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**WEEK 1 – STUDY QUESTIONS**

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1/7 – 1/14

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GENESIS 1-30  
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- **Why do some see God in the Old Testament solely as a judgmental God, different from “God in the New Testament”?**
- **Why is this view dangerous?**
- **How was God’s mercy and grace seen even in the garden of Eden?**
- **How does our understanding of God’s intent to redeem His people affect the way that we view all of Scripture?**

Believing God, one of the Bible’s greatest themes, is introduced very early with character’s like Noah and Abraham

- **In what ways did Noah have to display a trust in God? What about Abraham?**
- **What are some ways in which we can assure ourselves of God’s promises to us and find strength to continue trusting in Him? Explain your answer.**

Sarah was barren, yet God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Because Abraham and Sarah didn’t believe they could really have a child, they devised a plan that resulted in the birth of Ishmael through Hagar, but God miraculously opened Sarah’s womb, resulting in the birth of Isaac. Isaac was the child of promise, Ishmael was the child of “works.”

- **How does the story of Ishmael and Isaac show us the gospel?**
- **How do our actions demonstrate a belief or disbelief in God’s ability to fulfill His promises?**

Think about the pervasiveness of sin, how, from the very beginning of God’s Word, we see even his chosen people falling into sin, disbelief, unfaithfulness, etc.

- **Why is relying on God so difficult for us? Why is it scary?**
- **How can our fear to obey illustrate our distrust in God’s ability and/or His character?**
- **How do we often ignore God’s calling on our lives under the disguise of not having enough information?**
- **What things or people are we not willing to leave in order to be obedient to God? Explain.**



WEEK 2 – STUDY QUESTIONS

1/14 – 1/21

GENESIS 32

After wrestling with God, Jacob is asked to state his name, confessing who he was – a “deceiver”.

- **What was your “name” before you came to know Christ? What defined you? What were you looking to as your savior?**

Before Jacob has any chance to prove that he would no longer be a deceiver, God pronounces that his “name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel;” His identity was changed.

- **Do you believe we have to change how we live before we come to Christ?**
- **If not, does the church at large do a good job of proclaiming this? Explain.**

Romans 8:1-2: “<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”

- **How does this gospel truth, that there is “no condemnation,” shape how we live as believers, how we walk out our faith day to day?**

GENESIS 37-50

- **Why is it easy to question God in difficult situations? Why is our attitude toward God often negative when bad things happen?**

Throughout Joseph’s life presented to us in Scripture, it appears that he is continually upright, faithful, and righteous, yet nothing goes according to plan (that is, *our* plan).

- **How does it make you feel to know that God is not dependent on you for His purposes?**
- **Starting from the beginning of Joseph’s story, name all the details that God controlled to bring Joseph to the place of preserving his family and the nation of Israel.**

Genesis 50:20: “*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*”

- **How is our trust in God reflected in our faithfulness to him?**
- **How should the story of Joseph change our attitude toward God about bad things that happen to us? How does God’s direction of our lives for His purposes give us hope?**



WEEK 3 – STUDY QUESTIONS

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1/21 - 1/28

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EXODUS 1-4  
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By the end of a 400-year period, the Israelites were serving as slaves in Egypt under miserable conditions, crying out for a deliverer.

- **Did God hear the people when they cried out earlier (assuming they did)? If so, why did God not act earlier? Why wait for 400 years?**
- **How does God introduce Himself to Moses? (Ex 3:6, top of pg.100)**
- **How does the name “I AM” give us insight into God’s nature?**
- **How does the burning bush give us insight into God’s self-sufficiency?**
- **What should our response be to God, who has revealed himself to be the “I AM”, in times when he appears to be silent?**

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EXODUS 5-20  
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God delivers His chosen people through some of the most magnificent and awesome miracles in the Bible (the ten plagues, parting of the Red Sea), and then he gives them the moral law (the ten commandments).

- **How does the story of the exodus relate to Christ’s deliverance of us? (How did He save us? What were we enslaved by? What have we been freed from? What are we freed to do?)**
- **Some Israelites perhaps doubted that God would pass over their family just by seeing an animal’s blood. Do you think these Israelites, who were worried and fearful that night, yet had the blood on their doors, were passed over? Why or why not?**
- **How does even the order of these events (deliverance and then Law) speak to us of the gospel? What does this show you about God’s grace?**



WEEK 4 – STUDY QUESTIONS

1/28 – 2/4

EXODUS 32

After all God had done for his people, once again, they fall into unbelief and idolatry.

- **What about the story of the Golden Calf amazes you the most (top of pg.136)?**
- **Did God really change his mind because of Moses' intercession?**
- **How do we see Christ in this story?**

EXODUS 33-34

In Exodus 33, Moses asks God to show him His glory. In Exodus 34:5-8 we read: *"<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."<sup>8</sup> Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.*

- **What is God's glory as seen in this passage?**
- **How do many churches today miss the mark when they speak of "seeing God's glory" and "being in His presence?"**

EXODUS 35-40, LEVITICUS 8-10

- **How was the Tabernacle the place where God's mercy and justice met?**
- **How was the Tabernacle treated as holy (set apart) by the people?**
- **Why do you think God wanted the Tabernacle to be treated in such a special manner? Why so much care in the preparations?**
- **Read Leviticus 10:1-3 (bottom of pg.150) Can we come before God any way we want? What does this show us about coming before God's presence?**
- **Do we follow God's commands for worship with the same intensity that the Israelites did? How do we prepare ourselves for worship?**
- **How is Christ's Incarnation similar but superior to the Tabernacle?**



WEEK 5 – STUDY QUESTIONS

2/4 – 2/11

NUMBERS 13-14

Despite the spark of faith demonstrated by Caleb, the multitudes of Israel are given to faithlessness. They credit the Lord with bringing them so far but dishonor the provision by asserting that he has brought them to die. Their cries resonate with their disbelief when they were trapped between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea (Ex 14:11) and when they were hungry in the wilderness (Ex 16:3).

- **What does their longing for Egypt indicate?**
- **Read Numbers 14:13-19 (pg.173). In what ways can you see Moses as a precursor of Jesus Christ (similar to last week’s discussion of Exodus 32)?**
- **Why did God not take Israel into the land when they decided they would go (pg.174)? What does this say about God’s motives? Was his purpose in this story only to get them into the land or to be honored in faith?**
- **What has been your response to the Lord’s correction?**
- **What is the reason for discipline? What does God chiefly desire from us?**

NUMBERS 16-21

In many incidents in these passages, we see God’s wrath and judgment being poured out, largely because of unbelief and a failure to trust and obey God.

- **Describe the typical cycle seen in the actions of the Israelites, Moses, and God.**
- **How does this point to our need for not just more sacrifices, but a new heart, a new spirit, a high priest who can make a sacrifice once and for all?**
- **How is the gospel seen in the story of the bronze snake?**
- **In what areas do you find yourself doubting God the most? Your salvation? His promises? His leading? His discipline?**

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**WEEK 6 – STUDY QUESTIONS**

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2/11 – 2/18

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DEUTERONOMY 6  
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Fearing the Lord is shown to be doing what he commands. Furthermore, the blessing of God is expressly connected with the upholding and doing of his Word in thought and deed. If we are honest, we will recognize that there are thousands of ways that we have failed to uphold God's commands. Our righteousness is as "filthy rags."

- **If this is the case, how does this text (v.1-3, pg.211) lead us to Christ? How does his obedience on our behalf relate to the blessing of God upon us?**

Ultimately, we enjoy the blessing of God through the obedience of Another, Jesus Christ. We are blessed "in him."

- **Does that mean that we no longer need to obey God? Why/How do we obey God?**

The Israelites were to affirm the uniqueness of God in the midst of a pagan culture (v.4-9), where gods were in great supply.

- **How does their situation intersect with our own?**
- **What did devotion look like for the Israelites? What does it look like in your life?**
- **Is such devotion possible for us?**

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DEUTERONOMY 7  
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Read Deuteronomy 7:6-11 (*bottom pg.212*).

- **Why did God choose Israel to be his chosen people? Why not Egypt?**
- **Is God obligated to choose any nation to be his people? Why or why not? What does this show us about his grace and mercy?**



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## WEEK 7 – STUDY QUESTIONS

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2/18 – 2/25

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LEVITICUS 16  
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Read Leviticus 16:1-5 (*pg.232-33*).

- **How does God tell Aaron to prepare to enter the Holy Place?**
- **What is the emphasis of the preparation? How is purity or holiness represented?**
- **Since the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit, how should this affect our approach to corporate worship?** (Read Hebrews 10:19-23)

Read Leviticus 16:6-19.

- **Who does Aaron sacrifice for first? Who does he sacrifice for next?**
- **What is the scope of the forgiveness offered/who is it intended for? (v.15-17)**
- **Did Jesus need to offer a sacrifice for himself? Why or why not?**
- **What did Jesus offer instead of the blood of goats and bulls?**
- **In light of this passage, what is the scope of Jesus' sacrifice?**
- **How should Jesus' perfect sacrifice give us perfect assurance of our forgiveness? Is any sin beyond the scope of God's forgiveness? Explain.**

Hebrews 9:25-26 *"<sup>25</sup> Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.<sup>26</sup> Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself."*

- **How is Christ's sacrifice better than all others?**

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## WEEK 8 – STUDY QUESTIONS

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2/25 – 3/4

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### MOSAIC LAW

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Partially for the purposes of maintaining proper health conditions, and partially for teaching proper personal conduct, but primarily for promoting the idea of holiness, the Laws of Moses designates certain types of ceremonial uncleanness.

Read Leviticus 14:1-9 (*bottom pg.253*) regarding skin diseases.

- **Reflect on how drastic, humiliating, and exhaustive this entire process is (*continues on pg.254*). What do you think this process was like for someone? Talk about implications.**
- **If it's this hard to clean something you could see, how much more difficult is it for us to clean the things we can't see (i.e. personal sin that no one sees but God)? How does even something as small as skin diseases point us to the cross?**

Just as there are individuals whom the congregation must set apart in a negative sense for the sake of maintaining purity, so there are those who have been set apart in a positive sense for work within the congregation.

Regarding the Nazarite Vow (*pg.257*)

- **Is it necessary for us to take such a vow to prove our commitment to God or our salvation?**
- **If not, is there a benefit to making similar commitments today under the New Covenant?**

Regarding the laws for sexual violations (*pg.276-80*)

- **Can we dismiss laws regarding sexuality because they are simply “Old Testament” laws?**

Read the laws for separation (*bottom pg.260 – top pg.261*)

- **Is there any significance to these seeming random laws? Explain.**

Deuteronomy 17 (*pg.261*) includes laws regarding kings in Israel.

- **If Israel was a theocracy (i.e. their king was God), not a monarchy (i.e. ruled by a human king), why did God include these laws?**

In general, the Mosaic Law (the law found in Exodus-Deuteronomy) is deemed “boring” and “unnecessary” for believers today.

- **What do you think are the most important spiritual principles to be learned from these books? Why are these books included in the Bible, God's revelation for all the ages?**



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**WEEK 9 – STUDY QUESTIONS**

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3/4 – 3/11

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LEVITICUS 26, DEUTERONOMY 28-30

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In his final words, Moses challenges Israel as he foretells a turbulent future. Moses wants the people to know that their failure to keep the covenant will mean troubled times. However, he does not warn them so that they will live in the knowledge of future doom but so that they will heed the warning and amend their ways.

Read Deuteronomy 30:1-20 (pg.300-01).

- **In summary of the past couple weeks of looking at the Law, what challenge is Moses setting before the nation?**
- **How might this passage be considered a summary of the entire book (even the first five books of the Bible)?**
- **What did Moses mean when he said “the Lord is your life?” How is the Lord to be our life?**

Notice the repetition of the word “LORD” in this chapter. (NOTE: When ‘LORD’ in all caps or small caps occurs in the OT, it is a replacement for an occurrence of the divine name ‘Yahweh.’ When ‘Lord’ occurs, referring to God, it is usually a rendering of the Hebrew word ‘Adonai’—a name/title of God that emphasizes His lordship. When ‘LORD GOD’ or ‘Lord GOD’ occurs, it is usually a rendering of a dual name for God, ‘Adonai Yahweh.’)

- **In light of the context of this chapter, why do you think this repetition is important? What does it communicate to the people of Israel?**
- **What are the practical implications of this for your life?**
- **What daily challenges are you presented with that make it difficult to serve the Lord and easy to forsake Him?**

Throughout this chapter and the final chapter in Deuteronomy, Moses speaks often about blessings and curses based upon the people’s disobedience or obedience.

- **How is this teaching the same for believers under the New Covenant?**
- **How is this teaching different for believers under the New Covenant?**

Read Romans 9:30-10:13 (pg.1573).

- **How could Moses say in Deuteronomy 30:11-14 that the law is “not too difficult” for us? How does Paul interpret this passage in Romans?**

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WEEK 10 – STUDY QUESTIONS

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3/11 – 3/18

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JOSHUA  
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Joshua 5:13-14 <sup>13</sup> *Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”*  
<sup>14</sup> *“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence...*

- **What does Joshua’s encounter with the commander of the Lord’s army teach us about God and His character?**
- **What relevance does this portrait of God have for our daily lives? What difference should it make on how you approach the biggest struggles and challenges you face today?**

Joshua challenged the people of Israel to make a firm commitment regarding whom they were going to serve (24:15, *pg. 342*) - either the one true Lord or the many idols and “gods” in the land.

- **What current day idols or “gods” are we often tempted to serve?**

One reason the people were motivated to continue to serve the one true God, rather than the many gods of the land, is because they remembered God’s past faithfulness to deliver and fight for them.

- **What motivates us to continue to serve God rather than the idols of today?**

Read Joshua 24:16-23 (*pg.342*).

- **Why does Joshua respond in verse 19 by saying they are not able to serve the Lord?**
- **Knowing how horribly Israel did at keeping their word to serve the Lord (as we see graphically in Judges as well as throughout the rest of the OT), what is it that humanity desperately needs?**

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JUDGES  
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- **In what major way did Israel fail to obey the word of the Lord (*see pg. 345*)?**
- **Even with God raising up judges to deliver Israel, how does the cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance show our need for a Messiah?**