



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 8: A Few Good Men and Women

Listen to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 8** of *The Story* this week.*

The judges are a pretty diverse group! To help you get a sense of the story line, figure out which Hollywood actor you would cast in which role: Do you think Samson is more of a Thor or Iron Man kind of guy? Who would you cast as Deborah? Delilah? Make a cast list and share it with a friend.

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God's story and your story connect this week.

The judges are included in a long list of people in Hebrews 11 who lived—and did some pretty amazing things!—by faith.

This week, create your own by faith catalogue of faithful followers. Start with friends and family who shaped you as you began your discipleship journey, but keep an ongoing list this week. Be on the lookout for friends or acquaintances who exhibit faithfulness in their Christian walk. The point of the Hebrews list is to encourage us as we move forward.

Who encourages you this week?

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

The people of God in our readings this week get in trouble again and again because they fail to pass on a sense of relationship and faithfulness to the next generation. How can you help pass the faith down to young men and women in our church family and in the community? Consider volunteering in local school or library, or in one of the many roles that support children and youth here at Trinity. But whatever else you do this week, write at least one note to someone under the age of 18 to encourage them on their journey of faith: thank a Trinity Kid's youth helper, cheer on a children's choir, encourage a high schooler—but find someone at Trinity you can invest in just a little to help them grow in their connection to God and His Church.

Luther's Explanation

"Joshua, son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred ten years...Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them, who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:8, 10)

Martin Luther and the reformers knew from this verse that faith is one generation away from extinction. This is one reason why Luther wrote the *The Small Catechism*, a handbook of basic Christian instruction (you will find it on page 1160 of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*). Note how passionate he is about this in his Preface to the Catechism. Dr. Luther, tell us how you *really* feel:

 "The deplorable, wretched deprivation that I recently encountered while I was a visitor has constrained and compelled me to prepare this catechism, or Christian instruction, in such a brief, plain, and simple version. Dear God, what misery I beheld! The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith, and unfortunately many pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers. Yet supposedly they all bear the name Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments! As a result they live like simple cattle or irrational pigs and, despite the fact that the gospel has returned, have mastered the fine art of misusing all their freedom."

(*The Book of Concord*, eds. Kolb and Wengert, pp. 347-348)

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"Call on Me and I will answer!"

The EXTRA Mile



From opera to cartoons, the book of judges has been adapted to a variety of genres. Try a few this week and see if they line up with the way you imagine the characters or if they help you think about the story any differently. Try to pick at least one genre that isn't your "normal" kind of entertainment!