



MIND  
session page

## Keep On Preaching

### Deuteronomy 4:1-15 | Session 10.35

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

#### Context

Start by asking:

- So far as you know, what is the story that people most often tell about you, and why?
- What stories do you most often tell about other people and why?
- If you were your own publicist, what stories would you create to tell about yourself?
- Aside from the gospels, what is the most meaningful story you know?
- Why are stories so important, and how do we ensure that we remember certain ones?

## Content

Read [Deuteronomy 4:1-15](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What does the writer mean by "statutes and ordinances" in this passage?
- Given that this passage was written hundreds of years after Moses, to another group of people who had turned away from their faith, how might they have understood this introduction to these teachings.
- Why did the writer bring up the "[Baal of Peor](#)" example, where people were killed and driven out for intermarrying with foreign women, at this point?
- With what stories of faith might the average person have been familiar when this passage was written?
- Where else in the scriptures do you remember hearing about such a strong call to "the basics" and why are such passages so important?

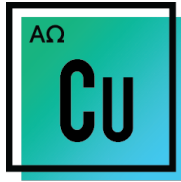
## Closure

Continue by asking:

- Which of our "stories of faith" do we not tell enough anymore and why?
- If we were to "get back to the basics" of faith, in the way this passage describes, what would we do?
- Given that perspectives change over the years, what kinds of faith-related things do you think we should be sure to pass on these days and why?
- How can we be sure to remember the important things God has taught us over the years?
- How might our stories help others who have not shared our experiences, and how might their stories help us?

Close with prayer.

**Writer: Jon Parks**



# CURRENT

session page

## Keep On Preaching

### Deuteronomy 4:1-15 | Session 10.35

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

#### Context

Start by asking:

- What are some other stories we hear these days that affect our world views?

Share the "You Say" video and ask:

- How does this video make you feel and why?
- What are some positive and negative stories that you hear which affect the way you see yourself?
- Which of the stories of your past best guide you in your faith and why?

## Content

Read Deuteronomy 4:1-15, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What specific "law" and stories do you think the character of Moses was about to impart to the hearers in this passage?
- Given that this passage was written hundreds of years after the Israelites had entered Canaan, to people who had long-since forgotten their faith heritage, how do you think it was received by the original hearers and why?
- What is the difference between getting guidance when you are first organizing and when you have lost your sense of organization and are trying to regain it?
- Why would the "Moses" character in this passage have forbidden people from making changes to the story, given as how the passage was itself an addition to an existing tradition?
- If our parents were to literally "lay down the law" of faith to us, as this story describes, what would they have said and why?
- What are some of the things that distract us from remembering our "true story" of faith?

## Closure

Share the "[Remember Who You Are](#)" video and ask:

- Because Simba was present when his father was murdered by Scar, Simba felt personally responsible and it caused him to be separate from those he loved. What are some parts of our personal stories that cause us to feel separate from others or from God?
- What are some ways in which God's image is reflected in each of us?
- How does God help us remember who we are?
- At what points can our stories of faith be helpful guides for other people?

Close with a prayer.

**Writers: Crystal Shepherd and Steve McClain**



MYSTIC  
session page

## Keep On Preaching

### Deuteronomy 4:1-15 | Session 10.35

#### Before the Session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Preparation and materials: Gather assorted items (Air freshener, detergent, Bread, Candle, Salt, Blanket, Water, Dessert of some sort, Ruler, Hammer, Musical Instrument, Etc.) and place them in a central location.
- Encourage your group to listen to the FaithElement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

#### Context

Read [Deuteronomy 4:1-15](#), and watch the Bible Background Video.

*This is a "spiritual inventory" activity.*

## Reflection

Start by saying:

*The people of God saw themselves as being called to go into a foreign land and make a difference simply by being who they are. We're going to spend this time imagining the possible ways that the Israelites might have done so, by obeying God's commandments, which focused on loving God and loving neighbor as self.*

Invite the group to a group time of reflection, using the following instructions:  
What kinds of food would you never eat and why?

- Take a moment and look at our focal point of gathered items, choosing one to ponder. If this item was an illustration for how the Israelites could have been in the Promised Land, what might some of the results either positive or negative have been?

Give the group a few minutes to ponder the items, then invite volunteers to share their insights with the group for each of the items on display.

Continue by asking:

- Knowing that Deuteronomy or "Second Law" is focused on a restatement of the Old Testament legal code, what do you think the writers viewed as "God's Law and why?"
- What happens to the world if God's people do or do not obey God's commands?
- What would make it easy or difficult to obey God's commands?
- What are some ways we can help each other obey God's commands?

Spend some time in prayer for each other.

**Writer: Joy Yee**



MEDIA  
session page

## Keep On Preaching

### Deuteronomy 4:1-15 | Session 10.35

#### Before the Session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

#### Context

Start by asking:

- What does the word "focus" mean to you and why?

Play the [Needs More Focus video](#). (Stop at .44) and ask:

- What is Dre obsessed about?
- How do you think Mr. Han feels about this obsession without focus and desire to work?
- What do you think of Mr. Han's method of getting Dre to focus?
- What does that phrase "your focus needs more focus" mean to you?
- In what ways do we, as followers of Jesus, need for our focus to have more focus?

## Content

Read [Deuteronomy 4:1-15](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What is your visceral reaction to the word "obedience?"
- In what ways do you find the principle of obedience to be freeing or limiting?
- Why does Moses, as depicted in this story, want the people to be obedient?
- Why is it important that the people should keep telling their faith stories?
- Why might people "forget" their faith when they meet new people in the promised land?
- What specific distractions do you think were most difficult for the people as they conquered the promised land after wandering for so many years?

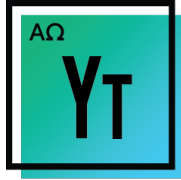
## Closure

Play the [Keep Preaching video](#) and ask:

- What things most distract you in your daily faith journey and why?
- By what means can you keep consistent with your own experiences and stories of faith in spite of distractions?
- In what ways do your stories intersect with the stories of others?
- How can your stories help others who may be seeking to transform their own lives?

Close in prayer.

**Writer: Jon Self**



# YOUTH

session page

## Keep On Preaching

### Deuteronomy 4:1-15 | Session 10.35

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Prepare an obstacle course in your meeting area and have blindfolds available (See Context).
- Provide paper and a pen for each person (See Closure).
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.
- Provide paper plates and pens (See Context).

#### Intro

Show the [Get Smart clip](#) and ask:

- When has someone told you a story that you simply could not believe?
- What made it so unbelievable?
- How do you determine if a story is true or not?
- Who do you know that could tell a good story and what makes them so good at telling that story?

## Context

Give each person a paper plate and a pen and have them write the first line of a story on the outside of their plate. Once everyone is finished have them pass their plate to the person to their right, who will continue the story by adding a single line. Continue passing the plates until each person has added a line, then have the original owner of the plate finish the story with a single line.

Read the stories as time allows, then ask:

- What was the best story and why?
- How did you feel about the way your story turned out and why?
- What, if anything, did we learn about crafting a good story by doing this?
- Why do you think stories particularly our stories are so important?

## Content

Read [Deuteronomy 4:1-15](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- Why does the writer tell a story where Moses tells his people not to add or subtract anything from the commands he has given?
- In what ways does this become problematic as a culture begins to change?
- Why does Moses point to the things they have seen as evidence to hold to his teachings?
- Why was it important to share their story with the next generation?
- What would happen if that generation neglected to share their stories about what God had done?
- What is the danger of the next generation only relying on their own understanding of God?

## Closure

Continue by inviting each person to think of a story from their life (It can be about something embarrassing, something they are proud of, or simply a funny story about something they did.) and tell it to the rest of the group.

After the volunteers have completed sharing their stories, ask why they chose those particular stories and what made them so memorable, then invite volunteers to think of a story about something God has done for them and share those stories like they did their previous ones and ask:

- What made this story so memorable to you?
- When you look back at this story, how might it affect moments in your life when you may doubt or have anxiety about the future?
- How can we keep those stories in the front of our mind to help us as we journey in our faith?
- How might our stories help other people?

Close this session in prayer.

**Writer: Don Breeden**



MIX  
session page

## Keep On Preaching

### Deuteronomy 4:1-15 | Session 10.35

#### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

#### Context (From the Youth Session Page)

Give each person a paper plate and a pen and have them write the first line of a story on the outside of their plate. Once everyone is finished have them pass their plate to the person to their right, who will continue the story by adding a single line. Continue passing the plates until each person has added a line, then have the original owner of the plate finish the story with a single line.

Read the stories as time allows, then ask:

- What was the best story and why?
- How did you feel about the way your story turned out and why?
- What, if anything, did we learn about crafting a good story by doing this?
- Why do you think stories particularly our stories are so important?

## Content (From the Mind Session Page)

Read [Deuteronomy 4:1-15](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What does the writer mean by "statutes and ordinances" in this passage?
- Given that this passage was written hundreds of years after Moses, to another group of people who had turned away from their faith, how might they have understood this introduction to these teachings.
- Why did the writer bring up the "[Baal of Peor](#)" example, where people were killed and driven out for intermarrying with foreign women, at this point?
- With what stories of faith might the average person have been familiar when this passage was written?
- Where else in the scriptures do you remember hearing about such a strong call to "the basics" and why are such passages so important?

## Closure (From the Current Session Page)

Share the "[Remember Who You Are](#)" video and ask:

- Because Simba was present when his father was murdered by Scar, Simba felt personally responsible and it caused him to be separate from those he loved. What are some parts of our personal stories that cause us to feel separate from others or from God?
- What are some ways in which God's image is reflected in each of us?
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