

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Chosen to Be Holy

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

*Deuteronomy 7***OVERVIEW**

Advent, which is derived from the Latin word “adventus,” means coming. For the Christian Church, Advent is the season marked by waiting and preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth in history (his first coming) and the anticipation of Christ’s triumphant return (his second coming). This is the time of year set aside to think about the coming of God’s Son to earth. As we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward, anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

APPLY // MATTHEW 6:1-14

1. Read Matthew 6:1-14. What is the context of these verses? Who is Jesus addressing? What is he confronting?
2. According to these verses 5-8 what are some wrong motives of the heart to pray? How might these motives manifest themselves in our lives?
3. If God already knows what we need (verse 8), then why do we pray in the first place? What do Jesus words here tell us about the nature of prayer?
4. The Lord’s Prayer is made up of 6 petitions. The first one is “hallowed be your name.” What does it mean to pray for God to “hallow” his name? (**Remember this is not just expressive, but a petition for God to cause his name to be exalted/treasured/worshiped, etc.)
5. How do the other 5 petitions serve the first?
6. How would your prayer life be different if your prayers followed the pattern of the Lord’s prayer?
7. What’s the significance that the prayer does not focus on our needs until the third petition?
8. What are some hindrances you’ve found to your prayer life? What are some practices that you have found helpful in your own prayer life?
9. Spend some time praying for God’s name to be hallowed.

STUDY // DEUTERONOMY 7

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Preliminary Notes/Thoughts

In a few weeks, we’ll begin an exposition of Judges. However, like every part of the Bible, Judges does not exist in isolation – much comes before it and after it. In order to properly orient ourselves to the context and redemption history of Judges, we’ll spend two weeks setting up what has come before. This week, we’ll look Deuteronomy 7 as this passages encapsulates why God created and delivered his people from slavery to the Egyptians.

It may be helpful to have in mind the overarching biblical story: God's people in God's place enjoying God's rule and blessing for God's glory (all made possible by God's Son, Jesus).

1. Set the context:
 - a. Creation by God (Genesis 1-2)
 - b. Rebellion by Adam/Eve (Genesis 3)
 - i. God's promise to redeem (Genesis 3:15)
 - c. Rebellion by those who come after Adam/Eve (Genesis 4-5)
 - d. God's covenant with Noah (Genesis 6-9)
 - e. More rebellion (Genesis 10-11)
 - f. God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12)
 - i. People and a place
 - g. Story of God's faithfulness to keep his covenant (Genesis 13-50)
 - i. God's people end up in Egypt in slavery to Pharaoh
 - h. God delivering his people from slavery (Exodus)
 - i. They rebel and end up wandering for 40 years in the wilderness
 - i. God providing a system of sacrifices and priesthood for his people to be in his presence (Leviticus)
 - j. God's grace despite his people's grumbling (Numbers)
 - k. God recounting his grace to his people and preparing them to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy)
 - l. God's people entering the Promised Land (Joshua)
2. Read Deuteronomy 7.
3. What does God promise to do for Israel? (verses 1-5)
4. Why does He promise to do this? Why does He promise not to do this? (verses 6-8)
5. What does this tell us about the character of God? (verses 9-12)
6. What "must" Israel do? Why is Israel not to do these things? (verse 2-3, 11-12)
7. What will happen if Israel does not obey? (verses 17-26)
8. Why is God doing all of this?
9. If all the Bible is ultimately about Jesus, how do these verses point us to the person and work of Christ?
- General Bible study questions:
 - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Is there a certain aspect of your prayer life that needs to change? What is one tangible thing you can do to make your prayers more God-sized and God-centered?