

## Judges 1:1-21 Week 1

1. Pastor Don highlighted the sinful flaws of the Judges. Have you ever noticed that before? How do we process the sin in Judges? Why do we focus on the “veggie tales” version of the story, instead of the full accurate story?
2. What is the description of a Judge? (In contrast to how we use the term now)

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### Joshua's legacy

3. The book starts with the death of Joshua. Joshua's statement was, 'As for me and my house we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24:15). What is your response to this statement? How can we apply it to our lives?
4. The Israelites transitioned from having a godly leader (Joshua) to not having a leader. Discuss the value of godly leadership.

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### Lead to Christ

5. Pastor Don made the statement that “if you are not being lead to Christ as your read all the books of the bible, you are not reading them right”. What does that mean?
6. In (Luke 24 13-35) we read of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. How does the stranger lead the two disciples to Christ (verse 25-27)?
7. What practical steps can we take to make sure that we are being lead to Christ in our daily Bible reading?
8. As each Judge dies, it points forward to a need for a judge who never dies. Think about the contrast between Judges with flaws and Christ as the perfect Judge.

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### Violence

9. Part of the reason for God driving out the nations was righteous judgement on wickedness. Read Deut. 9:5 and comment.
10. Pastor Don said that after chapter one, all the violence is a result of the peoples' sin. What does he mean with that statement?
11. Violence portrayed is not violence promoted- Yes there are stories- but it doesn't mean they were right- God's silence should not be taken as his approval. What do you think of that statement?

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### Obedience

In Ch1:1 we see the question “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” As the story unfolds, some of the actions of the Israelites seem dubious, perhaps leaving us with questions like, “Was that God's plan?” or “I'm not sure whether that was good or bad?”.

12. Why is it legitimate to question their actions?
13. As Christians can we be prone to the same pitfalls as Judah and Simeon?

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## 10 goals to remember as we read through Judges.

### 1. **Avoid misapplication**

The actions in the book are not patterns to follow, eg laying out fleeces.  
It is not a book of role models, don't distort the stories

### 2. **Take seriously all scripture is God breathed.**

There are no mistakes in the book. What can we see that will guide us and we can learn from.

### 3. **This is going to be a corrective.**

Common phrase. There was no king in those days, everyone did what was right in their own eyes. We can succumb to the same temptation. By studying Judges we want God to reproof error in our lives.

### 4. **There is hope in Judges.**

Even though things get steadily worse all the way, the fulfilment is in Jesus. The book is an incredible warning. But there is a hope. Secondary hope. It is hard to compare ourselves to the Biblical hero's, Yet in Judges, we see how God uses messed up people.

### 5. **Judges is not just history, but history with purpose.**

Every story has a purpose. There is no story in which God is not at work. God brings purpose to our story as well. Even though there is lots of mess and sin, God still has a purpose. In today's world, when we fight so hard to remove God, all we do is leave mankind without a purpose. God still has a purpose.

### 6. **To know God through Judges.**

Haden Robinson counsels preachers to look for "the vision of God" in a text. The aspect or attribute of God's character that is highlighted. As we study Judges we will come to know God's character and attributes better.

### 7. **The basic message is a divine summons to remember who they are and who God is.**

They are being called to live out their purpose as God's Holy people.

### 8. **Warn of the dangers** that would hinder that Holy calling.

Helps us to walk well through current dangers and pitfalls.

### 9. **Help us understand ourselves.**

We see how when mankind turns their back on God, sin takes us further than we want to go. These were not a people who were super wicked. This book helps us remember how broken we are.

### 10. **We are reminded that we can't kill God, but we can commit treason.**

There are times in Judges when God appears dead, but he was always there. Judges will remind us that God is alive and well.

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## Let us pray.

1. Question 2 focused on Joshua's declaration that he and his family would serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15) Joshua is calling the people to renew their commitment to the Lord. As you pray, why not take some time to recommit yourselves to serve the Lord.
2. In Judges we read that the people did what was right in their own eyes. Focus prayer on asking God to search us and reveal if we have fallen into the same pitfall.