



For the week of **April 611**

Bottom line: **SPRING BREAK**

*we did not meet this week but here are some thoughts
for your quiet times*

DAY ONE: The Danger of Stuff Read Deuteronomy 6:10-12

The temptation to forget God is not when things are going badly, it's when things are going well. God warned the Israelites, *...be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery* (Deuteronomy 6:12). God knew they would experience wealth and prosperity beyond what they could imagine. He also knew it would be a prime opportunity for them to forget him.

Wealth is not always a friend to faith. We can easily look at our jobs, our houses, cars, recreational toys, phones, video games, clothes, and bank accounts and think, "God, I did this without you!" If that's what we're thinking, we've already begun to drift. We're already in dangerous territory. God's warning to Israel is also a warning to us, no matter how wealthy or affluent we believe we are.

Our first step back, away from this attitude of pride and self-reliance, is confession. If you've started to notice this attitude developing, confess your sin to God. Then thank him for his goodness and all the things he's so graciously given you. Begin the habit of thanking him every day for three specific things.

DAY TWO: It Is Generational Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Read the passage and then choose **one verse** that seems important to you and answer one of these three questions:

1. What does it say about God?
2. What does it say about you?
3. What does it say about others?

Then talk to God about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.

DAY THREE: Motivation Read Matthew 22:34-40

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, he took his listeners back to the foundation of every command God had given, *Love the Lord your God...Love your neighbor as yourself* (Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18). Because God rescued them, their only proper response was to love him in return. This love would be visible when they obeyed what he commanded (John 14:15).

Obedience must be motivated by devotion. We obey because we want to, not because we have to. Because we love God, we're willing to obey. This can be a challenge for us because we're often not convinced God's rules are his greatest kindness to us. We can think God's rules are designed to keep us from experiencing all that life has to offer.

Today, as you welcome God into your day, take an inventory of your motivation for obeying. Do you obey because you have to, or because you want to out of your love for the God who rescued you? To help you with the right motivation, write down and memorize John 14:15. It's only a few words, but it could be the words God uses to change your motivation!

DAY FOUR: Trusting God Read Romans 6:20-23

Read the passage and then choose **one verse** that seems important to you and answer the questions that apply:

- Is there a sin to avoid ?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an application to make?
- Is there something new about God?

Then talk to God about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.