



## Leader Guide

### Influence With Action

*August 28, 2022*

**Main Passage: Deuteronomy 1:1-8, Matthew 4:1-11**

### Theological Theme

God equips us to conquer our spiritual enemies if we will obey and focus on developing our spiritual strength. It is then our responsibility to train and equip the following generations to know His Word, defend His Word, and share His Word.

### Introduction

- ❓ Why is it hard to see others living in victory and freedom when you aren't?
- ❓ What are some characteristics you notice about people who win spiritual battles?

Moses knew the time had come for the people of God to obey the Word of God and step out in faith into the promised land. They would be tested and face enemies, and they needed to be equipped by God to see victory.

### 1. God Equips (Deuteronomy 1:1-5)

After 40 years wandering in the wilderness, the time had come for the children of Israel to move on. Many of us can relate to the feeling of knowing that it is time to go but still having questions about our destination. The life of a Christ follower is not about keeping the status quo but about growing, changing, and moving where God calls us. Much like kids on a car trip, we often feel like asking God, "Are we there yet?" The more prepared you are for the trip, the better the experience. Moses knew the people needed to be prepared for the next step of faith before them, so he taught them lessons found in the book of Deuteronomy.

## 2. The Key to Victory (Matthew 4:1-11)

The lessons from Moses and the Israelites in Deuteronomy have a parallel passage in the New Testament. God's Word never contradicts itself and seeing passages that reiterate the same truths in both the Old and New Testaments can be powerful. Think back to the questions you might face when you feel like God has you on the move and is calling you to step out in faith. One of the primary questions we'll face will be along the lines of, "How am I supposed to handle \_\_\_\_\_?" We don't automatically know what we should do or how we should think or act in different circumstances. Just as the Israelites had to learn new things about settling or fighting instead of wandering, we need to learn what God expects and wants from us in whatever He is calling us to. When faced with these questions, Jesus is our best example.

## 3. Responsible to Equip (Deuteronomy 1:6-8)

Moses challenged the people to remember when God spoke to them at Mt. Horeb. Horeb—also referred to as Sinai—was the place of the covenant and it seems the Israelites became comfortable there. God spoke to them and said they had been there long enough. There is a great temptation for us to stay where we are comfortable. We like to linger where we feel God's Presence or where we have experienced Him in a real way.

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
  
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
  
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
  
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
  
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
  
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
  
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?