

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Half-hearted Discipleship

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

Judges 1:1-2:5

OVERVIEW

The famed philosopher Frederich Nietzsche once said that “God was dead...and we have killed him.” While this is an impossibility, let us imagine for a moment a world where this was true. What would it be like? If we all just did what was right in our own eyes, what would our world be like? What if self was supreme? This is the question that the book of Judges seeks to answer.

APPLY // JOSHUA 1

1. Read Joshua 1:1-9
2. Briefly review the overall context (i.e. Israel getting ready to enter the Promised Land).
3. Discuss the many ways this passage reveals the faithfulness of God.
4. What are some specific ways we can apply God’s faithfulness to our own lives?
5. Why does God tell Joshua to “be strong and courageous” three times? What does it mean to be strong and courageous? What does this look like in our own lives?
6. What’s the link between being “strong and courageous” and meditating on “the Book of the Law”? How does this inform and fuel our own study of the Bible?
7. How does the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) connect to Joshua 1? What implications does this have for us as disciples of Jesus Christ?

STUDY // JUDGES 1:1-2:5

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Judges 1:1-36.
2. What’s the connection between Judges and Joshua?
3. Verses 2-3, 4-11, 19-21 focus on Judah.
 - a. In verses 2-3, how well does Judah obey God’s command? (Note: God told Judah to go, but he also insists help from his brother)
 - b. How about in verses 4-11? 19-21?
4. In verses 12-16, how well does Caleb obey God’s commands? What specifics do you see that shows their obedience? (Note: The narrative focuses to one brave family to show what all of Israel should be like).
5. What do you notice about Israel’s behavior in verses 22-36?
6. Identify and discuss the reasons given (or implied) as to why the tribes of Israel failed to take all the land.
7. Read Judges 2:1-5.
8. What is God’s assessment of Israel’s behavior? Why?

9. What do you notice about the focus of God's initial words?
10. Why does God continually remind his people of what he has done?
11. What does God tell his people in verse 3?
12. How do we resolve the tension between what God has said he will do (v. 1) and what he says he will now not do (v. 3)?
13. In verses 4-5, what do you notice about the people's response to God's words?
14. How does this passage point us to the hope and promises of Christ Jesus?

- General Bible study questions:
 - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
- General ways a passage can point to Jesus:
 - **Predict** - Some passages predict God's redemptive work in Christ by making specific mention of his coming person or work.
 - **Prepare** - Some passages that make no specific mention of Jesus prepare us to understand aspects of the person and work of Christ (e.g. sacrificial system).
 - **Require** - What does this text reveal of God's nature that provides or requires redemption? What does this text reflect of human nature that requires redemption?
 - **Result** - Some passages will speak directly to the result of Christ's atoning work. Results can be vertical, in our relationship with God, or horizontal, in our relationship with others.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: What is one biblical promise/passage you can trust in this week to be courageous in order to hallow God's name?