

**Title:** Promised Land Living: The Deuteronomic Dream // **Scripture:** Deuteronomy 5:18-20 // 22:9-25:4

**ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME** *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

**SERMON REVIEW** *5-10 minutes*

The American Dream holds enormous influence over the way many of us see the world. The book of Deuteronomy, on the other hand, shows us God's guidelines for Israel to live as an ideal nation reflecting his heart in the land. In that sense, it provides a "Deuteronomic Dream" for God's people. This dream continues to echo and resonate with us today. We live in the midst of many "tricky mixtures" in our culture, where our kingdom perspective bumps up against the selfishness, selfish ambition and self-deception of our culture. How should we then live?

**THE MAIN THOUGHT** *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

Live well by holding on to the tassels of God's commands.

**SEE IT – Questions** *10-15 minutes*

**Picture** (What is the story saying?): What's the significance of the tassels? (see Numbers 15) What is at the core of the Deuteronomic Dream? (Word 7) What is the idea of "stealing" in Word 8? What's another way to explain "false witness"? (Word 9)

**Mirror** (Where am I in the story?): Do I equate success/the American Dream with blessing? Hard work with success? What is God's plan for my path to joy (happiness)?

**Window** (Where am I in the story?): How can we view the American Dream through the lens of the Deuteronomic Dream? How do we display the light of God in the darkness of our nation/neighborhood?

**BE IT – Practice**

**Change UP // Hold onto the Tassels** *5 minutes*

Spend time in prayer together. Invite the Father to show you any areas of tricky mixtures in your life. Have the leader lead through these individual considerations: Choose to let go of selfishness and hold onto your commitment of marriage and family. Let go of selfish ambition and hold onto generosity. Ask God to help you let go of self-deception and hold onto truth.

**Change IN // Pass the Tassel** *15 minutes*

Before group time, find something that has a tassel. Have cards available for individuals to write on. For the exercise, have each person write a command of God that they are choosing to hold onto. Then take turns passing the tassel around the group, as each person reads his declaration.

**Change OUT // Blessing Others** *5 minutes*

Talk about this together. Who is someone you are connected with that has fallen on hard times (economic or emotional)? How can you reach out to them and bless them this week? Make a plan.

**CLOSING PRAYER** *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.