

(in)sufficient savior(s)

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 6 Judges 13-16 – July 11, 2021

Helpful Resources for Studying Judges

Judges for You by Tim Keller – <http://bit.ly/JudgesForYou>

The BibleProject Overview of Judges – <http://bit.ly/OverviewJudges>

The Book of Judges by J.D. Greear (*RightNow Media*) – <http://bit.ly/JudgesByGreear>

Visit www.fellowshipar.com/rightnow to create a FREE account with RightNow Media.

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- Share about a time in your life that you knew God was calling you to do something, but you went another direction instead? Would anyone be willing to share?
- What is the longest your hair has grown? Please share pictures with your D-Group. Why did you grow it that long? Was it cool or not cool? What was it like for you to have your hair that long?
- Samson's story is full of some crazy exploits. Which of these exploits stick out to you the most?
- For the guys – Women feel free to chime in. What was your worst phase of facial hair (beard, goatee, mustache, etc.)?
- Has there ever been a time when you felt extremely weak (maybe physically, emotionally, or spiritually)? Share with your group what it was like to experience this weakness.



GROW:

- Read Judges 13:1-7 and 16:23-31. Samson’s life is marked by unfaithfulness, and he is the ultimate example of an insufficient savior. Compare the circumstances around Samson’s birth and death with the birth and death of Jesus. How does this story remind us of Christ’s sufficiency as our Savior?
- Read Judges 15:18-20. Samson was empowered by God to deliver Israel in a massive show of strength, but he complains to God about being thirsty. How does this situation resemble other stories that we have read in Judges? Why are the people so quick to forget God?
- In Judges 13, Samson’s mother has a story of significance. “The notice of her barrenness echoes Gen 11:30 both in its vocabulary and its redundancy, not only inviting a comparison with the earlier birth narrative, but especially highlighting what happens in this chapter as a work of God (Judges, The New American Commentary). What does the story of Samson’s mother teach us about God’s character?
- Samson was a man who compromised what was right and did what was wrong. It resulted in destruction. Proverbs 16:18 says that, “Pride goes before destruction...” How do you think that living in pride impacts us? In what ways can you see pride leading to compromise?
- When growing up, you might have heard the story of Samson in a different way than you heard at church this week. Looking at the story of Samson as an adult, what is something new that you learned about his story?
- Samson was a Nazarite, so when anyone saw him they knew He was set apart and a man of God. How should we be seen as ‘set apart’ as Christians?



SHOW:

- Samson’s story mirrors the story of Israel in Judges: called and set apart for God’s purposes, but continually disobedient and seeking satisfaction in other things and other people. When you examine your own life, where do you feel like you are conforming to the culture instead of living obediently in His grace?
- Samson never took his calling or his vow seriously. Instead, he relied on himself to obtain God’s blessings (his hair, his strength, etc.). In your life, what are ways that you are trying to earn God’s favor instead of resting in the finished work of Christ?
- Is there something or someone in your life that you are putting your trust in other than God, or that you are letting stand in your way of complete obedience? Share some of these challenges with your D-Group.
- Samson’s pride and sin led him to compromising in some major areas. In what ways are you prideful or compromising instead of being humble and obedient before God?
- Has there been a time in your life that you have strongly felt God’s presence? Share with the group about that situation. How did you grow through that time? Were there others around you to help and support you?