

The Old Testament – Questions to Consider

Week 18: Judges 3-17

Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could tame and have any animal as a pet now, what would it be? What would you name it?

1. Have time to get an overview on Judges? Check out this free resource and video: www.bibleproject.com/explore/video/judges/ What is your favorite story from Judges? Why?
2. How would you summarize the book of Judges? The Bible Project summarizes Judges as “Israel’s Total Failure.” How do you see that play out across Judges?
3. Read Judges 2:1-5. Several times in the Old Testament God appears as “the angel of the Lord” which is described as a “theophany” (God’s appearance to man) or “Christophany” (Christ’s appearance to man before the incarnation of Jesus). In these instances, the “angel” often speaks directly as God (not just a messenger) and receives worship or sacrifice (which angels usually deny). (for more see: www.gotquestions.org/angel-of-the-Lord.html) What do you think it must have been like to hear the rebuke of “What is this you have done?” Have you ever been in a season of life where you felt God was correcting or disciplining you? What was that like? Despite this rebuke from God, did Israel learn? (Judges 2:11-15) Do we learn?
4. Read Judges 2:16-19. How does it feel to see that God does not completely abandon His people? Do we see a similar cycle of repentance/obedience/blessing and worldliness/disobedience/discipline in our own lives today?
5. Judges 17:6 & 21:25 state that “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” How does this verse summarize the 400+ years of the Judges. Do you feel that this verse could also describe the season and culture we live in? Why or why not?
6. In the Bible, sometimes stories are “descriptions” of man’s rebellion rather than “prescriptions” of God’s commands. What are some examples of “descriptions” rather than “prescriptions” from the stories of Ehud (ch.3:12-20), Deborah/Barak (ch.4-5), Gideon (ch.6-9), Jephthah (ch.11-12), and Sampson (ch.13-16)? What are some aspects of their stories that are good examples or lessons to us? What parts of these stories surprised or shocked you?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/discussion-guide

6 Steps to Become a Spiritual Warrior

Judges (ESV)

www.trustworthyword.com/women

1) Get Up & Get Going:

Life is Not a Pew-Sitting Game, It Is Active _____

Imitate Deborah - faithful and brave when Barak failed to courageously lead Israel against General Sisera, wise prophetess and the 5th Judge of Israel, sang with Barak a song of gratitude to God - Judges 4 & 5

Judges 4:4-5 “Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. [5] She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.”

2) Heroically E_____ Your Enemy: **Satan Makes No Peace & Is Coming for You**

Watch Jael - clever in defeating General Sisera to lull him to sleep and killed him with a tent peg - Judges 4:17-22

Judges 4:21 “But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died.”

Judges 5:24 “Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling women most blessed.”

3) Weapon Up for Daily Battles:

A_____ W_____ with the Bible and Prayer

- "When asked, 'What is more important: Prayer or Reading the Bible?' I ask, 'What is more important: Breathing in or Breathing out?'" — Charles Spurgeon
- 1 Corinthians 9:26–27 “So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. [27] But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”
- Matthew 6:7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.”
- Romans 8:26 “the Spirit himself intercedes for us”

4) Defend Yourself and Your Families:

God Is Your S_____

See Samson’s Mother & Father - godly parent with Manoah, humbly shares the angelic appearances with her husband and lets him lead their family, barren, obeys the angel’s command to abstain from alcohol and unclean food, given Samson as a son - Judges 13, 14:1-9; 16:17

- Ephesians 6:10–11 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”
- Ephesians 6:13–18 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ...belt of truth...breastplate of righteousness...as shoes...the gospel of peace...shield of faith, ...helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit”

5) Be Informed of God’s Strategy, Not Ignorant of Satan’s Schemes: T_____ Is Limited

- 1 Timothy 6:11, 13-14 “But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ...I charge you in the presence of God...to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 “not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”
- Ephesians 4:12–14 “to equip the saints... that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”
- Ephesians 5:15–16 “making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”

6) Stay G_____ for God’s Victories and Blessings While Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

- 1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”
- Romans 8:37–39 “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This Next Week’s Old Testament Reading Plan:

Week 19: Judges 18-21 ~ Ruth 1-4 ~ 1 Samuel 1-7

- **Read the Old Testament w/Us:** www.southfork.church/2024
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo

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