

HERE WE GO AGAIN

JUDGES 12

HE HAD THIRTY SONS, AND THIRTY
DAUGHTERS HE GAVE IN MARRIAGE
OUTSIDE HIS CLAN, AND THIRTY
DAUGHTERS HE BROUGHT IN FROM
OUTSIDE FOR HIS SONS. AND HE JUDGED
ISRAEL SEVEN YEARS.

JUDGES 12:9



Judges 12

1 The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire." 2 And Jephthah said to them, "I and my people had a great dispute with the Ammonites, and when I called you, you did not save me from their hand. 3 And when I saw that you would not save me, I took my life in my hand and crossed over against the Ammonites, and the Lord gave them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?" 4 Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, "You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh." 5 And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" When he said, "No," 6 they said to him, "Then say Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time 42,000 of the Ephraimites fell.

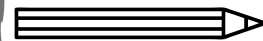
7 Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in his city in Gilead.

8 After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. 9 He had thirty sons, and thirty daughters he gave in marriage outside his clan, and thirty daughters he brought in from outside for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. 10 Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.

11 After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. 12 Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

13 After him Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel. 14 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy donkeys, and he judged Israel eight years. 15 Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried at Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

NOTES



ANALYZE

1. LIST WORDS FROM THE TEXT THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

- shibboleth
 - ear of corn in Hebrew. _____
- - _____
- - _____

2. WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THIS PASSAGE?

3. HOW ARE JEPHTHAH AND EPHRAIM RELATED?

4. HOW MANY TIMES IS THE 1ST PERSON PRONOUN USED BY JEPHTHAH IN VERSES 2-3?



TOOLS

THE WAY WE TALK
COMMUNICATES TONS
ABOUT WHAT WE ACTUALLY
BELIEVE. WE MAY CLAIM
 THAT WE'VE SUBMITTED OUR
 WHOLE LIFE TO GOD AND
 THAT WE DO EVERYTHING
 OBEDIENTLY UNDER HIS
 DIRECTION, BUT HOW MANY
 TIMES DO WE ATTRIBUTE
 ANYTHING TO GOD WHEN WE
 TALK ABOUT PAST OR
 FUTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
 OR FAILURES? WHEN IS THE
 LAST TIME I USED HIS NAME
 TALKING ABOUT MYSELF
 WITH MY FRIENDS? HOW
 MANY TIMES ARE MY
 STORIES JUST LIKE
 JEPHTHAH'S STORY: ALL
 ABOUT HOW I FACED A
 PROBLEM, HOW I GOT OUT
 OF TROUBLE, HOW I
 DESERVED HELP, HOW I WAS
 ENTITLED TO FEEL A
 CERTAIN WAY...ETC.?

IF OUR LIVES ARE TRULY
 AND FULLY LED BY HIM,
 THEN HIS NAME SHOULD
 APPEAR OFTEN IN OUR
 CONVERSATIONS.

NOTES



SMALL GROUP

Break into 3 small groups and complete the following tasks:



1. Read carefully the passage once more.



2. Identify the 4R cycle in the story and write down the verses and a short description.

- Rebellion (*verses:*)

- Ripples (*verses:*)

- Redemption (*verses:*)

- Restoration (*verses:*)



3. Find verses that prove or disprove the following statements in regards with Jephthah. Explain.

- Jephthah is a dedicated servant of God. (Group 1).

- Jephthah learned his lesson after his daughter had to be sacrificed and became a better listener of God. (Group 2).

- Jephthah is a moral army commander. He complies to the principles of a fair war to his best knowledge. (Group 3).

- Write down all that you know about the three judges following Jephthah (all groups).



DISCUSS

1. Why are the Ephraimites mad with Jephthah and what is Jephthah's response?

2. Why do think that the text emphasizes the number of children that Ibzan and Abdon had?

3. Why does the author explain that Abdon's sixty sons and grandsons rode on 70 donkeys?

4. How much do we know about Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon and the deliverance that God brought through them? Why do you think the author didn't write more in detail about them?

NOTES



APPLICATION

WHAT TRUTHS ABOUT GOD AND US CAN YOU APPLY TO YOUR LIFE FROM JUDGES 12?

1. God will always be faithful to His promises! Find confidence and rest in Him.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



LEARN THE TEXT

When God Becomes My Servant. Jephthah's talk with the Ephraimites is all about himself. He was in trouble. He decided to fight. To him God gave the victory. He deserved to be saved. His personal pride is hurt. The people of Jephthah are against him. He feels betrayed. This emphasis on self shows how Jephthah related to God as well. In Jephthah's eyes, God must assist him in whatever he desired to do. He is on a mission to correct his unfortunate life, and negotiates with God to serve him. Unfortunately and maybe not to the same extent, we often have a similar view of God. We assume that we are the ones making plans for our own lives and we hope that God is going to assist us. Moreover, if we don't receive the divine assistance that we ask for and our plans don't go as expected, then we often believe that God is the one responsible for our failures.

God will always be faithful. Because of His character, God remains faithful regardless of Israel's condition. He provides deliverance even without the people crying out to him. He continues to give abundant descendants and riches to his people, just as He promised to Abraham, in spite of the fact that the people didn't deserve any favor from God. God comes to you while you are a sinner asking you to come back. He is the one who turns the chair for you before you have even started singing. (J. D. Greer).



MIDWEEK

HIGHSCHOOLERS & MIDDLESCHOOLERS



READ THE TEXT

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge

2 Peter 1:3-5



DISCUSS

1. Is Jephthah the only corrupt man in Judges 12:1-6? How so?

2. If the Ephraimites' attitude was wrong, did they deserve the punishment that Jephthah gave them? Is that the reaction of a leader of God or of a self-oriented person? What does Jephthah's attitude teach you?

3. What does verse 3 reveal about Jephthah's understanding of his war and God's provision? Have you ever been a Jephthah in this way?

4. Has the land found rest after Jephthah's leadership? Why do you think so? What should have been different?

5. Do you find rest in God? What are the pillars of your rest in God? Can you identify any of them in Judges 12?

6. How is God a deliverer in Judges 12? How is He a deliverer in your own life and what is your response to that?

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

READ THE PASSAGE OF JUDGES FOR THE NEXT LESSON



READ JUDGES 13-15

DAY 1 - JUDGES __: __ - __



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES

DAY 2 - JUDGES __: __ - __



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

- 1.?
- 2.?
- 3.?
- 4.?

NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS

ANSWERED PRAYERS

THIS WEEK I PRAYED FOR (PEOPLE THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7