

Lesson 2 - Judges

Discussion Guide

Main Idea - God's people need a perfect savior to maintain their land and rest.

Intro Question 1: *Why should we study the Old Testament?*

We covered last week how the Old Testament teaches us about God, tells us about Christ, and has the power to transform us into the image of God.

Intro Question 2: *Talk about mistakes you've made over and over without learning your lesson. What could have helped you learn your lesson earlier?*

We are going to see the Israelites get stuck in a cycle of failure and sin where they never seem to learn their lesson. Still, God shows them grace in sending them saviors.

Building Block #1 - Three Themes of Judges

The people of God need a perfect savior as they...

Building Block #2 - Lose land and their faithful Savior (Chapters 1-2)

Question 1: *Why did God want the Israelites to drive all of the Canaanites out and to not intermarry with them? What happened when they did not follow these commandments from God?*

God wanted the Israelites to follow Him and to not be tempted toward worshiping the gods of the Canaanites. His laws against intermarriage with the Canaanites were meant to keep them from having relationships that drew them away from the One True God. When they did not obey, they ended up worshiping the false gods of their foreign wives.

Question 2: *How should we see the punishment of God as his grace in the book of Judges? What does this teach you about God's work in your own life?*

God could have left the Israelites in their sin in the book of Judges. If not for His punishment, they would not have turned to cry out for Him. They would have simply pursued other gods without any hindrance. God was keeping them from the full potential of their sin. There are times in our lives where God teaches us painful lessons, but it is His grace keeping us from continuing in sin.

Building Block #3 - Receive imperfect saviors (3-16)

Question 3: *What does the imperfection of the judges teach us about our spiritual need?*

No matter how many spiritual leaders the Israelites received, they were all flawed human beings. Their leadership was always temporary and their decisions were never perfect. We can't look to any normal human being as our ultimate hope. We need a perfect Savior who proves to be faithful eternally.

Building Block #4 - Crave true rest (17-21)

Question 4: *What are some ways that the story of Judges reminds you of your own heart?*

It is easy to find things we dislike about our culture and compare it to the culture of Israel in the Judges. But we ought to look in our own hearts before we apply the Bible to others. Our hearts are easily distracted and we consistently forget what God has done for us. We should always be going back to the truth of Scripture to remind us of who we are and who God is.

Worldview Implication

Sin is destructive - Sin has real consequences in this life. The more we are allowed to live in our sin, the more it will corrupt and corrode our lives. It may feel okay at first, but the result is death.