

Week 1 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 1:1** and **21:25** before discussing the following.

When did the events of Judges take place? What do we know about this time period?

Briefly describe Joshua, his life, and his ministry.

Read **Judges 2:1-15** and discuss the following.

The northern tribes ultimately failed to drive the Canaanites out of their territory. What did they do instead?

If they were strong enough to subject the Canaanites to forced labor, they possessed the strength to drive them out. Why do you think they chose to not?

How did this failure impact the Israelites spiritually? Briefly discuss some modern applications and takeaways we can glean from this text.

What do you hope to personally gain from this series?

Week 2 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 2:16-23** and **3:7-11** before discussing the following.

What is a judge? What primary role did they play?

There is a cycle given in our first passage. Describe the different elements of this repeated behavior. How do we see this pattern play out in our second passage?

Discuss the connection between Israel's spiritual amnesia and their physical affliction.

What can we learn from Israel's forgetfulness? How can we help one another to be better at remembering God's faithfulness? Share some tangible examples of how we can do this individually, as friends and families, and as a local church.

Week 3 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 3:12-20** and discuss the following.

Briefly summarize the events of this passage.

Recall Israel's pattern from last week. How is the cycle repeated in these verses?

What kind of "rest" did Israel experience?

How might the original audience have received this story? What are we to take away from this disgusting episode?

Describe the Lord's involvement in this particular passage of Scripture. How does this help impact and inform our interpretation of the text? Explain.

Week 4 D-Group Discussion Guide

Can you remember the last time you took a risk for the Lord? Explain.

Read **Judges 4** and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

What do we know about Deborah? How is she depicted in the text? How would you describe Barak?

What makes her a great leader? What does her leadership say about the time period in which she served? Explain.

How were Deborah's words in **v. 9** fulfilled?

How would you describe God's activity in this passage? What do we learn about Him in this passage?

Share one personal takeaway from this passage.

Week 5 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 6** and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

Before the calling of Gideon, the Lord sent a prophet. Discuss his message and its significance.

What makes Gideon an unlikely leader? How is his reluctance to lead evidenced in this passage?

Describe Gideon's mission and the purpose behind it.

How is Gideon like Deborah (**Chapters 4-5**)? In what ways is he different?

Gideon asks the Lord for signs. How does the Lord respond to His request? Does the Lord's response surprise you? Why or why not?

What do you find most convicting and/or comforting about this chapter?

Week 6 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 7** and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

As a brief review, discuss what we learned about Gideon from **chapter 6**. How is weakness and fear also apparent here in **chapter 7**?

Why does the Lord have Gideon shrink his army before facing the Midianites?

From what unlikely source does Gideon find reassurance? What does he do upon hearing the good news?

Besides reducing his fighting force, what other surprising tactics are employed by Gideon?

Given the details of this passage, what is the primary point of **chapter 7**?

Week 7 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 8** and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

This chapter takes on a slightly different tone. In comparison to **chapters 6-7**, what differences do you notice?

What was the error of Succoth and Penuel? What motivated their actions (or military inaction)? Can you think of any contemporary examples or applications? How does this passage serve the church today?

The men of Israel asked Gideon to lead them as king. What is confusing about Gideon's response? Explain.

What is an ephod? How did Gideon's ephod become problematic? What did it reveal about himself? What did it show to be true in Israel?

What lessons in weakness can we take away from the life of Gideon?

Week 8 D-Group Discussion Guide

Consider those who are most influential in your life. What is it about these folks that most impresses you?

Read **Judges 8:29-9:6** and discuss the following.

Who is Abimelech, and what is his relationship to Gideon?

How exactly does he come to power?

Read **Judges 9** and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

What is the message of Jotham's fable? How is it ultimately proved true?

Observe God's gradual judgment in this passage. How is it different from some common misconceptions about the process of God's judgment?

What can we learn from the events described in this chapter?

Week 9 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 11:1-11** and discuss the following.

Summarize these opening verses. Who is Jephthah? What do we know about him and his coming to power? What makes him a rather unlikely leader?

How does he compare to previous judges like Deborah and Gideon?

Read **Judges 11:29-40** and discuss the following.

List some examples of Jephthah's faith displayed in this chapter. How does he show his foolishness?

Before considering Jephthah's tragic vow, read **Deuteronomy 23:21-23** and **Leviticus 5:4-6** and discuss the questions below.

What did the law say concerning vows made unto God?

Did God request a vow from Jephthah? Was Jephthah required to keep an evil vow? What do you make of God's silence?

How does Jephthah's actions throughout the chapter reveal his limited knowledge of God? Explain.

Share one personal takeaway from this particular chapter.

Week 10 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read Judges 13 and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

Describe the characters in this passage. What do we know about Manoah and his wife?

What was promised to come through Samson? What would his mission be?

Samson was to become a Nazarite. What would this involve?

What other unique details are given in this passage, and why do you think they are given to the reader? What is noticeably absent from the text? (*Hint: Consider the repeated pattern or cycle of this book...*)

Samson is perhaps the most popular of all judges, therefore, most know what he eventually became. How does v.25 help us to understand the source of his strength?

What most stands out to you from this passage of Scripture, and why?

Week 11 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 14-15** and/or summarize the chapters before discussing the following.

List some signs of Samson's strength. What are some of his glaring weaknesses? How do his moral choices stand up against his fellow Israelites?

Which words or phrases are most repeated in these chapters, and what does each indicate?

What is most surprising about the men of Judah in **chapter 15**? How did they arrive at such a position? Can you think of any contemporary examples of something like this?

How would you describe God's activity in these chapters? In what ways is it most evident?

Week 12 D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Judges 16** and/or summarize the chapter before discussing the following.

Samson was the last judge. How was he like other judges? How was he different?

How did **chapters 14-15** prepare us for what takes place in **chapter 16**? What is noticeably absent from this chapter?

What lessons in strength can we take away from the life of Samson? Where in your life do you need to rely on God's grace instead of your own strength?

How does the manner of Samson's death foreshadow Christ Jesus?

Week 13 D-Group Discussion Guide

The closing chapters of Judges (**17-21**) show the religious and moral deterioration of the nation. Rather than reading and discussing the details of their apostasy, we will focus on the repeated phrase of this section.

Read Judges **17:6, 18:1, 19:1**, and **21:25**, then discuss the following.

What is the point of the repeated phrase? List some implications this has upon us as individuals, families, and as a local church.

Can you recall a time in your life that you lived according to your own wisdom? How did you get to that point? What happened to bring about change?

If you lived in the reality of Christ's Kingship, how might your daily life change? What areas would be most impacted?

Conclude by sharing some personal takeaways from this series.