

FAITH ALLIANCE CHURCH

FOCUS: A ONE-YEAR JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

SESSION 3, WEEK 4 - APRIL 18 - APRIL 23

What to Watch For

In the beginning of Judges we'll see that Joshua, the one who took over for Moses, dies. Judges addresses Israel's leadership quite a bit. If you want to lead others well, this is a great place in scripture to learn from. No surprise at this point, but their leadership isn't always top-notch. There's certainly room for growth. Judges is a pretty violent section of scripture. Judges being raised up in the nation of Israel is an interesting development. It was God's initiative to raise up judges who were meant to help Israel stay on track. We'll see this doesn't always play out well, either - the weakness of man on display again. Random fact: Eglon, King of Moab, is found to be in the bathroom for an embarrassingly long time, that's awkward.. Or, maybe the judge, Ehud, is to blame!? The judge, Gideon, a mighty warrior, also has some characteristics (not necessarily good) that we can learn from. We'll end the week with another judge, Samson (the really strong guy who killed a lion with his bare hands), stepping into the narrative of scripture.

THEME OF THE WEEK

FEATURED FORUM

LEAD OTHERS WELL

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 // 9 AM

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON:

The Decline of God's People
Judges 1-15, Psalm 69-71, Proverb 18

READING PLAN

- Monday
No additional reading
- Tuesday
Judges 1-3
Psalm 69:1-18
- Wednesday
Judges 4-6
Psalm 69:19-36
- Thursday
Judges 7-9
Psalm 70
- Friday
Judges 10-12
Psalm 71
- Saturday
Judges 13-15
Proverbs 18

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Growing Our Love for God Through a Better Understanding of Scripture

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these for personal reflection, family devotional time, or in any other group discussion setting.

1. **Read Judges Chapter 2.** What is God's response to the disobedience of Israel? Does this seem fair? How does, or maybe start with, "does God still judge his people?" If so, how? How can we know whether life events are an expression of discipline/judgment by God that are meant for us specifically or just natural results of living in a fallen world?
2. **Read Judges 6-8 and look closely at Gideon.** What can you learn from Gideon? What is one thing Gideon did right? What is one thing Gideon did wrong? What is something from this section that could inform your life right now?
3. **Read these four verses: Judges 13:25, 14:6, 14:19, and 15:14.** What consistently happens in each of those verses? Why do you think Samson struggles so greatly even when the Spirit of God is definitely an active part of his life? Would you categorize Samson's life as a failure? Why or why not?

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