



BNEXT BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

# How to Know God's Will

FEATURING THE AMAZING JOURNEY VIDEO SERIES

## BNEXT STUDY

How God Leads 1 : Exodus 1-20

How God Leads 2 : Exodus 21-40

What God Wants : Leviticus

Whom God Blesses : Numbers

How God Blesses : Deuteronomy

## AMAZING JOURNEY VIDEO

▶ Tipping the Scales

▶ The Tabernacle

▶ A Call to Holiness

▶ Diamonds in the Desert

▶ Remember

STUDY **BNEXT**

**William P. Campbell**



## Welcome to BNEXT Amazing Journey

I am excited to share this journey through God's Word with you. This electronic version contains the same material as the printed version. It allows you to electronically record your answers to the questions which are part of each lesson. Following each question, you will find a blue text box. Click or touch the box and the field within it will turn white allowing you to type in your answer. Your answer will automatically be saved when you exit the text box. Should you need more space for your answer, the text box will automatically expand and place a scroll bar on the right-hand side.

The Scripture covered by each lesson is listed on the mast of the page. Read the Scripture passages and then begin working your way through the lesson. Each lesson in this series contains three pages of commentary, followed by three pages of questions that will assist you dig deeper and reflect on God's Word.

An important component of BNEXT Amazing Journey are the videos that accompany each series. To access the videos associated with this particular series, see the link below my signature.

Also we have included, in the last pages of this digital version, a Leader's Guide that will enable anyone to facilitate a small group. Once you have completed this BNEXT Amazing Journey series, I hope you will consider leading others through this study material.

Again, thank you for allowing me to share this amazing journey with you.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

Handwritten signature of William P. Campbell in blue ink.

William P. Campbell

### BNEXT Amazing Journey Video Link

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



Watch Amazing Journey Video  
"Tipping the Scales"

### Introduction

Every Christian at some point struggles to know the will of God for their life. Questions surface regarding the right occupation, school, place to live, marriage, children, lifestyle...these issues, and so many more, leave us questioning God about what is best.

We turn to the New Testament for answers and find a variety of rich, spiritual insights. We look into the Old Testament to quote promises, such as Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart...and he will make your paths straight" But how might we pull these insights and promises together, like a beaded necklace, to be worn comfortably through our days and carried with us wherever we go? The answer can be found in Old Testament stories. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy demonstrate what much of the New Testament describes. There is a precious golden thread that weaves its way through these four foundational books. That thread is *the will of God*.

The book of Exodus, whose title is derived from the Greek word meaning "the way out," shows us how God led His people out of their bondage in Egypt. May we learn from the ancient story of Moses principles about how God leads His people even today.

### God Chooses

We read in Exodus 1 that more than two centuries after Joseph died, a new Pharaoh took a new approach to the ever-growing Jewish nation. Fearful of Israel's numbers and strength, this Egyptian monarch forced God's people into servitude and began mass execution of their first-born sons. Such harsh and extreme measures can bring questions to the mind of any reader, such as, "Has God forgotten His people?" or "Where is God in all of this?" How quickly we forget the principles etched in Jewish history through the life of Joseph. God not only works for good through human suffering, but God also establishes plans that are executed perfectly, such that even suffering is an essential ingredient in the process. Joseph suffered in humiliation and isolation that God might prepare him for a position of exaltation. Israel suffered as part of the essential preparation for her deliverance from Egypt and her development as a people. It was God who ordained her four centuries in Egypt (Genesis 15:13), and now God would choose a person to lead her out of Egypt and toward the Promised Land.

The second chapter of Exodus, describing the birth and early life of Moses, ends with this wonderful truth regarding God's concern for suffering Israel: "God heard their groaning and He remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them" (Exodus 2:24-25).

Moses' parents protected their baby from the destructive forces of the world and trained him in the essentials of the faith. God was working through these parents...for God chose Moses before he was born. Moses was trained in Egyptian schools, but he did not forget his Hebrew roots. He grew into a man and sought to fulfill God's plan for Jewish deliverance through human means. He would fail and flee. God's chosen man was following the path into God's school of training. Forty years of the best schooling in the great nation of Egypt would need to be matched with 40 years of character development in the desert.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up...

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

and moses said, "here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

Exodus 3:2,4-6a

### God Calls

Moses was carefully leading his flock to the "mountain of God" (Horeb, or Sinai—Exodus 3:1). He was likely not convinced that God had been similarly leading him during these years of confusion and loneliness. It was at this mountain that God would call him to go back to Egypt. It was back to this mountain that he would lead the Israelites to receive commandments from God.

The Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush. A simple, fragile bush was ignited and lighted by the presence of a holy God and yet not consumed. This is a wonderful picture of God's mysterious ways. He doesn't lead us from a distance; God lives within those whom He chooses and calls. We are weak and sinful creatures, indwelt by the Almighty God and yet not consumed. Moses immediately objected to God's call, questioning his own personal worth, God's name, the people's response, and his personal abilities (Exodus 3:11,13; 4:1,10).

Finally, Moses outright pleaded with God to "send someone else" (Exodus 4:13). The Lord agreed to send someone with Moses—Aaron, Moses' brother. The Lord found need to call Moses a second time after Moses arrived home (Exodus 4:19). Those whom God chooses, He also calls (Romans 8:28-29). Jeremiah, chosen before he was in the womb, was also called and appointed to be a prophet (Jeremiah 1:5). Paul, chosen by God from birth (Galatians 1:15), would be called through a vision of God.

Every believer in God has been chosen by God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Every child of God receives a call of God. The methods and timing are as varied as are the people in God's family. However, He who made us also calls us. His calling is first to Himself. Secondarily, God calls us into service. A call to be God's and a call to serve God, together, are a composite picture of a call to *consecration*.

### God Consecrates

We read the story of the Exodus from Egypt, and the plagues and the power of God mesmerize us. Let us not miss the central point—Moses and the people were not only led out of Egypt but also were led into the presence and purposes of God. The plagues are mere stepping-stones to the Passover. The Passover is the central Old Testament picture-image of God's means for our consecration...the sacrifice of Christ for our salvation (1 Corinthians 5:7). We recall God's wondrous works as He divided the Red Sea, and provided manna and water for His people in the desert.

Each act of God's protection and provision were divine strokes of circumstance, as God painted the colors of a consecrated life into the character of His people. We are awed by the Mount Sinai experience where God appears in fearful glory to give His commandments to the Israelite nation.

Let us not forget that God was making this special nation into His "treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6a). The word *consecrate*, which means "to set apart for a special purpose," simply describes God's way of leading His people. He sets us apart as His own treasures.

This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself."

"Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Exodus 19:3b-6a

We are in the world but not of it (John 17:15-16). We have been called by God that we might become His workmanship, on display before the watching world to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 2:10). It is wonderful to see how Moses came to grow in his faith through the Exodus experiences.

The same Moses who repeatedly questioned God's call, eventually delivered the dreadful plagues of God against the mighty Egyptian nation with a holy boldness. An abstinent questioner became an obedient servant. The same Moses who found it difficult to meet God through the burning bush would later meet God on the blazing Mount Sinai. The meek shepherd of sheep would be trained to shepherd more than two million Jews for nearly eight decades.

### Final Thought

When we hear the phrase, "The will of God," we immediately think of specific decisions we are facing today. Like Moses in the desert, we want answers to our confusion with simple steps for action. God quietly and gently leads us while we think He has abandoned us. Our loving Father in heaven is more concerned about our own growth than our gripes. God is shaping our character while we struggle with our circumstances. We barely see the next step to take, while God has wonderfully prepared a path on which He is leading us.

You may not see any burning bushes. You may not experience fearful plagues. You may not receive commandments written on stone, but the same God who chose, called, and consecrated Moses is leading you today. God now lives within us. He writes His commands on our hearts. We, like Moses, are the called, chosen, and consecrated servants of the Lord Most High!

### Spending Time With God

This lesson, in the series "How to Know God's Will," is designed to supplement your personal and small group Bible study. The devotion questions are written for your personal study. The discussion questions are especially for small groups. Members who answer the questions ahead of time can bring more insight into their small group meeting. The digging deeper questions are for those who wish for more personal or small group study. As you spend time with God, may His Word enrich your life and enhance your daily walk with Him. BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PRAY.

### Devotion (Personal Study)

1. From the commentary section of this study guide, what insights would you like to apply to your life?

What issues, concerns, or questions were raised that you would like to explore further?

2. Read Exodus 1:1-9. When Joseph was born, he was part of a single family, and Egypt was one of the greatest nations in the world. Some two hundred years after Joseph died, the then ruling Pharaoh declared, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we" (Exodus 1:9, NASB). God knew where to plant His people, Israel, for their growth into a nation.

a. Review God's promises for such growth to Adam (Genesis 1:28), Noah (Genesis 8:17; 9:1,7), Abraham (Genesis 15:5; 22:17-18), Isaac (Genesis 26:4), and Jacob (Genesis 28:14; 35:11; 48:4). Consider God's patient dealings with these fathers of the faith, and with Joseph. In what ways does God's process for developing a people of His own encourage you?

b. God has given promises for the growth and spread of the Church to all the nations of the world before Christ comes again (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20; Revelations 7:9). In what ways do these promises encourage you or challenge you?

3. Read Exodus 1:8-22. It has been said that God allowed persecution against His people in Egypt to make them strong, willing to leave the comforts of Goshen, and able to stand against the armies of the Promised Land. Why do you think God allowed persecution against the early Church (Acts 8:1; Matthew 5:10-12)?

4. Read the following Scriptures, taking note of promises you can claim regarding your own spiritual growth through God's patient work in your life (Philippians 1:4-6; 2:12-13; 2 Peter 1:3-8).

**Discussion (Small Group Study)**

5. Look at Exodus 2, especially verse 24-25. If God remembered His people at this time, do you think there were times He had forgotten them? Why or why not?

6. Skim Exodus 3, noting especially verses 11-12. Mount Horeb, the very spot of Moses' call, was also the place where God would provide water from the rock for the Israelites (Exodus 17:6-7) and where they would eventually meet God to enter into covenant with Him, including the reception of the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:2).

a. What do you think is symbolized by water from the rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)?

Where is the place that God first called you?

How does obeying that call become refreshing like water in the desert?

b. Moses, wandering in the desert and far from his original home, met God at Horeb. His years of growth in obscurity would be the foundation of his years of ministry in public, and his desert travels would make him the best of guides for God's people, who would eventually wander the same direction. Site examples from Biblical characters and in your own life showing how God uses what we consider to be "difficulties" or "down-time" to prepare us to minister to others.

7. How did God reveal Himself to the people in this passage? What attributes of God do we see?

8. See Exodus 4:1-9. What were the first signs that God gave Moses as demonstration to the Egyptians that He is the true God? List the additional signs (plagues) that God would perform in the days to come (Exodus 7-11)?

What was the greatest and most effectual of the signs?



SERIES

HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

LESSON 1

How God Leads | Exodus 1-19

9. What is symbolized by the Passover (Exodus 12:1-16; John 19:14; 1 Corinthians 5:7)?

Why is it important for us to remember the true Passover regularly?

Fill in the blank: "The Passover lamb, offered for me, causes me to be grateful because..."

Spend time as a group, giving thanks and praise to God for His goodness and mercy.

### DIGGING DEEPER (FURTHER STUDY)

10. What insights or questions from your study this week would you like to pursue further?

11. See Exodus 18. Delegation of responsibility is a biblical concept. Why was delegation essential for Moses?

Why is delegation essential in the church today?

How do you struggle to delegate responsibilities in your own life?

#### Scripture for Meditation

Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 Corinthians 5:7



The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4b



Watch Amazing Journey Video  
"The Tabernacle"

### Introduction

King David, pondering the beauty of God's creation, exclaimed, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4).

Without a word spoken, the glory of God is proclaimed by the heavenly expanses every day. God has also left His glorious imprint on history. As we will see in our study, God has impressed His purpose for our lives through the images and pictures of the Old Testament. Through pictures and symbolism, God tells us more than words alone can express about where He leads us.

The will of God for our lives today is expressed so clearly in the ancient book of Exodus that we could say it is "proclaimed," "declared," and "poured forth," while yet not a word is spoken. If the heavens proclaim God's voice "into all the earth," the Old Testament symbolism and typology sound God's voice "through all the ages."

### Typology

We are reminded in Hebrews 8:5 that while Moses was on Mount Sinai, he received not only the law, but also instructions for the building of the tabernacle, the tent in which God would meet His people—"Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: 'See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.'"

An exact following of God's pattern would be essential, for the tabernacle is "...a copy and shadow of what is in heaven" (Hebrews 8:5). The physical structure was in image of a spiritual reality; the historical event portrayed eternal truths that God would have us understand. This is not a new or unusual way for God to teach His people. The Old Testament is full of hundreds of types. The word pattern in Hebrews 8:5 comes from the Greek word *typos*, or "type." It means an "impression," a "seal," or "shadow." God has left marks all over the Old Testament. There are literally hundreds of types.

Consider just a few from the passages we have studied until now. The creation account is a shadow of the new creation. The exodus from Egypt is a picture image of our redemption through Christ Jesus. More specifically, Adam, the first man, was a type of Christ. The ark that Noah built represents our salvation through Jesus. We have already seen how the offering of Isaac was a picture of God offering His son for our sins and the story of Joseph is a foreshadowing of the life of Christ.

Considering only our study thus far, we have seen or passed right over dozens of such types. What unites all of these historical impressions is that New Testament authors substantiate them, and they all point us to the Person and purposes of Jesus our Savior. Through Old Testament symbolism, God shows us that it is His clear, unchangeable will to lead us to Jesus Christ.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.

Hebrew 1:1-2

### The Law

At the close of our last lesson, Moses was receiving the law on Mount Sinai. The word “law,” or *Torah* is used in a general sense for the whole of the Old Testament. It is used more specifically for the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch.

The same term, the Law, is used with even more focus to describe the instructions received by Moses on Mount Sinai. There were moral guidelines (the Ten Commandments), civil guidelines (relating to the government and practical functions of the people of God), and ceremonial guidelines (related to religious teaching). All of these teachings were important. All of them were given to “lead us to Christ” (Galatians 3:24 NASB). The moral law shows us our need for a savior. Most of the ceremonial law, including instructions for the design of the tabernacle, shows us the way to the Savior.

### The Tabernacle

Moses was given the design for the Tabernacle by God in order to “make a sanctuary for me (God), and I will dwell among them (Israelites). Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you” (Exodus 25:8-9, clarification added). Great detail is given on how to build and furnish the Tabernacle (Exodus 26), stressing its utmost importance to God. The Tabernacle was set apart for God to dwell among His people (Exodus 40:34b) – the word *Tabernacle* means “dwelling” or “habitation”. Likewise, we are God's tabernacle: “Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16), The Tabernacle contained the Ten Commandments as a constant reminder that God demands holiness of His people (1 Peter 1:15-16). It was where atonement for sin occurred through sacrificial offerings (blood of animal sacrifices). This makes the Tabernacle a type of Christ for through His sacrifice and the shedding of His blood, our sins are forgiven (Hebrews 9:11-28). And finally, the Tabernacle is the foreshadowing of God's final redemptive act when as the Apostle John wrote, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them...’” (Revelation 21:1-3).

### The High Priest

Exodus 28-29 discusses the ministry of the High Priest, Aaron, and the duties of the priests under him. Elaborate detail is given to the construction of their garments and a priestly breastplate bejeweled with 12 precious stones. Every detail is a type of Christ. So too, the priests themselves are a type of Christ for they were the ones who could represent the people and stand before God, offering sacrifices as atonement for the people's sin. “Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being” (Hebrews 8:1-2). Christ offered up the final sacrifice, “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy” (Hebrews 10:14). His blood allows us to enter “the Most Holy Place” and “draw near to God” (Hebrews 10:19-22.)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

### Final Thought

Too often, we read much of the Old Testament and get lost in the lettering of the law and the intricate details of things like the building of the Tabernacle and instructions for the priesthood. Before we decide to sweep these passages aside, we need to understand that all Scripture comes from God (2 Timothy 3:16). Furthermore, we need to look to them for the wonderful representations of Christ and all that God has prepared for those who are willing to accept the atonement of this High Priest, so that we too can live forever with and stand before the throne of our God.

### Spending Time With God

This lesson, in the series "How to Know God's Will," is designed to supplement your personal and small group Bible study. The devotion questions are written for your personal study. The discussion questions are especially for small groups. Members who answer the questions ahead of time can bring more insight into their small group meeting. The digging deeper questions are for those who wish for more personal or small group study. As you spend time with God, may His Word enrich your life and enhance your daily walk with Him. BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PRAY.

### Devotion (Personal Study)

1. Read the commentary portion of this study guide. Write down one insight that was especially challenging or encouraging for you.

2. From Exodus 20, which of the Ten Commandments are most important? Why?

Is there logic to God's ordering of these commands?

Do you seek to apply these commands to your life today?



SERIES

HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

LESSON 2

How God Leads 2 | Exodus 20-40

What is the danger of forgetting the Ten Commandments?

Is Matthew 28:18-20 just as important to you and for your life today? Explain.

What is the danger of applying the Ten Commandments to our lives without also remembering the grace and mercy of God?

6. Read Exodus 24. Note verses 9-11. Considering that covenants were often enacted over meals, how does this passage provide striking similarities to the account in Luke 22:14-20?

3. Read Exodus 21-23:19. God provided guidelines (laws) for His people that included moral, civil, and practical framework for their existence as a new nation. How do these laws demonstrate God's concern for the details of our lives (Matthew 6:26)?

Compare, in a sentence or two, the New Covenant we have today through Jesus Christ with the Old Covenant created with God on Mount Sinai (Jeremiah 31:31-33). Take this opportunity to thank God for entering into covenant with you.

4. See Exodus 23:20-33. Find at least three commandments and three promises given to the Israelites. How might Matthew 28:18-20 provide a New Testament parallel to these Old Testament directives?

### Discussion (Small Group Study)

7. What insight or question from your personal study or from the sermon this week would you like to discuss and explore further with the group?

5. Why would the commandments and promises of Exodus 23:20-33 be important to the people as they approached the Promised Land?

8. See Exodus 25:1-7. What was to be the heart attitude of those who gave of their means to help construct God's tabernacle?



SERIES

HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

LESSON 2

How God Leads 2 | Exodus 20-40

What should be our attitude as we give for the work of the Church today (2 Corinthians 9:7)?

10. Notice in Chapter 28 the garments for the priests and in chapter 29 the consecration of the priests. Why do you think God was so exacting about their dress and their service (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:16)?

Is this your attitude as you give financially to the work of God? Why or why not?

In a general sense, who are the "priests" of God today (1 Peter 2:9)?

9. Read Exodus 25:8-9.

a. Why do you think God was exacting about the pattern of the tabernacle (See also Hebrews 8:5)?

Does God expect the same kind of perfection from us that He required of the Old Testament priests? Have God's standards been lowered through time?

b. Exodus 26 to 30 describes this pattern. Once the tabernacle was finally constructed, what happened (Exodus 40:34-38)? Do you think the pattern given by God was directly linked to the glorious presence of God? If so, how?

11. Turn to Exodus 32, the story of the golden calf. In what ways do we too tend to worship things we can see and touch, rather than God Himself?

What are the "golden calves" in your life?



SERIES

HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

LESSON 2

How God Leads 2 | Exodus 20-40

12. See Moses' prayer of intercession, Exodus 32:11-14. What are the main points made by Moses?

Is this concern your concern today?

See Moses' prayer in Exodus 32: 31-32. What is the attitude of Moses?

14. Read the words given by God to describe His glory (Exodus 34:6-7). Turn these descriptions of God into prayers of thanks and praise.

My prayer of thanks and praise:

What can we learn from these prayers about how to approach God with our own concerns?

Take time to pray for each other, asking that you might grow in the ways of God and become greater intercessors for God.

### Digging Deeper (Further Study)

13. Read Exodus 33:12-18. What is Moses' deep and abiding concern?

How does this relate to the main purpose for the tabernacle, which is the main focus of the last half of Exodus?

### Scripture for Meditation

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18



Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Revelation 4:8 b, c

### Introduction

If we could hear people's prayers around the world, we would hear again and again the same cry that has come from our own hearts: "God, please just tell me what You want. What is YOUR will in this situation?"

The Bible gives us such a clear answer that we don't need to wait for a voice or sign from heaven for confirmation—"It is God's will that you should be sanctified" (1 Thessalonians 4:3). The word *sanctified*, or *holiness* means to "be set apart." Above all other things, God wants us to be set apart from the world and set apart for His purposes. If we will be holy, God will guide us, and we can know for certain that we are in His will. God wants us to be concerned about holiness first and all other details second.

If we are set apart for God, we will live for God in every situation. If, however, our focus is more on our situation than on our God, we may make the right choices with the wrong heart and be out of God's will altogether.

### The Holiness of God

When Peter exhorted the Church to sanctification, he quoted from the book of Leviticus: "Be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:26). This phrase, used so often in the book of Leviticus, is used nowhere else in the Bible. It provides, in fact, a summary of the book of Leviticus. God calls us to holiness. To be holy is to "be set apart." God is set apart from all of His creation. He is eternal and all else is temporal. He is pure, and we are sinful. He is high and exalted, above everything and everyone. When Isaiah saw the holiness of God, he cried out, "Woe to me!...I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty" (Isaiah 6:5). When the Apostle John beheld the holy God, he "fell at his feet as though dead" (Revelation 1:17). The angels themselves, beholding the glory of God, cannot cease to cry out continually, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:8a). If we have but a glimpse of the holiness of God, we will recognize that God is far above us in perfection and glory and power and majesty. Between the holy God and sinful humanity is an unsurpassable, immeasurable gulf.

How then are we to respond to the command, "Be holy, because I am holy?" Leviticus gives us the answer according to its two main parts. The first describes our standing before God (Leviticus 1-17). The second part of the book describes our walk before God (Leviticus 18-27). The first focuses on our justification (God's pardon of our sins). The second concerns itself with our sanctification (becoming more holy through time). The first concern is a legal issue before God and the second a matter a practice before men. The first shows out need for sacrifice and the second, how we become living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2).

### Sacrifice For Holiness (Leviticus 1-17)

The title *Leviticus* means "of the Levites." The Levites were God's priests. The primary role of the Old Testament priest was to come into God's presence to offer sacrifices for themselves and for the sins of the people. Leviticus 1-5 describes the sacrifices that were to be offered. While we



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"A Call to Holiness"

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

will not (at this time) study them in detail, we can recognize their significance with amazement and wonder.

The Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1) signifies Christ's offering Himself completely and fully, without blemish to God. The Grain Offering (Leviticus 2) typifies the perfect humanity and life of Christ, our sacrifice. The Fellowship Offering (Leviticus 3) tells of the peace won between believers and God through the cross of Christ. The Sin Offering (Leviticus 4) symbolizes Christ's payment for our sin nature. And finally, the Guilt Offering (Leviticus 5) pictures Christ's sacrifice for each of our transgressions and offenses against God and man. Taken together, we see a multifaceted gem, sparkling in the glory of the mercies of God toward us. For "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Leviticus 6-7 provided guidelines for the priests in offering these sacrifices. Leviticus 8-10 demonstrates how completely the ministry of the priests depended on sacrifice. First, in Leviticus 8, the priests were ordained through sacrifice. In Leviticus 9, the priests performed sacrifices. In Leviticus 10, the priests would fail and see, once again, their great need for God's perfect sacrifice. For Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu offered "unauthorized fire before the Lord" (Leviticus 10:1). As a result, "fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them." God was making crystal clear for all generations that He himself is holy and that only through His prescribed redemption (the sacrifice of Christ) can our sins be atoned for (Leviticus 10:3).

Leviticus 11-17 shows the great need for sacrifice to atone for our shortcomings in the details of life, ranging from diet (Leviticus 11) to daily living in a dark world (Leviticus 12-15). God would even prescribe sacrifice for unknown sins (Leviticus 16—the Day of Atonement). Indeed our very life depends on the "life in the blood" of the sacrificial animals—all symbolic of the final and perfect redemption through the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ (Leviticus 17).

### **Set Apart to Holiness (Leviticus 18-27)**

Because God has so wonderfully demonstrated His grace and taken care of our sin problem through the sacrifice of Christ, one might reason, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?" To this question, the Apostle Paul gives the definite and resolute response, "May it never be!" (Romans 6:1-2 paraphrase). For not only did Christ die to forgive our sins, but He was also raised to new life that we might be freed from the power of sin. Not only does God promise to be merciful for sins past, but He also deals with our propensity to sin today (1 John 1:9). The sacrifice of Christ does more than release us from the debt of our wrongdoing, for Christ offers Himself to us now through the Holy Spirit to enable us to live holy lives. Even as God is set apart from His creation, so are we to be set apart from the lusts and temptations of the world.

The second half of Leviticus moves us from our standing before God (as holy ones, i.e., "saints") to our walk before God. We know that we will never be perfect and without sin. We must always trust the sacrifice of Christ to atone for our shortcomings (1 John 1:8-10). However, we are granted both the power and the opportunity to "walk as Jesus walked" (1 John 2:6). We may summarize this second half of Leviticus as follows:

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin.

1 John 3:4-5

Be holy in the way you live: Leviticus 18-20. (Focuses on the people's lives.)

Be holy in the way you minister for God: Leviticus 21-24. (Focuses on the priests' ministries.)

Be holy in expectation of the new life to come: Leviticus 25-27. (Focuses on Canaan, a symbol of heaven.)

The Levitical prescriptions for holy living are in some cases morally binding for all time, such as the sexual prohibitions (Leviticus 18). Such lists are not meant to be all-inclusive, but to set the standard and to steer God's people away from the most heinous of sins. Other prohibitions were specific to the time and circumstances of the Israelites, such as clipping of men's beards (Leviticus 19:27).

Our best guideline for interpreting the various texts in Leviticus is to allow the Bible to interpret itself. A thorough knowledge of the New Testament provides the best resource for understanding and interpreting the Old Testament. But whether Levitical teachings and prohibitions were temporal or timeless, they all support the resounding theme of the book of Leviticus, "Be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

### Final Thought

Imagine a doctor preparing to do surgery on one you love with dirty knife. Would you request that he clean it partially? No. You would demand that he clean it perfectly! God not only grants believers positional holiness but demands of us practical holiness. Are we as serious about holiness as is God?

### Spending Time With God

This lesson, in the series "How to Know God's Will," is designed to supplement your personal and small group Bible study. The devotion questions are written for your personal study. The discussion questions are especially for small groups. Members who answer the questions ahead of time can bring more insight into their small group meeting. The digging deeper questions are for those who wish for more personal or small group study. As you spend time with God, may His Word enrich your life and enhance your daily walk with Him. BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PRAY.



**Devotion (Personal Study)**

1. Read the commentary portion of this study guide. Write down one insight that was especially challenging or encouraging for you, based on the commentary or Scripture reading.

2. Read quickly Leviticus 1-7.

a. List the types of offerings you find in these chapters.

b. If you were living in the time of Moses and given instruction from God to bring forth such offerings, what would be your impression about God?

What do these offerings teach us about God? About human beings?

3. Read Hebrews 10:1-18. What does this text teach us about the Old Testament offerings?

What was the purpose of the offerings?

Why are such offerings not required today?

4. Read Hebrews 10:19-39. Jesus Christ is our offering for sin and our High Priest. Record the commands and promises from God that you find in this passage. Take time to pray, thanking God for His promises and asking for strength and heart to obey His commands.

### Discussion (Small Group Study)

5. Read aloud Leviticus 8:1-36. List several of the ordination requirements for Aaron and his sons.

a. The priests and Levites in Moses' day were, in some measure, a picture of pastors and full-time ministers today. What inferences can you draw from this Leviticus 8 passage for people in ministry today (James 3:1, 1 Timothy 5:22)?

b. In a broader sense, the priests of the Old Testament foreshadowed all Christians today, whether ordained or not (1 Peter 2:5). Can you find principles drawn from the Leviticus 8 passage that can be applied to our lives today? See also Leviticus 19:2 and 1 Peter 1:16. Do you take these commands seriously? Does the Christian church at large take these commands seriously? What is God's provision for us today when we fall short of God's standard?

6. Read Leviticus 10:1-3. What command was broken here? Why do you think God's punishment was so severe?

7. Skim contents or chapter headings for Leviticus 11-17. Note the variety of regulations and guidelines given by God. Why do you think God was concerned about so many details for the people?

8. Read Leviticus 18. Do these same standards apply today?

Compare with Leviticus 19:19. How can we distinguish between regulations and commands that transcend time and those which were only relevant to the Israelites at this particular period of time in history (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)?

9. See Leviticus 24:10-16. Do you think God was overreacting here? Compare with Exodus 20:7.

a. Why is God careful to protect His name?



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b. How is God's name taken in vain today? Do you think God is grieved or concerned about this?

11. In Leviticus we find that there was a Sabbath Day, a Sabbath Week, and a Sabbath Year. Why was the Sabbath so important?

c. Read Philippians 2:9-11. Talk to God in prayer about His name and His holiness. Confess sins. Believe God for forgiveness. Pray for God's help to speak and live according to His grace and holiness.

12. Compare Leviticus 26:3-5 with 26:14-17. How are these same principles still true today (Galatians 6:7-9)? Pray that your lives might bear good and eternal fruit for God.

### Digging Deeper (Further Study)

10. Read Leviticus 23:3. Compare with Leviticus 25:1-12. In what way do these commands carry over for our day?

How do you personally apply God's commands to rest?

#### Scripture for Meditation

But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:15-16



When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

Exodus 20:18-20



Watch Amazing Journey Video  
“Diamonds in the Desert”

### Introduction

The title *Numbers* was attached to this fourth book of the Pentateuch to signify the numbering (census) that occurred at the beginning and near the close of the Israelites’ long desert journey (Numbers 1:2; 26:2). Those first counted were intended to enter the land of Canaan but proved themselves unworthy. The second census represents a whole new generation; they would be victorious in fulfilling the will of God as they triumphantly conquered the land.

The difference between the two groups of people was not in their numbers. There were slightly more than 600,000 men in both counts. The second generation differed from the first in one key and vital aspect—they feared God. One group fell in the desert, the second was blessed as they entered the promised land.

The author of Hebrews, recognizing that each successive generation and each individual Christian can learn vital truths from this account, exhorts us, “Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it” (Hebrews 4:1).

### The Fear of God

When the Israelites stood at the base of Mount Sinai, the dreadful fear of God came upon them. The lightning flashes, followed by resounding thunder and blaring trumpet blasts, seemed to set the whole mountain into a blaze of smoke-laden splendor. The people drew back, and Moses first told them to “fear not.” He then explained that “God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning” (Exodus 20:20).

Unfortunately, the fear of God did not remain a constant factor for the Israelites, who seemed to sin against God in attitude and action with almost every new step and every next stop. The book of Numbers is the sad story of lives wasted through the wiles of sin and hearts diverted from the ways of God. Contrast this with the Biblical concept of the fear of God, which is based on love. Such godly fear does not cause us to draw back from God but rather to draw back from sin.

In the days of Moses, there was a greater emphasis on fear than on love. From the time of Jesus until now, the emphasis has been more on God’s love than on fearing Him. Nevertheless, just as clearly as fear of God during the age of the Old Testament was based on love, so our love for God should be mixed with healthy dose of respect, awe, and fear.

### The Failure of the Israelites

When the people of God, the Israelites, arrived at the southern entry point to the Promised Land of Canaan, they sent out spies to investigate this new territory. The spies came home with stories of giants in the land, who would devour them (Numbers 13:26-33). Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, argued that God would grant them victory over any foe. The other 10 spies and the people, however, melted with anxiety. The Israelites had a true fear of God, but they had a terrible fear of their enemies.

Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, "We will not come! Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert? And now you also want to lord it over us? Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards... No, we will not come!"

Numbers 16:12-14

Once we forget the greatness of our awesome God, lesser things seem to grow in size. Even a pesky fly, held near the eye, can appear larger than a mountain. However, a dim view of the grandeur of God is enough to bring our anxieties and fears into healthy perspective. God's people lacked a respect for God and trust in God from the very day they were miraculously delivered from Egypt. If they failed to believe in the midst of signs and wonders, how could God now send them into battle against the enemy? God would not force them to step foot in the place they refused to enter or to fight against the giants they refused to meet.

In human terms, God was fed up. The Lord declared His people would not be given another opportunity to approach the Promised Land. He would allow the next generation to enter but not this half-hearted, complaining, and faithless lot, for this was not the first time they had provoked God to anger with their selfish and rebellious ways. God recalled 10 demonstrations of outright disobedience (Numbers 14:22).

While we cannot be sure which of the previous incidents were in the mind of God, the list was likely close to the following:

- Exodus 14:11-12 (At the Red Sea)
- Exodus 15:24 (At the waters of Marah)
- Exodus 16:1-3 (Three times en route to the wilderness of Sin)
- Exodus 16:19-20 (Keeping manna overnight)
- Exodus 16:27-30 (Not collecting manna for the Sabbath)
- Exodus 17:1-3 (At Rephidim)
- Exodus 32:1-6 (At Sinai)
- Numbers 11:1-3 (Twice in Numbers 11 en route to Kadesh)
- Numbers 11:4-34 (People demanded meat to eat)
- Numbers 14:1-10 (At Kadesh)

### **The Faithfulness of God**

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he penned words that run like a golden thread binding together God's people, with all of our failures, to the covenant promises of God: "If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

God would discipline His people but not disown them. He would make them wait but not make them wait forever. The same God, who delivered His people from Egypt, would indeed bring them into the land of promise, even if it required a whole generation of desert wandering to appreciate God's goodness. We have not understood the book of Numbers if we have seen the detailed black marks of the people's sins without noticing the brightly colored backdrop of God's faithfulness.

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All You have made will praise You, O LORD; Your saints will extol You. They will tell of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might, so that all men may know of Your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made.

Psalm 145: 8-13

The book of Numbers can be divided into three main sections (showing the progression of God's loving discipline and mercy) leading to the ultimate fulfillment of His promises:

The Old Generation Failed God (Numbers 1-14)

A Transition Between Generations (Numbers 15-20)

A New Generation, A New Opportunity (Numbers 21-36)

Numbers 20 ends with the death of Aaron, the High Priest. Moses' death was soon to follow. Then a completely new generation, including faithful Joshua and Caleb, would be commanded to enter the land.

God's hand of blessing was on this new generation. He would bless them and prevent others from cursing them. The protection of God was shown dramatically when Balak, the king of the Moabites, summoned a local prophet, Balaam, to curse the Jews. Try as he might, Balaam could not pronounce the curse. Nevertheless, if Balaam could not remove God's blessings from the people, he would find a way to turn the people from their God. We learn in Revelation 2:14 that Balaam "...taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality."

The sad and devastating consequences can be seen in Numbers 25, where some 24,000 Israelites died for their gross sin and compromise (Numbers 25:9). Moses' last directive from God was to bring judgment on the Midianites, who were instigators in this debauchery (Numbers 31:1-24). The people of God had failed God again. Yet, God would give them another chance—and another, and another, and another—right up to the present day. When we are faithless and forget the fear of God, we suffer for our sin. And our God remains faithful.

### Final Thought

Whom does God bless? Wise King Solomon gives us the answer, simple and clear: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

### Spending Time With God

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### Devotion (Personal Study)

1. Read the commentary portion of this study guide. Write down one insight that was especially challenging or encouraging for you

2. Read Numbers 1:1-2 and skim the rest of the chapter. Notice that God “spoke to Moses” (Numbers 1:1). This truth is stated over 150 times in the book of Numbers, in over 20 ways, and became the book’s title in some of the original Hebrew texts. Why was it so important that God spoke to Moses?

3. Notice in Numbers 1:1-2 the details provided: place, date, and mission. How do such details help us know this was an actual event?

Why do you think God wanted Moses to take a census? (This numbering or census is the basis for the title given to the Greek version of book, *Numbers*.)

4. Read Numbers 2:1-2 and skim the rest of the chapter. Notice the orderliness of God's plan regarding the tribe's place of encampment and their lines for marching. Give examples of some ways that God prescribes orderliness for Christians today (see 1 Corinthians 14:33.)

5. Read Numbers 3:1-7 and skim through the end of chapter 4. The Levites were set apart by God for specific purposes. Read all of Romans 12, and prayerfully record some of the reasons for which you believe you have been set apart by God. Thank God for calling you to be a blessing to others, and pray for His grace to obey.



### Discussion (Small Group Study)

6. Read Numbers 6:1-21. Can you think of any Biblical character who was a Nazarite or who took the Nazaritic vow (Judges 13:7, 24; Acts 18:18)?

Do you think it is a good thing for Christians to take vows today? Why or why not?

7. Read Numbers 11:1-3.

a. What was the sin of the people? Do you ever commit this sin?

b. Why do you think it was so grievous to God at the time? Why is it grievous to God today (Hebrews 3:15-19)?

8. Skim and take note of how the rest of Numbers 11-12 deal with the same problem. See chapters 14 and 16 as well. How is complaining a close partner to rebelliousness?

Why is rebelliousness so serious an offense in God's book?

9. See Numbers 14:20-24. For what reason would God's people be required to wander the desert for an entire generation?

10. Read Numbers 21:4-9. How does this Old Testament account give meaning to the words of Christ in John 3:14-15?



11. See Numbers 33. These details, seemingly monotonous to the modern reader, were historical markers for a full generation of desert wanderings in the life of God's people. Read aloud Numbers 33:55-56. Recall the Israelite's earlier failure to obey God (see Numbers 14 and question 8). It is human nature to learn slowly; sometimes the really important things in life are learned over time. Can you give an example of a lesson or teaching God has been trying to help you live out for a long time? What is it? Pray for one another, asking God's help toward spiritual growth and blessing.

13. How can a church of today and/or a Christian today easily fall into the sins of Balaam?

How can we guard ourselves from the same? Pray together for God's forgiveness for our sins and grace to become the kind of people He can fully bless.

### Digging Deeper (Further Study)

12. Recall the story of Balaam (Numbers 22-24). Who was Balaam?

Why did his donkey rebuke him (Numbers 22:28)?

What were the sins of Balaam? (See also Revelations 2:14.)

### Scripture for Meditation

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrew 3:12-13



All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: you will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

Deuteronomy 28:2-6



Watch Amazing Journey Video  
"Remember"

### Introduction

The name *Deuteronomy*, given to the fifth and last book of the Pentateuch, means “repetition of the law.” Moses repeated and reiterated the truths of God for the people of God just before they entered the Land of Promise.

This new generation of Israelites would need to carry into their new land the same old, timeless teachings that had been passed down from their fathers. Moses would not be able to enter with them, but he would do his best to be sure the Word of God was within them. The book of Deuteronomy is not a boring repetition of the same old things we have already studied. Rather it is a recapitulation of the essential truths, delivered with passion and compassion by the great prophet Moses.

Deuteronomy is essentially three sermons, back to back, delivered as a farewell address by one of the greatest men the world will ever know.

### Obedience

A word study shows us that the words *bless* and *blessing* are found more in the book of Deuteronomy than in any other Biblical book. How might we obtain blessings from God? We can study the word *obedience* and see that it too is found more times in Deuteronomy than in any other portion of the Scripture. Put the two together and you have the essential message of the book—we will be blessed by God, if we obey God:

“All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out” (Deuteronomy 28:2-6).

The above quotation is a portion of Moses’ instructions for one of the greatest object lessons ever recorded. In Deuteronomy 27, Moses instructed the Israelites not to forget God and His commands once they entered the land of Canaan.

After crossing the Jordan, God’s people were to set up a huge monument of stones and coat them with plaster. Upon the stones would be etched the words of the Law. This memorial was to be set on the side of Mount.

Next to the graphic portrayal of the Law, they must build an altar for the sacrifice of animals. Both the monument and the altar would be set into the side of Mount Ebal. Facing Mount Ebal was Mount Gerizim. Six of the tribes were to climb up the sides of Ebal and the other six were to position themselves on Gerizim.

As can be seen even today, the two mountains, joined by a rocky valley, form a natural amphitheater. Even a quiet word spoken from one mountain can be heard clearly from the top of the other. Both mountains have limestone formations that make for comfortable seating.

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

**Deuteronomy 6:1-3**

It was here, in a place arranged beforehand by God, that the people were to shout antiphonally the blessings and cursings promised by God based on their obedience or disobedience to God's law. As they proclaimed this truth, their voices would carry profoundly across the valley and settle quietly over the written law and the smoking altar.

The Law set the direction for right living. The altar made provision for wrong living. But it would be up to the people to never forget. The fulfillment of this God-given, bigger-than-life illustration is described in Joshua 8:30-35.

Just at the point when the Israelites were building momentum for an all-out attack on the land of Canaan, God would have them pull aside and remember. For their true victory would not depend on momentum, but on obedience. Without God's blessing, God's people are bound to fail. We too need to take regular Sabbaths and rest stops in our daily, weekly, and monthly routines to remember, reflect, and recall the commands and promises of God. We too will be blessed if we consider obedience too important to be crowded out by business.

### **Where Obedience Fits in the Plan of God**

Deuteronomy is the capstone of the Pentateuch. The truths built in the first four books of the Bible carry little significance without this finishing piece. We can draw parallels between the development of the Jewish nation and the maturation process with all human beings:

Genesis tells us how God's people were formed (gestation).

Exodus explains how God's people were delivered (birth).

Leviticus contains guidelines on how God's people were to live together (childhood).

Numbers recounts how God's people wandered (adolescence).

Deuteronomy summarizes how God's people, already formed, delivered, and growing, were to succeed in the Land of Canaan with God's blessing (adulthood).

True obedience is a sign of true maturity. While God wants us to be obedient from day one, like any child, we learn obedience through a lifetime of hard-knocks and rewards for right decision. The book of Deuteronomy itself, like a gem placed neatly by God in Holy Scripture, sparkles with insight regarding the will of God. Deuteronomy can be outlined according to the three sermons of Moses:

First Sermon—Deuteronomy 1-4: looking backward at the curses for disobedience.

Second Sermon—Deuteronomy 5-26: looking upward for the blessings of obedience.

Third Sermon—Deuteronomy 27-33: looking forward to prepare for God's blessings.

Moses was 120 years old when the Jews were about to enter the land, but he would not be allowed to enter himself. Still strong and vital, like the law of God, he seemed fit to live forever (Deuteronomy 34:7). For forty years, this man of God had lived as a prince in Egypt. For another

Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as He delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep His commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 30: 9-10

forty, he lived in the heat of the desert.

For his final forty years, Moses would lead the Israelites and teach them the way of obedience. The trip from Sinai to the entry point of Canaan takes only eleven days by foot (Deuteronomy 1:2) but forty years by growth. Plead as he might, Moses would not bring the people into the land of promise, any more than could the law itself bring a Christian into a life of true maturity and obedience. Joshua, whose name means “Jesus,” would lead them in. It should be no surprise that Jesus loved the book of Deuteronomy. Our Lord quoted it to resist the devil and to instruct the people (Matthew 4:4-10; Luke 10:27). The law leads us to Christ, and Christ leads us to true life. The law shows the need for obedience, and Jesus provides the ability to obey. He is the fulfillment of the law (Matthew 5:17).

An overview of Deuteronomy reminds us of the rewards of obedience—blessings.

An overview of the Pentateuch tells of the requirements for obedience—maturity.

An overview of the Bible makes clear the source of obedience—Jesus Christ.

### Final Thought

We can paraphrase Deuteronomy 28:2-6 to fit our lives today: “All these blessings will be yours and will stick with you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed wherever you go and wherever you live. Your children will be blessed, and your business—the time you spend and the investments you make. Your refrigerator will be full and your bank account more than sufficient. You will be blessed when you come home and blessed when you go about your daily activities.”

In reading these verses again with new eyes, let us take seriously their condition for fulfillment with new resolve. The condition? Three words: “If you obey.”

### Spending Time With God

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### Devotion (Personal Study)

1. Read the commentary portion of this study guide. Write down one insight that was especially challenging or encouraging for you

2. Read Deuteronomy 1:1-3:20. Moses was recounting history in order that the Israelites might learn from their failures. Imagine yourself in their sandals. What is the key lesson you would draw from these accounts?

3. Read Deuteronomy 3:21-29. Moses often pleaded with God on behalf of the people. Now he prays for himself.

a. Why do you think God did not grant his request?

b. Can you think of other examples in the Scriptures where godly people do not receive their requests before God?

What are some prayers you have recently offered to which God has not given the divine "Yes"?

4. Read Deuteronomy 4:1-40. This section is packed with golden promises. Choose two favorite verses and record them here. Use them as a basis of prayer to God now, trusting Him to guide and bless you in the days ahead.

5. Read Deuteronomy 5:1-33. Which of the Ten Commandments do you find most difficult to obey?



What promise follows these commands (Deuteronomy 5:33).

Discuss how these strong commands might relate to our lives at work, at home, and in the church.

### Discussion (Small Group Study)

6. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

a. What portions of these words are well known today?

8. Read Deuteronomy 7:7-11. On what basis did the Lord choose us?

Are these words just as relevant today?

Are Christians more deserving of God's love than unbelievers?

b. What was the main point of Deuteronomy 6:6-9?

Does God still show retribution and judgment on people today?

How might we apply these truths to our lives?

7. See Deuteronomy 7:1-6. What were the people to do when they entered Canaan? Why?

9. See Deuteronomy 12:1-7. What are some "high places" (places of worship for idols) in our society today?



Do you have any such “high places” in your life?

What would God have you do about them?

11. Read Deuteronomy 19:1-7. What might these cities represent?

Are there people in your life that you find it difficult to forgive?

How is unforgiveness the root of jealousy, vengeful thoughts, anger, and bitterness?

What is the danger of not forgiving others? Take time to pray for one another and for God's grace to apply the truths discussed in this lesson to your lives.

### Digging Deeper (Further Study)

12. From Deuteronomy 26:1-15, what were some of the reasons God commanded tithing for the Israelites? What are some reasons we should give generously to God and His people today?

13. Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12. What impresses you about Moses' death? Why?

### Scripture for Meditation

But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find Him if you look for Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29



## BNEXT Amazing Journey Leader's Guide

This BNEXT Leader's Guide section is for facilitator/leaders. Please read this information before you begin. As the facilitator of a small group, you will have the experience of not only sharing this journey through God's Word with others, but of aiding them along the way. The purpose of this Leader's Guide is to aid you in your role as facilitator. You do not need previous experience or special training to lead a group. Your primary responsibility is to serve as facilitator, not to teach.

### MATERIALS NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE

The BNEXT Study / Amazing Journey includes a weekly video of 15–20 minutes in length. The video provided is on a flash drive, so make sure you have USB-compatible technology. Please review the video *before* each class. Here's a materials checklist:

- TV or computer with a USB 2.0 (or faster) port
- For larger groups, a projector is needed (and may even enhance a small group experience)
- Amazing Journey videos (on USB flash-drive)
- This Participant's Guide (one per participant)
- Bible for each participant, preferably the same version (these studies use the NIV)
- Pen or pencil for each participant
- Watch or clock to monitor time

### ABOUT THIS STUDY

The BNEXT study series' are versatile and may be used by individuals, small groups, or even entire congregations. The use of a small group as part of the program will enhance each one's experience. BNEXT studies have successfully been used in a variety of environments, including home groups, churches, prisons, and businesses.

Total time for each weekly lesson should be about 1 to 1 ½ hours in length, which includes time for group discussion and video viewing. Suggested lesson plans with timing guidelines are found at the end of this Guide.

If you use this study in a large group or an entire church, there are two possible approaches. One approach is for the entire group to first gather for a welcome and opening prayer, after which participants can meet in small groups for discussion using the BNEXT questions. After a specified amount of time, all would reconvene into a larger setting to watch the video together. Alternately, the flash-drive videos may be made available for each small group, in which case, after the opening and welcome time, everyone can move to groups and remain there until the end of the day's session.

## ABOUT SMALL GROUPS

**Group Size:** Experience has shown that a group size of 10–12 people works best. If your group is significantly larger, we suggest that you create additional small groups.

**Group Leaders:** Each group should have its own facilitator/leader. It is good to also have at least one back-up facilitator in case the primary facilitator is absent. If you have several groups meeting at one time, decide who will be responsible for facilitating the larger group gatherings for the welcome time and so forth.

## ABOUT FACILITATOR/LEADERS

The ideal small group facilitator/leader should have:

- A hunger for God's Word and a deep desire to see others grow in their knowledge of God and His Word.
- A commitment to the group, emphasizing seeing the program through to the end.
- The ability to facilitate and moderate discussion rather than teach.
- A willingness to follow the "Discussion Group Rules of Engagement" (found in this Participant's Guide).

As facilitator, pray for your small group. Spend time preparing your own lesson and be thinking about how to present the questions to the class. You should attempt to answer all of the questions before the class. Group members should be encouraged to at least answer the first two sets of questions: Devotion (Personal Study) and Discussion (Small Group Study) questions, before each class, to enhance their learning experience. Even better, encourage them to find time to complete Digging Deeper (Further Study) questions on their own. One of the goals of this approach is to encourage participants to develop the habit of delving into Scripture and studying on a regular basis.

You are not expected to be a Biblical expert. You are a facilitator, so resist the attempt to teach. You are there to guide the group, keep them on track, and avoid getting caught up in doctrinal debates. These lessons are designed to easi-

ly be used by a first-time leader as well as an experienced leader. If you want to facilitate the group with a broadened background knowledge, see our "Background Study Option" below.

Recognize that not everyone is comfortable answering questions. Gently keep discussion going by asking questions like, "Does anyone else have something to add?" It can be helpful at times to have a volunteer read Scripture texts that are referred to in the questions.

Recognize and affirm all who contribute to the discussion. Do not dismiss someone's answer as wrong. If an answer is obviously off-base, thank them for their answer, then ask what others think. Remind the group to let Scripture interpret Scripture.

If you feel that a certain statement or question is inappropriate for your group, you may omit it or at least recognize that not everyone needs to answer it. However, do not be afraid of letting the group tackle tough topics.

## BACKGROUND STUDY OPTIONS

Again, facilitators are not expected to be Biblical experts. If the group looks to you for an answer you do not have, it is perfectly fine to say, "I'm not sure. Perhaps we can all think about that one and bring it up again next week?" Or, "Let's bring this one up to the larger group when there is time allotted for such discussion," or, "Let's see if this doesn't answer itself over the weeks as we continue our study. Remember, the Bible interprets itself."

For extra study, you may wish to approach your pastor, or to read commentaries and use other resources. The internet contains a wealth of information ... and also disinformation. Some internet sites that provide reliable (and free) commentaries and articles include: [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com), [biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com), [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com), and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org).

Another useful source of general Biblical knowledge is *The Essential Bible Companion*, by the same contributors of our Bible

in 90 Days study series: John Walton, Mark Strauss, and Ted Cooper Jr., Zondervan Publishing (also available as an e-book).

## LEADING THE CLASS

### First Class

Decide where you want to meet weekly and decide on a time. Once this has been done, actively publicize the *BNEXT Amazing Journey* study throughout all your circles — at your church, workplace, friends, family, etc. There are some free publicity aids on our website at [ScriptureAwakening.com/bnext/freebies/](http://ScriptureAwakening.com/bnext/freebies/).

The first class is unique in that the participant will not have anything to prepare. Use this time for getting to know one another and to introduce the BNEXT lesson format. There is an 18-minute BNEXT introduction video that accompanies this first lesson. Before showing the introduction video, we recommend:

1. Opening prayer, welcome, and introduction of members (10 minutes)
  - a. Think of something brief each participant could say about themselves such as: “Tell us something unique about yourself.” Or perhaps, “What do you hope to get out of this BNEXT study?” Or, “This first lesson will provide an overview of the Bible. How comfortable are you with the Bible as a whole? Do you think you can benefit by learning more about each of its books and sections?”
  - b. Remind them to keep their answers brief (one minute or less).
2. Handout materials and give an overview (7 minutes)
  - a. Discuss the format of BNEXT Amazing Journey:
    - Reading of a specific book(s) or chapters of a book of the Bible.
    - Lesson commentary and questions (at least the Devotion and Discussion questions, and ideally, more) to be completed individually through the week.
    - Meet weekly to watch a 20-minute video and to go

through the Discussion questions (and if time allows, the Digging Deeper questions).

- b. Review the “Rules of Engagement” (found in the front of this Participant's Guide).
  - c. Ask if there are any questions.
3. Discuss the study you will be doing (15 minutes)
    - a. Inform class of how many weeks you will be meeting to cover the study and what date will be your last date for this study.
    - b. Ask the group, “What do you know about [insert study's Bible book(s) name(s) such as Genesis].
    - c. Ask the group, “What do you hope to have answered about (Genesis)?”
  4. Watch the BNEXT Amazing Journey Introduction and Overview video (18 minutes)
  5. Video discussion (5 minutes)
    - a. Ask if there are one or two participants who have a comment on the video or who may have learned something new from the video.
    - b. Remind them to keep their answers brief to allow others to respond.
  6. Closing prayer (5 minutes)
    - a. If time is short, then as the leader, pray for the group.
    - b. If you have more time, you may ask if there are any prayer requests and either pray on behalf of the group or open it up for the group to pray.
  7. Dismissal

### Subsequent Classes

1. Opening prayer, welcome, and introduction of any new participants (5 minutes)
  - a. If there are new members, have them introduce themselves. Remind them to be brief (one minute or less).

- b. Think of a good ice-breaker that somehow relates to the study. For example, if you are about to watch a video on the Exodus from Israel: “Why do you think the Exodus was important?”, or “From what you know about the Exodus, how does it relate to the work of Christ on the cross?” Remind them to keep their answers short. Set a time limit for this opening section; not everyone needs to answer.
    - c. If you think it's necessary, remind the group of the “Rules of Engagement” in the front of this Participant's Guide.
  2. Discuss lesson questions (20 minutes)
    - a. Ask if there are any Devotion questions that people in the group would like to discuss. These are the questions they have been encouraged to complete on their own prior to the class.
    - b. Give primary attention to the Discussion questions, which are designed to promote good discussion.
    - c. If time permits, you may wish to use one or more of the Digging Deeper questions.
  3. Watch the BNEXT Amazing Journey video (about 20 minutes)
  4. Video discussion (10 minutes)

Ask what participants may have learned or found interesting in the video.
  5. Closing prayer (5 minutes)
    - a. If time is short, then as the leader, pray for the group.
    - b. If you have more time, you may ask if there are any prayer requests and either pray on behalf of the group or open it up for the group to pray.
  6. Dismissal