

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Abandoning God**

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

*Judges 2:6-3:6***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 // JUDGES 1:1-2:6**

1. Read Judges 1:1-2:6.
2. Briefly summarize the main events in this passage.
3. Where in this passage do you see glimpses of obedience to the Lord?
4. Where in this passage do you see disobedience?
5. Why do you think the Israelites were tempted to compromise (i.e. obey but not all the way)?
6. In what areas might we be tempted toward this same type of half-hearted discipleship?
7. What motivation do we have for full-hearted obedience? What hope do we have when we do disobey?
8. In 2:2-3, how do we resolve the tension of the Lord’s unchanging covenant (“I will never break my covenant with you”) and his judgment (“I will not drive them out before you”)?

**STUDY // JUDGES 2:6-3:6**

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 2:6-3:6
  - a. Note: This passage is a second introduction to the book of Judges and a summary of the whole book. You see in verses 6-8 it discusses Joshua’s death, which was already documented in 1:1. In verse 10 the focus turns to the generations following Joshua, which is the current generation in Judges. Then in 2:11-3:6 we find a summary of the “Judges cycle” that will unfold throughout the book.
2. What do you notice about Joshua’s life and the Israelites who followed him?
  - a. For a glimpse of Joshua’s leadership, see Joshua 24:16-18
3. In Judges 2:10, what do you notice about the generations that followed Joshua?
4. What does it mean the generation did not “know the Lord”? How does one generation go from knowing the Lord to the next generation not knowing the Lord?
5. In verses 2:11-23, there is a cycle that repeats itself throughout Judges. Identify and discuss the cycle.
  - a. v. 10-12

- b. v. 14a
  - c. v. 14b
  - d. v. 15
  - e. v. 16-18
  - f. v. 19
6. Identify and discuss the various words used to describe Israel's disobedience. How do these terms help us think more deeply and comprehensively about our sin?
  7. What does this passage teach us about God's holiness? What does this passage teach us about God's mercy and grace?
  8. In 2:22 and 3:1, what does it mean the Lord did these things to "test" Israel? Why is testing a good thing?
  9. In 3:6, what is the result of Israel's sin? Compare this to what we discussed in Deuteronomy 7:2. What does this tell us about the goodness of God's commands?
- 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:** Are there areas in your life where you are compromising God's word? Where might you be tempted to compromise God's commands?