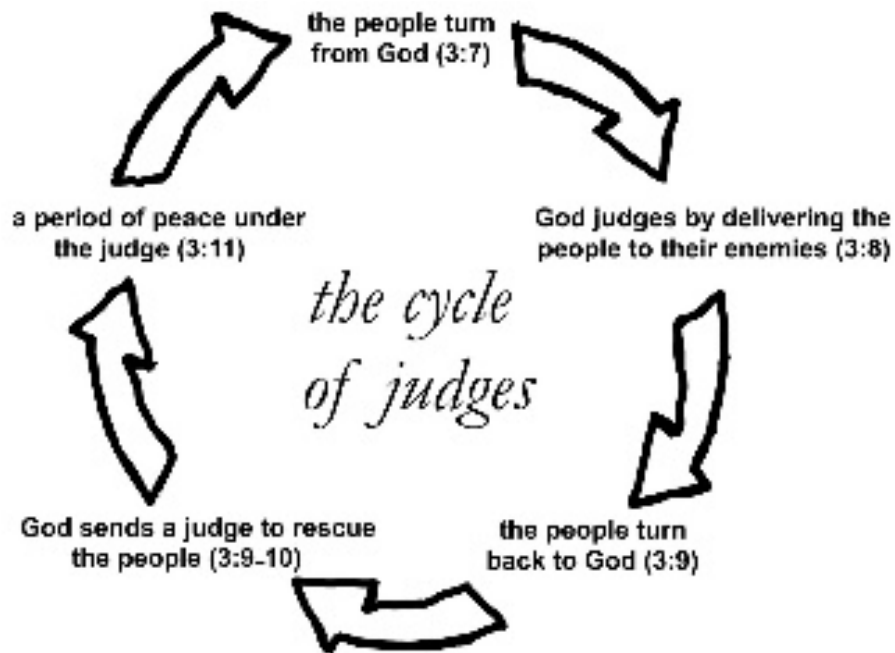


INSTRUCTIONS: Use this study guide in conjunction with the Sunday Bible Study presentations on Facebook Live as led by Dr. Geno Robinson. They are based on the Bible and a video study of Judges led by J. D. Greear found on RightNow Media. Listening sheets specific to the video study may be downloaded on the RightNow Media website.



Session 1: The Faithful God/The Failing People

Focal Passage: Judges 1:1-3:6

How do small areas of disbelief effect you? How does spiritual compromise lead to bondage? What does spiritual amnesia lead to?

Note: An Old Testament Covenant was a formal treaty of mutual loyalty and benefit between a group of people and a powerful King. God called Abraham and made a Covenant with him (Genesis 15). What does God promise to do for Abraham? What is Abraham supposed to do in return?

Read: God's Covenant requirements and promises in Exodus 34:10-16 (to verse 28 for more details). Note or underline two or three of the stipulations of the Covenant.

Read Judges 1:1-4. What does God promise to do for the Hebrews? How does he show his faithfulness?

Look at Bible Maps. – You can often find them on the last pages of a print Bible, or from on-line. See how the Hebrews attempted to occupy their promised portions of the land.

Read Judges 1:19-21. What do Judah and Benjamin fail to do?

Read Judges 2:1-5. How did Israel fall short of being fully devoted to God? What does it look like in your life to be fully devoted to God? How does that compare to a life that is divided between God and other things?

Read Judges 2:10-15. Consider the statement: "Compromise leads to bondage." How was this statement true for the Hebrews? How might it be true for you?

Consider: What difference does it make in how you live when you choose to embrace the freedom that comes with following Jesus? When has God worked mightily in your life, and what did you learn?

Read Judges 2:16-19. A Judge in those days was a wise person with authority for decision making and their decisions were recognized as final. They would also lead or direct the armies in battle. When, for what reasons, and how often did God raise up a judge in Israel?

Read Judges 3:1-6. Discover how the Hebrews interacted with the neighboring people. How did this "square" with the instructions God gave them in Exodus 34:15-17?

A Final Word: The book of Judges reveals the faithfulness and mercy of God like no other book. Israel disobeys God from the beginning – they failed to complete the conquest as he directed them. They fell to other gods and pagan customs. Even though God sends punishment on them, he still chooses to save them time and time again through the judges.

How might you have drifted from God into disobedience and compromise? Please pray that God will lead you into a new understand of faith, obedience, and the dangers of compromise.

Judges 1:1 – 2:10

Day 1 – 1:1-5

Day 2 – 1:16-26

Day 3 – 1:27-36

Day 4 – 2:1-5

Day 5 – 2:6-10

Session Two: Three Unlikely Heroes!

Focus Passage: Judges 3:1-31

Judges 3 describes three men who seemed unqualified to be a judge, yet God used them. Othniel was a nobody who was somebody's nephew. Ehud, though clever and left-handed, had a sinister quality about him, and Shamgar was famous for his weapon of choice.

Read Judges 3:7-11. How does this story show the cycle of the judges? What aspect of God's character do these events tell you about God's character? In verse 10, what did God's Spirit do empower Othniel to save Israel?

Read: Exodus 35:30-35, 1 Sam. 10:1,6, 9-10 and 1 Sam. 16:11-13 to see how God's Spirit worked in the lives of other men.

Read: Exodus 35:30-35, 1 Sam. 10:1,6, 9-10 and 1 Sam. 16:11-13 to see how God's Spirit worked with the Hebrews over the years.

Read Judges 3:12-14 to see how God prepares and empowers men for specific tasks. They do not necessarily know the larger picture. Be sure to notice what happens when Israel fell away from God. Who were the oppressors this time? What was the name of their King? What happens to you when you allow selfishness to reign in your life? Read Gen. 19:30-38, Num. 22:1-6, 25:1-5, Deut. 25:3-6 and /or do a google search to find out more about Moab. How does God discipline Israel for its infidelity? How have you experienced God's discipline in your life??

Read Judges 3:15. What can you discover about Ehud? What tribe is he from? Which hand did he use the most?

Read Judges 3:16-25. Why was Ehud's attack on Eglon such a surprise to Eglon?

Read Judges 3:26-30. What did Ehud's assassination of Eglon accomplish for Israel.

Read Judges 3:31. This verse describes the judgeship of Shamgar. Who did he kill to liberate Israel, and with what? In which part of the Promised Land did he live, and how was that different from where Ehud and Othniel lived? How were Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar unconventional, unusual and not necessarily the type you would think God might choose as judges? What does God's choice of judges say about his character and the way he goes about saving his people? Consider how God's methods often contradict prevailing human ideas of strength and ability.

Review the cycle of the judges shown above. What factor was at play in motivating Israel to fall away from following and obeying God? How were they selfish?

A Final Word: We battle the same tendency towards selfishness ourselves. Still, God works in surprising ways, but a heart turned away from him cannot see him moving and working. Consider how you can see God and view life through his eyes and not your own.

Judges 2:11-31

Day 1 – 2:11-15

Day 2 – 2:16-25

Day 3 – 3:1-6

Day 4 – 3:7-11

Day 5 – 3:12-31

Session Three: One Woman is Good. Two are Better!

Focus Passage: Judges 4:1-5:31

Read Judges 4:1-3. Once again Israel did _____ in the sight of the Lord. They were oppressed by _____, a King in Canaan. His main general was a man named _____. He had _____ iron chariots. Why would having chariots of iron be a major military advantage for the Canaanites?

Read Judges 4:4-5. How do those verses describe Deborah? What service does she provide? What leadership does she give to Israel?

Read the following verses to discover the role of some other women in Scripture:

Esther – Book of Esther; Huldah – 2 Kings 22:11-20; Ruth – Book of Ruth; Priscilla – Acts 18:2-3, 18-18, 24-26, Romans 16:3-5; Phoebe – Romans 16:1-2; Tabitha (Dorcas) – Acts 9:36-42

Read Judges 4:6-10. God told Deborah to tell Barak to take the army to battle Sisera. Why do you think Barak hesitated? Why did Barak want Deborah to go with him? What life situations that you experience might cause you to question God's character or promises? A group called the "Kenites" is mentioned in Judges 4:17. Read Gen. 15:17-21 to find out a bit more about them.

Read Judges 4:11-16. In what ways does this passage show how God proved to be faithful to his promise?

Read Judges 17-21. How did Jael make the fugitive Sisera feel safe, and how did she kill him? We do not know Jael's motivations for killing Sisera, but she did. What are some examples you can think of from the Bible, and from your life where God used people's actions, regardless of their motives, for his purpose or greater plan?

Read Judges 4:22-24. Deborah had prophesied that a woman would kill Sisera. Would Barak have chased Sisera if he truly believed Deborah's prophecy? Why or why not?

Read Judges 5:1-31 to get a feel for Deborah's victory song. See Exodus 15:1-3, 21, 2 Sam. 22:1-2 and the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55. Remember a time God has blessed you and create a victory song about it. You do not have to share it with anybody!!!

Read Judges 5:31 to be reminded that God is a God of Justice as well as Mercy and Grace.

What would trust in God look like for you in this coming week?

A Final Word: God's character shines through this story. He is faithful, just, trustworthy, sovereign, and gracious. When life becomes chaotic, we can trust in him and his unfailing ways!

Judges 4:1-5:31

Day 1 – 4:1-10

Day 2 – 4:11-24

Day 3 – 5:1-11

Day 4 – 5:12-23

Day 5 – 5:24-31

Session Four – Gideon: Just a Farmer

Focus Passage: Judges 6:1-40

Consider: What are some of your fears or hesitations that might seem irrational? (Like fearing clowns.) Why do these things scare you?

Just for Fun: Spend an enjoyable 25 minutes and watch the Veggie Tales show, *Gideon: Tuba Warrior* on YouTube.

Read Judges 6:1-10. After 40 years of peace, Israel once again sinned against God. There was a new oppressor. What did the prophet say to Israel in verses 8-10? In what kinds of situations have you experienced God directly dealing with you – perhaps by convicting you of sin, or calling you to do something? How did you respond? When God confronts us with our sin, he always demands a response! Notice that God continues to be faithful when Israel is not. How has God shown his faithfulness to you?

Read Judges 6:11. Why was Gideon hiding in the wilderness to do his threshing? Is he a coward hiding from his enemies, or just a cautious farmer protecting his crops?

Read Judges 6:12-16. Why did God call Gideon a “mighty warrior,” even though he might not have deserved such a title. What difference does it make to your relationship with God to know God fully recognizes your weaknesses yet still calls you to follow him?

Read Exodus 3:1-6, 10-12, 4:1-5, 15-17, 20: Compare Moses’ experience at the Burning Bush with Gideon’s experience here with the angel. What similarities do you see? What differences?

Read Judges 6:17-24. What do Gideon’s actions in this section show about his attitude toward God and his message? What is your reaction to Gideon asking for a sign as proof of God’s call? What does God’s confirmation to Gideon reveal about his character?

Read Judges 6:25-32. What affect can fear have on your relationship with God? What does it mean to follow God when you are afraid?

Review Judges 6:1-35: Discover the ways God confirmed Gideon’s call to lead Israel to defeat the Midianites.

Read Judges 6:33-40. What do Gideon’s requests about the fleece tell you about him and his trust in God? How has God shown his patience with Gideon? How has God shown his patience with you?

What would be keeping you from stepping out in obedience to whatever God may call you to?

A Final Word: As the song says, God knows all about our sorrows, and our hesitations and our weaknesses. He was not surprised by Gideon’s cowardice, nor is he surprised by ours. It is amazing just how patient and persistent God is with us. His patience with us is never ending. He is the Great Constant in our ever-changing lives.

Judges 6:1-7:25

Day 1 – 6:1-10

Day 2 – 6:11-27

Day 3 – 6:28-40

Day 4 – 7:1-15

Day 5 – 7:16-25

Session Five: Gideon and God Against the Midianites

Focus Passage: Judges 7:1-25

What is your reaction when you hear someone who is constantly bragging about themselves, their achievements, or their wealth?

Read Judges 7:1-8. When Gideon gathered an army, he ended up with _____ men. How did God react to that? Why did God have Gideon sort the warriors out like he did, keeping some, eliminating others? How does this reduction in the fighting force cause them to rely more on God?

What does our culture say about strength and weakness? Which, to our culture, is more to be desired, and why? How are the Bible's teachings about strengths and weaknesses different from what our culture thinks?

What part of seeing weakness as an advantage is most difficult for you? What about dependence as an objective? What weakness has God used in your life to teach you to depend on him?

Read Judges 7:9-18. What does God's direction of Gideon in verses 10-11 show about God's character?

Consider: How have you felt God's grace and love at work in your own life, especially in times of personal or physical weakness.

In 7:12 it says that Israel's enemies were as thick as _____. Do an internet search to discover the impact of a recent infestation in Africa. See also Ex. 10:12-15 and Jer. 51:12-14.

Read Judges 7:19-25. How does Israel's victory show God's power? How have you been "broken" so that God's light can shine out? What is one practical thing you could do this week to choose selflessness over selfishness?

A Final Word. God's character shines throughout this story. God demonstrates himself to be faithful to his word and promise. God is powerful in every way and means of human life. This week seek to copy God's faithfulness in your life and relax in his love and grace.

Judges 8:1-9:57

Day 1 – 8:1-21

Day 2 – 8:22-35

Day 3 – 9:1-21

Day 4 – 9:22-41

Day 5 – 9:42-51

Session Six: Gideon's Death, Abimelech's Bloody Reign, Tola, and Jair.

Focus Passage: Judges 8:1-10:5

An old radio show always began with, "Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of man? The Shadow knows!" We know that God is fully aware of the evil that lurks in our hearts and in the heart of every human. In fact, he understands our sin and evil much better than we do. Sin has clouded our minds and hearts from the Garden. Sin is so ingrained it can only be alleviated by the intervention of an outside remedy. We have that remedy. His name is Jesus.

Our focus passage describes how one man allowed his sinful nature to rule his life, to the detriment of those around him. It began with an overblown sense of self-importance. Gideon declined as a man of God and Abimelech grew in his egotism and crass ambition.

Read Judges 8:1-21. What is different between how Gideon acted towards God before the battle with Midian and after? How did Gideon change from the time he was hiding in the winepress to the days of his victory?

What are your personal strengths? How have they helped you serve God? How have they hindered you from serving God?

Read Judges 8:22-32. What did Gideon do to lead Israel away from God? Google the word "ephod" to discover what it is and what it might signify. How did it replace the true worship of God?

Read Judges 9:1-6. Describe Abimelech's actions and attitudes. How did he instigate strife and how did he encounter strife? Locate the city of Shechem on a map of the Bible, either online or in the back of a print Bible. Review its biblical history in Gen. 12:1-7 and Josh. 24:1, 14-27.

Read Judges 9:50-57. What does God do to judge Abimelech? Who struck the blow that killed him and how? How is that like the way Sisera died? Consider the consequences of unconfessed and unforgiven sin in your life and in the lives of someone you know. Notice what happened to the Israelites when they did not rid themselves of their sin.

Read Judges 10:1-5. Notice there is no mention of these brief accounts of a foreign oppressor, or a national repentance. They had a cumulative 45 years of peace. Note the interesting but unedifying details given about these two judges. Israel did not repent. We should. What would repentance look like in your life?

A Final Word. Two things come to the fore so far in our study. One is that Israel is very casual about its relationship with God. They seem to think he is at their call whenever they are in trouble. Perhaps their attitude was like that of a French king who is supposed to have said on his deathbed, "God forgives, that is his business!" Notice also how God's character is revealed repeatedly through his words and actions.

A good theme verse for the coming week should be: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Judges 10:1-12:15

Day 1 – 10:1-18

Day 2 – 11:1-11

Day 3 – 11:12-18

Day 4 – 11:29-40

Day 5 – 12:1-15

Session Seven: Jephthah's Rash Promise

Focus Passage: Judges 10:6-12:15

Keep this in mind as you study. Human sin is REAL and has consequences. We must RECOGNIZE our sin and its consequences. We must have genuine REMORSE for our sin. Then we must REPENT of our sin and allow God to cleanse us.

Have you ever made a promise to someone? What were the consequences for either keeping or breaking that promise?

Read Judges 10:6-9. What sin against God had Israel committed this time? Google "Canaanite religious customs" and read an article about them. Why would worshipping this way be attractive to the Israelites?

Read Deut. 6:1-15 to see what true devotion to God would have looked like for them. What is the consequence for a lack of devotion?

Read Judges 10:10-16. How did Israel show true repentance for their sin? How would you show true repentance for your sin?

Read Judges 10:17-11:11. Do you think Jephthah had the right credentials and qualities to be a good leader for Israel at the time? What is some evidence that he might not have had a clear understanding of God and his character?

Read Judges 11:29-33. Vows we make today are often very fragile. In those days, vows were verbal chains, broken at your own risk. Jephthah's vow was rashly made with no clear understanding of God's real demands.

Somewhere, somebody was not taught God's ways. Perhaps he did not listen when that lesson was given. Perhaps his father failed in his responsibility to teach his children. Perhaps Jephthah was influenced too much by the culture in which he lived. Our culture is ok but does not really understand the truth and requirements of true worship and obedience.

Read Judges 12:1-7. How did the people take matters into their own hands instead of going to God? What is different about the kind of "peace" Israel experiences in Jephthah's story versus the other stories in Judges? How has Israel's situation gotten worse? What are some ways in which you or someone you know look to the world or our culture to solve our problem instead of looking to God?

A Final Word. Israel's problem from the beginning of Judges has been their failure to be completely devoted to God. Jephthah's story illustrates just how our sin dilutes our devotion and sets us on a path of misunderstanding God and turning to the world instead of to Him.

Judges 13:1-14:20

Day 1 – 13:1-14

Day 2 – 13:15-25

Day 3 – 14:1-7

Day 4 – 14:8-14

Day 5 – 14:15-20

Session Eight: The Birth of Samson the Judge

Focus Passage: Judges 13:1-25

Two major actions in these stories show that God is relentless. He chose unlikely people to guide and protect the people. He raised up saviors even before they knew they needed them. Yes, he demanded worship and loyalty from the Israelites, but a greater purpose was at work. He was working that out even as he raised up deliverers for Israel.

Do a brief review of the judges you have studied so far and, using a map in your Bible or obtained from other sources, to see where they were located. You will see that each judge is from a different location and interacts with different enemies. List some of the enemies they have faced.

Read Judges 13:1. Notice the unique circumstances about Samson's birth. Why do you think God continues to be gracious to Israel? What is one tangible way God has shown his grace to you as you followed him?

Read Judges 13:2-5. List the significant details surrounding Samson's birth that we learn from these verses.

Verse 7 says that Samson would be "a Nazarite of God from birth to the day of his death." What are the marks of a person taking a Nazarite vow according to verses 2-7? Research the topic "Nazarite Vow" in Num. 6:1-21. Note: Jesus Christ was not a Nazarite. He never took that kind of vow or entered that kind of discipline. He was from the town of Nazareth and was called a Nazarene four times in the New Testament.

Read Judges 13:6-14. Manoah was confused as to who the messenger really was. God shows his patience with him even as he asks for a second sign.

Read Judges 13:15-20. What did Manoah offer to do for God's messenger? How did that show he did not understand with whom he was speaking? How would you react if you were in either Manoah's or his wife's shoes? Why do you think the focus of this passage is on Manoah instead of his wife who would give birth to Samson?

Read Judges 13:21-25. Manoah was overwhelmed when he realized he had been speaking with an angel. His wife reassured him. What about her response in verse 23 reflects faith in God and understanding of his character? In what ways is God's grace on display throughout the story of Samson's birth?

On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being the best, how good are you at receiving gifts of God's grace?

A Final Word. God extends his grace to Israel through Samson. They did not repent and cry to God, but he sent them a deliverer anyway. God gives us the same kind of grace. We just must accept it and rejoice in it.

Judges 15:1-16:31

Day 1 – 15:1-8

Day 2 – 15:9-20

Day 3 – 16:1-12

Day 4 – 16:13-22

Day 5 – 16:23-31

Session 9 – Samson – The Rest of the Story

Focus Passage: Judges 14:1-16:31

Humans often think they can use God to get what they want, but God is not a means to an end. We need to become more aware of the times we want to use God for selfish reasons and repent of those feelings and actions.

Samson's story is a perfect Hebrew tale whose hero did outlandish deeds to make a primary enemy look very bad. It ultimately showed that even if he was a flawed judge, God used him to deliver the people from Philistine oppression.

Read Judges 14:1-4. Samson seeks a wife. What was wrong with the lady he chose? How were his motives wrong?

Read Judges 14:5-9. Review the verses from last week about the rule Nazarites had to live by. What did Samson do that violated those rules? Hint: check out verse 9 to see what he did. He wanted to get something, so he acted beyond the limits of his vows to get it. When is it tempting to bend God's laws to get what we want? What are some ways this has happened in your life?

Read Judges 14:10-20. Read all about Samson's wedding feast and his riddle. What did his angry distractions cost him? Who ended up marrying his fiancé?

Read Judges 15:14-17. Samson is selfish and arrogant. List the various games he liked to play with his adversaries (see chapters 14, 15 and 16)? What is significant about Samson not acknowledging God for his victory over the Philistines? What does this reveal about his attitude toward God? How does he demonstrate his arrogance?

Read Judges 16:4-9. Samson meets Delilah. She is a Philistine secret agent sent to seduce him into revealing the secret of his great strength. How does he take God's gifts to him for granted as he takes his famous nap? How many tries did it take Delilah to get him to reveal the real secret? What happened then?

What kind of gifts from God are easy for us to take for granted? How can we avoid doing that?

Read Judges 18:23-31. As far as Samson is concerned, do you think revenge is best "served cold?" Looking at verse 30, what is tragic about how Samson died? How does Samson compare with some of the other judges of Israel? List the ways he fell short of delivering Israel in a godly way.

What are some lessons we can learn about God by looking at Samson's birth, life, and death? What is a proper view of God and his gifts? Suggest some ways you can look at God's gifts to you in a more appropriate and grateful way.

A Final Word. Samson took his gifts for granted. He assumed that God would always give him strength, "just because." His arrogance led to his downfall. As a result, he accomplished less than any other judge, even the ones that only lasted a few years and had bunches of children and donkeys!

Judges 17:1-19:30

Day 1 – 17:1-13

Day 2 – 18:1-13

Day 3 – 18:14-31

Day 4 – 19:1-15

Session 10 – Micah and a Mother’s Influence

Focus Passage: Judges 17:1-18:31

Some of the stories in Judges are cautionary tales about the dangers of not trusting God. They reflect the chaotic times before a real unification of Israel under a strong leader. This book shows later generations how great it is now in our situation and how horrible it was back then before a kingdom and a great Temple.

After nearly 400 years of living as separate tribes trying to occupy a promised piece of property, the local Canaanite cultures of their neighbors had begun to influence the Hebrews. They began to think like them, and act like them. Their sensual religions drew Hebrew attention and often allegiance. It was easier to worship a god you could see and manipulate than to worship One who was invisible and demanding. Israel had drifted away from God who seemed distant and unknowable. He had become something of a divine good luck charm, appreciated, but not to be taken seriously. It was a time, more than ever before, when “every man did that which was good in his own eyes.”

How has our modern secular culture influenced your thinking about God and how to worship him? Which of those influences or practices are more biblical than others?

Read Judges 17:1-6. The story is about a man named Micah, some stolen silver, his mother, and a Levite who needed a job. Look at what Micah and his mother did and describe how they dishonored God. What of the Ten Commandments did they break? (See Ex. 20:1-17). Verse 6 becomes a running theme for the rest of Judges. What are some ways our society echoes the sentiments of these verses? What are some ways we Christians ignore or add to some of God’s attributes for our own purposes?

Read Judges 17:7-13. What does Micah making a Levite his own personal priest tell us about his attitude toward God. See Num. 8:14-29, 35:2-3, 6-8 to learn more about the role and function of the Levites in the worship of God. Micah thought he could manipulate God so that God would prosper him. In what kind of situations is it tempting to think we can manipulate God to do our will? Have you done this?

Read Judges 18:1-10. This is a shameful tale about unnecessary violence and greed. It is about the innocent being destroyed by desperate, dispossessed men. What are some things in our lives that can tempt us to turn our backs on God and his plan for us?

Read Judges 18: 27-31. Laish was defenseless. They had no one to rescue them. List some persons or people groups you have heard of who are dispossessed and refugee. Who will rescue them? Is anyone even trying to do so, or are we too focused on ourselves to be of much help? What could you do to help that kind of person or people? What do these verses tell us about how the tribe of Dan viewed God? Did they honor and obey him? Why not? How is your understanding of God influenced more by society than by Scripture? What can you do to honor and treasure God this coming week?

A Final Word. Israel redefined God through their own cultural lenses. They lost sight of the Law or ignored it all together. They worshiped God for what they could get out of it, not for the pure joy of honoring God. Rather, in all their doing, they insulted him!

Judges 20:1 – 21:25

Day 1 – 20:1-17

Day 2 – 20:18-35

Day 3 – 20:36-48

Day 4 – 21:1-12

Session 11: The Cut-up Concubine and a Nation Against Itself

Focus Passage: Judges 19:1-21:25

These concluding chapters of Judges tell how the Hebrews have digressed from their closeness and obedience to God. We can see the results of years of “every man doing what was right in his own eyes.” We can see the human sinful nature at work in the way individuals and groups treat each other. Somehow God has been left out of their lives, yet when God is in the picture, we are able to cope with life with honor and success.

What is happening in our world today that might remind us of our need for God’s salvation? What characteristics of God offer you the most hope when you face the devastating things in our world?

The final three chapters of Judges tell a couple of the most disturbing and gruesome stories in Scripture. They are included to help us understand the contrast between God’s life and our sinful ones. They help us see that God’s way is better than our way.

Read Judges 19:10-15. Why did they choose to stay in Gibeah instead of in Jebus which was more convenient? Why was the lack of hospitality in Gibeah such a sin?

Read Judges 19:22-30. Read about the ancient town of Sodom in Gen. 19 and compare that experience with what happened in Gibeah. Sodom became a by-word for evil and sin. They were sexually impure. They broke every convention of expected hospitality. Gibeah was just as bad or worse!

How would you feel if Amazon delivered a severed thumb or arm in a package to your doorstep with an explanation of why and how you received it? What might you do?

Read Judges 20:8-18. What is tragic with the entire tribe of Benjamin standing with the men of Gibeah against the other tribes? Notice a sad transition. In Judges 1 the Israelites fought the _____. They fought the _____ in chapter 13 and following. Who are they fighting now? What has changed for them between chapter 1 and chapter 20? What are some things you have noticed that divide God’s people to the point of disruption? How have believers worked towards unity?

Read Judges 21:1-12. Focus on verse 5. What are some ways we are tempted to blame God for things that are our fault?

Read Judges 21:20-25. Israel’s downward spiral can be traced by the way they treated women. What has changed about Israel’s treatment of women throughout Judges from chapter 1 until chapter 21?

Review your study of this book. Think about the judges we have studied. Have any of them been good enough to save the nation without God’s help? How and in what ways did they fail God and the people.

What does this book reveal about the nature and character of God? What does it teach us about the method God will use to save his people?

A Final Word. Judges has shed light on the human condition. It has shown that we are our own worst enemy. God’s character shines brightly against the shadows we see in this book. The people rebel, disobey, and break the Covenant regularly and in all points. God, on the other hand, is faithful and true, going beyond all that would be required of a rightful king dealing with his subjects.

We can walk away from this study of the Book of Judges with a clear understanding of God’s character and the human condition. We can also see that God always is striving to draw all men to himself!