



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

YEAR 2

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ISBN 978-1-4951-8710-0

WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 10

God is rejected by Israel

Judges 1:1–3:6



DAY 1

Israel rejected God • Judges 1:1–36

READ

Judges 1:1–36

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 1:1–36

Sometimes it seems like things are going well on the outside, even though we are not right with God on the inside. This is how it was after Joshua died. Israel won many victories, but even in their victories they began to turn from God. In the south, they borrowed Canaanite practices to punish Adoni-bezek (Judg 1:6). Second, the Kenites, who had joined with Judah, lived among the Canaanites instead of driving them out (1:16). Third, Judah failed to drive out the people in the valley, fearing their iron chariots more than they trusted God (1:19). In the north, it was worse. Ephraim set aside God's instructions when they let the spy go free (1:23–26), and Israel failed again and again to drive out the inhabitants (1:27–35). At first, Israel's disobedience did not seem to matter. They became stronger and stronger until the land was under their control. But their success was only because God was helping them. Soon, their spiritual failure would grow and have tragic consequences for generations to come.

ASK

- How does the book of Judges begin (1:1)?
With Joshua's death.
- Did Israel stay faithful to God after Joshua died?
At first, Israel obeyed God. However, even when they were winning they began rejecting God.
- Why did Israel's disobedience not seem so bad at first?
They became stronger and stronger until the land was under their control.
- What was the source of Israel's success?
The gracious presence of God.

DISCUSS

- Is there any sin in your life that you aren't doing anything about, because it doesn't seem to be causing any harm?
- Do you think that the sins you commit today as a child will affect your children and grandchildren some day?

DAY 2

God rebuked Israel • Judges 2:1–5

READ

Judges 2:1–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 2:1–5

Have you ever disobeyed even though your parents warned you not to? Maybe you are happy at first, because you think they have gotten your way. But eventually your parents get you in trouble, and now you cry. You sin catches up with you. This is what happened with Israel. They did not fully obey in filling the land. It seemed okay at first, but then the angel of the LORD (the Son of God) came to rebuke them (2:1). What reason did Israel have to reject Him? Hadn't He rescued them from Egypt and brought them into the promised land? Hadn't He made an unbreakable covenant with them? He cared for them like a father, but they disobeyed and made a covenant with the Canaanites (2:2; Exod 23:32). So now, instead of driving out the Canaanites, He would use them and their gods to punish Israel (Judg 2:3). Israel cried and offered sacrifices (2:4–5), but they did not truly repent because they never changed. Have you done that before? Have you cried, but only because you did not like the punishment? Have you apologized, but not really repented?

ASK

1. Who came to rebuke Israel?
The angel of the LORD. This is an appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God.
2. Why did the angel of the LORD rebuke Israel?
Israel had rejected God.
3. What was the consequence of Israel's rejection of God?
God would stop driving out the Canaanites. Instead, He would use the Canaanites and their gods as traps against Israel.
4. Did Israel repent?
They cried, but they did not repent, because their behavior never changed.

DISCUSS

1. How has God cared for you? How do your parents take care of you? So do you owe them your obedience?
2. Are you sad when you get in trouble for disobeying? Why are you sad? Do you actually repent (2 Cor 7:9–11)?

DAY 3

Israel resembled Canaan • Judges 2:6–3:6

READ

Judges 2:6–3:6

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 2:6–3:6

What do you think of when you think of God's faithfulness? Love? Mercy? Blessings? Those are all part of His faithfulness, but so is His judgment. Like a good father, He faithfully blesses His children. But like a good father, He also faithfully disciplines those who disobey. When Israel traded the true God for idols (2:6–13), God kept His promise to punish them (2:14–15; Deut 28:25). The punishment was painful,

so painful Israel would cry out in pain again and again. But like a good father, God did not reject Israel. He showed mercy by rescuing Israel from being totally destroyed (Judg 2:16). In fact, even His punishment was mercy, because His discipline was to provoke them to return to Him (2:20–3:4). If you belong to God, He does the same for you. The same faithfulness that blesses you and rescues you also disciplines you when you sin (Heb 12:5–11). That is a big reason why God has put parents in your life. They discipline you to rescue your life (Prov 23:13–14). When they faithfully discipline you, they show that they love you (13:24).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How did Israel disobey God?
They rejected Him and loved the Canaanites and their idols instead.
2. How did God punish them?
He allowed the Canaanites to stay in the land and become Israel's enemies.
3. How does God show His faithfulness both in punishing and in showing mercy?
He punishes sin, just as He promised. He does not reject His people, just as He promised. His faithfulness should cause us both to fear and to love Him.

DISCUSS 

1. How do you respond when your parents discipline you for disobeying? Thank them when they are faithful to discipline you consistently.
2. How has God used painful consequences to drive you back to Him (Heb 12:5–11)?

DAY 4*Bad company ruins good morals • 1 Corinthians 15:33***READ** 

1 Corinthians 15:33

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Corinthians 15:33**

Your parents have probably told you to choose your friends wisely. Why? Because you become like your friends. Remember Israel? They became friends with the Canaanites. They even married them, even though God specifically told them not to (Deut 7:3–4; Josh 23:7, 12). As a result, they worshiped their gods and became just like them. Because of this danger, Paul warned the Corinthians not to be deceived (1 Cor 15:33a). It's easy to think that you won't be affected by the people you chose to be around, but you will be, because "Bad company ruins good morals" (15:33b). The Corinthian Christians thought that they were better than that. They thought they were too spiritual to be corrupted. But they weren't. No one is. They gave into a lot of immorality and even believed false doctrine because they weren't careful about their friends. So don't choose to hang out with ungodly friends. Don't try to be liked by them, and don't give them your approval (Ps 15:4). Even if they are the best-looking, the most talented, or the most popular, they will drag you down.

ASK 

1. In what ways did Israel become friends with the Canaanites?
They lived with them and married them.
2. How did Israel's friendship with the Canaanites change Israel?
Israel became like them and worshiped their gods.
3. Why did Paul say not to be deceived?
Because it's easy to think that we won't be dragged down by ungodly friends.
4. What does bad company do to your behavior?
It influences your behavior to be immoral and disobedient.

DISCUSS 

1. Have you embraced a certain belief or behavior have as a result of spending time with a particular family member or friend?
2. What kind of company do you surround yourself with? Does this need to change?

DAY 5

A mind given to God • Romans 12:2

READ

Romans 12:1-2

EXPLAIN

The truth of Romans 12:2

Romans 12:2 says not to be conformed to this world. What does it look like to be conformed to this world? It looks like what Israel did. They became like the Canaanites. Instead of transforming the land into the land of God, they let the inhabitants of the land transform them into idolaters. So don't allow yourself to be shaped by the pattern of the sinful world around you. This includes the world's entertainment, fashions, speech, music, attitudes, and beliefs. Instead, "be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Did you notice that this transformation begins in your mind? The way you think shapes the way you live. When your thoughts change, your behavior changes. This transformation happens when you let the Holy Spirit shape your mind according to God's word (Ps 119:11). So to be transformed, you must fill your mind with Scripture, until you think like God thinks (Col 3:10). When your mind is committed to God and His word, you are pleasing to God and you are able to see that His way is always "good and acceptable and perfect."

ASK

1. How can you become "conformed to this world"?
By letting ourselves be shaped by the pattern of the sinful world.
2. Who renews your mind?
The Holy Spirit.
3. How does He renew your mind?
Through the word of God.
4. Why is the mind so important?
Because wrong thinking leads to wrong living, and right thinking leads to right living.

DISCUSS

1. How can you keep from becoming like the sinful world around you (Rom 12:2; Col 1:28; 1 Cor 15:33)?
2. Compare the amount of time you spend watching television with the amount of time you spend dwelling upon God's word. Which one shapes the way you think more?

NEXT WEEK

God uses Gideon to deliver Israel

Judges 6:1-8:34



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 11

God uses Gideon to deliver Israel

Judges 6:1–8:34



DAY 1

God's justice against sinful people • Judges 6:1–10

READ

Judges 6:1–10

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 6:1–10

Have you ever been punished for doing something wrong, but then just a short time later you do the same thing again? Even though Israel had disobeyed and been punished multiple times (Judg 3:7, 12; 4:1), they didn't learn their lesson. Instead, they did evil again (6:1). So like a patient father, God disciplined them again and again. Israel reaped what they sowed, because God is **just** (Gal 6:7). He gives to each person what they deserve (Rom 2:6). Israel cried out for help (Judg 6:7), but they did not repent. So God first sent a prophet to remind them why they were suffering. Normally, when a prophet rebuked Israel for disobedience, he would then prophecy coming destruction (Jer 11:9–11; 25:1–11). But that doesn't happen here. Instead, God Himself comes to call a judge to deliver Israel (Judg 6:11–24). He is so compassionate (2:18; Exod 33:19; 34:6)! So when you do wrong and get what you deserve, learn from the mistake. Instead of disobeying again and again, go back to your merciful God and obey Him.

ASK

1. Why did God discipline Israel?
Because Israel disobeyed again.
2. Who did God use to discipline Israel?
The Midianites.
3. What does it mean that God is just?
That God gives to each person what they deserve. God is fair.
4. How did God show compassion to Israel?
God Himself came to call a judge to deliver Israel, even though they didn't repent.

DISCUSS

1. What do you deserve (Rom 2:5–6)?
2. God often delays punishment for sin (Rom 2:4). How should you respond to God's patience?

DAY 2

God's patience with a fearful leader • Judges 6:11–40

READ

Judges 6:11–40

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 6:11–40

Have your parents ever asked you to do something that you were afraid to do? When God called Gideon to fight the huge Midianite army, Gideon was fearfully hiding his grain from the Midianites. Even though God called Gideon a mighty warrior (Judg 6:12), Gideon didn't feel like it (6:13). So God was patient. God promised to be with him, and that is the best promise ever. Like Moses (Exod 3:12), Joshua (Josh 1:5), and the disciples (Matt 28:20), whoever has God's presence has everything he needs. But Gideon still wasn't sure, so he asked for a sign. God patiently gave him one (Judg 6:17–21), and Gideon believed (6:24). Still, Gideon's faith was small, so God patiently strengthened Gideon's faith by giving him success in a smaller test first (6:25–32). When Gideon still had doubts (even after 32,000 soldiers arrived!), God was still patient and gave the signs Gideon asked for (6:33–40). So when you are afraid, or when you struggle to believe God's word, don't be afraid to go to God. He knows our weakness (Ps 103:14), and He is patient with us too (86:15).

ASK

1. What was Gideon doing when God appeared to him?
Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress!
2. What promise did God make to Gideon?
God promised to be with Gideon, just like He had promised to be with Moses and Joshua.
3. How did God strengthen Gideon's faith?
God patiently gave the signs that Gideon asked for.
4. Did Gideon have faith in God?
Yes. Despite his confusion, hesitancy, and fear, Gideon believed God.

DISCUSS

1. What are some difficult things God's word tells you to do? Do you do what He says and trust Him to provide?
2. Why does God delight to use weak people like Gideon and like us (2 Cor 4:7)?

DAY 3

God's power through human weakness • Judges 7:1–23

READ

Judges 7:1–23

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 7:1–23

Normally, having more soldiers in your army or better players on your team is the way to win. But God wants us to see that the only thing that matters is being on God's team. To show us that, He does great things through weak people, so that His power will be obvious (2 Cor 4:7; 12:9). So God reduced the size of Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300 (Judg 7:2–8)! There

were 450 Midianite soldiers against every 1 soldier in Gideon's small band! If the Israelites won, it would be obvious that God did it. When Gideon was again afraid, God again patiently encouraged Gideon's faith again (7:13–14) and showed him that God's power did not depend on the number of men in his army (7:15; Ps 20:7; Zech 4:6). The battle proved this: God caused the Midianites to kill 120,000 of their own 135,000 soldiers (Judg 8:10). The army that had kept Israel in terror and poverty for seven years was destroyed in just one night! God is **omnipotent**, *powerful over everything* (Exod 15:2–3), even when the people He uses are weak.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How many soldiers did Gideon have? How many did the Midianites have?
Gideon had 300 soldiers. The Midianites had 135,000.
2. Why did God drastically reduce the size of Gideon's army (2 Cor 4:7; 12:9)?
God did this because God's power is most obvious when His people are weak.
3. How did God again encourage Gideon when he was afraid?
Through the dream of a Midianite soldier.

4. Who won the battle?
Israel won without even fighting. God caused the Midianites to kill each other.

DISCUSS 

1. Why did Paul boast in his weakness (2 Cor 12:9)?
2. Ask your parents to tell you of a time in their lives when God used their weakness for His glory.

DAY 4*God's mercy toward unworthy people • Judges 7:24–8:34***READ** 

Judges 7:24–8:34

EXPLAIN **Judges 7:24–8:34**

You would think that a victory like the one Gideon won would turn every Israelite back to God. But humans are stubborn and wicked. It was only by God's mercy, his compassion and pity, that Israel had rest from their enemies. Gideon did not turn completely away from God, but he acted foolishly. He reminded Israel that God was their king, but he acted like a wicked king: he gathered gold (8:24), had many wives (8:30; Deut 17:14–20), married a Canaanite (Judg 8:31; Josh 23:12), and even named his son Abimelech, which means "my father is king" (Judg 8:31). He also foolishly made an ephod. The ephod was part of the high priest's clothing, and it was used in discerning God's will (Exod 28:4–30). The result was horrible: the people used the ephod as an idol (Judg 8:27). It was worse after Gideon died: Israel forgot him, forgot God, and went straight back to Baal (8:33). Considering Gideon's mediocre leadership and Israel's unrepentant hearts, it is amazing that God delivered Israel at all, and even more amazing that He gave them 40 years of rest (8:28).

ASK 

1. Did Israel return to God after He delivered them through Gideon?
No.
2. How did Gideon act foolishly?
His actions resembled those of a wicked king, and he made an ephod that Israel used as an idol.
3. How did Israel behave after Gideon died?
Horribly. They forgot Gideon, forgot God, and went straight back to worshipping idols.
4. How did God show mercy to Israel?
God still delivered Israel and gave them 40 years of rest from their enemies.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you deserve God's mercy (Rom 3:23)? Is your heart like the hearts of the Israelites (Jer 17:9)? What does it take to change (Ezek 36:26)?
2. How has God displayed His mercy towards you (Eph 2:1–10)?

DAY 5

By faith Gideon conquered kingdoms • Hebrews 11:32

READ

Hebrews 11:32–40

EXPLAIN

The truth of Hebrews 11:32

Do you think Gideon was a hero? From a human perspective, Gideon was dangerously foolish. What general would reduce his army from 32,000 to 300, using how his soldiers drank water to help decide who to send home? What general would lead soldiers carrying only trumpets, pitchers, and torches against an army as numerous as the sand on the seashore (Judg 7:12)? But in this Gideon was no fool. He knew that God's presence was more valuable than thousands of soldiers or fancy weapons. Still, even from a biblical perspective, was Gideon a hero of faith? Wasn't he doubtful, weak, and even foolish during his leadership of Israel? Yes, he was. But despite all that, he trusted God in a situation that many Christians would run away from. Be thankful that God's judgment is not based on your perfection. From stars like Moses to disasters like Samson, God's final verdict depends on a person's faith. Think about your own weakness, doubts, and failures, and you will agree: it is good that we are counted righteous only on the basis of faith, and even when that faith is small (Rom 4:16).

ASK

1. Why were Gideon's actions foolish from a human perspective?
He drastically reduced the size of his army and went into battle with trumpets, pitchers, and torches instead of weapons.
2. Why were Gideon's actions not foolish from the perspective of faith?
Because he had the promise of God's presence and power.
3. Was Gideon always strong, courageous, and wise?
No. He was far from perfect.
4. So what made Gideon a hero? How did Gideon "conquer kingdoms"?
By faith. He really did trust God, despite his doubts and fears.

DISCUSS

1. How does Gideon's faith, even when it was weak, encourage you to keep trusting in God?
2. Ask your parents to tell you about a time when their actions were foolish from a human perspective, but wise from the perspective of faith.

NEXT WEEK

God uses Samson to deliver Israel

Judges 13:1–16:31



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 12

God uses Samson to deliver Israel

Judges 13:1–16:31



DAY 1

God set Samson apart to deliver Israel • Judges 13:1–25

READ

Judges 13:1–25

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 13:1–25

Do you remember the story of Gideon? God used a weak man to save a people who never really repented. But God shows His power and compassion even more in the story of Samson. This time, Israel did not even cry out to God. They were so used to their sin and misery that they did not even bother to cry for help. But God is not limited by man's hardness. He chose a child before he was even conceived, showing that His choice is something planned long in advance. He chose a nameless, barren woman, showing that He is not dependent on human help at all. This child was to be a Nazirite. Normally, a **Nazirite** was someone who took a vow to be set apart for God for a period of time (Num 6). But Samson was to be a Nazirite for life. He was not to cut his hair (Judg 13:5), touch a dead body (Num 6:6), or drink alcohol (Judg 13:4). This would show that he had been specially chosen by God to save stubborn Israel.

ASK

1. What enemy did God bring against Israel?
The Philistines.
2. Did Israel cry out for help?
No. But God still took care of them.
3. How was a Nazirite supposed to show his dedication to God?
A Nazirite was not to cut his hair, touch a dead body, or drink alcohol or anything from grapes. These outward actions indicated an inner dedication to God.
4. How long was Samson called to be a Nazirite?
His entire life.

DISCUSS

1. How much does salvation depend on God's power to act first (John 6:44; Eph 2:1–8).
2. How does God's sovereignty over your life even before birth encourage you (Ps 139)?

DAY 2

God gave sinful Samson power to deliver Israel •
Judges 14:1–15:20

READ

Judges 14:1–15:20

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 14:1–15:20

God gives you gifts to use them for His glory, not for yourself. But Samson used his supernatural strength only to get what he wanted and take personal revenge. Instead of fighting Israel's enemies, Samson wanted to marry one (14:1–2)! But God uses even sinful desires to bring honor to Himself and rescue His people (14:4; cf. Isa 48:11). So God allowed some trouble to spoil Samson's wedding plans (14:17), and Samson reacted in sinful anger. God used Samson's sinful anger to kill 30 Philistines (14:19). Then He used Samson's unlawful love for his Philistine bride to provoke Samson again, so that he burned the Philistine fields at Timnah (15:1–5) and slaughtered many Philistines (15:6–8). But instead of celebrating a new deliverer, the men of Judah were cowards! They wanted to hand Samson over to the Philistines! But the Spirit of God again took control of Samson, empowering him to kill 1,000 men with a donkey's jawbone (15:14–17). Samson was selfish and the men of Judah were cowards, but God continued to defeat Israel's enemies.

ASK

1. How was Samson different from other judges?
After the Spirit of God came upon him, he didn't go out to deliver Israel like the other judges.
2. How did God protect Samson on the way to Timnah?
God gave Samson the strength to kill a lion that attacked him.
3. Did the men of Judah want to be delivered?
No. They wanted to capture Samson for the Philistines.
4. How many men did Samson kill with a donkey's jawbone?
1,000 men.

DISCUSS

1. Why was Samson able to kill a lion and so many Philistines?
2. When you see your failures and the sin of people around you, how can you be encouraged by the story of Samson?

DAY 3

God continued to give sinful Samson power to deliver Israel •
Judges 16:1–31

READ

Judges 16:1–31

EXPLAIN

The truth of Judges 16:1–31

Even though Samson kept lusting, God kept using him to harm Israel's enemies. God used Samson's lust at Gaza to humiliate the Philistines. Samson carried the city gate, the two gateposts, and the crossbar about 40 miles uphill. With its thick cedar wood and metal plating, this gate would have weighed several tons! Clearly, this was not done by human strength. Then Samson lusted for a third woman, Delilah (Judg 16:4). This time,

Samson suffered terribly for continuing to ignore God's purpose for Him. But even in this, God was planning the greatest blow yet against the idolatrous Philistines. They thought their idol had saved them from Samson (16:23–24), so God proved how weak their false god really was. He killed 3,000 Philistines in Dagon's temple. Their idol was crushed and their entire leadership destroyed. It was a crippling blow! But it was also Samson's death. So be warned: like Samson, those who abuse and ignore God's gifts suffer greatly for it. But also be encouraged: despite human sin, God is still in control and still wins the victory. He keeps delivering His people, even when they don't deserve it.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How did God humiliate the Philistines at Gaza?
Samson carried the super heavy gate, gateposts, and crossbar 40 miles uphill.
2. Why did Samson lose his strength (Judg 16:20)?
His hair represented God's presence with him. By cutting it, he rejected God, and God's presence left him.
3. How did God use Samson one last time?
He crushed Dagon and kill 3,000 leaders of the Philistines in Dagon's temple.

4. Did the Israelites deserve God's deliverance?
No.
5. What were the consequences of Samson's sin?
He lost his eyes, his freedom, and then his life when he knocked Dagon's temple down.

DISCUSS 

1. What gifts has God given you (life, possessions, talents, spiritual gifts)? Do you use them to honor and please yourself, or to honor God and love God's people?
2. Can God's enemies ever beat Him?

DAY 4*By faith Samson conquered kingdoms • Hebrews 11:32***READ** 

Hebrews 11:32-40

EXPLAIN **The truth of Hebrews 11:32**

Why does Hebrews 11:32 say Samson was a hero of faith? Wasn't he driven by lust and pride? Despite his great physical strength, wasn't he unable to control his great physical passions? Though it's easy to judge Samson for his weaknesses, the author of Hebrews praises him for his faith. This is because Samson's strength came from God's Spirit (Judg 13:25; 14:19; 15:14), and Samson knew this (15:18). He foolishly ignored it at times (16:20) and often neglected his mission from God "to begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines" (13:5). But at his death, Samson believed God could empower him one last time to crush the Philistines (16:28). He knew this strength had to come from God, not from himself. So he is praised for his faith, not for his selfishness and anger. Samson and the people suffered because of his disobedience, but as we saw with Gideon, God's final verdict depends on a person's faith. So while you should rightly fear the consequences of your sin, you should also rejoice in God's mercy and cling to Him by faith.

ASK 

1. Who gave Samson his great strength?
The Spirit of God.
2. What was Samson's life mission?
To begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.
3. Did Samson trust God?
Yes. He believed his strength came from God and not himself.
4. Samson had many faults, but what is he praised for?
His faith.
5. Samson had many faults, but what is he praised for?
His sin caused misery and pain in his life and for Israel. But by his faith God still crushed Israel's enemies.

DISCUSS 

1. What is the result of using God's gifts to pursue your own desires?
2. What makes a person righteous in God's eyes (Rom 3:28)? Why (4:16)?

DAY 5

God prepared a Deliverer for sinners while they were still His enemies
• Romans 5:8

READ

Romans 5:6-8

EXPLAIN

The truth of Romans 5:8

Samson is so interesting it's easy to miss another important character: Israel. When Israel was oppressed, they usually cried out to God for help, even if they did not truly repent (Judg 3:9, 15; 4:3; 6:6-7; 10:10). But in the story of Samson, they did not even cry out! The men of Judah did not want Samson to save them (15:11-12)! But even though Israel did not deserve to be delivered, God acted powerfully to rescue them. Why? Simply because He had chosen to love them (Deut 7:7-8). Do you realize you are a lot like Israel? You were (or maybe you still are) dead in your sins (Eph 2:1), blind toward God (2 Cor 4:4), and unwilling to seek Him (Rom 3:10). But while you were still God's enemy and unwilling to stop sinning, God loved you and He sent His Son Jesus to die for you (Rom 5:8). He made you spiritually responsive (Eph 2:5) and able to see (2 Cor 4:6). So be humble before God and rejoice. There is nothing good in you, but God overflows with gracious, undeserved love.

ASK

1. What is different about Israel in Samson's story?
Unlike previous times, Israel did not even cry out to God for help.
2. Did God deliver Israel?
Yes. He provided a deliverer for Israel even though they didn't deserve it.
3. How are you like Israel?
We were (or still are) spiritually dead, blind, and unwilling to seek Him.
4. How did God show His love for us?
He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us while we were still sinners and enemies of God.

DISCUSS

1. Why are you unworthy of God's love?
2. Is it possible to be good enough to get God's love? Why not?

NEXT WEEK

God's sovereignty in the book of Ruth

Ruth 1:1-4:22



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 13

God's sovereignty in the book of Ruth
Ruth 1:1-4:22



DAY 1

Moab: God is sovereign over trouble • Ruth 1:1-22

READ

Ruth 1:1-22

EXPLAIN

The truth of Ruth 1:1-22

Nobody likes trouble. But did you know that God is even in charge of trouble? In the story of Ruth, God used sin and trouble to do something wonderful. Trouble began with a famine, and sin began with Elimelech's foolish choice to leave the promised land and move to a pagan land (Ruth 1:2). Then his two sons sinned by marrying Moabite women (1:4; Deut 7:3-4; 23:3-6). This sin led to more trouble: all three men died, and Naomi was alone (Ruth 1:5). But even though Naomi complained that God was against her (1:13), He wasn't. He again provided food in Israel (1:6), and He gave her Ruth, who left everything she knew—her people, her country, her religion—for the sake of Naomi. Naomi didn't get it yet. She called herself Mara, which means "bitter" (1:20). She knew God was sovereign but she felt empty. She did not realize that all her trouble—the famine, the trip to Moab, and the deaths of her husband and sons—was not just under God's control, but also a part of God's plan to bless her, Israel, and the world through Ruth.

ASK

1. Why did Elimelech, Ruth, Mahlon, and Chilion sojourn in Moab?
There was a famine in the land (Ruth 1:1).
2. What happened to Naomi's husband and two sons in Moab?
All three men died in Moab (Ruth 1:3, 5).
3. Why did Naomi return to the promised land?
She heard there was food there (Ruth 1:6).
4. What did Ruth say to Naomi?
Read Ruth 1:16-17.
5. What good thing came from all the trouble?
God brought Ruth back to Israel with Naomi.

DISCUSS

1. When bad things happen in your life, how do you respond? What does this show about your view of God (His sovereignty and goodness)?
2. Do you love God and others like Ruth did (Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18)?

DAY 2

The fields of Bethlehem: God is sovereign over coincidences • Ruth 2:1–23

READ

Ruth 2:1–23

EXPLAIN

The truth of Ruth 2:1–23

There are a lot of things that we cannot control. A lot of things in our lives seem to just happen by chance. For example, in the story of Ruth, Ruth “happened” to come to Boaz’s field. She didn’t know whose field she had come to, but God was directing events, even ones that seemed to happen by chance, to accomplish His purpose and bless His people. Like Ruth, Boaz showed his love for God by loving others (Ruth 2:4, 8–16). By the end of the day, Ruth took home between 30 and 50 pounds of barley! Boaz went far beyond what the law required to care for Ruth and Naomi (Lev 19:9–10). At home Naomi discovered whose field Ruth happened to be in, and Ruth learned that Boaz was a family redeemer (25:25–30; 27:47–55; Jer 50:34). Naomi had complained of being bitter and empty, but now she saw that God had not forgotten her (Ruth 2:20). She realized that God is in control of all things—even over what appears to be chance or luck (Prov 16:33).

ASK

1. Was it chance or luck that Ruth happened to come to Boaz’s field?
No. God is in control of all things.
2. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth (Ruth 1:8–9, 14–16)?
He protected her, gave her permission to drink his servants’ water, fed her dinner, let her glean among the sheaves, and told his servants to give her extra grain.
3. What is a kinsman redeemer?
A man who rescues, provides for, and protects relatives who are in trouble.

DISCUSS

1. Think of a time when you saw God use a “coincidence” to bless you or others around you.
2. When something unexpected happens in your life, how does the story of Ruth teach you to respond?

DAY 3

Boaz’s threshing floor: God is sovereign to bless those who act faithfully • Ruth 3:1–18

READ

Ruth 3:1–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of Ruth 3:1–18

If God is in control of trouble and coincidences, then does it matter how you act? The story of Ruth shows us that it matters a lot, because God blesses those who are faithful and kind. Naomi was kind by helping Ruth to find long-term security through marriage (Ruth 3:1–4). Ruth was faithful by obeying Naomi. She asked Boaz to spread the wing of his cloak over her, which was asking him to bring security to her life through

marriage (3:9). This was very unusual: a young, poor, Moabite woman asking an older, rich, Israelite man to marry her! But God sovereignly guided Boaz’s response. Rather than being insulted, Boaz rejoiced (3:10–13). All three characters acted with purity and kindness (3:14). Naomi sought a husband for Ruth, Ruth sought a family redeemer for Naomi, and Boaz sought the security of both Naomi and Ruth. Their faithful love for others is a picture of God’s faithful love for His people. So as you see God’s faithful love in the middle of trouble or coincidences, you should respond with faithful love of your own.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do?
She told Ruth to wash herself, put on her cloak, and go to Boaz at the threshing floor that evening.
2. How did Boaz respond to Ruth's marriage proposal?
He said he would redeem Ruth if the other man would not.
3. What did Boaz give Ruth before she returned home?
Six measures of barley.
4. What did Naomi tell Ruth when she returned home?
To wait because Boaz would settle the matter that day.

5. Why is it important to be faithful and kind?
Because this reflects God's faithful love and also results in God's blessing.

DISCUSS 

1. Does God's sovereignty mean that you have no responsibility to act faithfully?
2. How does Ruth show you what a virtuous woman is like (Prov 31:10-31)?

DAY 4

The city of Bethlehem: God is sovereign over His plan of redemption • Ruth 4:1-22

READ 

Ruth 4:1-22

EXPLAIN **The truth of Ruth 4:1-22**

We keep talking about how God blesses through trouble, through coincidences, and through the faithfulness of His people. But now we finally get to see what the blessing is! Every character in the story was blessed. Naomi, who felt bitter and empty at the beginning of the story, was full and blessed at the end. Ruth began as a Moabite widow, but because she turned to God and loved His people, she gained a godly husband, a place among God's people, and the privilege of being the ancestor of Israel's kings and Messiah. Boaz began unmarried and childless, but ended with a Proverbs 31 wife and noble descendants. But that's not all! The blessing of Ruth is even greater! Through trouble, coincidences, and their faithful love, God sovereignly preserved the line of David, and through David would come the Messiah. God was keeping His promise to make Israel a great nation and to bless all nations through Israel. So the story of Ruth brings blessing to you too, when you turn to Ruth's great descendant, Jesus Christ. So like Ruth: cling to God in every circumstance, because He is very good.

ASK 

1. Where did Boaz go in order to find the redeemer who was a closer relative than he?
The city gate.
2. Why did the redeemer who was a closer relative not want to marry Ruth?
Because he was afraid that this would endanger his own inheritance.
3. What was the name of Ruth and Boaz's son?
Obed.
4. Who was Obed the father of?
Jesse, who was the father of David.

DISCUSS 

1. Describe a specific way God has shown His kindness to you. Has His kindness to you ever come through difficult circumstances?
2. How long has God been working out His plan to save through Jesus (Eph 1:3-4)?

DAY 5

The family of the King • Matthew 1:6

READ

Matthew 1:1–6

EXPLAIN

The truth of Matthew 1:1–6

Did you know that Christ (Messiah) means both Savior and King? So Matthew begins by proving Jesus' right to be Israel's king. Like other genealogies in Scripture, Matthew's genealogy skips over generations, highlighting only well know biblical characters.

However, unlike many genealogies, Matthew includes five women in the line of Christ. All of them serve as illustrations of God's grace. Tamar committed incest. Rahab was a prostitute. Ruth was a pagan Gentile. And Bathsheba was an adulterer. As a Moabitess, Ruth traced her lineage back to Lot's incestuous relationship with his deceitful daughters (Gen 19:30–38). The Moabites were wicked enemies of Israel, and Ruth's first husband, Mahlon, sinned by marrying Ruth (Deut 7:3; Neh 13:23). But Ruth not only became part of the family of Israel; she was also included in the royal line of Jesus! How could this be? Only because God is gracious and kind to all sinners, no matter their background. And only because Ruth received His love by putting her trust in Him. Do you also depend solely on God's grace and not at all on yourself?

ASK

1. How many women did Matthew include in his genealogy?
Five: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.
2. Does Matthew's genealogy include every generation?
No. Matthew skips over some generations while highlighting well know biblical characters.
3. Who else was included in Ruth and Boaz's family?
King David.
4. Does Matthew's genealogy include every generation?
King Jesus.
5. Why was Ruth included in the line of Jesus?
Despite her sinful background, Ruth received God's grace by faith.

DISCUSS

1. How has God shown His grace in your family line? How can you leave a blessing to your children, grandchildren, and all your descendants?
2. How can you become part of the family of the King (Jesus) (Rom 4:13–25)?

NEXT WEEK

God gives Israel a prophet and judge

1 Samuel 1:1–7:17

