

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 5

Deuteronomy

Objects to have:

A picture of a grandfather

Chalk and chalkboard

Any toy or little figurine which could represent something that heathen nations might have worshipped: fish, sun, moon, stars, frogs, birds, etc.

Ten pennies

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up your Bible.) The Bible is God's Word; it is one book. In this one book there are 66 books. We have been studying the books of the Bible—one at a time. How many books have we heard about so far? (Count four on your chart or your signs or whatever you are putting up each week as you teach each book.) In each book of the Bible we are hearing just one story; there are many, many other stories in each book.

(Either point to your signs for each individual Bible book, or hold the signs, showing one at a time.) Do you remember that in Genesis we heard that God made everything, and we heard about Adam and Eve—the first man and the first lady? In Exodus we heard about the millions of Israelites crossing the Red Sea in their escape from Egypt. In Leviticus we heard about how God gave Moses the laws and the rules that His people—the Israelites—should have; we learned how the law is like a mirror for us. In the mirror of the law we learned what sin is and how there is sin in our lives. In Numbers we heard the story of the 12 spies.

Do you remember that those 12 spies went to learn about the land that God was giving to the Israelites? They all came back and said, "The land of Canaan is wonderful! There is plenty of good food; it is beautiful and we would like it. The people live in houses. They don't live in tents as we have had to do since we left Egypt." The report sounded wonderful! The people were excited and ready to go live in their own country!

The ten spies said, "But there is no way that we can take the country!" No way? What were those ten spies saying? "No, there is no way. The cities are big, and they have high walls. Most of the people are like giants." What a terrible report!

The other two spies, Caleb and Joshua, said, "It won't be easy, and we will have to fight, but God will give the land to us!" The people would not believe Caleb and Joshua; they believed the ten spies. The people would not move into the Promised Land.

Moses said, "All right! God said, 'The spies were gone 40 days; you have to wander around and around in the wilderness for 40 years.'"

Those 40 years passed. All the men and all the ladies who were 20 years old and older when the spies brought back their report died by the time those 40 years had ended. They all died one by one; God said that not one of them could see the Promised Land. Moses and Caleb and Joshua saw them all die, one by one, through those 40 years that they had to wander in the wilderness. Moses and Caleb and Joshua watched everybody who was 19 years old and younger get older. The tiny babies grew to be 40 years old, all the five-year-old children grew to be 45 and all the 13-year-olds grew to be 53, all the 19-year-olds grew to be 59. Moses got to be 120 years old!

(Draw on the chalkboard the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, thus showing the land of Canaan. Point to the right of the Jordan River.) The Israelites were all here. The 40 years had all passed; it was really time to go into the Promised Land!

(Hold up the picture of the grandfather.) Moses said, "Gather here, everybody. Before we go into Canaan, we have to have a talk. We'll have to be sure that we will be doing what God wants us to do. I want you to

remember all the rules and the laws that God gave us. We need to remember how we are supposed to act so that God can always bless us.” (Put down the grandfather picture and put up the sign reading DEUTERONOMY—THE LAW AGAIN.)

Telling the story:

The Bible book that we are going to hear about today is the book of Deuteronomy. It is the fifth book of the Bible; it is in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

What an exciting day it was! All the Israelites were standing together in one place. They were listening to their leader, Moses, talk with them. They soon would be crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Before they could go into their new country, however, Moses had to give them last-minute instructions.

This would be the last time that Moses would talk with them as their leader. God was not allowing Moses to go into the Promised Land. A long time before this, Moses had disobeyed God, and God was not going to let Moses go into the Promised Land. How sad that Moses lost the chance to go in, too. Moses had led his people right to the edge of the Promised Land, and then the people were to go over into the land without him.

Moses never stopped loving God, however. Listen! Moses was talking to the people. Let’s hear what he had to say: “Be thankful, Israelites! Be thankful for all the goodness God has shown to you. Do not forget to say thank you to God for taking care of you. He has given you food and water. He has kept your clothes and your shoes from wearing out. He has showed you the way to go while you have been traveling. He has kept you safe.”

Moses said, “Always remember to worship the true, living God. Never pray to anyone or to anything else.” (Hold up the figurine or the model of something which could have been worshipped.) The people who lived where the Israelites were going to live bowed down to idols, and they prayed to idols. Moses said, “Because our Heavenly Father has been so good to you, remember to worship only Him. Even though people around you go to a building or to a field where there is an idol and bow down to that statue or that idol, don’t you ever do that. You know the true, living God; talk to Him in prayer and listen to Him talk to you.” (Put down the “idol.”)

“Dear friends of mine,” said Moses, “since the people in the new country do not love God, they do not know the right way to behave. Some of these people will be wearing clothes that you ought not to wear. Some of the ladies will be wearing short dresses or shorts or slacks. Ladies, don’t dress like those women. Some of the people will be using bad language. Do not talk like them. Some of them will be listening to loud, jumpy music that is bad music—rock music. Do not listen to the music that these people listen to. The men will not have the right kind of haircuts; their hair will be over their ears or on their collars. Israelite men, you get the kind of haircuts that are pleasing to God.”

I’m sure that when the Israelites were listening to Moses talk to them, they were deciding how they ought to look, how they ought to talk, to what kind of music they should listen. They were thinking about the good things they could do and how good they could look.

(Pick up your ten pennies.) “Oh, yes,” said Moses, “remember to bring your tithes and your offerings to the Lord. Give back to God part of what He gives to you. Every time you get something, be sure to give part of that back to God.” (Count the pennies that you have. Explain to the children how one out of every ten belongs to Jesus. That is the tithe: one of every ten cents, one dime of every dollar, one dollar of ten dollars belongs to the Lord.)

“Always obey,” Moses told the Israelite people. “Always obey God’s Word.”

Then Moses was finished with his talk to the Israelites. It was a long talk. It took a long time for him to tell them all the rules and the laws of God and to remind them of how good God had been to them. See how long it took: (Hold up your Bible which is open to the book of Deuteronomy and let the children see how many pages there are between the first verse and the last verse of this book).

The people were ready to go into the Promised Land. Moses said, "Joshua will be your leader from now on. Goodbye, everybody. Joshua, you are in charge now." Moses went up into a mountain. God took Moses to Heaven.

Next Sunday we will hear an exciting story of how Joshua took the people into the Promised Land! From our story for today we need to remember, "Always obey God's Word!"

(Repeat with the children the first five books of the Bible. Tell them that the book of Deuteronomy is THE LAW AGAIN.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Deuteronomy 32:46, "...Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day,...to do, all the words of this law."