

“There’s No Place Like Home”

A Bible Study centered in Deuteronomy 4:31-40

Read Deuteronomy 4:31-40

A. Life is like “The Wizard of Oz.”

1. **Dorothy** was the beloved, the “star.” In the passage we just read, we see that those who are chosen by God are beloved by Him. There is nothing he won’t do to bring us near to Him. He wants us to know that there is “no other” like Him for us. He is our home!

We are told, “In Him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

Has there been a time in your life when you found God to be the primary one who could bring you forgiveness, comfort, peace or encouragement?

2. **Auntie Em** mirrored the one who nurtures us and shows us the loving kindness of home. God uses others to show us his kindness and grace.

Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 11:35)

Do you recall someone from your past who brought God’s grace to you?

3. **The Ruby Slippers** represent power. In our scripture passage God told of the many things he did for his people—by his power. We are blessed to have God’s power working in our behalf in our day and time through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the book of Acts we are told, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

Have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life in specific ways? Are you wearing your ruby slippers?

4. **The Tin Man, Scarecrow, and Lion** remind us of ourselves—our needs and inadequacies. The tin man needed a heart—we need the heart of God; the scarecrow needed a brain—we need the mind of Christ; the Lion needed courage—God can give us the courage we need.

We are reminded in God’s Word, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

With which of these three do you most identify?

5. **The Man Behind the Curtain** is a pretender. He has the form, but not the power. Our enemy, the Devil, is a great pretender, and wants us to think he has the power to overcome us—or, he may pretend he can help us find something we need but do not have. God declared in the passage we read, “The Lord is God, besides him there is no other.”

Jesus identified who the Devil really is when he said, “When he (Satan) lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the Father of lies.” (John 8:44b)

Have you every encountered the great pretender?

6. **Glinda** is the source of good. The Word of God is the source of good for us, leading us to the God who alone is truly “good.”

David wrote often about the Word of God, saying on one occasion, “The entrance of your word gives life; it gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalm 119:130)

How has Scripture helped you to know God and his goodness?

7. **The Tornado** was the event that propelled Dorothy on her journey. There are events in our individual lives that propel us on our journey of faith. The Deuteronomy passage spoke of many events, of which God was a part.

The book of Romans reminds us, “...All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

What events in your life have propelled you toward God?

8. **Flying Monkeys** represent fears along the way.

Isaiah wrote in a song of praise, “I will trust and not be afraid.” (Isaiah 12:2b) David wrote, “What time I am afraid, I will trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3) Either prayer works.

What is your greatest fear? Are you willing for God to help you overcome that fear?

9. **The Yellow Brick Road** was the *only* way home. Our passage declared, “Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.”

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Jesus also identified a “broad way” that led to destruction, and a “narrow way” that led to life. (Matthew 7:13-14)

What is our only way home? Are we willing to follow the “narrow way” to get home?

10. **“There’s No Place Like Home”** is the life-giving word.

We look forward to the reality of the scripture passage we read that promised God would give an inheritance to those who were his. We know this will be a place where he is present.

“In his presence is fullness of joy, and at his right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

What was your home like as a child? What does your home mean to you? Why do we resonate with the statement, “There’s no place like home”?

B. The Process—“Enter in order to Possess”

Going home is going to be with those we know and love.

- We need to know the God of the land. (See “The Paradoxes of Wonder)

Going home means we have to put aside things that prevent us from going.

- We may need to dispossess “pagan nations” already there. (Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Going home means being encouraged and finding life as we truly want it to be.

- We will find that it will go well with us and our children after us. (Read Jeremiah 29:11)

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C. Application

1. When did you first choose to put your feet on the “yellow brick road”—the only way Home? If you have not yet, when will you?
2. What storms are swirling around you right now? How will you give them over to God’s touch?
3. What “pagan places” need to be dispossessed in you before you can enter and take possession of all that God has for you?
4. Where does your personal encouragement come from at present?
5. How is the Word of God not idle but alive for you; helping you in the process of finding your very essence in Him?

(Mary, This is the new layout for the program. You can copy the “Paradoxes of Wonder” from the e-mail I sent over to you. At the end

**let's put, Adapted from "There's No Place Like Home" by Marilyn
Anderes.)**