# Applying the Covenant 6. Deuteronomy 20:1-20 Soldiering with a difference

# Boundaries

## To what extent should your religious life impinge on your secular life?

# God’s people will be a minority

## Deuteronomy recognises that God’s army will always be a minority

### Look where He chooses as the Promised Land

## If they do engage in battle they are to do it confidently, wholeheartedly and compassionately

### God’s people don’t stop being representatives of God

## That may make them tentative and afraid

### Consult God first

# God wants you to engage the world with confidence

## For that you need to pick the right battles

### The battles which happen because you’re doing the right thing for the right reasons

### If you do that there’s no need to fear because it’s not your battle but God’s

## God is with you in the right battle

### You know that from your history

### You know that from the promises God has made to you

# God wants you to team up with the right people

### Weed out those whose minds are elsewhere

### Weed out those who don’t want to fight the injustice

## God will call some of us to His causes

## The battle is God’s and He knows your needs and your pressures

### He is a blessing God, not a demanding one

## You are not being invited to do all of God’s work on your own

### Your battle may not be my battle

### But we are on the same team

# God wants you to be magnanimous in victory

## For those far away

### Offer peace first

## For those who want to destroy your way of life and undermine you who are and are close at hand

### Have no mercy on these destroyers

## Have mercy on the environment

### Here we have God limiting their activity

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Faith and life

## In what ways is it good to let your religious life impinge on your work life?

### Are there ways in which it can be detrimental?

## In what ways is it good to let your religious life impinge on your home life?

### Are there ways this can be detrimental?

## To what extent is treatment of others linked to faith?

### Think about how you have treated people in the last few days

#### What impression will it have given to them about the God you believe in?

# The right battle

## To what extent do you believe that God does not want you to fight every battle?

### Which battles are the most important to you now, and why?

### Which battles were important to you 5 years ago?

#### What has changed?

## The right battle for the Israelites ended in the complete destruction of tribes (20:17)

### What reason was given for this?

#### What does this tell you about God’s priorities?

# The right people

## What are the consequences of trying to get everyone on board to fight a battle?

## What are the consequences of fighting a battle when people are not committed to the cause?

## What are the consequences of fighting a battle when people are concentration on something else?

# When you win

## Celebrating is an obvious thing to do

### Does this passage suggest we shouldn’t celebrate our victories?

#### If not, what does it suggest?

# Being a Christian in the armed forces

## This was not possible for early Baptists who were banned by the church from holding public office or being in the armed forces

### How do we help those who are called to this role?

### How could we undermine their calling?