

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**God's Victory & The People's Reward**

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

*Judges 4-5***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 // JUDGES 3:7-31**

1. Read Judges 3:7-31.
2. What attributes of the Lord do you see in this passage? Discuss practical ways these attributes meaningfully impact your daily life.
3. The text tells us “They forgot the Lord.” Destruction is the result. Why does disobedience always lead to destruction.
4. What are some practical ways we can remember God's work in our lives and in the lives of those around us?
5. Are there ways you have experienced the discipline/disappointment of disobedience? How has the Lord use this to propel you toward joyful obedience?
6. How do you see the Lord's purposeful discipline and patient love in this passage? Why is it important to have both of these aspects of God's character and not separate them? What's the danger in our lives if we do separate them?
7. The Israelites wait years to call out to God. What prevents us from crying out to the Lord for mercy?
8. What are some tangible ways you can embrace your weakness and use the “unlikely” message of the gospel for the advancement of God's purposes?
9. What specific ways does this passage cause you to rejoice in Jesus Christ?
10. How does this passage point us to heaven? Why is it important that we often think of the hope of heaven?

**STUDY // JUDGES 4-5**

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.

Note: Healthy Bible study asks three questions:

- **Observation:** What do I see?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** Why does it matter?

These questions below are aimed at helping you observe and interpret the text. The following week's questions for the same passage aim more toward application. While we cannot completely separate these three types of questions, this is a helpful framework to have in mind as you lead your group through the passage.

1. Read Judges 4.
  2. What similarities do you notice between the people of Israel in chapter 4 and chapter 3? And differences?
  3. How is Deborah like Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar? Do you see any differences?
  4. What do you make of Barak's request in verse 8? Is it a sign of faith or lack of faith?
  5. What is Deborah's prophecy in verse 9? Where do you see that fulfilled?
  6. Discuss what Jael did in 4:18-22. Are we supposed to see her actions as good or bad?
  7. What actions are attributed to God in chapter 4? How does this square with Jael's actions?
  8. Read Judges 5.
    - a. These are the same events of chapter 4 from a different angle.
  9. What do you notice about the beginning of Deborah & Barak's song?
  10. What do you notice about how chapter 5 describes the battle between Barak's men and Sisera's forces?
  11. How does chapter 5 help us rightly interpret chapter 4?
  12. What do chapters 4-5 tell us about the Lord's character and his provision for his people?
- 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?