

THIS IS MY BIBLE "Ordinary People with Extraordinary Stories" Chapter 2- Judges Life Group Questions

GETTING STARTED

- 1. Sunday, we talked about the historical cycles of civilizations (use last week's sermon notes for reference) throughout history. Discuss where you think we are today in America.
- 2. Discuss why you believe nearly every prominent civilization in history repeats the same cycle?
- 3. What were your impressions of the book of Judges? Did you learn anything new? What surprised you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1. Chapter 1 outlines several instances in which the children of Israel did not completely follow God's commands (verses 19, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33). Discuss your thoughts on partial obedience versus total obedience.
- 2. What impact did partial obedience have on the Israelites?
- 3. In Judges chapter 3:1-6, we see the complete blending of the Israelites' belief system and the system of false gods. How do we balance being "in the world" but not "of the world?"
- 4. Read Romans 12:1-2. Discuss the words the following words:

Sacrifice

Holy

Conformed

Renewing

Transformed

- 5. In chapters 3-16, we are introduced to several of Israel's Judges. Discuss the different judges in the book (e.g., Deborah, Gideon, Samson). What qualities do you see in these leaders and how do they respond to the challenges of their time?
- 6. Women play significant roles in the Book of Judges (Deborah, Jael). How are women portrayed and what lessons can be drawn from their actions?
- 7. Gideon famously sought signs from God. How does Gideon's journey from doubt to faith unfold, and what can we learn about trusting God in times of uncertainty?
- 8. Samson is probably the most famous Judge in this book. What are some lessons we can learn from Samson's failures? (chapters 13-16)

APPLYING THE MESSAGE

- 1. Discuss the consequences the Israelites fate when they turn to idolatry. How does this theme relate to contemporary challenges of remaining faithful in our own lives?
- 2. How do the themes and lessons from the Book of Judges apply to our lives and communities today? Are there parallels between the challenges faced by the Israelites and the challenges we encounter in the modern world?