After reviewing the history of Israel’s relationship with God and all that He has done for them in the past, Moses moves to the next section of the covenant. God has saved the people, and as a result of them giving their hearts to Him, He will cause them to follow in His ways. The Decalogue is a delineation of what that will look like in their lives. Interestingly, the Hebrew of these Ten Words (never called “commandments” in the Old Testament) are grammatically not commands. While they could be construed as categorical moral imperatives, they do not have the imperative form, but instead a form in Hebrew that can imply certain promises for what will happen in the future. So, rather than “you must do this,” the phrasing is more like, “[I promise] you shall do this,” because I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt (v. 6). God saves the people and gains their heart trust, and as a result, they will naturally want to follow Him.

If you love someone, this leads you to naturally change your behavior to bring them joy and pleasure. You did not make these changes because you had to but because you love the person and want to make them happy. They likely have made similar changes in their lives because of their love for you. Deuteronomy 5 portrays a similar picture of love as the foundation, which leads to obedience out of gratitude for salvation. This covenant structure is key to understanding God’s character and desires for us.

The people, however, were afraid to meet with God, because they did not yet understand His love and grace toward them.
Write out Deuteronomy 5:1–15 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 5:1–5. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 5:1–15. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

How can you “bear God’s name” more faithfully in your own life?

How can you live as if “you were there” at the Exodus?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut03-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this week’s passage?
What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

In what ways do you need to change your view of the Old Testament, in order not to view it as legalistic anymore?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut03-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Exodus 19:1–16
Exodus 23:10–12
Deuteronomy 5:23–33
Joshua 24:11–27
Isaiah 58:6–14
Psalm 92

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 5?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 5:1–15.
Where do you see Jesus in Deuteronomy 5:1–15?

How have you seen your parents’ sins and victories passed on in your own life?

What is Jesus saying to you through the main text?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What applications can be made in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut03-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How does really understanding Deuteronomy 5:6 change the rest of the Ten Words (Decalogue)?

How can we connect with and “be there” with God in covenant?

How does God’s justice add rich depth to his love and mercy?

How does the heart of the people in Deuteronomy 5:27 indicate why they so quickly disobeyed?

How do the two motivations for Sabbath (creation and redemption) interact and reinforce each other?

How can we make the Sabbath a delight?

How can we bear God’s name more faithfully as individuals and a faith community?

How have you seen your love for someone change how you/they live?