The King and Responsible Leadership (Deuteronomy 17:14–17)

Learn: Read Deuteronomy 17:14–17 in the family's chosen translation. In its covenant setting, the passage anticipates Israel asking for a king and gives instructions and limits concerning that king. Notice who chooses the king and which things the king is warned not to multiply. State what the passage says before discussing an application.

Example: A family may discuss how limits on power can encourage responsible leadership. That discussion is an application; it is not a direct quotation from these verses.

1. Who is described as choosing the king in verse 15?

2. Name one thing the king is warned not to multiply in verses 16–17.

3. What setting is described at the beginning of verse 14?

4. Explain the difference between a verse observation and a modern application.

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Reading and Humility (Deuteronomy 17:18–20)

Learn: Read verses 18–20. The king is instructed to write a copy of the law, keep it with him, and read it throughout his life. The passage gives reasons related to learning, obedience, and not raising his heart above others. Cite the verse when describing each detail.

Example: Observation: verse 19 says the king is to read the law all the days of his life. Interpretation: a family may discuss why repeated study can help a leader remember responsibilities.

1. What is the king instructed to write?

2. How often is he to read it, according to verse 19?

3. What attitude toward others is described in verse 20?

4. Give one observation and one family application, labeling each.

Provision and Service (Deuteronomy 18:1–8)

Learn: Read Deuteronomy 18:1–8. The passage describes the priests and Levites, their service, their inheritance, and provisions from offerings and first produce. The details belong to ancient Israel's covenant setting; read carefully rather than assuming every modern practice is identical.

Example: A reading chart can list a group, a responsibility, a provision mentioned, and its verse. For example, verse 4 names first produce and the first fleece as provisions.

1. Which group is the focus of verses 1–8?

2. Name one provision listed in verse 4.

3. What service is described in verse 5?

4. Why is it useful to identify the passage's historical and covenant setting?

Listening and Testing Claims (Deuteronomy 18:15–22)

Learn: Read Deuteronomy 18:15–22 with an adult. The passage speaks of a prophet and addresses claims made in God's name. Verse 22 describes what to conclude when a prediction made in the LORD's name does not occur. Families may hold different interpretations of prophetic passages; distinguish a passage's wording from an interpretation.

Example: Observation: verse 22 discusses a prediction that does not come to pass. A student can cite that verse without deciding every question about a prophecy's meaning.

1. Whom does verse 15 say God will raise up?

2. What event from Horeb is recalled in verse 16?

3. What situation does verse 22 describe?

4. Why should a reader distinguish a verse's wording from an interpretation?

Independent Passage Review

Learn: Use your chosen translation and work independently. Cite a verse for each response. An adult may read directions and support access to the passage without giving the answers.

Example: Read Deuteronomy 17:18–20 and 18:4–5 again. These are selected passages from a larger chapter sequence; surrounding passages include difficult ancient legal material that families can discuss with an adult.

1. According to 17:18, what should the king write?

2. According to 17:19, when should the king read it?

3. Name one provision from 18:4.

4. According to 18:5, what service is named? Give the verse reference.