

The Place He Chose

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Thirteen | Deuteronomy 12:1–32

THE BIG IDEA

Israel is walking into a land with an altar on every hill, and God says: not like that. He chooses the place, he gathers the people, and he sets the table. Worship is not something we design or consume. It is something God gives, and all three lead to Jesus, the place where God meets us.

THE SERMON IN A BREATH

Canaan has an altar under every green tree. God says tear them down, and do not worship me their way either. Six times Moses says the place the LORD chooses, because God clears the hills so Israel will know exactly where to find him. There he gathers a whole household, Levites included, and tells them three times to rejoice before him. Jesus told a Samaritan woman the place was neither her mountain nor Jerusalem, because the place had become a person. Moses says the blood is the life. Jesus says, then I will give you mine.

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.** Editing God down, then consumer versus contributor. Keep question 7 warm, not scolding.
- **Questions 8 and 9.** The family you did not pick, and the Levite nobody notices. Have names ready for question 9.
- **Questions 10 and 11.** Joy before the LORD, then the tables. End question 11 with a real group and a real person.
- **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	Total	85 min

TWO THINGS TO WATCH

- **The tear-down verses.** Verses 2, 3, and 31 sound harsh. Keep it on where those altars lead. God tears them down because he knows what they take from families.
- **Shame about showing up.** The consumer critique can curdle into guilt about attendance. The invitation is to bring yourself, and empty hands count. Point back to the table.