

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 9: Remember, Don't Forget! - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. God chose Abraham (Deuteronomy 7:7-9) and his descendants (the nation of Israel) to be His people for several reasons.

- The main reason was they would be the people through whom Jesus Christ, the Messiah of all mankind (John 3:16), would come. The idea of a forthcoming Savior from Israel is present throughout all of Scripture. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God has desired to be reconciled back to His creation. His choice for doing so would be through a God-man which would be born out of Israel.
- God chose Israel to be a reflection of His mercy, goodness and righteousness to all other nations. Israel was to be a nation of priests, prophets, and missionaries to the world. God's intent was for Israel to be a distinct people who lived differently in every aspect of life. They were a nation that was expected to point others towards God. The same concept applies to Christians today.

2. Israel was made to wander in the desert 40 years because of their lack of faith when told to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:33-34). The 40 years of wandering in the desert was to humble them and test their hearts for total commitment to and reliance upon Him. It was so they would trust that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord (8:1-10).

Today, when a person surrenders their life to Christ they are filled with the Holy Spirit. It is this Spirit of God that begins a process of "cleaning out" the previous life of rebellion and sin. This process is called sanctification and, like the wandering in the desert, humbles the new believer, strengthens their faith and makes them more Christlike. Sin decreases, faith in God increases, and love for God and others blossoms during this process.

3. The Biblical concept of personal wealth is that it comes from God (Deuteronomy 8:16-18). He is the one that gives His people the power to make wealth. Wealth is a combination of works and the will of God. As someone once said, "God can't steer a ship that's not moving." Man's role is to work hard, trust God and obey His commandments. The results are solely in the hands of God. In addition, Job said naked he came into the world and naked he'll depart. So, wealth is not our mission on earth, for we are mere stewards of God's possessions. It's a benefit if God wills it.

4. Analogous to salvation, you and your works of righteousness have no role to play in your being saved by Christ. It is 100% up to Christ to call you and redeem you. Similar to Ephesians 2:8, your salvation is a gift of grace provided by God alone combined with your faith in what Christ did on the cross. Grace is not a new concept introduced in the New Testament, but was prevalent in the Old Testament as well.

5. Like the Shema, if the Israelites love God with all their might they will receive His provision, protection and blessings. Specifically, if they fear God by walking in His ways, loving Him and worshipping Him with all their heart and soul, they would experience the blessings of God.

6. We often forget that little children have yet to experience the love, forgiveness and mercy of Almighty God. In accordance to Jesus' Great Commandment in Matthew 28, we are to demonstrate God's attributes to them so that they, too, may experience God's love. The same held true for the people of Israel as they entered the Promised

Land. If people aren't told the Gospel how will they be saved? If they are not shown the Gospel in someone's life how will they know what the Gospel looks like?

7. The “name” is used to represent the ambience, attributes and essence of Almighty God. Verses 12:11 and 14:23 say that He will choose the place to have His name dwell. That is, the place where His people will demonstrate His love, forgiveness, provisions, protections and more. God's name is a representation and personification of who He is.

8. Moses foresees future generations calling a king and instructs the people to read these writings (the Torah) daily so that they fear the Lord and obey the commands and statutes written. He understood that the people of a nation are a reflection of the attitudes and actions of their king. It is no different today. Combining the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and reading God's Word on a daily basis will transform your life (Romans 12:2; Hebrews 4:12). It has been said the you cannot do the will of the Father without the mind of Christ. For believers to walk in the light of Christ daily, Bible reading is imperative.

9. Like yeast, a little leaven leavens the whole loaf. It doesn't take much to influence people to walk away from the principles of following God. The Israelites were a holy people (Deuteronomy 14:2), therefore it was imperative they remove any evil from among them. Likewise, today we must exercise Matthew 18 (often called church discipline) to purify the church.

10. The New Testament writers knew that Moses had prophesied about the coming Messiah. Recall John 1:21, 45; 5:46; 7:40. Although Moses did not know His name, he was told by God to write about Him. This is one of many Old Testament scriptures that point to Jesus. What makes this scripture so interesting is that it written by Moses over 1400 years prior to Christ coming.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary according to personal experiences. A steward “manages” assets, whereby an owner “owns” the assets.

2. Answers will vary according to personal experiences.

3. Church discipline is a very difficult process to implement. Matthew 18:15-20 outlines the steps to address known sin in a church body. Although the church is considered a hospital for sinners, once a person has surrendered their life to Christ and become a member of a church they are expected to “act” like believers and rid the sin of their previous life. The three steps of reconciliation overflow with mercy towards the offender. The church discipline process should be covered in brotherly love throughout all the steps. The ultimate purpose of addressing sin in a member's life is to get them to realize their condition, repent and be restored back into the fold of the church.

Unfortunately, church discipline does not always have happy results. Usually pride bubbles to the service and the offender refuses to acknowledge their sin. When that is done they simple must be removed from the body like leaven is removed from bread.

