

...the main points again

The importance of reading the instructions

Josiah finds the Book of the Law and reads the instructions retrospectively,

Great is the LORD's anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the LORD; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book
- 2 Chronicles 34.21

The instructions received at custom control

Answering the children's question, 'WHY?'
More than '...because I said so...'

There is one God- love him

A love that is demonstrated in action

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
- 1 John 4.10-12

Getting the instructions inside

- Impressing your children
- Chattering
- Endorsing wristbands and fridge magnets

When it is good to read the Bible more than literally...

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
- Proverbs 3.3

Habits to pick up at custom control:

- Fear God
- Don't fool around with other gods
- Don't push or provoke God
- Pick up the habit of trust

And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.
- Deuteronomy 6.25

BUT things fall apart... See Deuteronomy 31.14-29

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. "
- Romans 3.10-11

God takes things into his own hands

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.
- Jeremiah 31.33

Jesus our righteousness- the words finally become flesh

The importance of reading to the end of the instructions...

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.
- Philippians 3.7-9

...So what...

Before entering the land, Deuteronomy emphasises the customs, the habits of heart to pack...

At the beginning of this time, chart about what you feel are the core elements needed for living the Christian life
Reflect together on how effectively we have packed these habits of heart in our lives and in our life together.

Read verses 4-9 together

How differently would you read the word 'Hear!' if we translated it 'Pay attention!' or 'Warning!'

How do you understand 'The Lord our God the Lord is one!'
Read the command to love in v.5- you might also like to read Mark 12.28-34- what does it mean to love in each of these dimensions: heart, soul, strength, [mind]?

Look at the ways in which the people are called to remember God's instruction

Could you write a modern day equivalent of these instructions- what would be the best memory aids for us today?

Read verse 25

How do you respond to this instruction?

Read Deuteronomy 6.12, Deuteronomy 31.14-29 and Romans 3.10-11

How does verse 25 feel in the light of these other passages?
What picture of God emerges from the writing in Deuteronomy 31?

Read together Jeremiah 31.31-33

What is God's new plan?

Reflect together on Romans 3.21-22; Galatians 2.22 and Philippians 3.7-11 and allow your thoughts to turn to prayer

Sunday March 1st 2009



Travels with my Father

To be in your presence
Deuteronomy 6

Devoted to Christ, his people, his mission