



Faith Community Church
The Cycle
(Judges, Part 1)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Ask God to help us break the "Cycle of Sin" by pressing to total obedience and intentional separation from ungodly influences.

Icebreaker: Have you ever fudged on a diet? How, and how did it make you feel?

Key Takeaways:

1. Partial obedience is still disobedience and leads to long-term spiritual "thorns."
2. The Cycle of Sin: Without spiritual authority, people do what is right in their own eyes, leading to a repetitive loop of Sin → Oppression → Crying out to God → Deliverance → Sin.
3. The Three Stages of Victory:
 - Isolation: Pulling back to recalibrate and separate from old influences.
 - Insulation: Strengthening faith and putting on the "armor of God" to resist the world's elements.
 - Infiltration: Going back into the world as "salt and light" to influence it for Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Last week, did you hunt for darkness, learn from loneliness, or surrender demands?
2. Why do you think it's so tempting to settle for partial obedience rather than total obedience? (Judges 21:25, Proverbs 3:5-7)
3. The Israelites blamed "chariots of iron" for their failure. What are the "iron chariots" (perceived obstacles) in our lives that we use as excuses for not fully following God's plan? (Galatians 1:10, Galatians 3:1-14)
4. Looking at this Israelite cycle (Key Point #2), why do we often wait until we are "oppressed" or in a crisis before we truly cry out to God? (Hosea 2:5-8, Romans 7:15-25)

5. How does making ourselves the supreme authority in our own minds fuel this cycle in our modern lives? (Exodus 20:3, 2 Kings 17:32-33)

6. Look at the three stages of victory (Key Points #3). We often want to skip straight to "Infiltration" (influencing the world). What are the risks of trying to influence the world before we have spent time being "insulated" by the Word and the Spirit? (2 Peter 3:17-18, 2 Peter 2:18-22)

7. Does "holiness" mean we stop loving people, or does something else? How do we balance being "in the world but not of it"? (1 Corinthians 5:9-10, 2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

8. How do we insulate? How often should we insulate? (Psalm 1:1-3)

9. How can confrontation, weeping, and repentance bring freedom? (Psalm 51)

Practical Applications

1. The Weather Test: Are you cold? If you are in the "Isolation/Insulation" phase, what is one specific boundary you can set this week to protect and foster your spiritual growth? If you are in the "Infiltration" phase, who is one person you can be "salt and light" to?

2. The Inventory: Take five minutes of silence each morning this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any "Canaanite influence" (habits, relationships, or mindsets) that you have allowed to remain in your "land." Then go to step 3.

3. The Bochim Response: The Israelites wept (Bochim) when confronted with their compromise. In that area where you have compromised, don't just acknowledge it—repent of it. Ask your accountability partner for help in "driving out" that specific influence this week.

Closing Prayer: Father, forgive us for where we have lived with sin instead of driving it out. We ask for Your presence when we are lonely, and for Your Spirit to grow us in grace and the knowledge of You. Please fill us so full of Your Word that the winds of culture can't move us. In Jesus' name.