



Audio Disc: # 8



Visual Disc: # 5

Artist: Deluge
Album: Live: From Bethany
World Prayer Center

Theme:
Worship

Devotional

9 OPEN UP THE SKY DELUGE

1 Start Up

Divide your students into small groups so they can share prayer requests with each other. If possible, have an adult leader in each group. After they pray, have the groups compile a list of what they would like God to do for them. While they are creating their lists, have the song, "Open Up the Sky," playing in the background. When the song is over, collect the lists, and if you feel it is appropriate, read the lists out loud (without naming any names).

2 Get Focused

After your introduction, lead students in a discussion and devotion through Deuteronomy 29:10-14. Make sure you give them background information on this

passage as it relates to the children of Israel and God's choosing of them, and how God offers that same protection to His children today. Share the following points with them, adding your own illustrations and anecdotes to make this devotion personal to your group.

Deuteronomy 28:10-14 (The Message//Remix)

"All the peoples on Earth will see you living under the Name of God and hold you in respectful awe.

God will lavish you with good things: children from your womb, offspring from your animals, and crops from your land, the land that God promised your ancestors that he would give you. God will throw open the doors of his sky vaults and pour rain on your land on schedule and bless the work you take in hand. You will lend to many nations but you yourself won't have to take out a loan. God will make you the head, not the tail; you'll always be the top dog, never the bottom dog, as you obediently listen to and diligently keep the commands of God, your God, that I am commanding you today. Don't swerve an inch to the right or left from the words that I command you today by going off following and worshipping other gods."

- 1) God called out to His people (the Nation of Israel) and promised to make them great –because He chose them. He promised to make them a people who were greatly respected and awed by others; He promised them His protection and His blessing –because He chose them. God promises to take care of His people. He promises to lavish His people with good things. They are His people and He is their God, and because they live "under the Name of God," others will see His might through their lives.
- 2) God called His people to obedience –because He is worthy of it. He desires for us to change who we are. He really wants us to be like Him. Indeed, that's how we were created! He wants us to be obedient to His call and command, because that is what will truly change us. He is worthy of our obedience and we must learn to let our own expectations and desires go so we can attain the blessings He has prepared for us.

Today students can see God's hand at work in their lives when they have an obedient relationship with Him. They might be tempted to view "good things" as a new car, an iPhone, the latest clothes, or something else they "want," but God promises His people the Blessing of Him –which is bigger than all our "wants." (Psalm 37:4)

3 Wind Down

As you conclude, play the song, "Open Up the Sky," for your group. Have them listen carefully to the words and provide copies of the lyrics if possible. After the song, read the following verse aloud to them:

Open up the sky fall down like rain
We don't want blessings, we want You
Open up the sky fall down like fire
We don't want anything but You

Challenge your students to commit their lives to worshipping God with a passion that allows these lyrics to be the prayer and action of their lives.