

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 21, 2014

Passage: Judges & Ruth

Memory Passage: Judges 21:25 & Ruth 4:16-17

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Judges 1-3:6.** Would you consider Judah to be obedient or disobedient in 1:1-19a, and why?
- (b) What pattern do you see emerge in 1:19b, and continue in 1:21, 29, 30, 31, & 33, and why does this matter?
- (c) What is God's response to the people's unfaithfulness (2:1-4)?
- (d) Judges presents a 4-stage cycle through which Israel continually spirals out of control. Identify the 4 stages in 2:11-18.
- (e) Why did the Lord leave certain nations in the land (3:1, 4), how did Israel respond (3:5), and why (2:10)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Judges 3:7-8:35.** Judges introduces us to 12 judges and one apostate king. We will not be able to investigate all of them given the restraints of this Discussion Guide, but we will identify the cycle of Apostasy-Oppression-Supplication-Salvation and briefly examine 5 of the judges.
- (b) Identify the cycle of apostasy under Othniel (3:7-12), Ehud (3:13-30), Deborah (4:1-5:31), and Gideon (6:1-8:35) by describing the sin involved, the oppressing nation, God's response, and the number of years the land had rest. Also, describe the character of each judge, noting specific actions from each judge's story that justify your evaluation.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Judges 10:6-12:7 & 13:1-16:31.** Identify the cycle of apostasy under Jephthah (10:6-12:7) & Samson (13:1-16:31) by describing the sin involved, the oppressing nation, and God's response. Also describe the character of each judge, noting specific actions from each judge's story that justify your evaluation.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Judges 17:1-21:25.** These chapters reveal the continuing downward spiral of the nation both in their religious practices (chapters 17-18) and their moral practices (chapters 19-21). The events are disturbing to read, but important.
- (b) Notice the recurring phrase (17:6, 18:1, 19:1, & 21:25) that bookends each of these sections. What is the relationship between having no king and the people's unrighteous behavior (cf. Deut. 17:14-20)?
- (c) When Israel continually cries out to the Lord (3:9, 15; 4:3; 6:6-7; 10:10, 15) were they repenting or complaining? How do you know?
- (d) What have you learned about God's character from Judges? What have you learned about God's plans from Judges, and how do those plans relate to the covenant He made with Abraham?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 1-4.** There is much to this powerful little story that we won't discuss because of the limitations of this Discussion Guide, but keeping in line with the theme of our series, answer the following as you read:

(b) Make 3 columns on a piece of paper, one each for Naomi, Ruth, & Boaz, and as you read, write what you learn about each person. Note their character, their actions, their mental & spiritual states, etc.

(c) What do you learn about redemption from the book of Ruth (the words redeem/redeemer/redemption occur 23 times!)?

(d) How does the book of Ruth fit with the book of Judges (cf. Judges 21:25, Ruth 1:1, 4:17)?

(e) How does the book of Ruth reveal to us God's continuing faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham?

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The Redeeming God (Judges & Ruth)