

DEUTERONOMY

A CHALLENGE TO A NEW GENERATION

GOD'S CHARACTER DEMONSTRATED IN RELATIONSHIPS

BIG IDEA: We can learn about the character of the Lawgiver as we study the Old Testament laws.

DATE: Sunday, July 12, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 22:1-4; 23:21-23; 25:13-16

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever banded together for a cause at work or in your neighborhood? Maybe someone's pet got lost and everyone formed a search party, or a co-worker or neighbor got an illness, and you organized meals or ran a 5K to raise money for cure, etc.? Share about that experience with your group.

SETTING THE STAGE

Deuteronomy 19-26 deals with laws specifically laid out for the Israelites. One of the most challenging parts of studying God's Old Testament Law is knowing how to interpret it as Christians today. Keep in mind the purpose of God's law was to show God's people how they should live as those set apart for Him; it's a call to holiness. Holiness demands separation and distinction in every part of our lives, a principle we can still apply today.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 22:1-4; 23:21-23; 25:13-16 (CSB)

22 "If you see your brother Israelite's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it; make sure you return it to your brother. ²If your brother does not live near you or you don't know him, you are to bring the animal to your home to remain with you until your brother comes looking for it; then you can return it to him. ³Do the same for his donkey, his garment, or anything your brother has lost and you have found. You must not ignore it. ⁴If you see your brother's donkey or ox fallen down on the road, do not ignore it; help him lift it up.

23 "If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to keep it, because he will require it of you, and it will be counted against you as sin. ²² But if you refrain from making a vow, it will not be counted against you as sin. ²³ Be careful to do whatever comes from your lips, because you have freely vowed what you promised to the LORD your God.

25 ¹³“Do not have differing weights in your bag, one heavy and one light. ¹⁴Do not have differing dry measures in your house, a larger and a smaller. ¹⁵You must have a full and honest weight, a full and honest dry measure, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁶For everyone who does such things and acts unfairly is detestable to the LORD your God.

DISCUSSION

RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

READ: Deuteronomy 22:1-4

- While most of us don't own oxen or sheep, how might the principles in this law apply to you today?
- With which of the Ten Commandments is this law associated?
- What did these laws mean for the people of Israel?

“Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:4)

- What do these laws tell you about God?
- What do these laws tell you about loving God and/or loving one's neighbor today?

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

READ: Deuteronomy 23:21-23

- How were the Israelites to regard the promises they made to the Lord?
- With which of the Ten Commandments is this law associated?
- How does honoring our commitments reflect the character of God?

RELATIONSHIPS IN BUSINESS

READ: Deuteronomy 25: 13-16

- With which of the Ten Commandments is this law associated?
- What did these laws mean for the people of Israel?
- What do these laws tell you about God?
- What do these laws tell you about loving God and/or loving one's neighbor today?

RESPONSE

Remember the law reflects the Lawgiver. In keeping the spirit of these laws, we reflect the Lawgiver as well. Think through all your relationships. Ask God to examine your heart to see if you are treating people in all areas of your life justly. What about your relationship with God? Are you keeping your word and obeying His word? Are you set apart?