

FACING A NEW FUTURE

| A STUDY OF
DEUTERONOMY

Have you ever blown an opportunity? Do you feel like you're on the edge of a new one? In this series, we look at the opportunity God gave to Moses and the Israelites in Deuteronomy and how we can seize the opportunities God has given us.

Week Seven: Calling All Leaders

Text: Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Sermon Summary:

In a world filled with tension, we find ourselves looking for leaders who can restore calm and hope for the future. This week we see that leaders are appointed by God to protect, serve, and guide people into righteous living. While Moses gave the people instructions for how a king was to lead his people, the same instructions apply to each of us because we all have spaces where we give leadership. But there's a tendency to abdicate that responsibility and to serve our own self-interests. Will we be motivated by a personal desire for power, status, or wealth, or will we submit ourselves to God and lead by example?

Discussion Questions:

These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others help and pray for you so you can do what God told you?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- When you think of our national and local leaders, what are the top three words that come to mind? (Try to avoid a discussion of political positions and personal criticisms and think more generally.) Do you feel humans have a deep desire to be led by someone? Explain your answer.
- Read Deuteronomy 17:14-17. Compare these commands to the reign of Solomon in 1 Kings 10:14-11:6. Solomon fell for the distractions of power, status and wealth. What are some common distractions believers fall for today?

What are you going to do about it?

- Read Deuteronomy 17:18-20. Why is the king commanded to have his own, personal copy of the Deuteronomy to keep with him all the days of his life? Do you feel it is possible to maintain an undivided focus on God without daily time in the Bible and prayer? Explain your answer.
- What area are you called to lead right now? It doesn't have to be a formal leadership position. What are some growth areas that would improve your ability to be a godly example to those you lead?

How can others in this group help you or pray for you?

- Choose partners to check in with next week. Maybe there is someone who identified the same growth area as you did, and you can brainstorm ideas together or hold each other accountable to follow through. Maybe there is someone you know that is strong in the area where you want to grow who could help you.
- Pray for each other (and the whole group) to be committed to become leaders who guide people around you into righteous living.

Possible Application:

Test drive an accountability relationship.

- Check in with your accountability partner in the next day or so after your group meeting. Review what area of your life you view as your "leadership space" and how the growth area you identified will help you lead by example in that space.
- Establish one concrete action item that pertains to the growth area you identified. Be specific and realistic about this. If you set a goal that's attainable and measurable, you're more likely to follow through.
- Check in again once before your next meeting to share your experiences. Even if you struggled be transparent with each other and discuss what was difficult and how you might try again.
- Share with the group your experience helped or could help you become the leader God wants you to be.

MEMORY VERSE

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 10:45