

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

JUDGES

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drivetime
DEVOTIONS

JUDGES: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions, small group study. This 4-week study is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. It's usually better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. You can access this podcast study on JUDGES by downloading the DrivetimeDevotions app for your phone or by going to DrivetimeDevotions.com.

HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out unless you want to.

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CHECKING IN

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse (or verses) from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.

WEEK ONE: JUDGES Judges 1-5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK ONE



CHECKING IN

1. If you're just starting as a group, take some time to get to know each other by going around the circle and sharing your name, where you grew up, and something about your life.
2. What is a project or task that you started with great enthusiasm but struggled to completely finish?



KEY VERSE

"The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs."

Judges 3:7 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Look at Caleb's perseverance in holding onto God's promised opportunity for victory. Where in your own life do you need to regain trust in God for something you may have stopped believing He will do, and how can we support each other in waiting faithfully? *Judges 1:20*
2. Consider Israel's halfway measures that ultimately resulted in their compromise. Where have you personally taken halfway measures in dealing with sin, and how can we encourage each other to seek total removal of those things? *Judges 1:28*

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3. Look at how God responds to Israel's tears of regret instead of genuine repentance. How do you personally differentiate between regretting your sin and truly repenting of it, and how can we hold each other accountable to true change? *Judges 2:1-5*
4. Consider God's anger at sin because of how it hurts His children. How does seeing your own sin from God's perspective change your desire to turn away from it, and what practical steps can we take to remind each other of His loving truth? *Judges 2:20-22*
5. Look at how Ehud's perceived physical handicap became the very source of Israel's victory. How has God used something you thought was a weakness for His glory, and how can we encourage someone in the group who is currently feeling inadequate? *Judges 3:15*
6. Think about the song of Deborah that highlights how victory requires willing sacrifice and leadership. Where have you been retreating from what God wants to do in your life, and how can our group help you step into that sacrifice? *Judges 5:2*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

WORSHIP

Spend time this week acknowledging God's total authority in an area of your life you've been holding back, and offer it up as an act of personal worship to Him.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that God would reveal the "halfway measures" we have taken in our walks with Him, and ask for His power to fully submit those areas in worship.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK TWO: JUDGES Judges 6-7



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK TWO



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, how did it go when you tried to completely submit an area of "halfway measure" to God as an act of worship?
2. What is the most intimidating or overwhelming situation you've ever had to face with completely inadequate resources?



KEY VERSE

"The LORD said to him, 'I will be with you.'"

Judges 6:16 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Look at how God calls Gideon a mighty warrior even while he is hiding in the winepress out of fear. What is something God says about you that is hard to believe, and how can we help each other see ourselves through His eyes?
Judges 6:11-12
2. Consider Gideon's focus on his own lack of strength when asked to rescue Israel. What are the excuses you typically use to delay obeying God, and how can this group encourage you to move forward in the strength you do have?
Judges 6:14-16

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3. Think about Gideon's need for signs to confirm what God had already clearly promised him. When do you find yourself needing extra reassurance to follow God's direction, and how can we remind each other of the truth of His Word? *Judges 6:36-40*
4. Look at how God intentionally reduced Gideon's army to ensure they relied on Him instead of themselves. In what areas has God stripped away your own resources, and how can we support each other in depending completely on Him? *Judges 7:2-7*
5. Consider how the clay jars had to be broken for the torches to shine and confuse the enemy. How has God used a personal brokenness in your life to show His power to others, and how can we celebrate that together? *Judges 7:16-21*
6. Think about how the enemy fled when Gideon's men simply stood their ground and shouted for the Lord. Who in your life needs to hear the testimony of God's victory in your weakness, and how can we pray for your opportunity to share with them? *Judges 7:21*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM

Identify one person in your life who needs to know how God's strength is made perfect in weakness, and share a story of God's faithfulness with them this week.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that the group would be emboldened to speak about the Lord's victories in their lives, especially to those who do not yet know Him.

WEEK TWO



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK THREE: JUDGES Judges 8-11



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK THREE



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, did you get the opportunity to share a story of God's faithfulness in your weakness with someone?
2. What is the best piece of constructive criticism you've ever received, and how did you handle it at the time?



KEY VERSE

"So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them. And he repeated all his words before the LORD in Mizpah."

Judges 11:11 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Look at Gideon's humble response to the harsh criticism from the people of Ephraim. How do you typically respond when your success is criticized, and how can we help each other react with humility instead of defensiveness?
Judges 8:1-3
2. Consider the danger of the pedestal the Israelites tried to put Gideon on after his victory. Where in your life do you feel the temptation to take the credit for what God has done, and what steps can we take as a group to keep each other grounded? *Judges 8:22-23*

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3. Think about how Jephthah was unjustly put on the shelf and rejected by his own family. How have past rejections hindered your usefulness for God, and how can we support you in overcoming that lingering bitterness? *Judges 11:1-3*
4. Look at Jephthah's decision to reconcile with the leaders who had previously driven him away. What past relationships in your life need honest confrontation and reconciliation, and how can we pray for your courage to take that step? *Judges 11:4-11*
5. Consider the patience Jephthah exercised in communicating with his enemies instead of immediately reacting in anger. When do you find it hardest to respond patiently to those who oppose you, and how can we hold each other accountable to slow down and seek understanding? *Judges 11:12-15*
6. Look at how Jephthah faithfully followed through on his vow despite the unexpected heartbreak it caused him. What commitments have you been tempted to break because they became inconvenient, and how can our group encourage you to remain faithful? *Judges 11:34-39*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DISCIPLESHIP

Take one specific step this week to reconcile a strained relationship or fulfill a neglected commitment as part of your growth as a disciple of Jesus.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that our group would develop the humility to handle success well and the faithfulness to follow through on our commitments.

WEEK THREE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FOUR: JUDGES Judges 13-16



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK FOUR



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, how did your step toward reconciling a relationship or keeping a commitment go?
2. When you were younger, what was a rule or boundary your parents had that drove you crazy, but makes sense to you now?



KEY VERSE

"But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved."

Judges 16:22 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Think about how Samson constantly tested the Nazirite boundaries that were set for his life. In what areas of your life do you struggle to live within God's boundaries, and how can we as a group help keep you accountable?
Judges 13:4-5
2. Look at how Samson often fought the enemy out of personal anger or revenge rather than a desire to serve God. How can we help each other examine our true motives for serving God and ensure they are rooted in His love? *Judges 15:3-5*

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3. Consider how Samson compromised his convictions by giving in to the emotional pressure from Delilah. When do you find yourself most likely to compromise your values to please others, and how can our fellowship strengthen you to stand firm? *Judges 16:15-17*
4. Think about how Samson fought his battles entirely alone without any support from his own people. Where in your life are you trying to struggle in isolation, and how can you invite this group to fight alongside you? *Judges 15:9-12*
5. Look at the tragic moment when Samson was completely unaware that the Lord's presence had left him due to his gradual compromise. What small compromises are you tolerating right now, and how can we support each other in turning back before it's too late? *Judges 16:20*
6. Consider God's grace in giving Samson a second chance to push out the pillars at the end of his life. How does knowing God still uses us after our greatest failures give you hope, and how can we encourage someone here who feels they've messed up too much? *Judges 16:28-30*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

FELLOWSHIP

Reach out to one member of the group this week when you are feeling tempted or overwhelmed, and invite them to pray with you and support you.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that our group would be a safe place where we can openly confess our struggles and depend on each other for strength and accountability.

WEEK FOUR



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.