

Set Apart

Leader companion | Week Nine | Deuteronomy 7:1–26

15 min Share life	10 min Read	35 min Study	10 min Back to Jesus	15 min Pray	85 min Total
-----------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------

THE SERMON IN ONE BREATH

God chose you in grace to live a holy life, he challenges you to tear down the idols that compete for your heart, and he promises a victory that is already secure. Three points: chosen by grace (7:6–11), called to live set apart (7:1–5, 25–26), and do not be afraid because God has given you victory (7:12–24). The sermon's illustrations: a parents' send-off the night before a first flight to America, a couple fully married on day one, and a gym membership that changes nothing until you show up with the trainer.

WHERE THE OBSERVATION QUESTIONS ARE HEADING

- **Question 6, verses 7–8.** Not because they were numerous; they were the fewest of all peoples. Because the LORD loved them and kept his oath to their ancestors. If someone says because they were good, point back to verse 7.
- **Question 9, verses 4–5.** Compromise will turn their sons to other gods and bring the LORD's anger. Instead: tear down altars, smash pillars, cut down Asherah poles, burn images. The verbs are all about worship.
- **Question 12, verses 17–21.** Do not be afraid; remember what God did to Pharaoh and Egypt; he will do the same again; he is among you. Fear is answered by memory and presence, not by shrinking the enemy.

IF SOMEONE ASKS ABOUT VERSE 2

Keep it short and at the level of the sermon. These commands belong to one moment in Israel's story and are not a pattern to repeat. Their target was the worship of the nations, not their ethnicity, which is why Rahab the Canaanite was welcomed into Israel and into the family line of Jesus. In Christ our fight is not against people but against whatever competes for our hearts, and at the cross the judgment of this chapter fell on Jesus himself. Offer to talk more after the meeting, then move on.

ONE FACILITATION TIP

Question 11 asks people to name an altar out loud. Go first, and make yours real but small enough to say in a group, so nobody feels they must confess more than they are ready to. Do not let the room fix each other; let each person be heard, then carry it into prayer.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE 45 MINUTES, AND AFTER THE MEETING

Keep Share life question 3, one reading of the passage, questions 8, 11, 14, and 15, the application panel, and prayer. Those are the dotted questions in the member guide. Afterward, scan the QR code on the back page of the member guide and answer two quick questions.