

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Judges 3

Lesson 2

Israel has found itself in a cycle of sin. God would reveal their sin, they would despise what they were doing, cry out to the LORD for deliverance, find temporary relief but then slip back into sin again. Have you ever found yourself in that same place? The good news is that the cycle can be broken. We only need to learn warfare. *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds* (2 Corinthians 10:4). When we fight God's way, we win.

DAY ONE: Read Judges 3

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets (attached) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. A key phrase in Judges 3 is *evil in the sight of the LORD*. Record the verses where this phrase is used and note anything significant that you observed.
3. Note the key phrase *cried out* in verses 9 and 15. What was God's response to their cries?

DAY TWO

1. Judges 2 closed with God's statement, *I also will no longer drive out before them (Israel) any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel*. Judges 3 opens with the word *test* (verses 1,4). According to Judges 3:2, what was the purpose of the *tests*?
2. Warfare should not be something foreign to the Christian. 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*. In your own words, record what the following verses teach us about *warfare*.

1 Corinthians 9:26,27

Ephesians 6:11-18

1 Timothy 6:12

2 Timothy 2:3

2 Timothy 4:7

3. As Christians, we do not find ourselves battling nations of people as the Israelites did. What are some of the battles a Christian fights?
 - a. How are today's battles, and the solutions for them, similar to those Israel was confronted with?

4. Israel had the advantage of being able to see the enemy coming. We do not. Yet, we can be prepared; we can perceive the attack. How can we do that? Challenge: Use scripture to support your answer.

DAY THREE

1. The second reason given for *testing* Israel can be found in verse 4. What is it?

2. Rather than *obeying the commandments of the LORD*, what did Israel do?

Judges 3:5

Judges 3:6

Judges 3:7

- a. The New Testament has parallel commandments. What are they?

James 4:4

2 Corinthians 6:14

Matthew 4:10

Matthew 6:24

3. Not only did Israel *do evil in the sight of the LORD*, Judges 3:7 says they *forgot the LORD their God*. What have you personally experienced to be the result of *forgetting* what God has done for you?

4. How did God respond to Israel's sin? Judges 3:8

- a. What does Galatians 6:7 remind us?

1.) In what way should this be a deterrent to sin?

DAY FOUR

1. *When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel* (Judges 3:9). Othniel appears in Judges 1:11-15 and Judges 3:9-11. What do these verses reveal about him and the time he served?

2. After the death of Othniel, *the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD* (verse 12). Read Judges 3:12-30. What do these verses reveal about:

Israel

Ehud

God

DAY FIVE

1. Review Judges 2:11-19 and list or summarize Israel's cycle of disobedience.

- a. How could this cycle have been broken?

2. As we continue to look at the story of King Eglon and Ehud we see that, although all of Israel cried out to the Lord, one man did something. One man stepped forward and God enabled him. Many times we may feel overwhelmed by the enemy and feel like deliverance is just not possible. Read Romans 6:1-18 and record what you learn about the deliverance that God has provided for us through Jesus Christ. Note: This portion of Romans may seem difficult to understand. Record what you do understand, rather than allow yourself to be overwhelmed by what you do not understand.

Romans 6:1-7 Notes: the *old man* is all that you were; your self ruled your flesh. The *body of sin* is a reference to your body (flesh) as an instrument of sin. *Done away with* means rendered inoperative. According to these verses, what are we freed from and how?

Romans 6:8-11 What are we to consider ourselves *dead* to? Why? How?

Romans 6:12-14 These verses begin with the word *therefore*. Rather than *present our members as instruments of unrighteousness*, what are we to do?

Romans 6:16-18 What is the way to be set free from any sin that would ensnare us?

a. In what way is a *slave of righteousness* a free person?

3. Judges 3 closes with one short verse about the judge/deliverer, Shamgar. What is revealed about him?

DAY SIX: Review Judges 3

1. Why do you think Israel was faithful to God only while someone like Joshua or one of the judges was alive?

a. In what way has a Christian leader influenced your life?

2. What does this chapter teach us about why God might allow bad things to happen to believers?

Judges, Chapter Three

¹Now these *are* the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, *that is*, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan ²(*this was* only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), ³*namely*, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. ⁴And they were *left*, *that He might* test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁶And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods. ⁷So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs. ⁸Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years. ⁹When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. ¹⁰The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. ¹¹So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died. ¹²And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. ¹³Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms. ¹⁴So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years. ¹⁵But when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab. ¹⁶Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh. ¹⁷So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon *was* a very fat man.) ¹⁸And when he had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who had carried the tribute. ¹⁹But he himself turned back from the stone images that *were* at Gilgal, and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." He said, "Keep silence!" And all who attended him went out from him. ²⁰And Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." So he arose from *his* seat. ²¹Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. ²²Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out. ²³Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them. ²⁴When he had gone out, *Eglon's* servants came to look, and *to their* surprise, the doors of the upper room were locked. So they said, "He is probably attending to his needs in the cool chamber." ²⁵So they waited till they were embarrassed, and still he had not

opened the doors of the upper room. Therefore they took the key and opened *them*. And there was their master, fallen dead on the floor. ²⁶But Ehud had escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the stone images and escaped to Seirah. ²⁷And it happened, when he arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the mountains of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mountains; and he led them. ²⁸Then he said to them, "Follow *me*, for the LORD has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him, seized the fords of the Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross over. ²⁹And at that time they killed about ten thousand men of Moab, all stout men of valor; not a man escaped. ³⁰So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years. ³¹After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.