God's leading and God's will in our lives: these are two of the hardest things for people to grapple with. Israel was in the wilderness due to their own sinful and rebellious choices. And yet God led them and did not give up on them. Jesus was also led into the wilderness, but it was by the Holy Spirit, and not because He had done anything wrong (Matt. 4:1). In times of test and trial, whatever the reason, God walks with us and helps us to know His heart of love toward us, through His provision and guidance to greater trust in Him. God already knows our hearts, but the times of testing and trial help us to know our hearts, and help us to surrender to God so that we may know that we live by His word, not by earthly bread. When tempted, Jesus quoted from this passage, because the situation was so parallel to Israel’s, and yet His heart was truly humbled and trusting in God. Deuteronomy 8 is within the section of the covenant structure that focuses on the heart relationship with God as the foundation for obedience.

God wants to save us so much that He is willing to use whatever it takes. Sometimes it takes tests, other times it takes provision in those tests, and still other times it takes blessings. While God ultimately wants to just bless us, He knows that we tend to forget where the blessings come from and think that our great power and hard work have given us our wealth, like Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. For this reason, God brings us to difficult places so that we can understand our own hearts and see clearly that everything comes from Him.
Write out Deuteronomy 8:1–20 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 8:11–14. 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 8:1–20. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are some ways God has blessed you?

What are some ways God has humbled and taught you?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/deut06-3
Interpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How have you been distracted from the truth of your identity in Christ?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut06-4
inSpect

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

Daniel 4:28–37
Matthew 4:1–11
Deuteronomy 6:10–13
Exodus 23:20–26
Deuteronomy 9:4–29
Isaiah 33:14–22

What other verses/promises come to mind with Deuteronomy 8?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 8:1–20.
Where do you see Jesus in Deuteronomy 8:1–20?

What aspect of God in this chapter gives you the most hope when considering your own trials and struggles?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut06-6
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 are applications can be made in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut06-7
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 life come from God’s Word, not bread?

What blessings has God given you that have been difficult to see as coming from Him?

How does our diligence and dedication interact with God’s blessings? In other words, if we sit around and do nothing, but pray a lot, will anything happen?

How can wealth be both a blessing and a curse?

How can we guard against ascribing our success to our own efforts?

How does God’s chastening produce fruit in our lives?

How have you seen God do whatever it takes in your own life to save you?