



Crossroads The Story Discussion Guide

“A Few Good Men...And Women”

Week of: February 24, 2019

*God is in the business of bringing sinful people
back into relationship with him;
sometimes to accomplish this goal,
he calls on surprising and unexpected people
to help in the process.*

This week we look at the book of Judges, which describes how Israel, now in the promised land, enters into multiple cycles of behavior in which they chose their own paths over God's path, face the consequences of their decisions, and finally repent and turn back to God who steps in to save them. However, when things get good again, they forget God's actions, and the cycle begins again. Also in this chapter God uses some amazingly flawed people to further God's purposes. If you don't have The Story book, you can read Judges chapters 2-4, 6-8, and 13-16.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. In the days after Joshua, “every man did what was right in his own eyes” (see Judges 17:6 and 21:25) instead of following God's desires for them. Can you think of a time when you ignored God's desires for your life? What happened? How were you and others affected? What did you do? What did God do in your life?
2. Deborah's military leader was named Barak. Deborah trusted that God would go before the Israelites and fight, but Barak was fearful. Can you describe a time when fear held you back from trusting in God? What about a time when you were more like Deborah? How is her story reflected in the church's views of women in leadership?
3. The angel of the Lord greeted Gideon as a mighty warrior even though he was from the weakest clan and the least in his family (*The Story* at pp.107-8). God was patient with Gideon's insecurities, and ultimately demonstrated abundant victory through Gideon and a stripped down army. Can you remember a time when God provided for you through overwhelming odds, when everything seems to be against you? Do you tend to define yourself by your weaknesses or by the potential God sees in you?
4. Samson tended to rely on his own strength instead of acknowledging God as the source. Are there strengths or resources that you tend to rely on, instead of entrusting your life into God's care? How is that working for you?

Diving Deeper

1. Have you faced a situation when the odds were against you, and others said, “No way!” but you held God's hand and pressed on? How did the situation turn out and how was God glorified?
2. What areas in your life is God presently trying to get you to the place where you embrace the fact that he is enough?

Read for Next Session

Take time before your next group meeting to read chapter 10 of *The Story*.

