



Faith Community Church
Just Jesus
(Judges, Part 2)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Ask God to help us grow in our personal walk with God as we look just to Jesus.

Icebreaker: Have you ever bought and tried to use a gadget that failed completely?

Key Takeaways:

1. The Anatomy of Idolatry. The Israelite compromise led to worship of things other than our sovereign God. Their idolatry led to destructive behaviors (sexual immorality, self-mutilation, human sacrifice). Modern idols do the same—enslaving our hearts and leading to self-destructive habits and treating people as less than human.
2. The Mercy of Discipline. The "Aha!" moment was when God sold Israel into the hands of their enemies because He loved them, in order to draw them back to Himself.
3. Lifting with Leaders. The people's faith was tied to the pulse of their leader. When the leader died, the faith of the people died. There was no personal seeking of God or teaching the next generation of God's power.

Discussion Questions:

1. Last week, how did your weather test go? What phase are you in? Did your inventory expose any negative influences? Were you able to confess and repent?
2. Judges says repeatedly that the next generation "did not know the Lord." How do we effectively "tell the story" of God's faithfulness to those around us? (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Psalm 78:1-7)
3. Pastor Tim talked about various false gods (Baals). What do we tend to worship today? (1 Peter 4:1-4)
4. God does not delight in our suffering but delights in our brokenness and contrition. How does that change the way you view a difficult season you might be going through? (Psalm 51)

5. Ehud used his left-handedness as a surprise advantage. How does it encourage you to see God using people's unique traits or "peculiarities" to bring deliverance? (Genesis 41:9-16, Acts 9:20-22)

6. Why do you think it is so easy for us to put our faith "on the backs of leaders" (pastors, parents, mentors) rather than on Christ alone? (Psalm 20:7-8, 2 Cor 4:18)

7. If your spiritual hero or mentor were to fail or leave tomorrow, what parts of your faith would feel most shaken? How can you protect from that? (Psalm 62:6, Heb 12:27-29)

8. What are some practical ways for someone to "fix their eyes on Jesus" during a season when everything else seems to be going wrong? (Acts 5:41, 1 Peter 4:13)

Practical Applications (Try all four of these this week)

1. "Idol Audit": Identify one area of your life where you are looking for good fortune or security (modern-day idols) outside of God. This week, consciously "de-throne" that thing by seeking, and thanking, God **first** in that specific area.

2. First-Hand Faith: Commit to one spiritual discipline this week (e.g., 10 minutes of Scripture reading, a designated prayer time every day) that is entirely between you and God, without the influence of a podcast, a sermon, or a book (other than the Bible). Practice "knowing the Lord" for yourself.

3. If you don't have a mentor, find one. Find a godly man or woman who is willing to answer your questions and push you toward God without becoming your god. Set up a meeting at least monthly.

4. Share the "Work He Has Done": Identify someone in your life (a child, a friend, or a coworker) and share a specific story of how God "delivered" you in the past. Use it as a way to combat the "forgetting" that happened in Judges 2:10.

Closing Prayer: Father, forgive us for where we have placed our hope in humans instead of you. Help us to look to and lean on just Jesus. In Jesus' name.