

# Deuteronomy Twenty One

## Deuteronomy 21:1-17

### Launch

This past weekend we learned that **God's purpose is lived out in a sinful world.** In Deuteronomy 21, Moses gives four different situations where sin has affected life in Israel. These situations are not the ideal, but they are the reality God knows his people will face. Isn't God beautiful? He created a perfect world, but through human rebellion, sin entered the world and everything became broken. Yet instead of leaving us to figure it out on our own, God gives his people guidance for how to live faithfully even in messy and broken situations. God does not say, "Well, this is not how I designed it, so you are on your own." Instead, he shows them how to handle the real situations they find themselves in. And even more than that, God ultimately deals with the sin behind all of it by sending his Son. Through Jesus, the sins that put us in these situations can be forgiven, and we can be restored to God. What a kind and gracious God we serve.

### Explore

#### Read the passage: Deuteronomy 21:1-17

*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](http://centralsf.org/34).*

### Apply

#### **What do these difficult scenarios in Deuteronomy 21 show us about how God wants His people to act in a broken and sinful world?**

*In verses 12–13, the woman goes through a process that marks a new identity as she becomes part of the Israelite community, even changing her clothing. **In our culture, what kinds of things do people change or adopt in order to be accepted into a community?** For example, people might change the way they dress, the language they use, what they post on social media, the way they act around certain friends, or even the values they appear to hold. ...**Have you ever felt pressure to change something about yourself to fit in? And how does that compare with the identity Christ calls us to live out?***

### Pray

*Pray for members of your group. We all have different messy situations that we are going through and need God's peace and wisdom through these circumstances.*