

Meet the Judges (The Book of Judges)

Week 1: Othniel: A model Judge?

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Have you ever reread a prayer journal to find you have forgotten something that God has done in your life? How did the re-reading impact you?

WORSHIP

Given thanks for the ways that God has blessed you, your family, your friends, etc.

WORD

Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land, where they fought battles. The Lord gave them victories and territory, and they inherited what God had promised to Abraham many centuries before. They became a great nation under God's guidance and were blessed with a good and fertile land to live in. God had commanded them to be pure and distinct, but they were disobedient and lost their way.

Read Judges 2:1-5

1. How had God been faithful to the Israelites?

2. How had the Israelites been unfaithful to God? e.g. See Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:4-9, 7:3-4, Judges 1:19,27,34

Growth Group Notes

Summer 2022



Read Judges 2:6-7,10-19

3. What happened after Joshua and his generation died? (v10)

Read Judges 2:10-19

4. Identify the cycle that takes the Israelites away from the Lord, a cycle that is repeated over and over as we proceed through Judges.

5. Why did God allow the Israelites to endure these cycles? Judges 2:20-22

Meet the Judges (The Book of Judges)

Read Judges 3:7-12

The cycle starts again with the Israelites forgetting God and doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.

6. How did the Lord prepare Othniel to be a Judge?

7. What was Othniel's main failing? (v11)

How can the cycle be broken?

We too are plagued by our failings and idolatry, and we need a rescuer who can bring the peace that we so desire. We need a judge, a saviour, who doesn't just change our circumstances but also changes our heart. We need a leader who is better than the judges, a leader who will not die; a leader whose rescue will be permanent, a leader who will bring lasting peace; to remake what was broken at the fall. We need a leader who can break the power of sin once and for all. Thanks be to God because he has already sent the true Judge, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Through his death on the cross and the new life of his resurrection, he has broken the cycle of sin. We know that we don't need to be stuck in sin any longer. If we trust in him and his full and final rescue, then we know that our peace in him is secure. And when we do continue to sin as the people did in the days of the Judges, we know the same God of grace and patience will finish the good work that he has started in us.

God who gave the Israelites twelve judges has given us a great Judge who is gracious, patient and compassionate. He sent his Son as the ultimate Judge, and he's not only set us free but changed our hearts as well.



WHAT NEXT?

Why did God choose Othniel to be the first Judge? Caleb was Othniel's uncle and he married Caleb's daughter (Judges 1:12-13). Caleb was faithful and cleansed the land he was given (Judges 1:20). Could it be that the Lord chose Othniel because he was embedded in a faithful family who taught their children about the ways of the Lord and told them what the Lord has done in our lives? Could it be that Othniel didn't take part in Baal worship?

1. What should we be doing so that the next generation doesn't forget God? Practically, what should we be doing as individuals, as a family unit and as a church?

When the Israelites cried out to God, he responded and delivered them. Have you ever cried out to God and experienced a response that has made a powerful difference in your life or the life of others?

2. What should we be crying out to God about today? Spend time in pray crying out to the Lord.