

Loyalty Tested: Worship That Won't Be Moved

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Fourteen | Deuteronomy 13:1-18

THE BIG IDEA

The greatest threat to our worship rarely comes from outside. It comes through familiar voices. God calls us to test every voice, cling to him alone, and speak the truth in love, because the God who rescued us holds on to us first.

THE SERMON IN A BREATH

Moses warns that the threat to Israel's worship will come from inside the camp: a prophet whose sign really works, a loved one who whispers in secret, a whole town led astray. Results are not truth, so every voice is tested against the God who rescued them. Verse 4 says cling to the LORD, and verses 12 to 14 say investigate rather than react. Compromise spreads, so the whole community guards its worship. Jesus faced the same test in the wilderness, answered from Deuteronomy, stayed loyal for us, and died for those who strayed.

WHERE EACH QUESTION IS HEADING

- **Questions 1 to 3.** Warm the room and close the loop on last week's step.
- **Questions 4 and 5.** First impressions only. Split the reading three ways.
- **Questions 6 and 7.** Results are not truth, then the voices we love. Question 7 can touch family pain.
- **Questions 8 and 9.** The four testing questions, then clinging. Push for one specific voice.
- **Questions 10 and 11.** Honest love, not gossip and not cutting off. End question 11 with 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 hard verses.** Verses 5, 9 and 10, and 15 call for death. Do not skip them. Keep it on how seriously God guards his people, and land at the cross, where Jesus bore the judgment.
- **Loyalty used as control.** Some in the room may have been hurt by leaders who demanded loyalty to themselves. This passage calls for loyalty to God, tested by Scripture, not to any pastor or group. Make that clear.