I wrote a prayer series for parents to try to help you not miss His handiwork as long as I did. [You can sign up for that free resource by clicking here.](#)