

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

LESSONS IN OBEDIENCE

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Deuteronomy is the last of the five books God gave through Moses. Its teaching prepared the Israelite people for living in Canaan. Deuteronomy has been called *The Book of Review* or *The Book of Remembrance* because it rehearses: (1) the past history of the people of Israel (chapters 1-4) and (2) God's Law which He had given to the Israelites (chapters 5-26). In addition, Deuteronomy reveals the future of Israel (chapters 27-28). And it includes important teaching for God's people today. (See 1 Corinthians 10:11.)

Over and over, Moses pleads with the people to "hear" the Word of God, "keep" it, and "do" it. Only by knowing God's Word and obeying it could they live successfully in the land which He had promised them. He wanted them to obey because of their love for Him.

Moses gave these instructions and warnings shortly before his death at age 120. People lived longer in those days. So Moses was still strong, vigorous and had good eyesight. (See Deuteronomy 34:7.) Those who were 20 years old or older when they left Egypt (except Joshua and Caleb) had died in the

wilderness for murmuring against God. (See Numbers 14:29.) The younger people needed to be prepared for life in their new land. So they were commanded to "remember" what had happened earlier. (See Deuteronomy 1:1—4:43; 5:15; 6:12; 8:2, 11, 18; 9:7, 24:9; 25:17.) Remembering the faithfulness of God should cause them to love and obey Him. However they needed to be warned that they would be disciplined for disobedience as were their fathers.

In the last lesson of the preceding volume (*Death: The Wages of Sin*, Volume 14), we learned that even the great leader Moses was punished for disobedience. God would not allow him to enter the wonderful land of Canaan. Disobeying the Lord God is serious business! The teachings of the book of Deuteronomy, therefore, demand earnest attention.

As you recall, we closed the last lesson with the account of Moses' death. Our study of Deuteronomy, however, covers the events of the last events of Moses' life. Make this clear to your students.

Scripture to be studied: Deuteronomy 1:1-4:43

The aim of the lesson: To show that God, who is faithful, blesses those who obey Him.

What your students should know: God's correction of His children shows His love for them.

What your students should feel: Eager to obey God and honor Him.

What your students should do: Determine how they will obey God and honor Him during the coming week.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. God's command and His plan (Deuteronomy 1:1-18).
2. The lessons of disobedience and discipline (Deuteronomy 1:19-2:29).
3. The lessons of obedience and victory (Deuteronomy 2:30-3:22).
4. The lesson learned because of dishonoring God (Deuteronomy 3:23-4:24).

The verse to be memorized:

The LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God.

(Deuteronomy 7:9a)

THE LESSON

Have you ever been with others on a hiking and camping trip? Where did you go? How long were you gone? Were all the hikers the same age? Who was the leader? (*Teacher:* encourage discussion.) How would you like to take a hiking-camping trip with thousands of parents, children, babies, goats, sheep, and cattle? (See Exodus 12:37-38.) Suppose the trip lasted more than 2,000 weeks (40 years)?

Deuteronomy, the Bible book which we shall be studying in this series, is the record of that kind of journey. Forty years before Deuteronomy opens, the people of Israel had been in Egypt. There they had lived more than 400 years. (See Exodus 12:40-41.) But God had chosen the Israelites for Himself (Deuteronomy 14:2). And He had chosen the land of Canaan