



## Discussion Guide

Date: 8/3/2025

Sermon Title: What happens when the journey is over?

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

### OPENING PRAYER

*Gracious God, we gather at the end of a journey, thankful for Your guidance along every road and through every wilderness. Open our hearts and minds today to Your Word. Teach us what it means to choose life—to love You, to walk in Your ways, and to live as transformed people now that we have “arrived.” Help us hear Your Spirit speak and give us courage to respond. Amen.*

### Opening Question:

1. When you think of a long journey, time away, or a vacation coming to an end, how do you usually feel? Relieved? Anxious? Unsure what's next? How do you manage those feelings and thoughts?

### Digging into the Word:

1. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20, what word or phrase stands out to you from this passage?
2. After the Israelites reached the promised land, Moses reminded them they still had choices to make. How does the end of a journey open up a new set of decisions rather than just rest?
3. Think about a time you finished a major journey or season in life (school, parenting, recovery, a faith step). What changed for you when the journey ended? How did your faith shape those next steps?
4. Moses frames life with God as a daily choice. What do you think it means to “choose life” in your own day-to-day circumstances?
5. John Wesley described holiness as “faith working by love” (Wesley, Sermons on Several Occasions). What does it look like to let love be the center of the way we make decisions in life?

### Additional scripture:

6. Read John 10:10. What does it mean for you to have life in Christ or life abundantly? What is the hope in this text? Is this the life to come or our life in the present?
7. Read Joshua 24:14-15. What helps you or motivates you to choose whom to serve? Is this a passive or active choice? Explain.

### Wesleyan insight:

- Wesley taught about prevenient grace—that God's grace goes before us and enables us to choose life.
8. How does this passage from Deuteronomy remind you that God has already prepared a way before us, but invites our response?

9. Reflect on Wesley's General Rules: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. How do these rules offer a framework for "life after the journey"?

#### **Sermon Questions:**

10. In the sermon Pastor Clayton talked about the "promise land" ideas. That arriving at our "promised land" doesn't automatically solve all our problems. In what ways might our expectations of a 'promised land' (whether it's a new job, relationship, or life stage) differ from reality, and how can we adjust our perspective?
11. In the sermon we learn about Moses three pieces of advice he leaves with the Israelites just before entering the promise land, he said 'choose God, choose your attitude, and choose life'. How can we apply this to our daily lives, especially when facing challenges or new beginnings?
12. How can we cultivate an attitude of thankfulness 'in all circumstances,' as Pastor Clayton mentioned even during difficult times? How do you move forward even in hard circumstances with the right attitude?
13. In the sermon Pastor Clayton shares a story about a football player being blocked. In what ways can we ensure we don't 'stay blocked' when facing obstacles in our spiritual or personal lives?
14. The sermon quoted Mary Oliver's poem; "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" How does this question challenge or inspire you?

#### **Applying it:**

15. How can your small group or church community help one another keep choosing life when the journey becomes routine?
16. How can we balance acknowledging life's challenges while still choosing to focus on blessings and possibilities?
17. Where are you celebrating and choosing life in your daily routines or even the hardships of life?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*God of the journey, we give You thanks for every step that has led us closer to You. As we stand at the end of this road, remind us that our life with You is never finished. Each day You place before us the choice to love You, to walk in Your ways, and to bring life into the world. Strengthen us to choose life again tomorrow, and the next day, until Your love fills every road we take. Amen.*

#### **WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)**

1. Gratitude Challenge: Like the "Gratitoads" we are using as a reminder this summer, can you commit to sharing one thing you're grateful for each day this week with the group, your spouse or a friend?
2. Attitude Check: Each morning this week, consciously choose your attitude for the day. Reflect on how this impacts your experiences.
3. Life-Giving Actions: Identify one way you can "choose life" this week by blessing or encouraging someone else. Share your plan with the group and report back next week.