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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Obedient Faith Deuteronomy 4:1-8, 12-13

Lesson Background and Introduction

The book of Deuteronomy is an anthology of Moses' sermons meant to remind the next generation of their history with God and what God expected of them. Moses alternated between narrative passages and exhortations that outline how Israel should respond to God in light of His faithfulness. One of the devices that Moses uses in his sermons is borrowing from the legal language of "suzerainty treaties." In the ancient Near East, a king would enter into a covenant (treaty) with his people by first outlining examples of his greatness. The king would then outline the terms of the treaty. He would offer the people his continuing protection and just rule. In return, the people would offer their loyalty, which was expressed through their obedience to the king's laws. Moses uses these treaties to teach Israel about the type of covenant loyalty God wanted with Israel. In Deuteronomy 1, Moses picked up Israel's history at a point of catastrophic failure: Israel refused to trust God and take the land, despite God's faithfulness to deliver them from Egypt. Moses then recounted the wilderness years, in which God's people wandered the desert until the disobedient generation passed away. He transitioned from recounting Israel's history (Deuteronomy 1-3) into an exhortation regarding the importance of Israel's keeping the terms of God's covenant (chapter 4). It's against the backdrop of Israel's continual struggle to trust God that Moses charges them to obey the covenant.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Preparing to Go into Canaan - Moses prepared the new generation to enter the Promised Land by first reminding them several times of their complaining, rebelliousness parents. If they remembered the past mistakes of their parents, they could have a different response to God, one of worshipping Him, recognizing His holiness, laws, and decisions. Then He would empower them to completely push out the present inhabitants of the land, no matter how powerful they were. The victory of God's nation depended on their obedience, hearing the Father's instructions, and carrying out what He said with precise accuracy.

Do Not Change the Law - Add nothing to God's law, Moses warned, nor take anything from it. Keep the commandments as they were written by the very finger of God. Moses strongly prohibited any form of idolatry. Remember Baal Peor, he said, where the Hebrew children began to worship a false god. This perversion led to fornication with the women in Moab. God destroyed 24,000 people because of that transgression (Num. 25:3-4). Similar devastation would take place if this generation followed suit. God's desired obedience for His people. This kind of holy reverence would force even the heathen nations to say that the God of Israel is indeed Lord over all.

Obedience Brings a Good Life - Moses recalled Mt. Sinai when God made a covenant with His people. When they followed His laws, they would enjoy a spiritually healthy life. For this nation, it also meant a promise of a long joyful life in the Promised Land.

Obedience Demonstrates God's Splendor - When Christians bring their daily activities and behaviors in line with biblical principles, they begin to mirror their Maker. Christians who do as God says, allowing the Holy Spirit to take control, make God shine. This is the lesson Moses attempted to relay to the Hebrew children, and it's still God's important message for His Church today.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Success is knowing and loving God

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear Lord, may I commit each day to standing on the unchanging truth of Your Word and to growing in my relationship with You, the only measure of success in this life and in eternity

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches
(Ps 119:14 NIV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 05, 2015)

**Series: Responding to
God's Grace**

**UNIT: Responses to God's
Faithfulness**

NEXT WEEK

Active Faith

(1 Kings 17:8-16)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Obedient Faith Brings Life (Deut 4:1-4)

Life through listening to God (1)

- Listening to the Word of God (1 Sam 3:8-10)
- Listening to know God (1 John 4:6)
- Listening to hear what God wants to tell us (Acts 10:30-33)
- Listening to aid in obedience (James 1:22)
- Listening to hear our destiny (1 Cor 2:7)
- Listening because there is a blessing (Prov 8:33-34)
- Listening to gain wisdom (Prov 19:20)

Life through seeing what God has done (2-3)

- Seeing to proclaim what God has done (Exodus 3:15)
- Seeing to accept what God has done (Josh 24:14-22)
- Seeing what God has done brings boldness (Phil 1:12-14)
- Seeing to understand what God has given (1 Cor 2:12)
- Seeing to not forget what God has done (Ps 106:12-13)
- Seeing to witness about what God has done (Ps 66:16)

Life through obedience to God (4)

- Obedience that delights God (1 Sam 15:22)
- Obedience that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)
- Obedience that leads to the praise of God by others (2 Cor 9:13)
- Obedience that keeps us remaining in God's love (John 15:10)
- Obedience that leads to the reward of blessings (Deut 28:1-6)
- Obedience that brings the reward of freedom (James 1:25)

Obedient Faith Brings Wisdom (Deut 4:5-7)

Wisdom through living God's Word (5)

- Living God's Word because it equips for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Living God's Word because it is trustworthy and true (2 Peter 3:5-7)
- Living God's Word because it has the power of God in it (Rom 1:16-17)
- Living God's Word because it is the sword of the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:17)
- Living God's Word because it is living and enduring (1 Peter 1:23)
- Living God's Word because it revives the soul (Ps 19:7)

Wisdom through being an example (6)

- Be an example of godly speech, life, love and purity (1 Tim 4:12)
- Be an example of following the example of Jesus (1 Cor 11:1)
- Be an example of God's patience and grace (1 Tim 1:16)
- Be an example by doing good (Titus 2:7-8)
- Be an example of perseverance in trials and persecutions (2 Thess 1:4)

Wisdom through being near to God (7)

- Near to God to be cleansed (James 4:8)
- Near to God for assurance (Heb 10:22)
- Near to God with committed hearts (Matt 15:6-9)
- Near to God by Jesus' blood (Eph 2:13)
- Near to God because we have called on Him (Ps 145:18)

Obedient Faith Brings Power (Deut 4:8, 12-13)

Power as an obedient nation (8)

- A nation that has God near it (Deut 4:7-8)
- A nation that has been entrusted with the word of God (Rom 3:1-4)
- A nation that is filled with God's people (2 Cor 6:16)
- A nation that is looking for a heavenly country (Heb 11:13-16)
- A nation that has been declared holy because of God's mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Power of God's Word (12)

- Power to revive the soul (Ps 19:7-8)
- Power to keep one's life pure (Ps 119:9-11)
- Power to save the believers (Rom 1:16)
- Power as the sword of the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:17)
- Power to provide hope (Rom 15:4)

Power through God's covenants (13)

- A covenant through God's promises (Acts 2:39)
- A covenant through the death and bloodshed of Jesus (Heb 9:16-19)
- A covenant through the indwelling Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)
- A covenant that is put into man's heart (Heb 10:16)
- A covenant that made peace between God and man (Eph 2:11-13)
- A covenant that supplies an endless life (Heb 7:11-16)