

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Winning by Weakness

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

Judges 7

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 6

1. Read Judges 6:1-10. Why does God give the Israelites into the hands of the Midianites? What might this look like today? Why is it important to understand God’s judgment in this “passive” sense (cf. Rom. 1)?
2. The Israelites seem to regret their sin, but not truly repentant. Or to say it another way, their distress is over the consequences of their rebellion, but not over the rebellion itself. Discuss the difference between regret and repentance. How can we tell the difference?
3. Read 6:11-18. Gideon thinks the Lord has forsaken Israel. Why is this not true? How do we often interpret our circumstances like Gideon does here?
4. When we feel like the Lord has forsaken or forgotten us, what are some questions we should ask to bring clarity to the situation?
5. Read 6:19-27. How do you see Gideon’s repentance? How does this passage inform what our repentance should look like?
6. Read 6:36-40. Where do you see Gideon’s faith? How is Gideon’s faith weak? How are we like Gideon?
7. Should we “fleece” God like Gideon? Why or why not?

STUDY // JUDGES 7

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 7:1-3.
 2. What does the Lord tell Gideon? What is the Lord's concern? What lesson does God want to teach Gideon and all of Israel?
 3. What does Gideon tell the people? What happens? Why do these people leave (cf. Dt. 20:8)? How do you think Gideon felt after these people left?
 4. Read 7:4-8.
 5. What does the Lord tell Gideon to do? How does Gideon respond?
 6. The first 10,000 men left because of fear, but why are these other 9,700 men sent away? What does this tell us about God's plans and purposes?
 7. The Lord reduces Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300. How do you think Gideon felt after God did reduced his army by over 99%?
 8. Read 7:9-15.
 9. What does the Lord tell Gideon to do? How does God reassure Gideon? What does this tell you about the character of God?
 10. How does Gideon respond? What does this tell you about Gideon's faith?
 11. Read 7:16-23.
 12. Describe the battle against Midian. What is Gideon's battle plan? What do the Israelites do? What does the Lord do? What is the outcome of the battle?
 13. How should this victory compel Gideon and Israel to trust in God not boast in themselves?
 14. Read 7:24-25.
 15. What does Gideon tell Ephraim to do? What's the result? What does this tell us about the trust of Gideon and Ephraim?
 16. What happens to the Midianite leaders? What does this tell us about the justice and mercy of the Lord?
- 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 think the Lord has forsaken you? If so, could it be that you feel this way because you're not pursuing the Lord?