# APPLICATION

- How would you describe your relationship with God? Do you ever try to earn His favor, or have you already understood and applied what He did on the cross for you 2,000 years ago? How can you apply what we've discussed today?
- How has God been faithful and loving to you? How can you grow in your appreciation for God and His blessings in your life this week?
- In what area of your life do you need God's power to work? How can you grow in faith that God will do what He has promised?

# PRAYER

- Thank God for who He is and how He graciously chooses to love us. Pray that you would know and love God more as each day passes.
- Ask God to help you understand how blessed you are in Him. Commit to trust and seek Him every day.
- Pray that you will help others know who God really is. Pray that your life would be a good example so that many others may trust Him, too.



# **Promise**





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# WARM-UP

- What was one of the best things that happened to you in the last twelve months? How did it happen?
- Have you ever been part of a minority group? What was that like?
- Recall a time when you kept a promise, even when it was hard to keep. What happened?

WEEK 1

## WORD

<sup>7</sup>"It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations . . ."

In the book of Deuteronomy, God gave instructions and guidelines to His people as He prepared them to enter the Promised Land. God promised to bless His people and fulfill His promises to them, not because of who they were or what they had done, but because of who God is. Likewise, though we do not deserve His blessings, He showers us with benefits because He is our loving Creator, faithful Promise-keeper, and Almighty God. In this lesson, we will look at why we receive the promise of blessing in our lives.

### We are blessed because of God's love.

<sup>7</sup> "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers . . ." **DEUTERONOMY 7:7,8** 

Because God loves us, He chooses to bless us. His love, graciousness, and kindness bring about the blessing. In all honesty, like the Israelites, we are difficult to love and unworthy of His love. What do you think it means for God to *set his love on you*? How does God's unfailing and unconditional love assure and secure you?

## **2** We are blessed because of God's faithfulness.

<sup>8</sup>"... but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations ..." **DEUTERONOMY 7:8,9** 

God is not like us humans. When He makes a promise, He always keeps it, no matter how difficult it will be to fulfill, and no matter how faithless the recipients of the promise may be. We are not blessed because of what we own or what our social status is, but simply because God is faithful to us. Because He is faithful, He keeps His covenant—even to a thousand generations after. How has God shown Himself faithful to you and your family?

### **3** We are blessed because of God's power.

"... the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." **DEUTERONOMY 7:8** 

No one else could save and bless the Israelites the way God did. God brought them out of Egypt and redeemed them from slavery, bringing forth one miracle after another with His mighty hand. The Israelites were saved and blessed because of God's great power, never because of anything they did. We, too, are saved by Christ's finished work on the cross, and we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). How were we slaves like the Israelites, and how have we been redeemed by God?