



## DISCUSSION GUIDE FEBRUARY 7, 2021

### Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

In today's Western culture, there's a growing distrust of authority. Do you feel this in any areas of your life or community? Does obedience to authority come naturally to you? Why or why not?

### Dig Deep

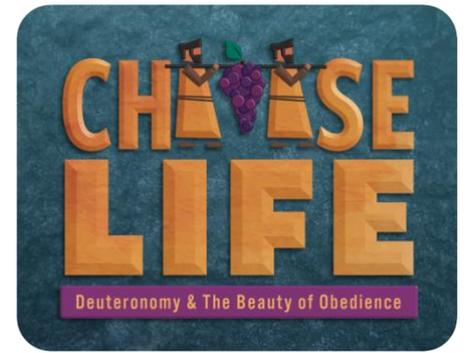
Read Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:7-21

**7** “You shall have no other gods before me. **8** “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. **9** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, **10** but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. **11** “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. **12** “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. **13** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **14** but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. **15** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore, the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. **16** “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you. **17** “You shall not murder. **18** “You shall not commit adultery. **19** “You shall not steal. **20** “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. **21** “You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

- This chapter marks the beginning of Moses second sermon and a long discussion of decrees and laws (chapters 5-26). Why begin this second sermon with the reminder of the Ten Commandments?
- The first four commandments concern Israel's relationship to God personally (5:7-15). What do you learn about God's nature and the kind of relationship God wants with you through these commandments?
- The last six commandments move us from our relationship with the Lord to living that relationship with other people (5:16-21). What kind of relationship does God desire for each of us and how can I contribute to the wellbeing of others by obeying these commandments?

### Do Big

- God's commands act as guard rails or healthy boundaries in our lives. What specific habits can you practice this week to stay in step with God's will?
- How might you encourage others to see God's law as liberating rather than oppressive?



## LEADERS

### Read Deuteronomy 5

#### Background:

After the Exodus from Egypt, God gave the nation of Israel the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Moses reiterated these 40 years later (Deuteronomy 5) as the Israelites neared the Promised Land. Leaving captivity and now entering this land meant establishing a new society. These commandments established healthy and holy boundaries based on respect for God and other people. Though God wrote these commandments so many years ago they still influence our legal system, society, and world today.

#### Key Thoughts

“The church did the most for the world when the church was the least like the world.” G. Campbell Morgan

Life without boundaries is a life lived in chaos and self-destruction.

Life with God's boundaries frees us to live loving, joy filled relationships with the Lord and others (Mark 12:29-31).

#### Weekly Memory Verse

“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:10

“This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome,” 1 John 5:3