# Applying the Covenant 10. Deuteronomy 24:1-25:4

## Making a fair society

# God has a plan for people

### To become as He intended

### To be included, accepted and loved

### To be part of a society that deals with difficulties and does not disregard them

## He has gone to great lengths to make that happen

### including letting us know who He is, why He created us, what He wants from us and dealing with our shortcomings through the death of His Son on the cross

# His plan does not include us becoming pain-free

## When we choose Christ we are not choosing an easy life

### That plan includes us showing the world an alternative way of life as a community

### Not based on selfishness or greed or survival of the fittest, but love

# God’s grace and love to overflow to ALL

### If you think you can put God in a box and bring Him out on Sundays then you’ve missed the point

## The covenant tells us that God is relational

### He’s a boundary maker

## The covenant tells us God is communal

### He brings people together in Christ that we might reflect God’s community of the Trinity

# At the heart of the Trinity there is pain

# God wants a His community to reflect His love

## A society that shows the world how to live with pain

### The pain of intimate relationships

### The pain of debt

### The pain of being taken advantage of

### The pain of a disease

### The pain of keeping offenders in society

## This section deals with all of that and animal welfare

# God’s community is one that nurtures and protects

### Women in broken marriages (24:1-4)

### The newly married (5)

### Those who fall into debt (6,10-13,17)

### The vulnerable (7)

### The community from the spread of disease (8,9)

### The employee (14,15)

### The innocent (16)

### The weak (17-22)

### The offender (25:1-3)

### Animals (25:4)

## Wouldn’t you like to be a part of that kind of community?

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Rules for communal living

## What rules would you include if you were to set up your own community of communal living?

### For each say why would you include such a rule?

## What rules would you need to set up your homegroup for communal living?

### What sanctions would be given for those who break the rules?

## Do rules keep people from getting hurt?

### Explain your reasoning

## Who should set the rules?

# Pain

## To what extent do you agree that pain is part of life?

### What kind of society would we have if there were no pain?

## Would a utopian group be pain-free?

### If not, what pains are unavoidable?

## If God knows how painful it is to suffer why does God allow bereavement, poverty, disease, etc?

## Looking at the list of ‘pains’ above, what does this tell you about the heart and mind of God?

### How can we say that God loves us when allows us to suffer in pain?

# Alleviating pain

## What kind of community are we called to be if we are to reflect God’s love AND acknowledge pain?

## What would you say to those who suggest that pain comes from a lack of faith?