

Deuteronomy Twenty

Deuteronomy 20:1-9

Launch

This past weekend, during our first week worshipping in the gym, we learned that **God's purpose means keeping faith during the battle**. In Deuteronomy 20, Moses gives the Israelites instructions for going into battle as they prepare to enter the Promised Land and defend their territory from other nations. The chapter outlines specific regulations for warfare, reminding Israel that they were not to rely solely on their own strength, but on the Lord. While these instructions were given in a historical context, they also speak to our lives today. We, too, face constant spiritual battles and attacks from the enemy, and the principles Moses shared can guide how we approach and endure our own spiritual battles.

Explore

Read the passage: Deuteronomy 20:1-9

After reading the passage, what sticks out? What did the Holy Spirit put on your heart?

Open your Deuteronomy books and turn to page 2 and go through the Engage section as a group. Remember, you can always go deeper and find answers to questions at centralsf.org/34.

Apply

In verse one, Moses reminds the Israelites that God brought them out of Egypt. Sometimes we can be so hyperfixated on the battle that we forget to look at some of the good things God has done for us. **What has God done in your life? How has God provided? How has God protected you? Delivered you? Made a way? Spoke when you needed to hear him?**

Pastor Jeff outlined four strategies Satan uses to steal our faith in spiritual battles. One of those strategies is trusting people more than God. One way we do this is by relying on our own judgment and discernment rather than listening to the voice of God. When life begins to fall apart, we often have a sinful tendency to take control, telling ourselves things like:

- "I know what God says, but what I am thinking just makes more sense."
- "I don't want to make the wrong choice."
- "I'll give this to God once I get through this season."

Which of these phrases have you said or thought recently, and what might that reveal about where you are trusting yourself more than God?

Pray

Please pray for our church as we continue our mission expansion. Please pray for everyone in your group's individual battles they are facing each day.