THE BOOK OF

JUDGES

WITH J.D. GREEAR

Participants’ Handouts
SESSION BIG IDEA
Though God’s people fall into disbelief, idolatry, and apostasy, God remains faithful and will bring about a plan of deliverance from the enemies of his people.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What effect do small areas of disbelief have on us?

How does compromise lead to bondage?

What does spiritual amnesia lead to?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
Would you consider yourself to be completely faithful to God? Why do you think God continues to have grace on you?

What could it look like to live your life as a reflection of God’s faithfulness to you? What would change? What would stay the same?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Ask God to show you the areas of your life that aren’t completely devoted to him this week. Pray that God would lead you to repentance.

Discuss: Talk with a Christian friend this week about what it means to compromise your beliefs for the things of the world. Discuss if that’s been happening in your life and pray for each other.

Memorize: Memorize the cycle of the judges this week. It will be helpful tool as you go through the rest of Judges. You can get a copy from your leader or on The Book of Judges page on RightNow Media.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 1:1–3:6
Notes

READING PLAN
Judges 1:1–2:10
- Day one: 1:1–15
- Day two: 1:16–26
- Day three: 1:27–36
- Day four: 2:1–5
- Day five: 2:6–10
The Cycle of the Judges

Israel Rebels

Israel Cries Out to God

God Punishes Israel

God Has Mercy and Appoints a Judge

The Judge Delivers Israel

Israel Has Peace

Cycle of the Judges
The book of Judges is big. In order to get the most out of your study of the book, it’s worth reading intentionally through the whole thing. The reading plan offers the chance to read through Judges during the week. The plan includes five days of reading each week that you can distribute in the way that best fits your schedule.

**WEEK ONE:**

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SESSION BIG IDEA
God uses people who might seem unconventional to outsiders to save his people in order to draw their selfish hearts toward him.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What point about God’s salvation does J.D. draw from Ehud’s story?

What is more important than ability in God’s kingdom?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 3:7–31

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What are some practical ways we can fight against the tendency toward selfishness? What difference could adopting God’s perspective make in the fight against selfishness?

What’s one thing you could do throughout the next week to remind yourself to see your circumstances from God’s perspective?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

**Pray:** Spend five minutes each morning asking God to give you his mindset throughout the day to see the world from his perspective.

**Journal:** Pick one situation from your past that confused you at the time—maybe you didn’t understand why God put you through it or what he was teaching you through it. Reflect on how he’s grown you through that circumstance and thank him for working in your life.

**Serve:** As a way to counter the pull of selfishness, serve someone this week. Find one way you can meet a need or show them love and do it.

READING PLAN

**Judges 2:11–3:31**
- Day one: 2:11–15
- Day two: 2:16–23
- Day three: 3:1–6
- Day four: 3:7–11
- Day five: 3:12–31
SESSION BIG IDEA
God is able to use the selfish decisions of humans in order to bring about his glory and save his people.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What lessons does J.D. draw from Deborah’s story?

How does this story show the importance of simple obedience to God?

BIble STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 4:1–5:31

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What characteristics of God do you need to remind yourself of this week? What could it look like to bring those characteristics to the forefront of your mind?

What could trust in God’s sovereignty look like for you in the next week? What situations are coming up or going on right now that you could trust him with?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Pray for increased trust this week. Ask God to show you the areas of your life where you aren’t trusting him and surrender those areas to him. Take a minute or two each day to ask for trust in those areas.

Praise: Create a playlist, buy a new album, or download some praise songs to listen to throughout the week. Practice praising God throughout the day by listening to and singing along with the worship songs.

Reflect: Spend time journaling this week about the ways you might be misunderstanding God’s character. Make a list of his characteristics and mark the ones you have difficulty believing. Confess your list to God and ask him to increase your belief.

READING PLAN
Judges 4:1–5:31
- Day one: 4:1–10
- Day two: 4:11–24
- Day three: 5:1–11
- Day four: 5:12–23
- Day five: 5:24–31
SESSION BIG IDEA
Though God’s people choose the roundabout way of obedience, God is faithful to his word to bring about their deliverance.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What does J.D. say about bravery? Do we have to be brave to be called by God? Why not?

What is true courage?

What do we have as proof of God’s presence with us?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 6:1–40
Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What could be keeping you from stepping out in obedience? What could you do this week to obey God?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Take 10 minutes to bring your questions, doubts, and hesitations to God. Ask him to show one step of obedience you could take this week.

List: Write a list of the questions you have for God. Next to your list of questions, write down some of the characteristics of God as a reminder that even if God never answers your questions, his character is trustworthy.

Obey: Choose one thing you feel like God has been asking you to do and do it this week—maybe it’s writing a thank you note to your boss, praying for the checkout lady at the store, or giving money to a friend in need.

READING PLAN
Judges 6:1–7:25
- Day one: 6:1–10
- Day two: 6:11–27
- Day three: 6:28–40
- Day four: 7:1–15
- Day five: 7:16–25
SESSION BIG IDEA
God leaves no room for human boasting by purposefully using the weak for his purposes.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What makes weakness an advantage?
How is God’s patience revealed in these verses?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What does it look like to stand against the temptation to be selfish or to boast in yourself?
What’s one practical thing you could do this week to choose selflessness over selfishness? What could you do to bring glory to God—rather than yourself—this week?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 7:1–25
Notes

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Ask God to show you the ways you could be boasting in yourself instead of in God. Bring any unconfessed sin to God and repent.
Confess: Sit down with a trusted Christian friend this week and confess some ways you’ve boasted in yourself instead of God. Take time to pray for each other and praise God for how he’s worked in your lives.
Boast: Make it a goal to tell someone each day something about God—how he’s moved in your life that day, something you’re thankful to him for, or what he’s done for you in the past.

READING PLAN
Judges 8:1–9:57
☐ Day one: 8:1–21
☐ Day two: 8:22–35
☐ Day three: 9:1–21
☐ Day four: 9:22–41
☐ Day five: 9:42–57

SESSION 5: JUDGES 7:1–25
SESSION BIG IDEA
Since sin is an internal problem that isn’t solved by changing external circumstances, humans can’t save themselves—they need a savior.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What are the five signs of self-focus J.D. points out in Gideon’s life?

Where does the real problem of human rebellion lie?

What’s the only true solution to human rebellion?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 8:1–10:5

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What sin has been lingering in your life that you need to repent from? What could it look like to turn away from that sin?

What does dependence on God look like in your life? What could you do this week to depend on him each day?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Pray that God would teach you to depend on him in your strengths and weaknesses this week. Each morning, take five minutes to pray about the day ahead and ask God to sustain you through it.

Confess: Sit down with a trusted friend this week and confess sin together. Come up with one practical way you can each walk in repentance in the next week. Check in with each other to see how it goes.

Search: If you’re struggling with a specific sin, take this week to search Scripture to see what God says about it. Make a list of helpful verses to memorize and keep the list nearby—on notecards, in a journal, or on your phone. Read them when you’re tempted to sin.

READING PLAN

Judges 10:1–12:15

☐ Day one: 10:1–18
☐ Day two: 11:1–11
☐ Day three: 11:12–28
☐ Day four: 11:29–40
☐ Day five: 12:1–15
SESSION BIG IDEA
Sin corrupts how humans understand God and his character, which leads to devastating consequences.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What does J.D. mean by the term “hotdog faith”? What was wrong about Jephthah’s view of God? How did culture contribute to his understanding of God’s character?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 10:6–12:15
Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What do you think devotion looks like in your life? What’s one thing you could do this week to exercise devotion to God?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Take five minutes this week to pray and consider your devotion to God. Pray God would teach you what it means to have a heart completely devoted to him.

Reflect: Journal about or list some of the things in your life you’re tempted to turn to instead of God. Reflect on why that might be the case and talk to God about it.

Discuss: Sit down with someone this week and talk about some of the ways we can sometimes misunderstand God’s character. Remind each other of God’s true nature and how we see it play out in Scripture and in our lives.

READING PLAN
Judges 13:1–14:20
- Day one: 13:1–14
- Day two: 13:15–25
- Day three: 14:1–7
- Day four: 14:8–14
- Day five: 14:15–20
SESSION BIG IDEA
Even though his people do not realize their need for salvation, God will miraculously raise up a savior anyways.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What’s missing from this round of the cycle of judges?

What’s unique about Samson’s birth?

What are the components of the Nazirite vow?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 13:1–25

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
Would you say it’s easy or difficult for you to accept the grace that God extends to you? Why is it difficult or easy?

What about what we’ve studied in Judges so far has shaped the way you understand God’s grace?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Pray God would continue to remind you of his grace throughout the next week. Take a moment each day to thank him for the grace he’s given you.

Praise: Find a worship song or two that talks about God’s grace to us. Sing or listen to those songs throughout the week as a reminder of God’s grace.

Reflect: Take ten minutes this week to reflect on the ways you’ve seen God extend his grace to you over the past year. Write down the things you think about and thank God for moving in your life.

READING PLAN
Judges 15:1–16:31

- Day one: 15:1–8
- Day two: 15:9–20
- Day three: 16:1–12
- Day four: 16:13–22
- Day five: 16:23–31
SESSION BIG IDEA
Humans often think they can use God to get what they want, but God is not a means to an end.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What does Samson do that leads him further into darkness?
What are Samson’s four core sins?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 14:1–16:31

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What are some ways we use God for our own benefit?
What's a proper view of God and his gifts? What would it look like for you to adopt that mindset this week?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Pray for God to shape the way you view him and his gifts this week. Any time you notice God’s gifts, thank him for expressing his love to you.

Thank: Keep a thanksgiving journal for the next week. Write down three things you’re thankful to God for everyday to remind you that God’s the one who gives you everything.

Serve: Use your God-given gifts to serve someone in your life this week. Volunteer at the church nursery or wash someone’s car who’s unable to or pray for a friend in need. Praise God for using you and your gifts for other people.

READING PLAN

Judges 17:1–19:30
- Day one: 17:1–13
- Day two: 18:1–13
- Day three: 18:14–31
- Day four: 19:1–15
- Day five: 19:16–30
SESSION 10 Handout: JUDGES 17:1–18:31

SESSION BIG IDEA
If humans filter God through their cultural lens, they make God in their own image and think they’re following God when they’re actually dishonoring him.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What is the definition of a Christian Atheist? What are the two things they do?

What’s the difference between seeing God as useful versus seeing him as beautiful?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 17:1–18:31

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What are some ways we might be dishonoring God? What does it look like to honor him in all the areas of our lives?

What could you do to treasure God this week?

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Pray for God to refresh your view of him this week. Thank him for the ways he’s revealed his character to you.

Journal: List out as many characteristics of God as you can think of. Add to your list throughout the week and at the end, review the list and praise God for who he is.

Reflect: Take a few minutes to consider the ways you might be viewing God through a cultural lens. Think about what it might mean to view God as he is, and not as you’d like him to be.

READING PLAN

Judges 20:1–21:25
☐ Day one: 20:1–17
☐ Day two: 20:18–35
☐ Day three: 20:36–48
☐ Day four: 21:1–12
☐ Day five: 21:13–25
SESSION BIG IDEA
When humans take life into their own hands, it leads to destruction, abuse, and despair, but with God in the picture, we're not without hope.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO
What two things happen when God is absent from or forgotten by his people?

What hope is there to be found at the end of Judges?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION
What is one thing you've learned through studying Judges? What do you hope to remember from this study moving forward?

What's one thing you could do to focus on the hope we find in God this week?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES: JUDGES 19:1–21:25
Notes

LIVE IT OUT
Select at least one activity below to complete this week.

Pray: Thank God for what he's taught you about himself throughout studying Judges. Pray he would continue to solidify the truths from Judges in you.

Worship: Choose a worship song with lyrics that praise God for who he is. Take a few minutes to sing or listen to the song as an act of worship.

Study: Continue the story set up in Judges by reading 1 and 2 Samuel over the next few weeks. Take note of what these books teach about God and human nature and consider ways you could apply those truths to your life.