

The God Who Doesn't Stay Dead, April 9-12, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

Ephesians 4:12-16 (ESV)

Start with REVIEW of the books read so far activity:

The Bible is "His-Story" of God providing _____ to _____ mankind to God.

Genesis...

Exodus...

Leviticus...

Numbers...

Deuteronomy...

Joshua...

*Judges... **WHY JUDGES??***

God accomplishing His purposes through imperfect, even corrupt people to bring Messiah's deliverance. A repeating pattern for the 6 main judges, moving in downward spiral: (ESV Study Bible intro to Judges)

1) the people abandoned the Lord;

2) God punished them by raising up a foreign power to oppress them;

3) the people cried out to God for deliverance; and

4) God raised up a deliverer, or "judge", for them.

God's Spirit empowers each judge (ruler, leader, chieftain) to accomplish His deliverance but does not endorse all their actions and choices. God is committed to saving His people through His partnership with humans, but all He has to work with are these imperfect, disobedient, sometimes even corrupt, leaders.

Chapters 1-2 set the stage for Israel's failure as they don't drive out the remaining Canaanites as instructed. The progression shows how Israel's leaders went from pretty good to okay to bad to worse. The concluding section (Judg. 17-21) is very disturbing and shows the corruption of the people of Israel as a whole.

The only glimmer of hope is found in this repeated line, which also forms the last sentence of the book: "Israel has no king" (Judg. 21:25). The stage is set for the following books to tell the origins of the family of King David (the book of Ruth) as well as the origins of kingship itself in Israel (Samuel).

The book of Judges has value as a sobering exploration of the human condition, but it ultimately points forward to God's grace in sending a king who will rescue his people./ (Bible Project)

Joshua, 1406 – 1375 B.C.

Judges, 1375 – 1075 B.C.

Ruth, 1140 B.C.

1 Samuel, 1100-1010 B.C.

GROUP: What are the questions, major themes, ideas, truths you notice in this week's chapters?

Two weeks of Bible Recap Chapters, Josh 12-24, Judges, Ruth, 1 Sam 1-5

Daily Reading Chapters Discussion - Scan the chapters – what insights and questions do you have?

CONTEXT: Jdg. 2:1-20 Israel's Disobedience, Death of Joshua, Israel's Unfaithfulness, Lord's Judges

Judges 2:8-20 (ESV)

Judges 3:4 (ESV)

Key in on several unique stories in Judges to see God's grace and mercy in using imperfect people.

† Deborah –

Jdg. 4 Deborah and Barak

Jdg. 5 The Song of Deborah and Barak

† Gideon

Jdg. 6 Midian Oppresses Israel, Call of Gideon, Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal, Sign of the Fleece

Jdg. 7 Gideon;s Three Hundred Men, Gideon Defeats Midian

Jdg. 8 Gideon Defeats Zebah and Zalmunna, Gideon’s Ephos, The Death of Gideon

† Jephthah – victory but disobedient in horrible way

Jdg. 11 Jephthah Delivers Israel, Jephthah's Tragic Vow

† Samson – typically portrayed as a hero but is not until his death

Jdg. 13 The Birth of Samson

Jdg. 14 Samson’s Marriage

Jdg. 15 Samson Defeats the Philistines

Jdg. 16 Samson and Delilah, the Death of Samson

† Ruth – typically presented as a love story, but is actually a Kingdom story with a love story subplot

Naomi Widowed, Ruth’s Loyalty, Naomi and Ruth Return, Ruth Meets Boaz, Boaz Redeems Ruth,

Ruth and Boaz Marry, The Genealogy of David

† Samuel – typically portrayed as answer to a woman’s desire for a child; actually a Kingdom story

1 Sam 1 The Birth of Samuel, Samuel Given to the Lord

1 Sam 2 Hannah’s Prayer, Eli’s Worthless Sons, Lord Rejects Eli’s Household

1 Sam 3 Lord Calls Samuel

Chronological Guide: pages p. 42-46

Takeaways:



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