

God is Number One!

Deuteronomy 6; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 462-468

Have you ever moved to a new town or a new school? Before you got there, what questions did you have? Were you dreaming about your new room?

In this story, the Israelite people have spent a lifetime living in tents. But now they are at the border of the Promised Land, waiting for the order to pack up and move in. Moses wishes he was going too.

Moses stood there, tall and motionless. The early morning breeze began to play gently with the edges of his robe. But he didn't notice. His eyes were fastened on the camp—the huge camp of the children of Israel spread out on the plain.

For 40 years God had used Moses to lead these people. He had led them through all kinds of dangers. God had blessed Moses and performed wonderful miracles through him. The Red Sea had parted to let the people go across. And the waters had returned just in time to save them from the Egyptian army.

Once, in anger, Moses' rod had struck rock, and pure drinking water had

poured out. Moses regretted striking that rock. He knew that God had said that speaking would be enough. Because he disobeyed, Moses would not cross over into the new land. He must say goodbye to the people this side of the Jordan.

At first Moses pleaded with God.

" 'O Sovereign Lord . . . let me go over and see the good land.' " But God spoke plainly. " 'That is enough. Do not speak to me anymore about this matter' " (Deuteronomy 3:24-26, NIV).



The Message

God is worthy of
our worship.

Memory Verse

“You are worthy, our
Lord and God, to receive
glory and honor and
power, for you created
all things’ ”

(Revelation 4:11, NIV).

Moses accepted what God wanted. And God made an offer to ease the old man's disappointment. “Go up to the top of Pisgah and . . . look at the land,” God said, “since you are not going to cross this Jordan” (Deuteronomy 3:27, NIV).

Sadly Moses stood watching the tents of Israel. His beloved people were just waking up. Many of them were wildly excited about crossing the Jordan River. But some were afraid. Moses shook his head, and a little smile grew on his lips. This had to be the most stubborn group of people in the world. And he loved them—every one!

Then God's loving whisper showed Moses what to do. He must write a book—the fifth book of the Bible that we call Deuteronomy. In this book he would write about God's miracles and love and leading. He would include the Ten Commandments. And give a message to help the people stay true to their Forever Friend.

Moses knew that the Lord was about to give them cities already built. He was going to give them houses full of good things. The Lord would provide wells of water for them that they had not dug. And vineyards and olive trees they had not planted. All the Lord asked was that they love Him. But the children of Israel could easily for-

get where these blessings had come from, Moses knew.

“Remember to love the Lord with all your heart and soul and strength,” he wanted to shout. If they

would only do that! If only they would tell others. The people could remember God.

The children would grow up to know Him—if they would keep telling God's story. Over and over they must tell it. They must talk about the Lord and praise Him every day! At home. At work. When they were traveling. And when they were resting. That was the key.

And it was so simple. Keep loving God; keep telling His story.

And that is what God asks of us today. Keep loving Him. Keep telling others about our wonderful God.



S A B B A T H

SHARE With your family take a walk and explore what God has made. Then sit down somewhere and share what you discovered. Read Revelation 4:11 together, then read your lesson story.

SING Sing together a favorite praise song to God.

PRAY Pray a prayer of praise together.

DO When you get home, write your memory verse. Decorate it with pictures of things God created.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family read 1 John 5:21. What is an idol? Talk about it together.

DO In a bag collect some things you use every day. Examples: TV Guide, video games, storybooks, computer games, clothing, toys. Take turns with your family pulling something from the bag and saying how each object could become an idol.

DO Show that God alone is worthy of your worship. Encourage your family to turn off the TV and worship together instead. Ask God to help you.

DO Ask each person to tell about their favorite way to worship God.

T U E S D A Y

READ Together with your family, read Deuteronomy 6:10-12. Find three reasons Moses said the people should worship God. What are your reasons for worshipping God? Talk about it with your family.

DO Sing "Fill Your Hearts With Joy" (Sing for Joy, No. 8), then pray a prayer of praise. Ask God to help you make the right choices.

DO Look in a mirror while you say your memory verse.

S U N D A Y

SHARE With your family, read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. After each verse, tell what you think it means. What do these verses tell families to do? Dip your finger in water and write "love" on your doors.

DO Worthy means good enough. Only one Person is good enough for our worship. Who is that Person? Make a poster that says: "God, You are worthy of my worship. You are number 1!" Decorate it and put it where everyone can see it.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

When the Israelites celebrated Passover in Canaan, the manna stopped falling because they had plenty of food in Canaan.



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During family worship read Deuteronomy 5:6-21. How many commandments did you find? True or False: Deuteronomy 6:4-6 shows that God's commandments are really about love. Praise God for His love.

DO Read verse 8. Take a strip of paper or cloth and write on it, "God is love." Then wrap it around your wrist or your head. Talk with your family about what verse 8 really means.

DO Try to set your memory verse to music.

T H U R S D A Y

DO During worship today, look in the newspaper or a news magazine. Circle pictures or names of people who are given special honor. Glory and honor are shown when we show someone special respect or want to be like them. Showing glory and honor can also be a way of worshiping.

READ Who alone do we worship? Read Deuteronomy 6:13, 14. (Fear means respect, worship.) Tell Him when you pray.

DO Say your memory verse to an adult.

F R I D A Y

READ During family worship read together 1 Chronicles 16:11, 12. Take turns telling why you want to give God special honor and worship. Share what He has done for you this week. When you pray, praise Him for His loving care.

SING Have a praise songfest for worship. One family member starts a praise song, and when it is finished, someone else starts another. See how long you can go before running out of song ideas.

Fill in the Blanks
to Know God

PUZZLE

Directions: The Bible tells us about how to stay true to God, our Forever Friend. Review your lesson for the answers to the following questions.

1. God performed _____ through Moses.
2. Moses disobeyed God by _____ the rock instead of speaking.
3. Deuteronomy tells about God's _____ and _____.
4. The opposite of forget is _____.
5. We honor God because Revelation 4:11 says that He "_____ all things."