



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for August 30, 2009
Released on Wednesday, August 26, 2009

"Choose Life!"

Lesson Text: Deuteronomy 30:1-10

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 30

Memory Verse: "The Lord thy God will [change] thine heart. . . to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live" (Deuteronomy 30:6).

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee,

2 And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

3 That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee.

4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

5 And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

6 And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

7 And the Lord thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day.

9 And the Lord thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the Lord will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children that when we turn to God, He puts His Spirit in us. This enables us to love and obey Him.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God promised blessing when His people obeyed and punishment when they disobeyed.

2. God promised to hear them when they turned to Him even when they were in a time of punishment.

3. God promised that someday He would put His Spirit in us to give us new hearts that love to obey Him. He has done that to believers in Christ.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, bring a sticker or other small item you can hide in the palm of your hand.

For Helping to Remember, bring paper and crayons.

For the Lesson Activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: about 1406 B.C.

Place: Plains of Moab, probably at Shittim

In this week's lesson we find God's promise that no matter where we are or what consequence of sin has fallen upon us, when we turn to Him with all our heart, He will turn to us and restore us.

God had promised blessing if His people continued in obedience but trouble of many kinds if they forgot His ways. If they forgot Him, He would even remove them from their land.

At the beginning of this lesson, we read that God was foreseeing the time when His people would be scattered to many other lands because of their disobedience. Yet even in those places, when they remembered God and turned to Him, He would hear and restore them.

God was looking forward to a time when He would change their hearts. Then at last they would be able to love the Lord in the way He deserves and desires. This time arrived when God put His Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers.

God called on His people to choose life, and this life is bound up in Him. When we choose God, we are choosing eternal life.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Let us play a game. This game is called "Choose." (Hold out both hands, fingers closed. The small item should be hidden in one hand.) Who would like to choose one of my hands? (If the child chooses the hand containing the gift, he gets to keep it.) In this game you have to choose a hand without seeing what is in it. In today's lesson we will see how God asked the people to choose, but He showed them clearly what the right way was.

TELLING THE LESSON:

God's people were gathered together, ready to go into the Promised Land. Moses had reminded them of all God's rules and how important it was to obey them. God had shown them many blessings that would come to them if they kept obeying and many troubles that would come to them if they stopped obeying. God had said that if they stopped obeying, He would even take them out of their land and scatter them to many different places.

God is so good! Even if He punished them in that way, He still loved them. He promised that even if they were sent to some other place, if they remembered Him and turned back to Him with their whole hearts, He would hear them.

God knew that they would disobey and that someday He would have to send their children away to other lands. But even then, when they turned back to God, He would bring them back to their own land once again.

God promised that one day He would change their hearts. He would give them new hearts that loved to obey His Word. He would bless them once again in all they did. God was reminding His people to choose Him. Then He would give them great blessing.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

When we turn to God and believe in His Son Jesus, we receive eternal life. God puts His Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit gives us a new heart that wants to please God. Sometimes we forget what is right, or we just choose to do things that are wrong. When we remember, we should come back to God. We should tell Him how sorry we are. He will forgive us when we admit our sin.

When we believers hear a small voice within us - that is the Holy Spirit reminding us what pleases God. We can always say no to wrong and yes to God because His Holy Spirit lives in us.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Give the children paper and crayons, and let them draw pictures of children choosing God's way. Let each child explain his or her drawing to the group if he or she wishes.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord thy God will [change] thine heart. . . to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live" (Deuteronomy 30:6)
God showed Moses that someday He would change people's hearts. Someday He would give His people hearts that loved Him and wanted to obey. Someday He would give them hearts that loved to choose the way of life.

The people who heard Moses did not know when that time would come. Today we know that it happened after Jesus, God's Son, went back to heaven. He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives new life and a new heart. Our new heart loves to obey God.

Now, when someone receives Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes in. That new believer finds that his heart has changed. He finds that he wants to obey God and honor Him. He has a whole new life. The "wanter" inside him starts wanting to do right. This is the work of God's Holy Spirit.

If you have not yet trusted Jesus as your Saviour but feel that you want to, that is the Holy Spirit already at work. He is helping you realize you need to have Jesus be your Saviour from sin. Do not ignore that work the Spirit is doing.

CONCLUSION:

In the New Testament, Jesus said that He came that we might have life – not just any kind of life, but “abundant life”. The promise of life the way God intended it lies at the heart of this week’s lesson. The call of God to His people is to see how wonderful and precious life as His child can be and to choose that life. The Lord promises life to those who will trust in Him and love Him with their entire being.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for being the Giver of life. Help us to love and obey You and to choose the life that You have promised us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

The next lesson begins a new quarterly theme of “Covenant Communities” and looks at leaders in these covenant communities. Next week’s lesson looks at **Joshua**, who led the people of Israel after Moses’ death. Study Joshua 1:1-18.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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WORD SEARCH:

“Choose Life!” (Deuteronomy 30:1-10)

Find these keywords from the lesson:

NATIONS

HEART

GATHER

SOUL

GOOD

CHOOSE

RETURN

BLESSING

LIFE

SCATTERED

ENEMIES

LOVE

OBEDIENCE

MULTIPLY

COMMANDMENTS

REJOICE

R U I L C H O E R A L M S C A T T E R E D U R
U I O S E M C O M M A N D M E N T S N D R E C
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R T A Y H I L E C O E B O O N N D S S E E N R
O E O U T Y V M A T M R C S O R E G L S T C I

Solution to Word Search:

“Choose Life!” (Deuteronomy 30:1-10)

S C A T T E R E D
C O M M A N D M E N T S
E E
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C I G R M L
I F N A I P C
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R A B D O O G
N R E H T A G S O U L

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers