

A large, light gray silhouette of a person in a hooded cloak, holding a sword aloft with their right hand. The figure is positioned on the right side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom.

Judges

UNIT 3 STUDY GUIDE

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2023

JUDGES 14-15 | August 27, 2023

Judges

Read Judges 14:10-20.

What challenge did Samson present to the Philistine people? (Judges 14:12-13)

What threat did Samson's companions make when they were having difficulty solving the riddle? (Judges 14:15)

What did Samson's wife say or do to attempt to convince Samson to give her the answer? (Judges 14:16)

What happened with Samson's wife? (Judges 14:20)

Read Judges 15:1-8.

Whom was Samson planning on visiting after the events of Judges 14:19-20? (Judges 15:1)

What had happened, unbeknownst to Samson? (Judges 15:2)

How does Samson respond to this? (Judges 15:3-4-5)

How did Samson respond to the murder of his wife and her father? (Judges 15:7)

Read Judge 15:9-20.

What did the men of Judah do in response to subside the anger of the Philistines? (Judges 15:11-12)

What request does Samson make? Why would he ask this? (Judges 15:12)

What promise did the men of Judah make to Samson? (Judges 15:13)

What familiar phrase can be seen again in verse 14?

How long did Samson judge Israel? (Judges 15:20)

There is a lot of retaliation going on in these verses. What does the New Testament teach us about retaliation? (See 1 Peter 2:18-23; Romans 12:19-21; Luke 6:27-31)



REFLECTION

Think about a time when you were mistreated or wronged. In that moment, did you find yourself responding more like Samson? Or like the above-mentioned verses describe?

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your study time in prayer. Ask for God to soften your hearts during challenging times and to help you respond with love, blessings, prayer, generosity, and forgiveness.

JUDGES 16 | September 3, 2023

Judges

Read Judges 16:1-9.

What plot did the men of Gaza make against Samson? (Judges 16:2) How did Samson foil their plot? (Judges 16:3)

Who was Samson's new interest in Judges 16:4? What was her name, and where was she from? (Judges 16:4)

What deal did the Philistine lords offer her? (Judges 15:5)

What question did Delilah ask Samson, and what answer did he first give her? (Judges 16:6-7)

Read Judges 16:10-14.

Why do you think Samson keeps putting up with Delilah?

How many attempts now have been made by Delilah to determine the source of Samson's strength?

Read Judges 16:15-22.

How does Delilah escalate her attempt to get the information? (Judges 16:15-16)

What does it mean when it says, "his soul was vexed to death"? (Judges 16:16)

What did the Philistines do to Samson once his head was shaved? (Judges 16:21)

Read Judges 16:23-31.

Why did the Philistines call Samson out of the prison? (Judges 16:25)

What request did Samson make of the Lord? (Judges 16:28)

What do you notice about Samson's character, his actions, and his tone in the final hours of his life? (Judges 16:28-30)



REFLECTION

When thinking about Samson, some say the greatest challenge he faced was himself. What can we take away from Samson's story, and how can we apply it to our lives?

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your study time in prayer. Ask God to help you model the character, actions, and tone He has designed for your life.

JUDGES 17-18 | September 10, 2023

Judges

Read Judges 17:1-13.

How valuable were the 1100 pieces of silver? How do we know? (see Judges 17:4 and 17:10)

Micah's mother mentions the Lord two times in verses 2-4. Does this mean that she is a believer?

What does verse 6 say that people were doing in those days? What are some of the ways we see this kind of thing happening in our day?

Where was the young man in verse 7 from? Why did he leave Bethlehem? (Judges 7:8-9)

Read Judges 18:1-10.

What was the Danites' plan? (Judges 18:1-2)

Where did the Danites go, and what sort of land and people did they find? (Judges 18:7)

Read Judges 18:11-20.

What did the Danites do in verse 17? (Judges 18:17)

At first, the priest seemed to object to the taking of the idols. (verse 18) What offer was made to the priest that changed his mind? (Judges 18:18-20)

Read Judges 18:21-30.

Does the front of an invasion seem like a great place to put "little ones and the livestock"? What do you suppose the purpose of this was? (Judges 18:21; 27)

What did the Danites do in verse 30? (Judges 18:30)

What did they do with Micah's carved image? (Judges 18:31)



REFLECTION

"In those days there was no king in Israel." What difference has the presence of a (divine) King made in your life?

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your study time in prayer. Thank God for who He is and the difference He's made in your life because of your personal relationship with Him.

JUDGES 19-20 | September 24, 2023

Judges

Read Judges 19:1-21.

In your own words, how would you briefly summarize and describe the events you've read so far?

Why did the Levite not want to stay in Jebus/Jerusalem? (Judges 19:11-12)

Where did they end up staying? (Judges 19:13-15)

Read Judges 19:22-30.

What does this account show about the condition of the people at the time?

Read Judges 20:1-7.

How did the Levite summarize his concubine's death? What important detail does he skim over in verse 5? (Judges 20:4-5)

Does this show that the Levite knew it was wrong of him to put his concubine in harm's way?

Read Judges 20:8-17.

What was the decision of the council? (Judges 20:8-11)

Why would the people of Benjamin risk their lives for a few worthless criminals/murderers? What does this show about their values? (Judges 20:12-17)



REFLECTION

What evil or inhumane situation in the world particularly disturbs you? What might God be calling you to do about that?

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your study time in prayer. Lift up the situation(s) you mentioned in the question above. Ask for God to guide and direct you in your actions regarding these situations.

Judges

JUDGES 20-21 | October 1, 2023

Judges 20:18-36.

Where was the first battle fought? What was the result? (Judges 20:20-21)

What did God say He would do for them? (Judges 20:28)

Why did the men of Israel retreat? (Judges 20:36)

Read Judges 20:37-48.

Whom did the "men in ambush" attack, and what did they do to the city? (Judges 20:37)

How many Benjamite men survived? (Judges 20:46)

Read Judges 21:1-12.

What oath had the people of Israel sworn? (Judges 21:1)

What were the Israelites concerned about in verse 7?

What investigation did they make, and what did they discover? (Judges 21:8-9)

What were they determined to do to the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead? (Judges 21:10-11)

What do you think about their actions against Jabesh-Gilead, and all the people there, because they didn't help in the battle? (Judges 21:8-12)

Read Judges 21:13-25.

What was the plan that they made to provide wives for the remaining Benjamite men?



REFLECTION

The book closes appropriately with the phrase, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25) What insights did this dark period in the history of Israel bring to you and your Life Group?

PRAYER PROMPT

Close your study time in prayer. Thank God for the gift of His Word, and the direction He provides. Ask for Him to help you always do what is right in His eyes, not the eyes of the world.