

# WATER•FIRE•STONE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOSES

## Session 19 – Choose Life, Part One | Deuteronomy Ch. 6-7

Deuteronomy opens with Moses calling the people together on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River. By our calendar, it is mid-January, just before the spring rains come to bathe the soil and swell the riverbanks of the Jordan. Moses and the multitude are in the last stages of their journey together. In a matter of weeks, Israel will cross the Jordan River in a miraculous way reminiscent of the Red Sea. But Moses will not be with them.

We have traced Moses' life through the pages of Exodus and Numbers; now we're stepping into the final days of this faithful servant's life.



The book of Deuteronomy is a series of sermons Moses gave to prepare the people for life in the promised land. What would you say to loved ones if you knew you were saying goodbye? In this three-part series, *Choose Life*, we focus on God's faithfulness and what is most important in life.

### Icebreaker

When you were a child, who was a spiritual influence on you? Share how and in what way.

### Goals for this Session

- Discover what causes God's Word to become the motivating influence in our life.
- Consider what is most important to you and how you can pass that on.
- Pray for resolve to remain faithful, hopeful, and obedient in the days to come.

## DEUTERONOMY 6:1-25

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CHOOSE LIFE, PART ONE

**1** Deuteronomy 6:1-25 | Remember the Lord your God. Read each section and highlight what stands out most to you and why.

- a. Verses 1-3:
- b. Verses 4-9:
- c. Verses 10-19:
- d. Verses 20-25:

**2** Deuteronomy 6:6-9 | In these verses, Moses lists six areas where God's Word should be the guiding influence in our life and behavior. Some of his descriptions are literal and some are metaphors. Take time to think about what each one means. Give some practical examples of what this looks like for you in daily life.

- a. On your heart.
- b. In your family life and conversation.
- c. In your hands.
- d. On your forehead.
- e. Written on the doorposts of your house.
- f. Posted on your gates.

### 3 It's all about the Lord. That was Moses' reminder to this new generation as they prepared to enter the promised land.

Centuries later, when asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:28-31).

- a. **Heart.** Simply put, loving God with all our heart is giving God unhindered access. Every desire, every motive is rooted in Him or weeded out. At the same time, God gives us unhindered access to Himself. Use the verses below to describe what this looks like.

Psalm 119:10-11

Jeremiah 29:11-13

#### #wordstoknow

**heart** – emotions, desires, affections, motives, will.

**soul** – literally "breath"; the immaterial, God-breathed inner being.

**strength** – ability, capacity, power; it implies diligent, whole-hearted effort that responds without hesitation.

**mind** – intellect, thoughts, understanding, judgment.

- b. **Soul.** "The dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

Life is more than mere physical existence. As believers, we know that being absent from the body means being present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). Share how this hope influences the way you live in the here-and-now.

- c. **Mind.** "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3). Feelings may shift and change, but God's Word is solid ground.

Philippians 4:8 is an excellent guide for filtering thoughts and focusing our outlook. Select one or two that you will consistently practice this week. Share what you chose and why.

Whatever is . . .

Whatever is . . .

- d. **Strength.** Knowing what little time he had left with them, every sermon Moses preached rang the same bell. Remember the Lord your God. Follow Him—all in, no turning back.

Imagine what forty years in the desert could do. Would it erode your resolve or would it put iron in your soul? We learn from Israel's example in the wilderness. We can habitually wander, or we can learn to follow.

Whether you have walked with the Lord for four weeks or four decades, we all have days that test our faith and endurance. When life presses in, what puts iron in your soul? Use the verses below for help with your answer. If you like, share some of your own personal favorites.

Psalm 73:26

Isaiah 40:28-31

Isaiah 46:4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Philippians 3:13-14

## Memory Verse

“Hear O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one!  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,  
and with all your strength.”

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 NKJV

Which part of this verse resonates most with you today? How or in what way?

**4** Deuteronomy 7:1-26 | The book of Deuteronomy is essentially Moses' last written words to a new generation. Based on what you read in this chapter, what advice would you leave for the next generation, including your children or grandchildren?

Highlight what stands out to you from these verses and share it in your own words.

a. Deuteronomy 7:1-11

○ A warning:

○ A promise:

○ A reminder:

b. Deuteronomy 7:12-26

○ A warning:

○ A promise:

○ A reminder:

**A**ction Steps ►► As you think through this part of Moses’ story, what is the most important takeaway point for you personally? How will you put what you’ve learned into action?

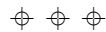
**P**ray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**Adoration** – Giving praise and honor to God for who He is and what He does.

**Confession** – Honestly deal with sin; acknowledge to God the ways (and whys) you fall short.

**Thanksgiving** – Verbalize your gratitude; express your praise and a thankful heart.

**Supplication** – Pray specifically for the needs of others, ourselves, our church, our nation.



Close your discussion time by praying together. Use the A·C·T·S pattern as a group focus and keep it simple. No need to be lengthy or profound—just authentic.

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