

Deuteronomy 30:11-20
Life or death—your choice?

Warm Up

I know this sounds morbid, but what would be your last message to those you love, before you die?

Don't forget to clean the fridge? Remember to take the dog for a walk? Or something more vital?

Background and context

Moses is nearing the end of his life. He reminds Israel that God's commands are not distant or impossible—They're close, clear, and within reach. Then he presents a stark choice: **life and prosperity** or **death and destruction**. He emphasises that God's law is not hidden or out of reach. He lays out two paths, loving God and walking in His ways or turning away and worshipping other gods. Moses calls heaven and earth as witnesses and urges people to "choose life."

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Deuteronomy 30:11-20. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. **Read v 1-14.** What does it mean that God's command is not in heaven or over the sea?
2. How is God's command "near" to us today? See **Romans 10:6-10**.
3. **Read 15-18.** In what way is this choice more about just following rules or not following rules? What is it really about?
4. In what ways do people still choose "death" over "life"?
5. Why do people choose death over life? What motivates them?
6. **Read v19-20.** What does "choosing life" look like every day?
7. How can love for God motivate obedience more than fear?

Discipleship and Application

8. What is the difference between reading scripture and meditating on it? How can you develop meditating on scripture in your daily life?
9. How do you make conscious decisions to "choose life" as described in the passage?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.