Opening

Gathering: How has God felt present when you have been faithful, but seemed distant when you have strayed?

Today’s Focus: God is just and punishes us for our sin, but He is merciful and forgives us when we repent.

Key Verses: The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. Judges 6:12

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Rated R for Violence (Romans 1:18-32)

What did God command of Israel before they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land?
Numbers 33:50-53

How were the Israelites to drive out all the inhabitants of the land?
Deuteronomy 2:24-25, 32-34

How could a loving God condone and even command such violence?
Romans 1:18, 21, 28-32

What had God told Abraham that touches on why the inhabitants of Canaan were treated so harshly?
Genesis 15:16

What types of sins could draw out such wrath from God?
Deuteronomy 18:9-12

Was it really punishment for sins, or was it God's excuse to give the land to His chosen people?
Leviticus 18:24-30

A Separate People (Joshua 23)

Why was it important for Israel to drive out all the inhabitants of the land?
Numbers 33:55-56

Were the Israelites able to conquer the entire territory under Joshua's leadership?
Joshua 13:1

What did Joshua tell the Israelites about these unconquered peoples before he died?
Joshua 23:7-13

Half-Hearted Janitors (Judges 1)

Did the Israelites continue to work to drive out all the inhabitants of the land?
Judges 1:1-4, 17 (1-26)

Did Israel heed Joshua's warning and continue to drive out the remaining peoples?
Judges 1:19, 27-28 (27-36)

How did this set the stage for the stories of the Judges?
Judges 2:1-5
Faithfulness (Judges 2:7-13)

What were Joshua’s last words to the Israelites before sending them home?
Joshua 24:14-15

How did the Israelites respond to Joshua’s call?
Joshua 24:24

How faithful did the Israelites remain?
Judges 2:6-7, 10-13

Baal
Ashtoreth & Asherah
Also called Ishtar - Babylon, Ashtarte & Aphrodite - Greek, Venus - Roman

Why did the Israelites continue to fall from God?
Judges 3:5-6

Judges (Judges 2)

How did God handle this?
Judges 2:14-15

How did God respond to Israel’s cries of distress?
Judges 2:16, 18

Did the judges have a lasting effect on Israel’s faithfulness?
Judges 2:19

What did God decide as a result of this response?
Judges 2:20-22

The Cycle of the Book of Judges

Sin - Judgment - Grace Cycle
Alphabet Cycle:
Apostasy
Battered
Cry Out
Deliverer
Emancipate
Forget

Leadership (Judges 21:25)

What kind of leadership did Israel have after Joshua?
Judges 21:25

What was the Israelites’ opinion of a king?
Judges 8:22-23

How tight was the confederacy between tribes?
Judges 6:35 (1:3; 1:17; 20:1)
Judges 20:35 (5:17; 8:1; 12:1)

Who were Israel’s enemies?
Judges 3:8, 12, 31; 4:2; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1

Who were the judges?
Exodus 18
Hebrews 11:32-34
Bible Stories for Adults
Judges Rule Israel
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Othniel (Judges 1:11-15, 3:7-11)

Who was Othniel and where was his first victory?
Judges 1:12-13
Who did Othniel defeat when God called him as a judge?
Judges 3:9-11

Ehud (Judges 3)

Who was Israel's next oppressor?
Judges 3:12-14
Who did God raise as a judge and what did he do?
Judges 3:15, 20-22
Why did Ehud have so much time to get away?
Judges 3:24-26
How did Ehud then conquer 10,000 Moabites?
Judges 3:27-30
What judge did God raise during Ehud's time to deal with a different oppressor?
Judges 3:31

Deborah (Judges 4-5)

Who was the oppressor at Deborah's time?
Judges 4:1-4
How did God use Deborah to respond to the oppression of the Canaanites?
Judges 4:6-7
How did he respond to the call and what was wrong with his response?
Judges 4:8-9
How did this story turn out?
Judges 4:15-17, 21-23
Judges 5 - Song of Deborah

Midianites (Judges 6:1-6)

Who was Israel's next oppressor?
Judges 6:1-2
What led to the battle 200 years earlier when the Israelites defeated this people?
Numbers 22:7; 31:1-2, 7
How did this group of people now oppress the Israelites?
Judges 6:3-6

Gideon (Judges 6:11-24)

Who did God raise up to save Israel and how was His call accepted?
Judges 6:11, 14-15
How did God tell Gideon that he had all the power and might he needed?
Judges 6:16
Did this satisfy Gideon?
Judges 6:17, 20-21
Did this convince Gideon that this visitor really was from God?
Judges 6:22-24

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Jerub-Baal  *(Judges 6:25-32)*

How did God test Gideon's faithfulness to his calling?  
Judges 6:25-26

How did the town react when they saw what had happened the next morning?  
Judges 6:28-30

How was Gideon protected and what nickname was he given?  
Judges 6:31-32

More Signs  *(Judges 6:33-40)*

What did Gideon ask of God when he got nervous before an impending battle?  
Judges 6:36-38

Did this satisfy Gideon that God was with him?  
Judges 6:39-40

The Right Stuff  *(Judges 7:1-8)*

Why did God reduce Gideon's army from 32,000 to 10,000?  
Judges 7:2-3

How were the troops further weeded down and to how many?  
Judges 7:5, 7

How did God encourage Gideon in the face of 300 versus countless Midianites (v12)?  
Judges 7:10-11, 13-14

The Attack  *(Judges 7:16-25)*

What was Gideon's attack plan?  
Judges 7:16-18

How could just making some noise at midnight result in defeating the Midianites?  
Judges 7:20-22a, 23-24a

How did Gideon reply to the Israelites' request to become their leader?  
Judges 8:22-23

Despite his faithfulness, what did Gideon do that hindered Israel's faithfulness?  
Judges 8:27

Judges 9 – Abimelech

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I judged others without recognizing that I likewise deserve God's punishment?  
   *(Judges 2:1-3; Leviticus 18:24-30; Joshua 23:6-16; 2 Samuel 12:1-13; Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2)*
2. When have I fallen into sinful behaviors of people around me? How could I have avoided them?  
   *(Judges 2:10-13, 17; Matthew 16:5-12; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 5; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)*
3. When have I completed and when have I failed to complete the tasks God gave me?  
   *(Judges 1:27-2:5; Matt 21:28-32; Acts 20:24; Romans 15:17-33; Col 4:17; Heb 10:36; James 1:4)*
4. How often do I remind myself what God has done for me and how I am to serve Him?  
   *(Judges 2:10, 19; Deuteronomy 4:9-14; Joshua 24; John 13:12-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*
5. How has God delivered me from troubles and oppression?  
   *(Judges 2:18; 2 Samuel 22; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 1 Timothy 4:16-18; James 5:15-16)*

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