

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

In Those Days There
Was No King in Israel

Lesson 5 • May 15 • Judges 1-2

A Generation That Did Not Know the LORD

The book of *Judges* begins by telling us a little more about the conquest of Canaan after the death of _____. Some, like Caleb, continued to fight and conquer the Promised Land (1:1-26), while others “did not drive out” the people who were there (1:27-36) even though God had warned, “they shall become _____ in your sides, and their gods shall be a _____ to you” (2:3).

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had _____ all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel... And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not _____ the LORD or the _____ that he had done for Israel. (2:7, 10)

How did it happen? How did the people of Israel get so off track so quickly?

- They didn't form their own _____ with God.
And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they _____ the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. (2:11-12a)
- They made choices and lived lives like the people _____ them.
They went after _____, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. (2:12b-13)
- They didn't follow the good examples of _____ that had come before them.
They soon _____ aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. (2:17)
- They stopped _____ to God's instructions and warnings.
Then the LORD raised up _____, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen to their judges... (2:16-17a)
- Even when life was hard because of their _____, they refused to _____.
Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their _____ because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they turned _____ and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not _____ any of their practices or their stubborn ways. (2:18-19)

“So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel” (2:20). The book of *Judges* takes us on quite the roller coaster ride, but there are lots of really important lessons we should learn. Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's revisit God's warning about the unbelieving people around the Israelites in **Judges 2:3**. What goes through your mind as you hear that warning? What was God saying?

- Let's read **2:10** again together. "And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel." How would you rephrase that sentence in your own words? What was the big problem here?

- Our lesson offered five clues found in **Judges 2** as to how Israel got so off track so quickly. Let's dig a little deeper into these five clues. What can we learn? Are these still a problem? If so, how can we avoid the danger? How do people fall into the same traps today? What happens when they do? How can we do better?
 - They didn't form their own relationship with God.

 - They made choices and lived lives like the people around them.

 - They didn't follow the good examples of faith that had come before them.

 - They stopped listening to God's instructions and warnings.

 - Even when life was hard because of their choices, they refused to repent.

- We'll see a cycle over and over again in *Judges*. Maybe drawing it below will help us prepare for our study and help us spot the cycle when we start going around and around, over and over again. Let's put these five words in a circle: **STUBBORNNESS, PUNISHMENT, CRYING, JUDGE, SALVATION**. What can we learn from that cycle that will repeat itself over and over again throughout *Judges*?