GROUP QUESTIONS FOR **OCTOBER 18**

Deuteronomy: God Puts Our Love to the Test

Deuteronomy 6:16-19| Test of Surprising Hardship and Doubt

Icebreakers!

1. Name a place that instantly brings a story to mind as soon as you say its name. *Share the story, if you have the time!*
2. When were you really surprised by a big hardship, or trial, that came into your life?

Growing Together

3. **Study Deuteronomy 6:16-19 on the next page.** What's the warning? What's the correction? How do you see the two connected?
4. We struggle with the idea that God will allow deep hardship in our lives, even after we put our faith in Him. What makes us struggle with hardship that goes that deep?
5. When we "test" the LORD, we make His response to our demands the condition of our obedience to Him. How do we test Him today in our own hearts? as a church?
6. What does it look and feel like to commit to keeping God's commands—absolutely clinging to that obedience—even when your doubts and your hurts are at their max?
7. How can we know what's good and right in the sight of the Lord? What kind of mindset and action does God call us to, even when we experience surprising hardships?
8. What promises of God are still true for us, even when we go through hard times? When have God's people had to trust that He will still fulfill His promises, even when hope seems lost?
9. **From the message this Sunday: What questions do you have? What encouraged you? What challenged you? Where did you see the Gospel?**

Head, Heart, and Hands

10. If you are in the middle of hardship that took you by surprise, how can you preach to your own soul to trust God instead of testing Him? What promises are still true for you?
11. Testing comes from a place of doubt; trust, from faith. Take a minute to remember stories of God's faithfulness, in the Bible and in your life. If you're stuck, invite someone else to share their stories with you of God's faithfulness to them in their trials.
12. In your group, you probably have at least one person going through a difficult and surprising trial. Lift them up in prayer together before you go. Pray especially that their faith will stand this test as they commit to obey God and do what's right in His eyes.

Deuteronomy 6:16-19

You shall not put the LORD your God to the test,
as you tested him at Massah.

You shall diligently keep
the commandments of the LORD your God,
and his testimonies
and his statutes,
which he has commanded you.

And you shall do what is right and good
in the sight of the LORD,

that it may go well with you, and
that you may go in and take possession of the good land
that the LORD swore to give to your fathers
by thrusting out all your enemies from before you,

as the LORD has promised.