

TEACHING DEUTERONOMY

Talk outlines for the book of Deuteronomy

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The **Pray Prepare Preach** project is working in partnership with a growing number of organisations worldwide, including: Langham Partnership • Grace Baptist Mission • Pastor Training International (PTI) • Sovereign World Trust • Africa Inland Mission (AIM) • Worldshare • Entrust Foundation • India Bible Literature • African Pastors' Book Fund • Preacher's Help • African Christian Textbooks (ACTS) Nigeria • Orphans for Christ, Uganda • Project Timothy.

Also in this series:

Teaching God's Big Story • Preaching Mark • Preaching Philipians • Preaching Job • Teaching 2 Timothy

Please read this first!

It is a big joy to bring you another PPP book. We pray that this will help you to preach and teach God's word. We want people everywhere to hear God's word clearly. Then people will turn to Jesus. Christians will grow more like Jesus. God will have all the praise.

We give you a lot of help. But you must still work hard! Please do not just copy what you read!

PPP means Pray! Prepare! Preach! This book will help you to speak God's word if you are a preacher, or if you are a teacher of God's word in a school or church.

There is a lot to do before you preach or teach.

PRAY. We cannot change people's hearts. Only God can do that. We cannot make people believe. Only God can do that. We must pray before we prepare. Pray that you will hear God speak to you. We must pray before we speak. Pray that you will speak God's truth clearly. We must pray after we have taught God's word. Pray that your hearers respond to God's word.

PREPARE. It is hard work to prepare a Bible talk. It takes many hours. This book helps you, but it does not do all the work for you! You need to read the passage slowly. You need to study the verses carefully. You need to prepare what you will say to your hearers so that they will be helped.

PREACH. God works in wonderful ways when we teach his word! God's word is like seed that produces fruit in our lives—the fruit of the Spirit. It is an exciting thing to speak God's word. God has promised that his word will do his work.

Here is the best way to use this book. Read the "How to teach and preach" section. Then begin at the start of Deuteronomy. Teach each section in turn. It is a story. It makes most sense when you begin at the start and end at the end!

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" *2 Timothy 3:16-17*.

A. QUICK HELP:

How to prepare a talk on Deuteronomy

1. **Pray for God's help.**



2. ☺ **Read the Bible section several times.**

Use ☺ **Background** and ☺ **Notes** to help you study the Bible verses.



3. **Try to find the main point that God is teaching us in the Bible section.**

Use ⊕ **MAIN POINT** to help you.



4. **Pray for your people. Think how this Bible section will help them.**

Use ⊕ **Something to work on** to help you.



5. **Prepare your talk to give it in your own language. Make notes to help you.**
Keep to the main point.

Use our notes in the **TEACH** section to help you.



6. **Check what you have done.**

- Is the **main point** clear?
- Do you show them what the **Bible** teaches?
- Do you use **word pictures** to help your people understand and remember?
- Do you **connect** with the people?
- What do you hope will **change**?



7. **Pray that God will speak through your words.**
Pray that his truth will change people.

For more help read the next section.

B: How to teach and preach

These pages explain how to teach the Bible. It will help to read them every time you prepare a new sermon or talk.

2 Timothy 2:15 says: “Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth” (New Living Translation).

This verse is about teaching the Bible. Paul tells Timothy it is hard work. Many teachers and preachers only spend a few minutes preparing a message. That is not enough. It needs hard work. Imagine a man builds a wall. He is lazy. He does a bad job and the wall falls down. He will not be asked to build another one!

- *Why is it important to work hard at teaching the Bible?*
- *What will happen if we do not explain the Bible in the right way?*

If we do not explain the Bible, God will be sad. The people will not be helped.

If we do teach the Bible, people will be saved from hell. People will grow in the knowledge of Jesus and become more like Jesus.

Take as much time as you can to prepare a talk or sermon. Preparing a good talk or sermon may take a whole day! Remember to PRAY. Prayer is the first thing to do. Keep praying as you prepare, before you speak, and afterwards.

STUDY, TEACH

For each passage there are two parts:

STUDY—how to understand the passage

TEACH—how to give a sermon or talk from the passage

STUDY

Pray → Background → Read → Notes → Something to work on → Main point

TEACH

Start → 2 or 3 Sub-points → Illustration → Apply → Pray

STUDY

You will see the following headings in the Study section:

Background → Read → Notes → Something to work on → Main point

The Bible is God's word. When we teach the Bible, we must make sure people hear what God says. This means we must be very careful to find the **MAIN POINT** of a passage—because that is what God wants us to say!

When you know the **MAIN POINT**, you will know what God wants you to say. Then you can think how best to apply it to your hearers.

So how do you find the main point? Follow these steps:

1. Pray

Pray for God's help and **keep praying** as you prepare. We need the help of the Holy Spirit for our study and teaching to produce fruit.

2. Background

Think about the **BACKGROUND** to the passage.

What do we mean by **BACKGROUND**? Here is an illustration: Look at the first picture of a plane. What can you say about where the plane is?



Now look at this second picture at the top of the next page. It is the same picture, but now you can see the **background**. What can you say now about where the plane is?

You can see that the plane has landed. It is near a village. The sky is dark and it is a dangerous time to fly, so it must be an important journey.

TEACHING DEUTERONOMY

D: Study and teach the book of Deuteronomy

1

ENTER THE LAND

🕒 **Background**

These verses give the background to the book of Deuteronomy. They say:

- **Who the book is from:** Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the desert for 40 years.
- **Who the book is to:** All the people of Israel, every person, young and old, male and female.
- **What the book is:** Words spoken by Moses (v1), commanded by God (v3).
- **Where the sermon was spoken:** On the other side of the Jordan river, outside the promised land.
- **When the words were spoken:** In the 40th year after leaving Egypt.
- **Why Deuteronomy is needed:** To explain God's law (v5).

🕒 **Read verses 1-8.**

Read the passage 2 or 3 times. Read each verse and explain it to yourself in your own words. This helps you know what the passage is about.

📝 **Notes**

- **Deuteronomy 1:4.** The defeat of Sihon and Og is in Numbers 21:21-26.
- **Deuteronomy 1:5.** "Law." The word for law in Hebrew means "instruction" or "way of living".

- **Deuteronomy 1:7.** The Arabah (NIV) is the lower Jordan valley. The western foothills (Shephelah) are in the middle of the country. See the map on page 18.

🕒 **Something to work on**

Read the promises that God made about the land: to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-7, 15:13-18; to Isaac in Genesis 26:2-5; to Jacob in Genesis 28:12-15. See how this promise was passed on, and still applies to the people of Israel in Deuteronomy.

Think how faith and obedience belong together. The Israelites are to trust God's promise to give them the land. That means they must obey the command to take the land from their enemies. So when we preach to help God's people obey, we must increase their faith in God. If we do not make faith important, then we make Christianity into a religion of laws.

For true Christians, our "promised land" is heavenly (eg: 1 Peter 1:4).

- *How do faith and obedience work together for us? (For example, James 2:14-26.)*

⊕ **MAIN POINT**

God commands his people to enter the land he has promised.

➔ TEACH: Deuteronomy 1:1-8

🕒 Start

- How do you encourage Christians to obey God more?

Moses encourages the people of Israel by keeping the focus on God—and especially God's promises. The people of Israel often failed. Christian encouragement needs to follow God and not people.

Introduction of the book

🕒 Read: *Deuteronomy 1:1-5*

Tell your listeners the background to the book. Explain the key things: Who, to whom, what, where and when from verses 1-5. Then focus on why.

Why did Moses preach this sermon? To encourage the people of Israel to trust God's promises and obey God's law.

The main task

🕒 Read: *Deuteronomy 1:6-8*

God commands the people of Israel to enter the promised land. Verse 7 tells us what is included in the land. Verse 8 tells us that the land was promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That promise was made 600 years before Moses. Yet the promise still stands in Moses' day.

The Israelites will only obey God and enter the land if they trust God's promise to give them the land.

① **Apply:** God promised the Israelites a land on earth. This was a model of the heavenly land that is promised by God for true Christians. Earthly land is not important in the same way for Christians. Christians are on the way to a heavenly land. Do we trust God's promise that he will give believers a heavenly land? How does this promise help you and me to obey God's commands now?

⊕ **Illustration:** Imagine you promise your child a very special present next year. But your child keeps asking for sweets now. You say to your child that he or she must wait for the much greater present next year. You remind them how good the present will be. Let us not be like children, wanting small things now. Let us be good and patient, waiting for the much greater treasure of heaven.

So, when we are tempted to want more money, we must think of the much greater treasure that is in heaven. When we are tempted to live for fun, we must think about the greater joy there will be in heaven.

Ⓢ **Pray:** *Ask God to help you keep your mind on the promise of heaven, so that you will have strength to obey him on earth.*

2

SO MANY ISRAELITES

⊗ **Background**

Moses reminds the people of God's command to enter the promised land. God first made the promise of land to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-7. At that time, it was only Abraham and his wife. Now there are many Israelites descended from Abraham.

So many Israelites means that God is faithful. So many Israelites means Moses needs helpers to judge the people.

☺ **Read verses 9-18.**

Read the passage 2 or 3 times.

☺ **Notes**

- **Deuteronomy 1:10-11.** "Stars in the sky" refers to the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 15:5. Notice in verse 11 the reminder of "as he (God) has promised".
- **Deuteronomy 1:12-18.** Read Exodus 18:13-27 for the background to this. Because God has kept his promise of many people, there is too much work for Moses to do by himself.
- **Deuteronomy 1:13, 16-17.** God's leaders are to treat everybody in the same way. "Partiality" means to treat people in different ways, to show favour to some more than others.

- **Deuteronomy 1:16.** "Alien" (GN: "foreigner"). This means a person from another country but who wants to be a permanent resident in Israel.

☺ **Something to work on**

Read Genesis 15:1-6, 18-21.

- *What two promises are here?*

Deuteronomy 1:10 says Israel is now as numerous as the stars of the sky.

- *Where does that quote come from?*

In Genesis 15, Abraham doubted God's promises, so God assured him. Moses does not want the people of Israel to doubt the promises. God kept the promise of many descendants to Abraham, which means the people can trust God to keep the promise of land also.

Because there are many Israelites, Moses needs helpers to judge the people.

- *What sort of people will they be (v13, 16-17)?*

Read Deuteronomy 10:17-18.

Leaders are to have the same attitude as God. Leaders must not be afraid of the people but do what is right in God's eyes.

⊕ **MAIN POINT**

Trust God. He keeps his promises.

➔ TEACH: Deuteronomy 1:9-18

🕒 **Start**

When people make promises and keep them, then when they make another promise, you are likely to trust them.

- When has that happened for you?

Promises fulfilled in part

🕒 **Read: Deuteronomy 1:10**

In Genesis 12 God promised Abraham many descendants and land. Later, Abraham doubted those promises so God reminded him in Genesis 15. God promised that Abraham's descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky. Abraham changed from doubt to faith.

The people of Israel doubted the promise of land. Because of that they failed to enter the land. Now Moses reminds the people of Israel, as God reminded Abraham. Already the people of Israel are as many as the stars in the sky. So they can be very sure that God will also carry out the promise to give them the land.

- Do you feel you can trust God? How has God shown his faithfulness to his promises to you?

Moses appoints leaders

🕒 **Read: Deuteronomy 1:12-18**

The number of Israelites was so many that Moses needed to choose

leaders to help him. The leaders must be wise and be respected by God's people. They must treat everyone the same way.

So we need to make sure that church leaders are fair and just.

⊕ **Illustration:** Sadly, in many places the church shows unjust and unfair treatment. In some countries, the appointment of a church leader is made only because of the bribes paid to the people who vote. This is not what God wants.

Ⓜ **Apply:** How do we make sure we treat everyone the same? This is very hard when relatives and rich people expect to be first, and get angry when they do not get their own way. Do people who give money to the church become the leaders? How can we choose leaders so that our leaders are wise, understanding, fair and just?

Verse 17 says do not be afraid of people. Sometimes we are too afraid of what other people will think or do. We must make decisions that are right in God's eyes.

🙏 **Pray:** Ask God to help us trust his promises. Ask God to help us always to be just and fair in our leadership and to choose the right leaders.