

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Tepid & Trusting Leader

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

Judges 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 4-5

1. Read Judges 4.
2. Verse 1 tells us the Israelites again “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” How are we like the Israelites? What in us and around us tempts us toward cycles of disobedience?
3. What’s the result of Israel’s disobedience? Practically how can we help each other remember that sin leads to destruction?
4. What lessons do we from Deborah? From Barak?
5. Identify places in the text that this victory is attributed to the Lord? Why is it important to remember the Lord is always sovereignly at work for his plans and the good of his people?
6. What are we to make of Jael’s actions? How does this remind us of the costly mess of deliverance from sin?
7. Read Judges 5.
8. What does this song tell us about why Israel won the battle? How might this truth apply to our own lives today?

STUDY // JUDGES 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.

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 verses 6:1-10.

2. What do you notice about the details of oppression by the Midianites? What similarities do you see between this episode of oppression and the previous ones? What differences do you see?
 3. What's the first thing the Lord does when Israel cries out? How is this different than what he has previously done? Why do you think the Lord sent a prophet before a judge?
 4. God tells Israel two things in verses 6-10: what he has done, and what they have done. What details does he give in each instance? Why is it important to understand both what God has done and what the Israelites have done?
 5. Read verses 6:11-40.
 6. What's the first thing the angel of the Lord says to Gideon? What is Gideon's response? How does Gideon's opinion differ on whether God has forgotten his people?
 7. What is the Lord's response back to Gideon? What does this tell us about God?
 8. In verses 25-27, what does the Lord tell Gideon to do? How does Gideon respond?
 9. In verses 28-32, what do you notice about the way the Israelites respond to Gideon's actions? What does this tell us about Israel's cry for deliverance back in 6:6?
 10. Discuss Gideon's behavior in verses 36-40. What do Gideon's actions reveal about his faith? How does God respond to Gideon? What does this tell us about God?
 - a. NOTE from ESV Study Bible: "Gideon's desire to test God was in direct violation of the Mosaic law, which prohibited humans from testing God (Deut. 6:16). Gideon himself was aware that he was doing something unwise, if not sinful, since he asked God not to be angry with him (Judg. 6:39). Gideon already knew God's will (cf. vv. 14-16, 36)—calling him to service on behalf of God's people—so Gideon's requests reveal his weak faith. Despite this lack of faith, God accommodated both of Gideon's requests (vv. 38, 40).
 11. How does this chapter reveal God's holiness? How does this chapter reveal God's mercy? How does Jesus help us not compromise God's holiness or mercy?
- 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?