



JANUARY 10, 2021

LEADER GUIDE

Dive In

- Think of a time when obedience was difficult for you. What made it difficult? Were you able to overcome the difficulties? If so, how? If not, why not?

Dig Deep

Read **Deuteronomy 1:19-25**

19 "Then, as the LORD our God commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites through all that vast and dreadful wilderness that you have seen, and so we reached Kadesh Barnea. **20** Then I said to you, "You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. **21** See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." **22** Then all of you came to me and said, "Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to." **23** The idea seemed good to me; so, I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.

24 They left and went up into the hill country and came to the Valley of Eshkol and explored it. **25** Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, "It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us." Moses reminds Israel of their history with God and His faithfulness, care and love as well as their ancestor's unfaithfulness 40 years earlier.

Two key thoughts are found in our text (vs. 21) that challenged Israel's obedience: "Do not be afraid." and "Do not be discouraged."

- What fears and discouragement did the Israelite's have 40 years earlier (Deut. 1:26-33)?
- Why were they afraid and discouraged?

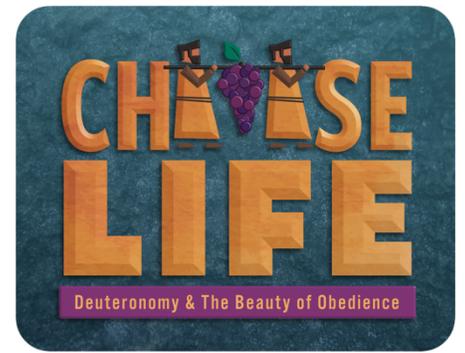
Do Big

One of the big things we all fear when trying to obey is loss of control.

- Why do we fear losing control? What do we think will happen if we let go and let God take over?
- What are some ways we can overcome that fear of losing control?

Discouragement is a very real emotion that many times leads to a shutting down.

- How can we strive toward persistence when we are discouraged?



Leaders

Read all of chapter one of Deuteronomy for context.

Background

A good narrative will begin with the "who, what, where, when, and why". You will discover all of these in Deuteronomy 1:1-5.

Key thoughts

"God's commandment is always God's enablement, and to win the victory His people need only trust and obey." Warren Wiersbe

In God's word one of the most often repeated commandments is "do not to be afraid" and one of the most often repeated promise is "I will be with you."

Key reminder

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2