

Judges

The Time of Judges (& Now) | Week 1

**11 MEN & 1
WOMAN SET
OVER ISRAEL TO
JUDGE**

**TENT PEGS,
DONKEY BONES,
& LEFT-
HANDEDNESS**

**SET APART FOR
GOD BUT SET IN
THEIR SINFUL
WAYS**

Not

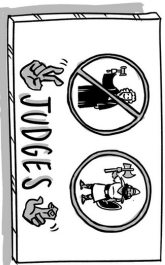
PERFECT

LIFE IN THE WAITING



JUDGES

ISRAEL'S TOTAL FAILURE



created by the Bible Project

1-2

3-16

17-21

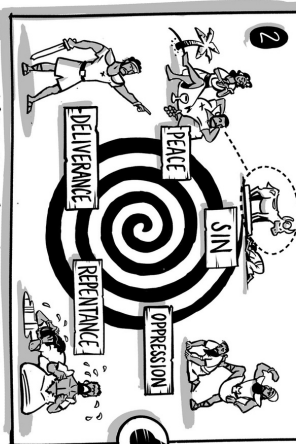
PRETTY GOOD

OKAY

BAD

WORSE

THE EMPOWERMENT OF GOD'S SPIRIT ≠ ENDORSEMENT OF HUMAN CHOICES



ISRAEL FAILS TO DRIVE OUT THE CANANITES



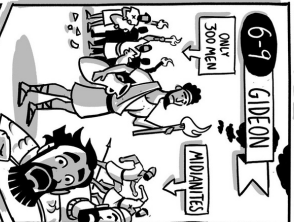
3a OTHNIEL



3b EHUD



4-5 DEBORAH



6-9 GIDEON



10-12 JEPHTHAH



13-16 SAMSON



17-18 MICAH DAN LAISH

"IN THOSE DAYS ISRAEL HAD NO KING AND EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES."



CORRUPTION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. - Judges 21:25



COFFEE TALK

- Have you ever led a club, an organization, a department, or any type of relational group that succeeded while you were leading, but after you left, had a major breakdown? How did that make you feel? Why was it so frustrating for you to see or experience that breakdown? What did you want to say to that group of people in the midst of their breakdown (or even after)?
- Consider your experience with making and breaking habits. How long does it take for you to develop a habit or discipline in your life? Now, how quickly does it take for you to break a habit in your life? Why does it appear that it is easier to break a habit than make one? What are some spiritual habits you have developed over the years? What about spiritual habits that you have broken? What habit(s) would you like to develop or redevelop over this next season?
- *The book of Judges deals with violence and death in a way that some may find uncomfortable. How are we to understand violence when it seems God commands it here? Please refer to the accompanying article to help understand the contextual violence in Judges.*



READ

- Judges 1-2, 21



REFLECT

- What repeated phrases are there in the chapters? Why do you think these phrases are repeated? What does it reveal about the intentions, affections, and actions of the Israelites?
- The first two chapters of Judges reveal that the nation of Israel makes an incomplete conquest of the Promised Land. There cannot be anything good that comes from incomplete obedience. Consider what you know about Scripture. What other areas of the Bible highlight the consequences of incomplete obedience? Reflect on your life for a moment, where has there been incomplete obedience? Share with the group how that incomplete obedience created lingering problems for you (not just in your relationship with God but with others).

- Is there anything else that stood out in the reading that you wish to discuss?



ACT

- The Israelites compromised many times instead of obeying the voice of the Lord. Oftentimes, compromise can be made out of convenience or out of indifference. Consider where have you seen compromise in your life as a result of convenience or indifference. What was the compromise and what impact has that made? What advice would you give others who might be struggling with the same thing?
- Pastor Kevin said "**The sin in our lives that we fail to conquer will eventually conquer us.**" That is a powerful statement with a stern warning for our lives. Consider what sin(s) you struggle with currently. Share with the group how you have sought to conquer that sin. What might the consequences be if that sin is never conquered? What victory or progress have you seen in this area of sin? How can we as a group or as an individual encourage and help you in the fight against your sin?
- Israel's sin impacted individuals and the entire community, so does our sin. Spend time praying for the group's individuals and the community to see our sin, to confess it, to repent of it, and to be healed by Christ.