

Families On Mission Week 8 Devotional Guide

Day 57-- Judges 2

Already we see Israel disobeying and pursuing other gods- despite what they knew to be true and despite the incredible victories God had given them. How quickly they forgot Him.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *It's a good rule of thumb to teach our children (and ourselves) to always look for God in a passage of scripture as we read it. What do we learn about Him from the passage? What did He do?*
- *In the first few verses, the Jews are reminded of their standing with God, but they are also warned about 3 specific results of their disobedience. What are they, and why are they so important?*
- *How is God's grace and His pity on His people shown here? Did the Jews deserve it? (Good time to talk about what we deserve and don't deserve.)*
- *What are some snares that can turn your hearts away from the God Who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us?*

God is so gracious with His people-- it's really amazing, isn't it? This week would be a good time to focus on that with your children, because we're going to read about a lot of situations where grace was certainly not deserved.

Day 58- Judges 3

Right from the beginning of this chapter, we see more trouble brewing. In verse 6, the children of Israel were marrying into the other nations and not walking in obedience to God at all. Yet God showed His love and mercy for His people over and over again by sending judges to help them out of bondage.



Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Knowing what God told them in the law, why was their sin of intermarrying so devastating? (This opens the door for talking about the relationships with have with unbelievers. While we are called to love them and show them Jesus, there are definite land mines that we encounter if we get too close with those who don't share our faith.)*
- *There is a fun song from What's in the Bible about Judges if you have young kids. There isn't much meat to it, but it may be a fun thing to watch as a family. [Click here to watch it now.](#)*

Over and over we'll see Israel doing evil and paying the price for it. In our family, we have always impressed on our children that the fact that God doesn't allow them to get away with their sins is actually proof of His love for Him. He could easily let them go their own way and pay the natural consequences for those choices, but He is faithful to give them every opportunity to repent along the way. What a loving Heavenly Father we get to introduce our children to.

Day 59- Judges 4

This time, those afflicting the children of Israel had access to iron chariots. As you study history, you'll find that the Jews did not. What a colossal, seemingly overcome-able advantage that was.

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But as always, God was stronger, and He was able to accomplish His will no matter what the odds against them may have been.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Got kiddos who are interested in war and the study of it? They may find a deeper discussion of the advantages of iron chariots interesting. It definitely will make you conclude that only God could have given victory to the lesser equipped nation.*
- *What can we learn from the fact that ultimately God used Jael to defeat Sisera? (There are a lot of different ways this conversation can go, but I love to follow those leads to get a little more insight into how my children think about things, process things, etc. It's a great learning time for all.) Plus, remember when Deborah predicted that Barak wouldn't get the glory for the victory-- a woman would? Didn't you think she was talking about herself?*

Day 60-- This is a catch-up day to account for leap year.

This would be a great review evening, pick up conversations from the past week or so that were really interesting evening, etc. :) Enjoy!

(If you would prefer to push your catch up day forward, you can spend a little more time with Samson later this week. In that case, go ahead and read Judges 13 now.)

Day 61-- Judges 13

What an amazing start to life we see as we are first introduced to Samson. In all of scripture, there are only a few other births foretold by the Angel of the Lord, so Samson was in pretty incredible company from the beginning.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *So much promise! Samson's parents, who had been unable to have children believed the promise of God and were willing to follow God's rules and pass those on to their son. It was to the parents that the prophecy and the promises were given. Can you think of the others who were prophesied that way? Look it up if you have to, but it's interesting to talk about with your kiddos. (Hint: I found 6 others-- let me now if you find more than that!) :)*
- *V. 5 says that Samson shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines. Why do you think that caveat was there? It wasn't told that Samson would save them-- only begin to.*
- *V 19-- "To the One Who works wonders..." Don't you love that? Manoah made a sacrifice to that One. In Psalm 77:4, we read, "You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples." Psalm 86:10- "For You are great and perform wonders; You alone are God." Etc. Clearly, we serve a God Who STILL works wonders. How do you see His hand at work?*

Day 62-- Judges 14

Samson was all about doing what was right in his own eyes, and he had the physical presence and power to generally get what he wanted.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *Can God work even when we do wrong? (Can we limit or control God by our actions?) This could definitely cause you ALL to think pretty deeply about what*

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you know about God, and most likely you will have to concede as David and I have on many occasions that God does not give us all the answers to every question. There are things about Him that are too big and glorious for our finite minds to understand.

Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us that “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Do we trust God enough to let those secret things belong to Him? They actually should make us stand in awe.

- *Samson clearly had weaknesses that you probably know plagued him his entire life. He provides a good character study on someone who was given every opportunity and advantage to know God and walk with Him but chose to give in to his own lusts and desires. (Good time to discuss our choices, rebellion, etc. and the dangers of it.)*

If you chose to push back that catch-up day, you could read Judges 15-16 today or tomorrow to finish the story of Samson in its entirety.

Day 63--Ruth 1

The book of Ruth tells the story of a Moabite woman who, through her faith and kindness found herself grafted into the family of God. It's pretty hard to resist the urge to read the entire thing in one sitting. :)

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Elimelech took his family to Moab to escape the impact of the famine in Israel. While they were there, though, his sons intermarried with the Moabites. Was that OK?*

- *Though God had clearly told them not to intermarry, how did where they were living factor into both boys' disobedience? (You certainly have to be careful who you hang out with and live among, for they will impact the decisions you make.)*
- *V 16-17 are probably the most well-known verses in all of Ruth. What can we learn from them? Why do you think Ruth, who truly had nothing to gain by going to Israel, held so tightly to Naomi?*

We are about to witness how God can use even your wrong decisions for His glory, and to accomplish His plan. Stay tuned!

If you have not yet purchased a copy of the Teach Them Diligently book, I wanted to make sure you knew about it. The TTD Book is really a study of what God's Word says to parents and a primer of sorts that helps walk moms and dads through putting that practically into practice in our own day and age. It even includes a "rubric" to see how your kiddos seem to be progressing in their walk with God. [Check it out here.](#)