

VxV Judges Intro / Ch. 2 Teacher Guide

Context

- Author does not identify himself (could be Samuel or multiple authors)
- After the plagues, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt through the Red Sea
- They spent 40 years wandering the wilderness because of their doubt that God would take care of them
- Moses died and, under the leadership of Joshua, they finally take the land that God had promised them
- God instructed them to rid the land of idolatry and wickedness
- Joshua has some final words for the nation before he dies

Joshua 24:14-28

1. What is Joshua's main message to the Israelites?
 - V. 15 - Choose this day whom you will serve
 - You can't serve both God (big G) and gods (little g)
2. How can we apply that same principle to our own lives in 2026?
 - Lukewarm Christianity is not enough for God
 - We must choose to serve God or serve ourselves
 - We have to prioritize God over the gods of this world

Judges 2:1-10

1. Why does God feel the need to send an angel to give Israel the same warning that Joshua had just given them?
 - So they understood the severity of the command
2. How long did Israel serve God according to the covenant?
 - V. 10 - One or two generations
3. Why do you think they forgot about God so quickly? Why do we sometimes forget about God?

- They prioritized what they wanted over what they had promised God they would do
- Sometimes life gets in the way or our priorities get out of whack and God gets places on the back burner

Judges 2:11-23

1. Verses 11-12 say that Israel began to serve other gods like Baal. What are some gods we serve in 2026 other than the true God?
 - Popularity, sports, academics, social media, friends, perfection, etc.
2. The Israelites repeatedly go through a 'cycle of insanity' in the book of Judges. What does that cycle look like?
 - Israel abandons God
 - God allows another nation to oppress Israel
 - God sends a judge (military, political leader) who rescues Israel
 - Israel rededicates themselves to God
 - Rinse and repeat
3. Why are we calling it the 'cycle of insanity'?
 - Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results
 - Israel did not seem to learn from their mistakes and just repeated the same error over and over
4. Have you ever found yourself repeating the same mistakes over and over again? What happened?
 - Answers will vary
5. God equates running after other gods to cheating on your significant other. Why does God take this sin so seriously?
 - God takes sin extremely seriously
 - Sin is what separates His children from Him
 - He especially dislikes when we place anything ahead of Him
6. Have you ever been in a situation where you did not listen to an authority figure and it turned out pretty bad for you?
 - Answers will vary

Homework

1. Read Judges 3 multiple times this week
2. Discuss the following with someone in the youth group:
 - Throughout the whole chapter you see the hand of God working everywhere (God sold them into the hands of other nations, the Lord raised up a deliverer, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, the Lord strengthened Eglon, etc.)
 - What does this teach us about the role that God plays in our daily lives? Look up the word 'providence.'

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