



Pursuing God

HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Bible Studies

APRIL & MAY, 2024



PURSUING GOD: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY TERM 2 MORNING TEACHING SERIES



PRIMARY AIM

To be encouraged to pursue God through faithful obedience.

SUBSIDIARY AIMS

- To explore Deuteronomy by examining key passages.
- To grow in our understanding of God and how God pursued Israel.
- To understand our response to God's revelation and purposes for our own situation.
- To gain a deeper understanding of the continuity between the Old and New Testaments and to understand Jesus within this broader narrative. .

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS

Over the course of each year we engage with an Old Testament book, in addition to a Gospel and a NT Epistle. This year in the morning we are exploring Deuteronomy which is foundational for understanding the rest of the Bible. Deuteronomy is essentially a sermon preached to Israel to encourage faithful obedience, and so this sermon can serve as an encouragement to pursuing God through faithful obedience to God as well. It helps us understand who God is and his grace, and it provides guidance on how to appropriately respond to God in our lives. It's important to recognise that the Christian church differs from the nation of Israel. Therefore, we must carefully consider how to apply laws in our context, considering the teachings and ministry of Jesus, as well as our current position in salvation history.

It has been a while since we have spent time in a large body of Old Testament text. Some in our congregation, who find the New Testament more accessible/relatable may struggle to see the relevance of this book or the rationale for studying it. See the "Further Detail" section for importance of grounding messages in the broader

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biblical narrative. Others may wish to draw parallels between predictions of rebellion and the present conflict in and around the Holy Land. Our congregation represents the breadth of perspectives on this issue and so pastoral sensitivity and care will be needed to prevent misinterpretation.

In line with the St Hilary’s Strategic Vision 2022-2025, this series provides opportunities to reflect on several values, principally discipleship and worship.

STRUCTURE AND TOPICS

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING
1	Apr-14	Proclaiming God’s Faithfulness	Dt 1:1-46
2	Apr-21	The Uniqueness of Yahweh	Dt 4:32-40
3	Apr-28	What does the Lord require?	Dt 4:44-5:33
4	May-05	Love the Lord your God	Dt 6:1-25
5	May-12	Should Christians celebrate Mother’s Day?	Dt 5:1-22
6	May-19	God’s blessings for all people	Dt 16:1-12 & Acts 2:1-24
7	May-26	Assessing the Consequences	Dt 28:1-62
8	Jun-02	Restoration beyond Exile	Dt 30:1-20
9	Jun-09	Rebellion Predicted	Dt 31:1-29
10	Jun-16	A Song of Warning	Dt 31:30 – 32:47
11	Jun-23	How to Finish Well	Dt 33:48-52; 34:1-12

RESOURCES

Deuteronomy (The NIV Application Commentary) by Daniel I. Block
 Deuteronomy (The New American Commentary) by Eugene H. Merrill.
 Deuteronomy (New Bible Commentary), by J. Gordon McConville.
 Deuteronomy (TOTC) by J. A. Thompson.

1 **Deuteronomy 1:1-14**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1. Share a time in your life when someone has been faithful to you, even when you didn't deserve it.
2. Pray, and read Deuteronomy 1:1-46.
3. Look at verses 1-5. Why might these verses have been included? Why the comment about 11 days?
4. What is the command in verses 6-8? What is the significance of God saying, 'I have given you this land'?

5. Why do you think the story about Moses appointing leaders was included (9-18)?

6. The Israelites take the direct route to Kadesh Barnea and send out spies into the land (19-25). What was the source of the Israelites fear and was it justified (26-28)?

7. According to Moses, what evidence did the Israelites have to help them choose to not act out of fear (29-33)?

8. What was God's response to Israel's lack of trust (37)? Where is God's grace in his judgement (38-40)?

9. Why did he treat Joshua and Caleb differently (cf. Num. 13:30; 14:5–10)?

10. Why didn't God support the Israelites' first attempt at entering the land (41-44)?

11. What do we learn about God's faithfulness to Israel, and Israel's faithfulness to God in this history?

12. What is your response to God's faithfulness to you, both in your own past, and as you think about what Jesus achieved through his death and resurrection?

13. Share one insight from your time thinking about this chapter. How might this encourage you in your daily pursuit of God?

14. Pray for each other.