

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 19 Jul 2026

Text: Judges 2:16-3:6

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: John Brewer

In this passage, Judges 2:16-3:6, the narrative describes a cycle of God raising up judges to unite, guide, and free Israel only for the people to fall back into their sinful ways of pursuing other gods. Yahweh, the one true God, leaves their enemy nations in place to test and refine the nation of Israel.

1. What are some of the podcasts you listen to, YouTube channels you watch, or other personalities or media you consume? (Don't just give your 'church' answers.)
 - a. Why do these have your attention?
 - b. Are these things sinful?
 - c. Read Psalm 81 and Matthew 17:1-5. How can we be sure we are "listening" to the right thing?
 - d. What is our ultimate need?
2. Ted posited that "monotheism means spiritual monogamy." The book of Hosea recounts the story of God commanding Hosea to marry a prostitute.
 - a. Why would God do this? (Consider reading Hosea chapter 1.)
 - b. We are most likely not ethnic Jews. Does the story of Hosea or the story of Israel's "infidelity" in Judges have any connection to us?
3. Ted posed the following test: "Jesus plus _____ will bring me Joy." What are we tempted to put into that blank?
4. In our Judges passage, God wanted Israel to "know war." Why?
 - a. In what sense is the Global Church (all those who belong to Christ) currently at war?
 - b. Reference James 1:2-4 and Ephesians 6:11-13. Do we feel like we are at war and being tested?
 - c. In what ways do we need to "know war?"
5. How do we avoid falling into the same pattern of compromise that Israel fell into?

Reflection: In "Jesus plus _____ will bring me Joy," what fills in the blank for you? (Quite often, mine is the comfort and stability of myself and my family.) Let's be in prayer that we would have no other gods in the presence of Yahweh and that we would completely fix our eyes on Christ and find our complete satisfaction in him. Are we going to listen to God or ask Him to coexist with other *gods*?

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