

# THE STORY

## Israel's Two Mistakes after Conquering the Land

They did not drive out all the nations  
Judges 1:28; 2:12

They did not teach their children about God  
Joshua 2:10

## The Two Reasons that God Raises Up the Judges

God wants other nations to know His goodness

God powerfully responds when His people pray

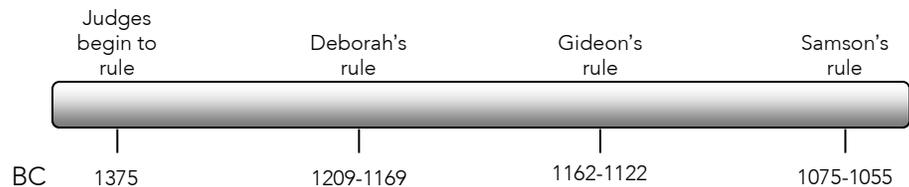
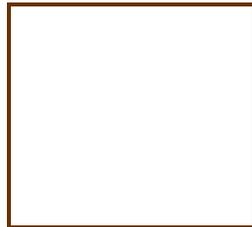
## The Four Movements Found in the Book of Judges

Movement 1      Sin

Movement 2      Oppression

Movement 3      Repentance

Movement 4      Deliverance



## Questions for the Week

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

**Key Verse:** Judges 6:15

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

Through THE STORY we have discovered that God loves to use surprising people to accomplish his will. As you read about Deborah, Gideon, and Samson, how are each of them a surprising choice to be a leader for God?

Contrast how God saw Gideon with how Gideon saw himself (Judges 6:11-16). How does this breathe hope into our hearts in the moments we feel God could never do great things through us?

What reasons can you give for why the Israelites kept repeating their downward cycle of sin?

What was the root cause of Samson's fall? What was the result?

There seems to be consequences when we refuse to follow God's way. Why do you think we continue to repeat the same sin patterns even though we know the outcome will not be good?

Have you ever 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?

What area in your life is God presently trying to get you to the place where you embrace the fact that he is enough?

Week 8  
A Few Good Men... And Women  
October 29, 2017

