

Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by Pastor Brendan Dick. May 24'26: "Tanakh: Judges

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer. **Optional:** *take communion together!*

Icebreaker Question:

- Who is your favourite character in Judges? What do they do well? What do they do poorly?

READ Judges 2:1-3; 10-14

- What details stand out to you?

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon argues that "freedom from God leads to bondage." Where do you see our culture promising freedom, but actually producing slavery, emptiness, or brokenness? Where do you see that temptation in your own life?
2. One of the repeated lines in Judges is: "Everyone did as they saw fit."
How does that mindset show up in modern culture today? What makes that way of living attractive, and what are its dangers? (*If time read 2 Timothy 3:1-4 and apply it to this question*)
3. Samson had incredible gifting and calling from God, yet repeatedly used his freedom for self-gratification rather than obedience. Why do you think spiritual giftedness and spiritual maturity are not always the same thing? How can someone avoid Samson's path?
4. The sermon contrasted the world's definition of freedom ("doing whatever I want") with biblical freedom ("becoming who God made me to be"). Which definition of freedom do you think most people around us believe? **How does following Jesus actually lead to deeper freedom rather than restriction?**
5. Even after Samson's failures, God still used him and extended grace to him. Why is that both encouraging and potentially dangerous? How do we hold together God's grace, accountability, and the call to holiness?

LIFE APPLICATION:

- Samson struggled with authority, anger/vengeance, lust, selfishness/materialism, and pride. If you are struggling in one of these areas, ask God to help you find freedom. (Ideas: find and memorize bible verses. Spend time in prayer. Tell someone you trust about it and ask them to keep you accountable, etc.)