

# Loved First

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Twelve | Deuteronomy 11:1–32

## THE BIG IDEA

Before Moses hands Israel a single law, he answers the question underneath every command: why do we love God, and why do we obey him? What God has done, what God is giving, and what God will do all come back to love. We do not obey in order to be loved. We obey because we have already been loved.

## THE SERMON IN A BREATH

Chapter 11 is the last stone in the foundation before the laws begin in chapter 12, so Moses stops to answer the why. He retells the whole story, hard parts included, because Israel changed and God did not. He describes a land watered from heaven, not by their own foot, and commands given as a way of life, not a leash. Then he sets blessing and curse before them with the blessing at center stage. Israel would forget and lose the land, and God would answer with Jesus, who took the curse we earned. We love because he first loved us, and we obey because we love him.

## WHERE EACH QUESTION IS HEADING

- **Questions 1 to 3.** Warm the room and close the loop on last week's step. Keep it short.
- **Questions 4 and 5.** First impressions only. Split the reading three ways, and resist teaching here.
- **Questions 6 and 7.** The whole story, not the highlight reel. Question 7 invites real pain. Answer it yourself first.
- **Questions 8 and 9.** Watered by hand versus watered from heaven, then obedience as burden or gift. Slow down on question 8.
- **Questions 10 and 11.** Blessing first, then the sending question. End question 11 with a name and one concrete step.
- **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 | 12 min | Pray together        | 10 min        |
| Study the Scripture    | 31 min | <b>Total</b>         | <b>85 min</b> |

## TWO THINGS TO WATCH

- **Fear of the curse.** Someone will hear verses 16 and 17 as a threat. Say it plainly: Jesus took the curse. God's warnings are a Father's care, not a countdown.
- **Obedience as scorekeeping.** If the group drifts toward trying harder, go back to the order of the chapter. What God has done comes first. Love is the fuel, not the reward.