



## I. The Way of \_\_\_\_\_

Judges 2:16 "Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them."

Judges 2:19 "But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways."

## II. God's \_\_\_\_\_ Man - Ehud

Judges 3:12a "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel..."

Judges 3:15a "Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man."

Judges 3:15b-17 "The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. <sup>16</sup> And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. <sup>17</sup> And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man."

Judges 3:18-21 "And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. <sup>19</sup> But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. <sup>20</sup> And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. <sup>21</sup> And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly."

Judges 3:22-23 "And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out. <sup>23</sup> Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them."

Judges 3:24-25 "When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." <sup>25</sup> And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor."

Judges 3:30 "So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years."

### 1. God Uses \_\_\_\_\_ Saviors in the Bible

### 2. God Brings Strength from \_\_\_\_\_

- Our Attempts to Save Ourselves Never Work

Philippians 3:7 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

### 3. Judgment is Coming for Those Who \_\_\_\_\_ God

"Poor creatures...their efforts to oppose the Gospel are not even worthy of our notice. And we need not fear that they can stop the truth. They are like a gnat who thinks he can quench the sun. Go tiny insect and do it if you can. You will only burn your wings and die. Likewise there may be a fly who thinks it could drink the ocean dry. Drink the ocean if you can, O fly! More likely you will sink in it and it will drink you."  
- Charles Spurgeon

### 4. God Wants Your \_\_\_\_\_ More than He Needs Your \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah. 4:6 "Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."



## Community Group Questions

April 15, 2018

### I. GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Share with the group how God revealed Himself to you at church this past week.
- What is the most suspenseful movie you've seen?
  - How did it make you feel—during and after the movie?

### II. DIGGING DEEPER

The story of Ehud is the stuff of movies and suspenseful novels. He is the second Judge who delivers Israel from bondage; although, interestingly, Ehud is never called a “judge,” but a “deliverer.” Not much is known about Ehud, except he is from the tribe of Benjamin, and was left-handed, which seems to have been common amongst Benjaminites (see Judges 20:16), as was being ambidextrous (I Chronicles 12:2). Ehud's job was to deliver Israel from the Moabites, who had taken the city of Jericho. The territory the tribe of Benjamin occupied was close to Jericho, so deliverance from the Moabites would have affected them greatly.

As you study Judges, ask God to reveal to you how this “different” account applies to your walk with Him.

#### Discuss the following:

##### OBSERVATION & DISCUSSION

Israel endured 18 years of bondage before crying out to God. Why do you think it took them so long to seek God?

- How do you see this same thing played out in your own life?
- Do you tend to cry out to God as a first response or a last resort?
- Tell about a time God used something unusual to get your attention.

What does it say about God and his character that he raised up a deliverer for Israel when they continuously rebelled and sinned against Him?

- What specific traits of God do you see portrayed here?
- How does this encourage you?
- Even though God is faithful to forgive when we cry out in repentance, how can the Israelite's cycle of sin motivate you to continually walk in obedience?

In most other books of the Bible God uses a king or army captain to lead an army to defeat another nation. In Judges 3:12-30 God uses one man to kill a king and lead the Israelites to victory.

- How do you think Ehud might have felt when God told him to go kill Eglon?
- Have you ever felt prompted to do something unusual or out of your comfort zone?
  - How did you react?
  - What was the result?

Read Judges 3: 12, 15, 21-30

- What was God's role in this story throughout this account?
- What were the other key individuals roles in this account?
  - How was each role significant?
  - What were the results of each person playing their role?

Read Judges 3:16, 21-22

Ehud hid his dagger on himself, and was prepared to use it. As Christians we are called to carry the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).

- How do you prepare yourself to use your “sword?”
- Tell about a time knowledge of scripture helped you in a time of distress.
  - How did you see God act?
  - How did that experience help you trust God in other times of distress?

### III. TAKING IT HOME

Often, we ask God to solve a problem, but we have our own expectations of what the answer should look like. Ehud might not have expected God to use him as the answer to Israel's problem.

- Write out one area of your life where you need to see God act.
- Spend time “crying out to God” and then wait for him to act in an unexpected way.

Think back on your life, and remember how you have seen God act.

- When has He placed you in an uncomfortable situation that turned out to benefit you in some way?
- When has sorrow turned to joy?

Thank God for His love and mercy in the ways he has dealt with you.

- Find a verse that is especially meaningful to you and memorize it.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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