

Open Hands

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Sixteen | Deuteronomy 14:22–15:23

THE BIG IDEA

God commands his people to feast before him, release what others owe, and never send anyone away empty-handed. We can live with open hands because God has opened his hand to us.

THE SERMON IN A BREATH

On the edge of the promised land, Israel is about to have more than they need for the first time, and Moses shows them that what they do with their hands is worship. The tithe became a feast before the Lord that widened to include the Levite, the immigrant, the fatherless, and the widow. Every seventh year debts were released, and God warned against the calculation that closes the hand. Servants went free with resources for the road, because Israel remembered its own redemption. Jesus is the Lord's release, whose hands were opened on the cross, and LOFT is living in a release year of its own.

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 four ways.
- **Questions 6 and 7.** God's generosity comes before ours, then who is missing from our tables. Push for a real name on question 7.
- **Questions 8 and 9.** The heart before the hand, then planning that avoids love. Invite honesty without shame.
- **Questions 10 and 11.** Resources for the road, then LOFT's release year and who God is calling each of us to bless.
- **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

- **Money is tender.** Some in your group may be carrying debt or real financial strain. Do not let the conversation assume everyone has a full barn. Follow up privately with anyone who shares a need, and loop in a pastor.
- **Not a fundraising pitch.** The thank offering and the 2027 plans are good news, but this study is about God's open hand. Keep landing on grace, not pressure.