

Tangled Hearts (2/19/23)

Main Verses: Judges 2:1-2

Key Verse: Judges 2:1-2

'Takeaway': When we choose to leave sinful 'stumbling blocks' in our lives, it's only a matter of time before our hearts are tripped up.

Getting Started: Have you ever tripped over something (like a toy) that you were told to put away (or that you knew you should have put away)?

READ: Judges 2:1-2 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What does "I brought you up from Egypt" refer to?
- What did God tell the people to do in the new I&?
- What did the people do?

Elementary:

- Why did the angel remind the people that God had brought them out of slavery in Egypt?
- Why did God direct the people to make no covenants with the people in the I&?
- Why did God tell them to tear down their altars? Why is that important?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- The angel of the Lord was from God & brought a message to the people.
- "I brought you up from Egypt" is a reminder of God's rescue of his people from slavery in Egypt.
- God is faithful, always. He does what he says he will do.
- The people failed to honor their agreement (covenant) to follow God & obey him. They did not tear down the altars to the fake gods of the people in the I&.
- Those altars caused them to stumble & be unfaithful to God.
- God helps us to know what things are not good for us. When we remember his rescue through Jesus, we can grow in trusting God, listening & obeying him when he tells us to "tear down" things.

Elementary:

- The angel of the Lord was God's representative, speaking God's message to the people.
- "I brought you up from Egypt" is a reminder of God's rescue of his people from slavery in Egypt.
- God is faithful, always. He does what he says he will do.
- The people were not faithful to their agreement (covenant) with God. They did not tear down the altars to the fake gods of the people in the I&, even though God told them to.
- Those altars caused them to stumble & be unfaithful to God.
- When we think we know "better" than God & fail to obey him by getting rid of the things he tells us to get rid of, we stumble & fall. But when we remember his rescue through Jesus, we can grow in trusting God, believing he knows what is good for us, & following his word.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him that he prepares our hearts & the hearts of people we meet to hear his message of good news. Thank God for being a gracious God who shows great kindness to us. Ask God to help you remember him & his good news as you go through each day. Ask him to help you to show kindness to others because he has shown such kindness to you.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him for his kindness & provision for us through faith in Jesus. Thank God that he prepares our hearts & the hearts of people we meet to hear his message of good news. Thank him that he protects those who truly follow him. Talk to God about the condition of your own heart & how much you need him. **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, & forever with God. With your whole heart, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. **If you pray this, or have questions** about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.

