

WEEK 1 REFLECTION
Nicaragua – Nubia’s story

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

7 If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbor. 8 You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. 9 Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near’, and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. 10 Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. 11 Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’

Pr. Matt’s study & writing helps:

1. Read 15:1-6 (the part right before this) to see what “the year of remission” (verse 9) is and what it meant for the people.

2. Look at the study notes at the bottom of the page in your Study Bible to see if you can learn anything else interesting about this passage.

3. Read Nubia’s story (*“Story1 Nicaragua.pdf”*, available on the church’s website). Consider WHY God asks us to care for those in need. Do we do it to prove we are good people? Do we do it to earn a place in heaven? Is there something deeper going on here?

4. For your reflection, write 2-3 paragraphs about what you think this passage means for the modern church of 2012. Be careful not to make your paragraphs too much about what we “should” do, but focus on WHY we would help those in need (see Question #3 above).

OTHER IDEAS FOR YOUR PARAGRAPHS:

1. You could name the places in our modern world where you see need.
2. You could tell about a time you helped someone and how that felt
3. You could tell about a time you saw someone in need and how that felt
4. You could tell about a time when you or someone you know was in need
5. You could talk about what you want to do when you grow up and how that might meet the needs of others
6. You could talk with your family about one thing you could do to respond to this passage. (*Hint: It isn’t always about money! Is there anything else you could do live in a way that reflects the values in this passage?*)

You can contact me by e-mail, Facebook, or phone for help with this!

5. E-mail me (pr_matt@hotmail.com) or send me a Facebook message with a draft of your paragraphs one week before your assigned Wednesday. That way, I can help you edit it and get it ready to read in church.

Don’t forget – you are not on your own here – I believe that you have something important to share & I am here to help you find the right words!