

# YOBL

## Year of Biblical Literacy

# Week 8: Wilderness Finale Part 1: Remember

## Daily Reading for Week

- Numbers 25-27, Psalm 48
- Numbers 28-30, Psalm 49
- Numbers 31-32, Psalm 50
- Numbers 33-34, Psalm 51
- Numbers 35-36, Psalm 52
- Deuteronomy 1-3, Psalm 53
- Deuteronomy 4-6, Psalm 54
- Video: Deuteronomy

## Focus of time together

To hear and remember what Israel's God has done, what sets YHWH apart from other gods, and to reflect on the ways Israel and we are tempted to forget.

## Connecting Exercise (10 minutes)

Share one moment from your day where you felt God with you. If you did not experience such a moment simply say "I did not feel God with me today."

## Opening Prayer

Read Psalm 105 together as your opening prayer.

## Intro to Discussion

The book of Numbers ends with Israel waiting to cross the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. Instead of a two-week journey they have wandered for 40 years in the wilderness between Mt. Sinai and the Promised Land because of their disobedience and hard hearts. But now it is time for the next generation to enter the land. The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' final address to this new generation. He urges and encourages them to remember God who rescued their parents from Egypt and has been infinitely patient with them. Later in the book he will recount different parts of the Law God gave them on Mt. Sinai. Here in the opening chapters he recalls just what it is that God has done for them. He rescued them out of slavery. His presence led them

through the wilderness. He gave them guidelines for how to live. He again and again showed patience and steadfast love for a people who constantly rebelled. Remember this, says Moses. Remember who God is. He alone did all of these things. Do not be tempted to chase after and worship other, lesser gods. They did not rescue you, they did not feed you when you were hungry, they did not protect and provide for you. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

## **Whole Group Discussion (60 minutes)**

### **Questions for Basic Understanding**

*These questions are to help us interpret and understand the text as it was intended to be interpreted and understood.*

1. Have someone sum up in a sentence or two the final chapters of Numbers so we can understand the context of the beginning of Deuteronomy.
2. What do you think Moses’ motivation is for giving Israel these final speeches?

### **Questions for Listening to Scripture**

*These questions are to help us be affected by Scripture in the way it was intended to affect us*

1. Remember that Deuteronomy is Moses recapping the past 40 years since the Exodus to the now grown up children of Israel. Imagine you are listening to Moses give this final address. All you have known is life wandering in the wilderness. You have heard stories from your parents of what God has done for your people, you have heard the Law. What is Moses trying to remind you and the rest of Israel of?
2. What would your reaction be to hearing Moses’ final address, encouragements and reprimands?

### **Questions for Interacting with Scripture**

*These questions are to help us slow down to taste and notice Scripture, savour its richness and meditate on the complexity of its meaning.*

- Read Deuteronomy 6 again. Are there any words or phrases that stand out to you? What is Moses’ tone as he speaks to Israel?

### **Questions for Self Examination**

*These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.*

In light of the theme of remembering in this passage, take a minute or two in silent reflection and remember moments of God’s faithfulness in your own journey/story. If it is helpful to write these down feel free to do so. If you can’t point to places where it feels like God has been faithful be honest and write that down.

## **Questions for Small Group Discussion (20 minutes)**

1. Share with your small group what the Holy Spirit brought to mind when you reflected on the ways God has faithfully been with you in your journey.
2. Take an honest look at your life. In what ways are you tempted to diminish the faithfulness of God? Are there times that you have experienced having forgotten God's faithfulness?

## **Closing Time of Prayer (10 minutes)**

Close your time together by praying prayers of gratitude for the ways God has been with you throughout your story.