# Applying the Covenant 5. Deuteronomy 19:1-21

# God allows things to go wrong

## Life as it is in not always as it should be

### Accidents happen, people mess up, individuals lie

#### Being a Christian doesn’t immunise you against these things

### Moses is clarifying the 10 Commandments for the real world where accidents and people happen

#### He’s doing this in the context of change

## How you deal with it reflects who you are, your relationship with God and your trust in Him

### If you fight your own battles you will end up doing dumb things!

# God lets you do dumb things

## The process of sinful behaviour

### A thought

### A plan

### An action

#### Sets you on a different path

## The good news is that in Christ there is a way out

### You can still become the ‘you’ God intended you to be

# God puts limits on your justice

## An eye for an eye

### This was to limit revenge

#### It was to uphold justice and stop ongoing feuds between families

# God provides a better way

## Jesus went further on limiting revenge

### Let God do your vengeance (Mt 5)

## You can react as you’ve always reacted or you can choose to let things go, to pray for the person who has hurt you, to wish them well and let God deal with them

### If you do that you will be a person of the kingdom of God and you will have the peace of God

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Things going wrong

## When was the last time you had ‘one of those days’?

### How did you react?

### How do people typically react when things go wrong?

## Which of the following would you recommend when things do go wrong?

### Adjust goals

### Move the slider between optimism/idealism and reality

### Seek solutions/resolutions not blame

#### Why are these so hard to do at the time?

#### Why is it difficult to suggest these at the time?

# Accidents can have permanent results

## Some accidents can never be ‘undone’

### How can the person who caused the accident ‘move on’?

### How can the victim of the accident (or their family) move on?

## Can we categorise accidents by the consequences?

### Can we categorise them by the actions beforehand?

#### Give examples in your answers

### How do ‘risk assessments’ help to reduce accidents?

# Crime and punishment

## In 19:18,19 it says if a person perjures themselves then the punishment they sought for another should be put on them

### What would happen if this were the law in our courts?

## 19:15-21 does not address collusion, but appeals to every individual to be honest and upright

### How can we ensure that this does not happen: In the home? In the church? In the workplace?

#### What values must be put in place?

# What is stealing?

## How would you define ‘stealing’?

### Is it different depending on context? In the home? At work?

### Why do you think ‘moving a boundary stone’ is counted as stealing by commentators?

#### Why do you think it was not in the Exodus Law given nearly 40 years beforehand?

## Give examples of stealing in the workplace which are common practice

### How can we be examples without being judgmental?

### How do we change the ethos so that ‘stealing’ in reduced?