

A Heart That Hears and Obeys God

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Six | Deuteronomy 5:22–33

THE BIG IDEA

God has spoken, and his voice deserves more than a moment of awe. He is looking for hearts that keep fearing him and lives that keep walking in his ways long after the mountain stops shaking. The good news is that we do not climb up to a holy God on our own. He has given us a mediator in Jesus, and his grace carries us every step of the way.

01 Share life *about 15 minutes*

Before we open the Bible, take a few minutes to catch up on life. Give everyone a chance to share. This guide is designed for about 85 minutes, and the times beside each section are suggestions, not rules.

1. What was a high point and a low point from your week?
2. When was the last time something left you genuinely in awe? What was it?
- 3. When we last met, we each named one step to take. How did it go, and what got in the way?

02 Setting the scene

We are six weeks into Deuteronomy. Moses is preaching on the plains of Moab to a new generation standing at the edge of the Promised Land, and in chapter 5 he takes them back to Mount Sinai, where God gave the Ten Commandments. Last week we heard those commandments as the shape of a loving relationship with the God who rescued Israel from slavery. This week we hear what happened right after God spoke them out loud. The mountain burned, the people heard the very voice of God, and they were sure they would die. So they begged Moses to stand between them and God, and God said they were right. Then God opened his heart: he longs for a people whose reverence lasts, whose hearts keep fearing him, and whose feet keep walking in his ways. This passage is about how God's people respond when God speaks.

03 Read the Word together *about 10 minutes*

Open your Bibles to Deuteronomy 5:22–33. Have one person read the passage aloud, slowly, while the rest of the group follows along. If your group reads in another language, have someone read it again from their own Bible. The verses for each part of the study are printed in the sections below.

MEMORY VERSE | DEUTERONOMY 5:29

If only they had such a heart to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that they and their children would prosper forever.

First impressions

4. What word, phrase, or image stood out to you as the passage was read?
5. What did you notice about how the people respond to God's voice? Did anything surprise you?

04 Study the scripture *about 35 minutes*

The sermon walked through three movements: listening to God's voice with reverent fear, trusting God's chosen mediator, and cultivating an obedient heart that walks in God's ways. The verses for each part are printed below, so reread them as you go. The first question in each part asks what the text says, the second asks what it means, and the third asks what it changes. If time is short, keep the questions marked with an orange dot.

LISTEN TO GOD'S VOICE WITH REVERENT FEAR

Read verses 22–26 again.

Deuteronomy 5:24–26 CSB

24 You said, 'Look, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that God speaks with a person, yet he still lives. **25** But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer. **26** For who out of all humanity has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the fire, as we have, and lived?

God spoke the Ten Commandments out loud from fire, cloud, and thick darkness, then wrote them on stone. Israel saw his glory, heard his voice, and were sure they would die.

Their fear was not a flaw. It was an honest response to a holy God. Reverent fear is not terror that drives us away from God. It is awe that humbles us before him.

6. Look at verses 24 to 26. What did the people say they had seen and heard, and what were they afraid would happen next?
7. Israel was terrified, yet God said their words were right. What is the difference between fear that pushes us away from God and reverent awe that draws us to him in humility?
- 8. Where are you tempted to treat God casually? What would it look like to recover a sense of awe this week?

TRUST GOD'S CHOSEN MEDIATOR

Read verses 27–28 again.

Deuteronomy 5:27-28 CSB

27 Go near and listen to everything the LORD our God says. Then you can tell us everything the LORD our God tells you; we will listen and obey.' **28** The LORD heard your words when you spoke to me. He said to me, 'I have heard the words that these people have spoken to you. Everything they have said is right.'

The people asked Moses to stand between them and God, to hear on their behalf and then speak to them everything God said. God affirmed their request. Israel needed Moses, but Moses points beyond himself. We need one greater than Moses, and God has given him. Jesus is the perfect mediator who brings us near to God (1 Timothy 2:5).

9. Look at verses 27 and 28. What did the people ask Moses to do, and how did God respond to their request?
10. Why is it good news that we do not have to approach a holy God on the strength of our own goodness?
- 11. When you fail, do you tend to run toward Christ or hide from him? What makes hiding tempting?

CULTIVATE AN OBEDIENT HEART AND WALK IN GOD'S WAYS

Read verses 29–33 again.

Deuteronomy 5:29, 32–33 CSB

29 If only they had such a heart to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that they and their children would prosper forever. **32** Be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you are not to turn aside to the right or the left. **33** Follow the whole instruction the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live, prosper, and have a long life in the land you will possess.

Verse 29 is the emotional center of the passage. God longs for hearts that keep fearing him long after the mountain stops shaking, not temporary fear or a one time spiritual experience. And his commands are not burdens. They are the pathway to life, given so that it may go well with his people.

Notice that walking in God's ways was never meant to stay at the mountain. God sent the people back to their tents to live it out. In the same way, our obedience is lived out in kitchens, workplaces, classrooms, and neighborhoods, where a watching world gets to see what a heart that fears the Lord looks like.

12. Look at verse 29. What does God say he longs for, and why does he long for it?
13. God said, "If only they had such a heart always." Why does spiritual intensity fade, and what helps a heart stay tender toward God over time?
- 14. God sent the people back to their tents to walk in his ways. Where in your ordinary week, at home, at work, or at school, would walking in God's ways look visibly different?

05 Back to Jesus *about 10 minutes*

How does this passage point us back to Jesus?

At the mountain, Israel begged for someone to stand between them and the holy God, and God gave them Moses. But Moses could only carry words. He could not change hearts, and he could not take away sin. Hebrews 12 tells us we have not come to a burning mountain but to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, whose blood speaks a better word. Because Jesus stood in our place, we can hear God's voice and live. And the heart God longed for in verse 29 is the very heart he now creates in us by his Spirit.

- 15. How does knowing that Jesus stands between you and a holy God change the way you hear his commands, as a burden to carry or as a blessing to walk in?

APPLICATION

What is God telling me to do today? Write down one specific step you will take this week.

06 Pray together *about 15 minutes*

Share one request with the group and pray for one another. As you pray, name the step each person wrote down and ask the Holy Spirit for the courage and power to take it.

Who has God brought to mind this week?

Someone who needs what you have been talking about. Write their name here and pray for them by name.

Prayer requests

A PRAYER TO CARRY WITH YOU

Father, you have spoken, and your voice is holy. Give me a heart that stays in awe of you long after the moment passes. Thank you, Jesus, for standing between me and the mountain, and for speaking a better word over me than my fear ever could. Holy Spirit, teach me to hear and obey, and to walk in God's ways in my home, my work, and my everyday week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

At home this week

Deuteronomy 6 tells parents to talk about God's words at the table and on the road. If there are children in your home, ask at dinner this week: **What does it feel like to be in awe of something really big?** Then read Deuteronomy 5:29 together. God wants hearts that keep loving him long after the big moment is over.

Before we gather again

Three things to carry into the week.

- Read Deuteronomy 5:22–33 again on your own this week, and ask God what he is saying to you through it.
- Take the one step you wrote down, and tell someone once you have done it.
- Reach out to the person whose name you wrote in Pray Together. We will talk about how it went next time.



Scan to answer two quick questions after your meeting: which question landed, and which one fell flat.