



---

## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Othniel, the Ideal Judge - Christian Lindbeck

October 3, 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!



---

## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Othniel, the Ideal Judge - Christian Lindbeck

October 3, 2021

#### 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.
- Judges is a book that challenges us in different ways. 2 weeks in, how are you feeling with the challenge of this Judges series?
- What is one place in your life, big or small, where having control really matters to you? What is one place where you are comfortable without control?

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- **Read Judges 3: 7-11**
- How do we see the Israelites acting in this passage? What has led them to turn away from the Lord?
- How does God respond to this betrayal?
- Read Zechariah 4:6. How do we see God acting through his spirit in Othniel and in Israel in this passage?

#### 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.
- This passage sees the sending of a deliverer for the people of Israel. How does God's sending of Othniel foreshadow the sending of Jesus?
- This portion of Judges shows the Israelites grasping at control, and that leading them away from the Lord. Where else do we see this in the scripture? In the church through history? In the church today?



---

## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Othniel, the Ideal Judge - Christian Lindbeck

October 3, 2021

#### 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.
- Where in your own life are you grasping for control? What makes letting go of that control challenging?
- This story shows God's fierce grace meeting his people through his spirit, in all of their imperfection. Where in your life do you yearn for God's fierce grace and overwhelming spirit? What might it look like to invite Jesus into that space?

#### Time of Prayer