



# God Requires Obedience

*Deuteronomy 4*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will see that God requires obedience from His people.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Summarize Moses' instructions to the people.
- Explain how Israel's obedience brought glory to God.
- Identify how Israel was different from every other nation.
- Describe what influence Israel's behavior may have had on the surrounding nations.

## KEY VERSE

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you" (Deuteronomy 4:1).

## APPLICATION

- Obey God's commands to bring Him glory.
- Demonstrate God's uniqueness by the way you treat others.
- Identify any idols in your life (things that you place above God).
- Thank God for His laws, which guide your life.

## NEXT WEEK

God Calls Israel to Love through Obedience  
Read Deuteronomy 6.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Application

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Three ways students need to apply this passage are*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Materials Needed

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## POINT

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIM

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

### Presentation Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Praise/Music Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

In Deuteronomy 4 we find the children of Israel in the land of Moab (Deut. 1:5). Forty years of wandering in the wilderness had passed because of their disobedience to God’s commands (1:3). God had told them to go in and take the land, but they did not obey (1:19–33). At this point, 40 years later, Moses stopped to expound God’s law to them. He began to prepare Israel to take possession of the land.

Moses reminded the people of the great things that God had done in the past. He reminded them of how their parents had disbelieved God and refused to go in and take the land. They had rebelled against the command of the Lord and grumbled, accusing God of bringing them to the land of Canaan to be killed. They did not trust God, and because of this, they were sent into the wilderness to wander (Deut. 1:34–46).

Next, Moses reminded Israel of God’s past victories. He had delivered King Og of Bashan and all his people into their hands. The Israelites took all their cities and their spoil, just as they had done to Sihon, king of Heshbon (Deut. 3:6; Num. 21:33–35). Not one man, woman, or child remained alive. Moses reminded the Israelites that these kings were remnants of the giants, the Rephaim (Deut. 3:11). Moses reminded Joshua, “Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass” (3:21). Moses exhorted the people, saying, “You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you” (3:22). Those encouraging words should have excited Israel to obedience and faith.

The land that they were about to cross into had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob long ago. In Deuteronomy 4, Israel again was very close to entering the land and fulfilling God’s promise.

The rebellious generation had all died out, and Moses was preparing this new generation to enter and take possession of the land. After reminding the Israelites of God’s past acts and future promises, Moses made a plea for their obedience. He charged them to obey and gave them reasons to do so. The entire book of Deuteronomy is a plea for Israel to not forget Yahweh and to obey His commands. This book is about being a doer of the Word and not just a hearer.

In chapter 4, Moses called Israel to obey and gave four reasons to do so. Verses 1–4 state that God’s blessing on their lives was dependent on their obedience. Moses instructed the Israelites to “listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you” (4:1). Following God’s law exactly as it was given to them was the condition for future blessings in the land. The incident involving Baal of Peor was an example of the effect of disobedience. Those in the camp who did not obey were killed, but those who “held fast to the LORD” (4:4) were allowed to live.

### Additional Reference Materials

*The Message of  
Deuteronomy* by  
Raymond Brown

*The MacArthur Study  
Bible* by John MacArthur

*The New American  
Commentary* by  
Eugene H. Merrill

Second, Israel was called to obey because they were God's nation (Deut. 4:7). They were called to be different, which would demonstrate the truth of God's existence and His presence in their lives. The other nations would see that Israel knew how to take God's wisdom and apply it to their lives (4:6). They would see that the Israelites were wise by how they responded to life situations. God's faithfulness also was evident in their lives by the way they were blessed in their obedience. This would cause people to ask, "What great nation is there that has God so near to it?" (4:7). Their law also would make them stand out as a nation set apart from the surrounding peoples (4:8). God's laws demonstrate His character and what He expects of His people.

The third motivation for obedience was to avoid idolatry. Israel had struggled with idols in the past and would continue to struggle in the future. The extent of Israel's tendency and the seriousness of the warning explain the amount of text dedicated to avoiding idolatry.

Verses 9–31 contain warnings to beware of straying from God, a picture of the seriousness of God's holiness, a reminder of His mercy in bringing them out of Egypt, and a warning against idolatry. Idolatry is also referred to back in verses 3–4, when the Israelites forsook God and played the harlot with the false god Baal of Peor (Num. 25:1–9). They committed gross immorality, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against them. Some 24,000 people died before the plague was ended by the zealous act of Phinehas (Num. 25:9). Moses reminded the Israelites that they were eyewitnesses of the wrath of God against such disobedience. This also was used as a motivation to obey.

The fourth motivation for obedience was God's uniqueness (4:32–39). No other nation had ever been chosen by God to be blessed, tried, provided for, and instructed. God is unique because He alone is God. There is no other God. God is the one and only ruler of all that exists, and this alone is reason enough to obey Him. God chose to love Israel and to bring them through the things they experienced to demonstrate His unique love for and election of them.

God was preparing His people to enter the Promised Land. The only way they would experience His blessing was through their obedience.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"*  
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Moving Game

In this lesson, the students will be learning about motivation. To motivate means to cause someone to act. Moses gave Israel reasons to cause them to act the way God commanded—to obey Him. Use these simple games to practice the force of motivation. Have the students roll a ball, balloon, marble, or feather across the room with their feet, nose, breath, or fingers.



### Obedience, Part One

When your parents tell you to do something, it is for your own good. What are some things that your parents tell you to do? (For example: eat vegetables, take a

bath, do not run into the street.) Why do your parents tell you these things? Is it so that you won't have fun? No; your parents love you and want what is best for you. God also gives instructions that are for our good. In today's lesson, Israel will be reminded to obey God. If they remain obedient, God will bless them in the Promised Land. We will find out what Moses says to Israel in today's lesson.



### Following Directions

How many of you have baked a cake? There are a lot of ingredients that go into making a cake. Does each ingredient taste good by itself? No. If you were to eat salt, vanilla extract, oil, and other ingredients, they probably would make you feel sick, but if you don't put them into a cake, it will not taste the way it should. Obedience does not always make sense. Sometimes we are asked to do things, and we do not know why we are doing them. Why should we not touch the stove or jump down the stairs? We have to be obedient and follow all the directions that God and our parents give us. In the end, we will see that it was for our good.



### What Is God Famous For?

Have you ever seen a famous person? What are some things that people are famous for? Some are famous for movies, some are famous for sports, some are famous for their leadership, and others are famous for their money. What is God famous for? In today's lesson, we will see that God is famous because of the obedience of His people. The surrounding nations knew who God was because of how Israel acted. Let us read Deuteronomy 4 to find out how Israel was told to behave.



### Going to the Promised Land

Divide the class into four teams. Use the review questions from the beginning of each Genesis–Numbers lesson to review the events leading up to Israel's journey to the Promised Land. Ask questions of various students on each team. Each time a student answers a question correctly, circle a letter in his team's word OBEY. The first team to have all four letters circled has made it to the Promised Land and wins the game. Play several times to allow other teams to reach the Promised Land as you review the first four books of the Pentateuch. At the end of the game, emphasize that obedience was required for the Israelites to reach the Promised Land.

Write the following diagram on the board to keep score as you play:

Team 1:	O	B	E	Y
Team 2:	O	B	E	Y
Team 3:	O	B	E	Y
Team 4:	O	B	E	Y



## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

#### Reading of the Text

Read Deuteronomy 4.

#### Introduction

Today, we will be with Moses and the Israelites as they are camped across the Jordan River from Jericho on the plains of Moab. By reading Deuteronomy 4, we will hear the words Moses spoke as God was preparing His people to take possession of the Promised Land. We will learn about what God required from His people. Moses pleaded with the people of Israel to be obedient. If the people would only obey, God promised blessing upon them all the days of their lives. If they did not obey, He promised destruction.

Moses is speaking to the people after they had been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. God caused them to wander because they refused to be obedient to what He required of His people. Let us open our Bibles together to Deuteronomy 4 and see what God wanted His people to do.



#### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** What did Moses command Israel to do as he spoke?

**Answer:** Moses commanded Israel to listen very closely and obey the words he was going to say.

**LOQ:** What was it that Moses wanted them to hear?

**Answer:** Moses wanted the people to hear the rules and regulations that God had given. These were the words of God. Moses did not want the people to listen to his words or his opinions, but to the words of God.

**LOQ:** Why was Moses teaching them the words of God?

**Answer:** So the Israelites would do what God wanted them to do.

**LOQ:** What would be the result of Israel’s obedience?

**Answer:** They would live, and they would be blessed in the land that God had promised to their fathers.

**LOQ:** Who was Baal of Peor?

**Answer:** A false god that Israel worshiped in Numbers 25:1–9. This act of idolatry caused Yahweh, the true and living God, to be very angry toward the

people of Israel. His punishment for their sin was very severe: 24,000 people died in one day from a plague that He sent.

**LOQ:** What did Moses mean when he said the people had “held fast” to the Lord?

**Answer:** Moses was saying that the people were single-minded in their devotion and commitment to God. They were faithful to listen and obey the Word of God. Those who had been unfaithful to God and worshiped false gods were destroyed.

**LOQ:** Israel was blessed with physical things for their obedience. What were some of those blessings?

**Answer:** To live in and possess the land.

**LOQ:** How does God bless obedience today?

**Answer:** When believers are obedient today, God blesses them with fellowship with Him, spiritual rewards in heaven, etc.

**LOQ:** What is the second reason that Israel was to obey?

**Answer:** Israel was to obey to demonstrate their uniqueness as God’s people. How many other nations were like Israel? None. They were God’s chosen nation. Their reaction to and careful observation of God’s laws, along with their fellowship with God, made them far different than any other nation.

**LOQ:** What made the relationship between God and Israel so different?

**Answer:** God had chosen Israel as His special nation. God was present with Israel, and that was seen by the surrounding nations. The people of Israel could call on the living God at any time.

**LOQ:** What is idolatry?

**Answer:** At that time, idolatry often was taking a stone or a log and carving it into a figure. People would then worship the figure and call it god. Idolatry is placing anything above God. It could be spending too much time watching television, or even making a person more important than God. When something or someone takes our time away from God, it has become an idol.

**LOQ:** What kind of idolatry had Israel fallen into in the past?

**Answer:** The golden calf, Baal of Peor. (Note the chart of false gods in *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 61).

**LOQ:** What was Israel’s fourth motivation for obedience?

**Answer:** Israel was called to obey and demonstrate God’s uniqueness. God chose Israel to be the focus of His love. At no other time had God so visibly demonstrated His love to another people. God uniquely showed His love for Israel by treating them unlike any people before. God delivered them from bondage, spoke to them out of the fire, and led them through the wilderness. God is unique because there is no other God.

### Summary

The people of Israel had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because they had disobeyed God’s commands. Before Israel was allowed to take possession of the Promised Land, Moses spoke to the people. He pleaded with them to obey the commands of God and gave them four motivations for why they should obey.

Their blessing in the Promised Land was dependent on their obedience to God's instructions.

### Application

When you learn about the commands of God from your parents, teachers, or pastors, what should you do? You should obey. In today's lesson, we learned reasons that Israel was told to obey. They were to obey to bring God's blessings, to demonstrate their uniqueness, to avoid idolatry, and to demonstrate God's uniqueness. Although God does not bless us in exactly the same ways as He blessed Israel, we are spiritually blessed when we are obedient. Our obedience does demonstrate our uniqueness as believers and also shows God's uniqueness as the one and only God. Our obedience to God's instruction will keep us from falling into idolatry as well as many other sins. Obedience to God's instructions is required, and His instructions are good.

### Presentation Ideas



#### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



#### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



#### God's Goodness

Who wants this piece of candy? (Hold up some candy.) How do we know that candy is good to eat? We know because we have tasted candy before. How do we know that God is good? We know that God is good because He has been good 100 percent of the time in the past. We've seen what God has done in the past and what He has promised in the future. If God is perfect and has always been good in the past, can we trust Him to also be good in the future?



#### Obedience Brings GLORY to God

Write the acrostic GLORY vertically on the board. Write "Obedience brings" above the acrostic and "to God!" below the acrostic. Fill in the space beside each letter of GLORY at the appropriate time during the lesson. Encourage the students to take notes on their own paper.

#### Obedience brings

God's blessings depend on your obedience.

Let others see God's uniqueness by how you treat others.

Observe all that God has commanded you.

Refuse to worship idols.

You must be thankful for God's laws, which guide your life.

**to God!**



#### Other Ways to Say "Obey"

Ask the students if they can think of other ways to say "obey." Direct them to think about words their parents might use when asking them to obey. Write their ideas on the board. Some words and phrases might include: follow instructions, mind, do as you are told, behave, and listen. After discussing these modern terms for



obedience, inform the students that Deuteronomy 4 uses five other phrases to talk of obedience. Instruct the students to make an O with their hands. Tell them that you will read through the passage aloud, and every time they hear another way to say “obey,” they should make this O sign. List the words and phrases on the board as the students discover them. Record the verse numbers after each word.

*Answers*

Observe (vv. 1, 6, 14)

Keep (vv. 2, 9, 40)

Act according to (v. 5)

Take heed (vv. 9, 15, 19, 23)

Perform (v. 13)

## **Praise and Worship**

*In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified*

*King of Kings*

*Living for Jesus*

*O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E*

*This Is My Commandment*

*Thy Word*

*Trust and Obey*

*We Will Glorify*

## **PRACTICE THE TRUTH**

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### **Motivation Mobile**

Materials: copies of the “Motivation Mobile” craft sheets, four 12-inch pieces of yarn, wire hanger, scissors, hole puncher, crayons, other decorations

Directions: Before class, cut out the square on the first “Motivation Mobile” page. Fold the square on the dotted line, and then cut a small slit in the center of the fold. Punch holes where indicated. This piece will fit over the wire hanger.

During class, have students complete the sentence on their mobile sheets, and then color and decorate the circles. Finally, cut out the circles, punch holes in the tops, and attach them to the mobile using yarn.



### **Obedience, Part Two**

How do we show our parents that we love them? We show love by being obedient when they ask us to do something. If you are obedient to your parents’ instructions, you are telling them that you care about what they say and that you love them. Israel was told to obey God. Their obedience showed their love for God.



## Motivation

What motivates you to do the right thing? Is it because you will get a reward or because people will say that you did a good job? The reason that we should do everything we do is to glorify God. It's like having a lamp at night. Would you hide the lamp under a basket, or would you shine the light so that people could see it and find their way? We should let people around us see God through the things we do so that they will praise Him (like shining a lamp for everyone to see).



## “Hear, O Israel”

Materials: copies of the “Hear, O Israel” craft page, 1-inch strips of construction paper, scissors, tape

Make each student a headband from a strip of construction paper. Give students the “Hear O Israel” craft page. Students may decorate their headband, number 1, and ears. Have them cut out the two ears, the number 1, and the Scripture verse. They should tape the ears to the sides of the headband and the number 1 to the front of the headband. Finally, have the students tape the verse card to the front of the headband.



## “A Light to My Path”

Materials: glitter, glue, verse, crayons, copies of the “A Light to My Path” craft pages (see back of lesson), razor blade, scissors

Directions: Israel was instructed to be obedient to God’s Word. Believers today are also commanded to follow and obey God’s instructions in His Word, the Bible. God’s Word is a lamp; it shows us the way to go. When you have a light in a dark place, you can see in front of you and can walk safely. Psalm 119:105 says that God’s Word “is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Create a lamp, using the supplies given, and glue on this verse to be a reminder to use God’s Word to direct your steps.

Cut out flashlight parts with tabs. Next, cut along the dotted lines with a razor blade, and attach the flashlight parts by inserting the tabs into the insertion points. Using glue, create light beams, and cover them with silver or gold glitter. After the craft is complete, have students explain how God’s Word will be a light to their paths this week.



## “God Requires Obedience”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. It is located at the back of the lesson.



2  
3

## Journal Page: “A Reminder to Obey”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

## Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



## MEMORY VERSE

“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you” (Deuteronomy 4:1).

# Motivation Mobile

Cut out the square. Fold the square on the dotted line, and then cut a small slit in the center of the fold. Punch holes where indicated. This piece will fit over the wire hanger. Cut out the circles on the following page, and attach them to the mobile using yarn.



because...

(write one specific act of obedience)

This week I will

Dear Parents,

This mobile is to serve as a reminder of the reasons Moses gave to obey God in Deuteronomy 4. Help your child select a specific area of obedience to work on this week, with God's attributes as motivation.





# Motivation Mobile

○

**God is  
gracious  
to me.**

○

**God  
deserves  
glory.**

○

**God is  
great and  
powerful.**

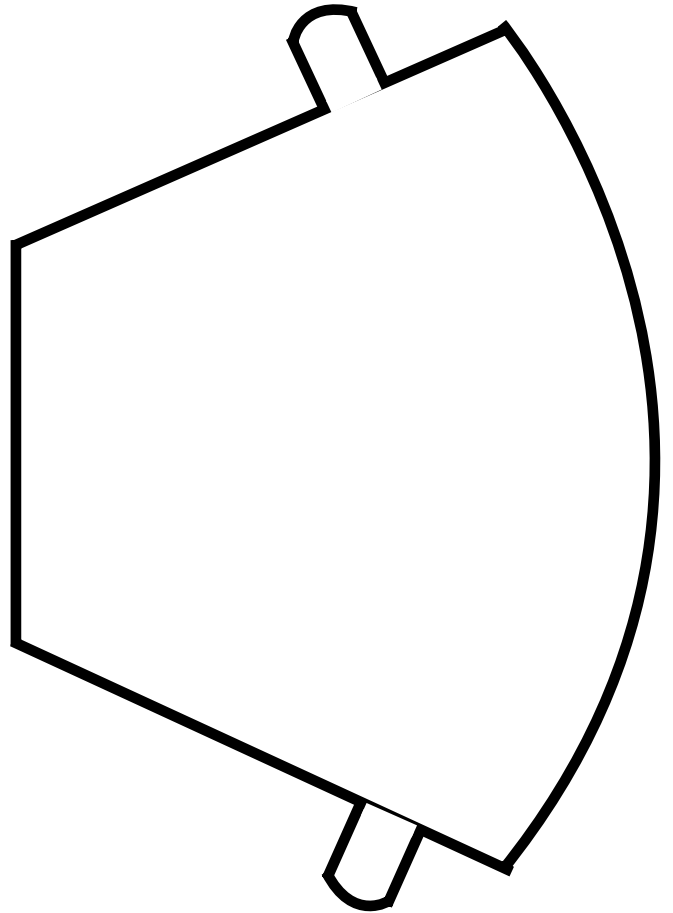
○

**God  
is good.**



# A Light to My Path

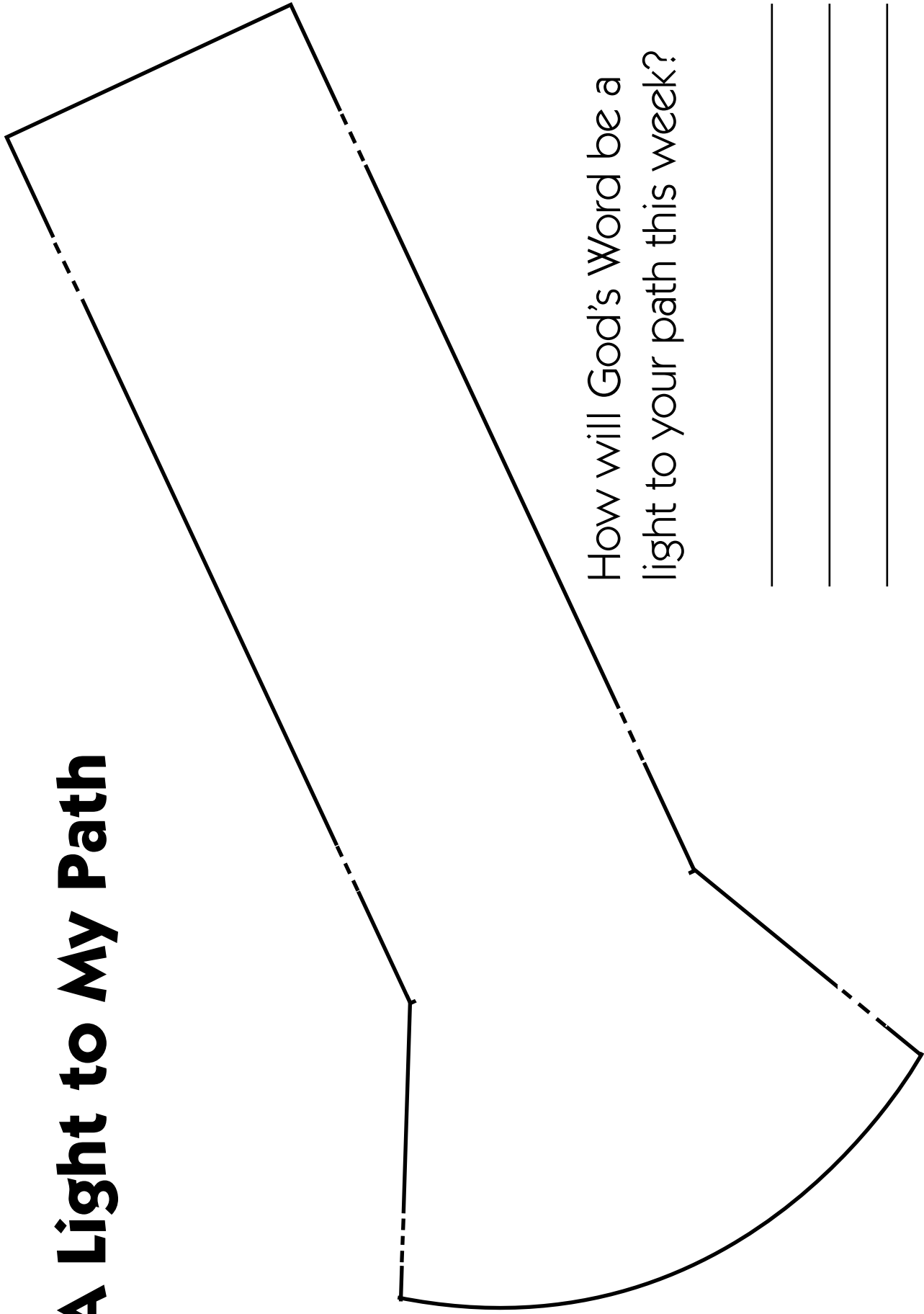
“Your word is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light to my path”  
(Psalm 119:105).







# A Light to My Path



How will God's Word be a light to your path this week?

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# God *Requires* Obedience



## Deuteronomy 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Deuteronomy is the \_\_\_\_\_ book of the Bible.

- |       |         |
|-------|---------|
| first | third   |
| fifth | seventh |

2. What does Moses tell the Israelites to motivate them to obey? (See Deuteronomy 4:1.)

to listen and hold fast

to listen and fear

they must not forget God's compassion

they will be able to live longer and will be able to take possession of the land

3. True or False: The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness because they rebelled against God when He told them to take possession of the land. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Match the words below by putting in the blank the letter that best describes the word.

\_\_\_\_\_ hold fast

a. the false god of the Moabites and Midianites

\_\_\_\_\_ Egypt

b. to cling to, to hang on, to cleave

\_\_\_\_\_ Baal of Peor

c. country in Middle East devastated by plagues



## A Reminder to Obey

What helps you to remember important things? A string on your finger? A note in your lunch bag? After you do the important things, you no longer need the string or note, so you toss it in the trash. The things God wants you to remember should never be tossed out because you will need them all your life.

The commands that God gave the Israelites were for their lifetime, yet they kept putting God's commands aside. So, in Deuteronomy 4, God reminds them of what will happen if they forget Him and make false gods of wood and stone. Then He reminds them of the great things He has done for them. Do you think they will remember and obey Him from the heart?

Decipher the code below to find out which commandment God is reminding the Israelites to obey. (For answer, see *Exodus 20:3.*)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
P							F							M						G	L				

$\frac{O}{Z} \frac{U}{M} \frac{H}{L} \frac{H}{F} \frac{P}{X} \frac{X}{X}$   
 $\frac{H}{F} \frac{A}{P} \frac{K}{W} \frac{O}{N} \frac{O}{M} \frac{T}{M} \frac{H}{G} \frac{H}{F} \frac{W}{B}$   
 $\frac{O}{M} \frac{C}{H} \frac{J}{W} \frac{E}{M} \frac{O}{B} \frac{W}{W} \frac{V}{W}$

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
P							F							M						G	L				

$\frac{O}{Z} \frac{U}{M} \frac{H}{L} \frac{H}{F} \frac{P}{X} \frac{X}{X}$   
 $\frac{H}{F} \frac{A}{P} \frac{K}{W} \frac{O}{N} \frac{O}{M} \frac{T}{M} \frac{H}{G} \frac{H}{F} \frac{W}{B}$   
 $\frac{O}{M} \frac{C}{H} \frac{J}{W} \frac{E}{M} \frac{O}{B} \frac{W}{W} \frac{V}{W}$

The Bible says that if you hide God's Word in your heart, it will help you to not sin against Him. What verse will you memorize this week to help you remember what Christ wants you to do?

This week I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This verse will help me obey God in this way: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A great thing God has done for me is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will show Him my gratitude by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer

Take time to thank Christ for the great things He has done for you, and ask Him to help you hide His Word in your heart so that you might not sin against Him.

The Bible says that if you hide God's Word in your heart, it will help you to not sin against Him. What verse will you memorize this week to help you remember what Christ wants you to do?

This week I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This verse will help me obey God in this way: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A great thing God has done for me is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will show Him my gratitude by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer

Take time to thank Christ for the great things He has done for you, and ask Him to help you hide His Word in your heart so that you might not sin against Him.



**Moses prepared the Israelites to take possession of the Promised Land by calling them to listen to and obey God's commands (Deuteronomy 4:1).**







**God was glorified when other nations saw the Israelites obeying His commands (Deuteronomy 4:6–8).**

