

# Membership Covenant



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1

Message for the Week: God's Ask

Sunday, November 12

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What is the best gift you have received? Why is this the best gift?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

Have you in any sense ever been an orphan or a foreigner? Have you ever been an outsider or someone who is marginalized? If so, how did this make you feel? If not, how do you think such people feel?

What are some of the things the Lord gives His people? What does the Lord do for His people in these verses?

What does the Lord require us to do with the things that He gives to us?

What does a calloused heart look like (vs. 16)? What does a stiff neck look like?

What does it mean that everything belongs to the Lord? What difference does that make in my life?

Where does the giving start? Does it start with us or with God? Why?

## Try It:

Out of reverence, awe, respect, and love for all that God has given to you; what is God calling you to do with all the things He has given to you? Where is He calling you to give?

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, show me/us that your "ask" is so much more than anything offered by this world. Teach me/us to live and follow in reverence, awe, respect, and love for all that YOU are as the only true God. AMEN

## Missional/Spiritual Practice: Giving

I commit to giving generously of my time for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my talents for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my treasures (financial resources) for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my testimony for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

How are you giving generously in these areas? If not, why not? What needs to change?

# Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1

## New International Version

<sup>12</sup> And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

<sup>14</sup> To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. <sup>15</sup> Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. <sup>16</sup> Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. <sup>18</sup> He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. <sup>21</sup> He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. <sup>22</sup> Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

11 Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws, and his commands always.

## The Message

<sup>12-13</sup> So now Israel, what do you think God expects from you? Just this: Live in his presence in holy reverence, follow the road he sets out for you, love him, serve God, your God, with everything you have in you, obey the commandments and regulations of God that I'm commanding you today—live a good life.

<sup>14-18</sup> Look around you: Everything you see is God's—the heavens above and beyond, the Earth, and everything on it. But it was your ancestors who God fell in love with; he picked their children—that's *you!*—out of all the other peoples. That's where we are right now. So cut away the thick calluses from your heart and stop being so willfully hardheaded. God, your God, is the God of all gods, he's the Master of all masters, a God immense and powerful and awesome. He doesn't play favorites, takes no bribes, makes sure orphans and widows are treated fairly, takes loving care of foreigners by seeing that they get food and clothing.

<sup>19-21</sup> You must treat foreigners with the same loving care—  
remember, you were once foreigners in Egypt.

Reverently respect God, your God, serve him, hold tight to him,  
back up your promises with the authority of his name.

He's your praise! He's your God!

He did all these tremendous, these staggering things  
that you saw with your own eyes.

<sup>22</sup> When your ancestors entered Egypt, they numbered a mere seventy souls. And now look at you—you look more like the stars in the night skies in number. And your God did it.

\* \* \*

11 So love God, your God; guard well his rules and regulations; obey his commandments for the rest of time.