**Long Story Short Part 2: Exodus and Wandering**

Our role in this story is to simply choose life. Choosing life means to love God more than anything else. So often we believe that our role is to be obedient and follow the commandments. We have it backwards. Our role is to choose life, and God will give us the power to be obedient.

In this message we will see **How God has made it possible for us to choose life.**

**Message Outline:**

1. We have chosen death.
2. It is not about you.
3. Life is found in love.
4. **We have chosen death.**

We are like the Israelites. We have heard and seen God’s glory yet we choose death.

**Deuteronomy 29: 2–4**

*Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them, “You have seen with your own eyes everything the Lord did in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to his whole country— 3all the great tests of strength, the miraculous signs, and the amazing wonders. 4But to this day the Lord has not given you minds that understand, nor eyes that see, nor ears that hear!*

1. **It’s not about you.**
   1. When we return to God, he will show us love and mercy.
   2. He is going to make a new covenant with us if we choose Him. Sneak peak: this covenant has nothing to do with what we can do.

**Deuteronomy 30:6**

*The Lord your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!*

1. **Life is found in Love.**

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

*Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! 20You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life.*

**Bottom Line**: We chose death, and this leads to life apart from God. Jesus chose death so that we may live a life with God.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Would you say it is hard or easy to choose life? (i.e. Choosing to love God).
2. When is it hard to choose life?  When is it easy?
3. Often times we believe we can do “things” in order to love God more. What are some things you are tempted to do in order to gain God’s love?
4. Think about a time that you have failed and chosen to love something more than God. What was the result of this experience? What happens when we decide to return to the Father after our failures?