



Sermon Discussion Guide

Introduction to Judges - Tim Knipp

September 26, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- We've now entered the fall. What are you anticipating, worried about, excited about, or dreading this season?
- Watch The Bible Project's video on Judges for contextual background.
<https://youtu.be/kOYy8iCfIJ4>
- Extra credit: Regent College has a podcast in violence in the OT and is a helpful reference for future context.
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/regent-college-podcast/id1152112456?i=1000509896924>

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Read Judges 2:6-23
- Read Deuteronomy 8 and see what God required of his chosen people. Compare with what his people did in our passage this week.
- What do we see happen to the Israelites after the generation that knew God passed?
- What did God allow to happen and why? What was God's covenant to his people if they disobeyed in Deuteronomy 8? What does he do in Judges 2:20-23

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc



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- Think about Bellingham, Lynden, your town, Whatcom County. What gods are worshipped? What do we see grabbing our attention and pulling us away from our Deliverer?
- Following other gods slowly unraveled the Israelites and the true God wasn't going to allow it to happen. He did allow for intense hardship to WAKE HIS PEOPLE UP. Do you see any parallels in the church today?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- What is a wake up call to you? What hardship might God be allowing to remind you of your dependence on Him?
- The Israelites cried out to God in hardship, turned back to God, and worshipped again. Even if only for a time. What things in your life do you find yourself repenting of over and over? Remember God's unending, chasing, and fierce grace to you!

Time of Prayer