# Applying the Covenant 3. Deuteronomy 15:1-16:17

## Building community…

# God has a heart for individuals

## People get themselves into debt

### One of the ways they managed was to pay for seed from the crop that would be produced

## People sink in poverty

### Playing catch-up because plans failed or things changed or a decision turned out to be a bad one

## People sink into service

### Then into servitude

# God calls us to show His heart

## Reflect God’s heart by resetting the clock every 7 years

### Remember God’s rescue of you

### Remember God’s kindness to you

### Remember God’s call to you

## Reflect God’s heart by including others

### Reflect God’s heart by celebrating together with these people

#### 3 times a year come before God to celebrate WITH them

# Celebrate God in your life

## Celebrate God’s rescue (Passover) 16:1-8

### Feast of unleavened bread (1 week, not just Passover)

#### Passover was a meal they shared with neighbours if they had too much

## Celebrate God’s generosity (Weeks) 16:9-12

### Pentecost: First fruits

#### Freewill offering in proportion to the Lord’s blessing

## Celebrate God’s continuing faithfulness (Tabernacles) 16:13-15

### Harvest thanksgiving service

#### Be joyful at your feast and share with the needy

# Celebrations

## These were times to:

### Recall God’s actions (1), Enjoy God’s rest (8), Obey God’s word (16)

### Share God’s gifts (16), Remember God’s goodness (17)

## If you want the detail of how to be one of God’s people in the community:

### Remember what God has done for you

### Remember what God is doing for you

### Reflect onto others God’s heart for you

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Debt

## In what ways is debt now different to debt when this passage was written?

# Poverty

## What do you think are the causes of poverty:

### Internationally?

#### How can we help the poor?

### Individually?

#### How can we help?

## From 15:4 “There should be no poor people among you” can we deduce that God wants all Christians to be prosperous?

### Explain your reasoning

### Does this verse raise the expectation that God will bless us financially if we obey Him?

#### Explain your answer

### How does it really work?

## How can we bring together the statement of 15:4 with the observation of Jesus that “there will always be poor people among you” (Jn 12:8)?

### Does Jesus contradict the OT?

#### If not, how do you explain it?

# Building community

## There is a lot about our attitude to those in need in Dt 15

### What are the attitudes expressed?

### How do these verses inform the call to ‘love our neighbour as ourselves’?

### Why is this important for building a community?

# Setting people free

## The Israelites are reminded that they left Egypt with goodwill and wealth (Ex 12:37)

### How should this inform their attitude to those who leave their service?

## Every first-born

### In what ways does the giving or redeeming of first-borns remind the faithful of their roots?

# Celebrating together

## How do/can we celebrate what God has done for us?

### How do we celebrate in our community?

### How often should we do it?