

Not by bread alone

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Ten | Deuteronomy 8:1-20

THE BIG IDEA

True life is not found in what we can provide for ourselves. It is found in trusting God for everything, in scarcity and in abundance. The lesson was never that Israel had to earn their bread. It was that the God who gave it had loved them first.

THE SERMON IN A BREATH

Why the wilderness? Because God was turning former slaves into children who could trust him. He humbled them with hunger, then fed them with manna they had never seen, so they would learn that people do not live on bread alone. Now they walk into abundance, and the danger flips from starving to forgetting. The sermon lands on Jesus, who took the test in the wilderness that both Adam and Israel failed, and passed it on our behalf.

WHERE EACH QUESTION IS HEADING

- **Questions 1 to 3.** Warm the room and close the loop on last week's step. Do not let it run long.
- **Questions 4 and 5.** First impressions only. Resist the urge to teach here.
- **Questions 6 and 7.** Obedience that earns versus obedience that trusts. If someone hears only law and shuts down, point back to verse 1: the land was already promised.
- **Questions 8 and 9.** Where the group gets honest about a hard season. Expect one long answer, protect it, and do not rush to fix it.
- **Questions 10 and 11.** Pride in plenty, then generosity. Question 11 is the sending question. End it with something concrete.
- **Question 12.** The gospel turn. If time is short, cut a question above, not this one.

TIME BUDGET

Share life	15 min	Back to Jesus	8 min
Setting the scene	5 min	Application, written	4 min
Read the word together	10 min	Pray together	10 min
Study the scripture, three parts	33 min	Total	85 min

TWO THINGS TO WATCH

- **Comparison.** Question 10 lands unevenly in a mixed income group. Ask it of yourself first.
- **Silence.** After question 8, count to ten before you speak.