



Covenant Relationship

Session 11 • Deuteronomy 28:1-6,15-19



ENGAGE

PREPARE: On a focal wall, display **Pack Item 2** (Poster: *Outlines of Numbers, Deuteronomy*) and **Pack Item 6** (Poster: *Ancient Covenant Structure*).

INTRODUCE: Guide adults to read the opening paragraph on page 93.

ASK: What wise “messages” did your parents repeat to you over and over again? What impact did hearing those words have on you? (p. 93) Record responses on the board.

DISCUSS: Review the list and encourage adults who are parents to share how many of these messages they have repeated to their children. Encourage them to share additional messages they share regularly with family members. Lead a brief discussion on why passing down wisdom from one generation to the next is so important. Suggest that this can be seen as an act of love based on a parent’s desire to see the best for their children.

EXPLAIN: Reference **Pack Item 2** (Poster: *Outlines of Numbers, Deuteronomy*) and mention that Deuteronomy contains Moses’s messages to the Israelites before they entered the promised land. Moses’s first

message (1:1–4:49) recalled their history as they traveled from Mount Sinai to their then-current location on the Plains of Moab, east of the Jordan River and across from Jericho. His second message (5:1–26:19) reviewed the Ten Commandments and how to apply them in the promised land. This week’s Bible study passage is part of the third address of Moses to the Israelites. Point out that while some of the content may seem repetitive, each new generation of Israelites benefited from the continual reminders of their covenant obligations to the Lord.

TRANSITION: *Today, as we study these verses from Deuteronomy 28, reflect on the blessings of faithfulness and obedience to God. At the same time, examine your life in light of the consequences God promised to those who rebel against His commands.*

EXPLORE THE TEXT

READ: Invite a volunteer to read aloud **Deuteronomy 28:1-6** as adults listen for the blessings promised by God.

LIST: Create two columns on the board: *Blessings* and *Curses*. Guide adults to call out the blessings from verses 1-6 and write their responses on the board. Examples include:

- Verse 3: Israel would be blessed in all areas.
- Verse 4: Children, agriculture, and livestock would multiply.
- Verse 5: God would meet the families' most basic needs.
- Verse 6: God's people would be blessed in all respects.

DEFINE: Ask adults their definition of the word “blessed.” Add to the discussion with this content:

- **(28:2)** Moses's words were not some promise of prosperity theology. The blessings he described did in fact apply to many different aspects of life, but God's blessing far exceeded material things. The Lord would honor the people's covenant relationship with Him, a personal relationship established through faith and obedience.

ASK: How do these promised blessings differ from the prosperity theology that is commonly taught and preached today? (p. 95)

TRANSITION: Using **Pack Item 6** (*Poster: Ancient Covenant Structure*), guide adults to identify elements of the covenant in Deuteronomy 28:1-6. Explain that the next section parallels this passage.

READ: Read aloud Deuteronomy 28:15-19 and encourage adults to listen for elements of God's covenant.

SAY: *The list of prescribed disasters and miseries (vv. 15-68) is longer than the list of blessings for obedience (vv. 1-14). This was common in ancient agreements. Evidently, negative reinforcement was more effective in eliciting compliance than promised future rewards.* (p. 98)

COMPARE: Complete the list on the board by asking adults to call out curses mentioned in Deuteronomy 28:16-19. Record their responses in the “Curses” column. Discuss the similarities between the blessings and curses. Emphasize that obedience and disobedience are what make the difference.

- **(28:15)** Previously, Moses had highlighted the curses God would bring upon the people if they disobeyed His commands (Lev. 26:14-39). He now restated them because he wanted the Israelites to have both the blessings and the curses fresh in their minds as they entered the promised land. The topics in verses 15-19 closely parallel verses 1-6. However, Israel would experience God's curses instead of His blessings if the people were not “carefully following” God's ways.

ASK: What do these curses say about God's nature and character? (p. 95)

BIBLE SKILL: Direct adults to read and reflect on the **Bible Skill** activity on page 95.

- **Read and reflect on a Bible Passage:**
Read Deuteronomy 28:1-6. Try to imagine a life where every aspect of it experienced God's blessing. *What would that look like in your life? How and where would God's blessing manifest itself?* Now read

verses 15-19 and try to imagine life totally apart from God's blessing. *How might the thought of such an awful alternative motivate people to live faithfully by God's commands?* God wanted to see His people demonstrate their faith in Him through obedience to His commands. *How does James describe that concept (Jas. 2:18)?*

SAY: *God set before His people blessings and curses, and Moses encouraged them to choose God's blessings. Living according to God's commands leads to life as God designed it, and His people experience joy. Conversely, disobeying God's commands brings humiliation and disaster.*

DISCUSS: Lead adults in a brief discussion about the potential of a life filled with God's blessings and a life devoid of His blessings.

CHALLENGE

SUMMARIZE: Review the following statements from this week's Bible passage:

- Believers should enjoy the blessing that comes from following God's commands.
- Choosing to disregard God's commands leads to humiliation.

REFLECT: Lead adults to evaluate the statements and select the one they believe is easiest to explain to a child. Encourage them to consider writing their thoughts in a journal as they review these verses and application points during the week.

DISCUSS: Direct adults to review the **Apply the Text** questions on page 95. Lead them to make plans to be a conduit of God's blessing

to someone in the coming week. Suggest they review their motivations for good works using the **Apply the Text** question on page 99 during their prayer times this week.

CHALLENGE: Remind adults to use the **Daily Exploration** on pages 97-99 to dig deeper into God's Word during the week.

PRAY: The **Explore the Bible Prayer Guide** provides weekly prayer prompts based on this quarter's Bible passages. Encourage adults to scan the QR code on page 15. Be prepared to lead a prayer based on Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19 using the prompts in the prayer guide.

AFTER THE SESSION

Send the group an email or text to remind them of the plans they made to seek to be a conduit of God's blessing to someone this week. Challenge them to view these plans as a way to bring glory to God—not to themselves. Encourage them to continue expressing gratitude for the things He has done and is doing in their lives.