

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: When We Decide

Message: How a Country Crumbles

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Memory Verse: Judges 2:16-17 NIV

Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: There is guaranteed weeping for the one who decides to compromise with sin.

Read Judges 1:19-36

1. God had already promised to deliver the land to His people. Yet when Judah encountered iron chariots, they stopped short (v 19). God has overcome far greater enemies than iron chariots. The issue wasn't power, but perspective. Fear and perceived limitations often keep us from stepping fully into what God has already made possible. What "iron chariots" are you facing right now? What obstacles feel insurmountable? Why do you think God allows obstacles like iron chariots to remain? What might He be teaching us through challenges that seem beyond our ability?
2. Though God had commanded total removal of the pagan nations, the tribe of Benjamin allowed the Jebusites to remain (v 21). This incomplete obedience planted seeds of long-term conflict, ones that required resolution by David's leaders generations later (2 Samuel 5:6-7). What seems small or manageable now may grow into a spiritual stronghold later. Are there any areas in your life



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where you're allowing something to "remain," thinking it's not a big deal? This could be a habit, mindset, relationship, or influence. How might those seemingly small compromises be shaping your heart or weakening your walk with God?

3. Even when Israel was strong enough to expel the Canaanites, they instead chose to submit them to forced labor (v 27-28). What rationale do you think went through the Israelites' minds that made it permissible to go against what God commanded? How is their behavior similar to how we sometimes behave?
4. Over and over again, we see the Israelites choosing not to completely drive out the Canaanites. What does this tell us about the nature of sin and temptation? Why do you think partial obedience is often more tempting than outright disobedience?

Read Judges 2:1-11

5. Because Israel disobeyed God, idolatry became a snare (v 2-3). What are some idols (things that are elevated above God) in our culture today? Are there any idols that you're tempted to follow in your own life? What helps you recognize and resist them?
6. When we turn away from God, we will inevitably face consequences (v 3). How does Israel's persistent disobedience connect to the problems they begin facing? Have you seen any similar pattern in your life?
7. Faith is not automatically inherited; it must be intentionally cultivated and passed on (v 10). What role does every believer play in this process? Today, our call is to go into all the world and make disciples. How comfortable are you starting a conversation about faith with others?
8. When people do not know the Lord, they are going to behave in ways that do not align with His truth (v 11). As believers, where should we practice patience and understanding with people whose actions and beliefs differ, rather than condemning them?



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