



JOSHUA, JUDGES AND RUTH

MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE



Mission 66

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HERE'S YOUR MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE FOR JOSHUA, JUDGES AND RUTH

Mission 66 brings the Bible to life each day as our hosts take you on a journey from Genesis to Revelation. You'll understand God's Word in a fresh way and grow in your intimacy with the Lord.

In this chapter-by-chapter audio commentary, John Mathews and Esther Sisulu come alongside you each day to open the Scriptures in a personal and applicable way. This Study Guide will help you follow

each lesson, so that the teaching goes deeper into your heart and life.



John and Esther adapt the teaching of Brazilian Bible teacher Luiz Sayão, who originally taught the content in Portuguese. Known as Rota 66 (or Route 66) in Brazil, Mission 66 is a takeoff on the name of the famous U.S. highway. But, of course, it also refers to the 66 books of the Bible.

Mission 66 is a partnership between Dr. Sayão and TWR (Trans World Radio). Beginning in 2023, they launched an initiative to translate, produce, and distribute the program in the most-spoken languages in the world. A co-host team in each language will teach the content.

Projects are at various stages in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Bahasa



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JOSHUA 1

SUMMARY

The theme of Joshua 1 is “Strong and Courageous.” After Moses’ death, Joshua takes leadership, tasked with leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. God reassures Joshua to be strong and courageous and to obey and meditate on the Law, making God’s Word central to his leadership and success. Joshua prepares the tribes, including those living east of the Jordan, for the crossing while affirming unity. The chapter highlights faith, obedience and the courage needed to trust God’s promises and act boldly for his purposes.

QUESTIONS

Why was Joshua chosen to lead after Moses?

What promise does God give Joshua about the land of Canaan?

What does God command Joshua to meditate on daily?

Why does God tell Joshua to “be strong and courageous”?

What agreement did the tribes east of the Jordan make with Joshua?

How does Joshua’s leadership encourage unity among the Israelites?

REFLECTION

Why do you think courage is important when following God’s plan, especially when challenges are ahead?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What step of faith can you take this week to act courageously in following God’s plan for your life?

JOSHUA 2

SUMMARY

The theme of Joshua 2 is about an unlikely ally. Preparing to conquer Jericho, Joshua sends two spies who hide in the home of Rahab, a woman with a bad reputation who risks her life to protect them. Rahab's faith in God is remarkable, as she trusts in his power after hearing of his miracles, including parting the Red Sea and defeating enemy kings. Rahab secures a promise to save her family during the destruction by hanging a scarlet cord in her window. The spies return to Joshua with encouraging news about Jericho's fear. Rahab's story shows that anyone can trust in God and find redemption, regardless of their past.

QUESTIONS

Why did Joshua send spies into Jericho?

What does Rahab tell the spies about what the people of Jericho believe?

How does Rahab help the spies escape detection?

What is the significance of the scarlet cord Rahab hangs in her window?

Why did the Israelites need to conquer Jericho instead of negotiating peace?

How does Rahab demonstrate faith in God despite her background?

REFLECTION

How does Rahab's faith show that God is willing to accept anyone who turns to him sincerely, no matter their past?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What "scarlet cord" (sign of faith) can you display in your life to show your trust in God's promises?

JOSHUA 3-4

SUMMARY

The theme of Joshua 3-4 is "Crossing the Jordan." After 40 years of wandering, the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land but must first cross the Jordan River during its flood stage. Guided by God, the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant into the river, and the waters miraculously halt, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground. Joshua instructs 12 men to take stones from the riverbed to create a memorial at Gilgal, reminding future generations of God's power and faithfulness. This event demonstrates that trusting God and obeying him leads to overcoming seemingly impossible obstacles and entering into his promises.

QUESTIONS

Why was crossing the Jordan River significant for the Israelites?

What did the priests carry into the river, and why was it important?

What happened to the waters of the Jordan when the priests stepped in?

Why did Joshua tell 12 men to take stones from the riverbed?

How were the stones meant to remind future generations of God's power?

What lesson can we learn from the priests taking the first step into the water?

REFLECTION

What obstacles in your life feel like a flooded Jordan River? How can trusting God help you move forward?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What "stones of remembrance" can you create this week -- whether writing down answered prayers, sharing your testimony, or doing something intentional -- to remind yourself and others of God's faithfulness?

JOSHUA 5-6

SUMMARY

The theme of Joshua 5-6 is "The Walls Came Tumbling Down," describing Israel's miraculous victory at Jericho, their first major conquest in Canaan. Before the battle, God commanded the younger males to be circumcised, fulfilling their covenant with Abraham. The Israelites celebrated Passover and began eating the land's produce instead of manna. Joshua encountered the commander of the Lord's army, believed to be a manifestation of Jesus. God provided an unusual strategy: March around Jericho's walls for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, blow trumpets and shout. The walls fell solely by God's power, while Rahab and her family were spared due to her faith. These events highlight the importance of obedience and trust in God's supernatural power for victory.

QUESTIONS

Why did the men of Israel need to be circumcised before the battle?

What did the Israelites eat once in Canaan, and why did the manna stop?

Who appeared to Joshua before the battle, and what is believed about his identity?

What was God's unusual battle plan for Jericho?

Why was Rahab's family spared during the destruction of Jericho?

What lesson does the fall of Jericho teach about relying on God for victory?

REFLECTION

How does Jericho's story remind you that trusting in God's way -- even when it seems unusual -- leads to success?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area of your life where you're struggling to trust God's plan? How can you take a step of obedience, believing he'll guide you?

JOSHUA 7

SUMMARY

The theme of Joshua 7 is “Hide and Seek.” Achan disobeyed God by stealing devoted items after Israel’s victory at Jericho. He hid a cloak, silver and gold in his tent, but God saw his sin, and the consequences were severe. Israel suffered defeat at Ai, and 36 men lost their lives. When Joshua prayed, God revealed the sin, and Achan’s guilt was exposed. His confession, made too late, resulted in his punishment as he and his family were stoned, and the stolen goods were destroyed. This chapter highlights the gravity of sin and the harm it causes to others, urging us to confess and turn from sin to experience true forgiveness.

QUESTIONS

What did Achan steal, and why was it wrong?

Why did Israel lose the battle at Ai?

How did Joshua respond when Israel was defeated?

How was Achan’s sin discovered?

What punishment did Achan face for his actions?

What lesson does this story teach about trying to hide sin?

REFLECTION

How does this chapter show the danger of trying to hide sin instead of confessing it honestly to God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area in your life where you’re “playing hide and seek” with sin? How can you confess it to God and seek healing today?

JOSHUA 8-9

SUMMARY

The theme of Joshua 8-9 is "Victory and Deceit." In Chapter 8, Israel defeats the city of Ai with an ambush, following God's instructions, and renews the covenant at Mount Ebal by building an altar and reading God's Law. This victory came after Achan's sin was addressed, showing that obedience leads to blessings. In Chapter 9, the Gibeonites deceive Joshua into making a peace treaty by pretending to be travelers from afar. Joshua fails to consult God and is tricked, leading to the Gibeonites being cursed and made Israel's servants. These chapters highlight the importance of seeking God's guidance before acting and staying vigilant against deception.

QUESTIONS

How does Israel succeed in defeating Ai after their earlier failure?

Why does God allow Israel to take the spoils of Ai but not Jericho?

What does Joshua do on Mount Ebal after the victory at Ai?

How do the Gibeonites trick Joshua into making a peace treaty?

Why does Joshua honor the treaty with the Gibeonites despite their deceit?

What lesson do these chapters teach about seeking guidance from God?

REFLECTION

How does failing to consult God in important decisions leave us vulnerable to deception, like Joshua with the Gibeonites?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there a decision you are facing? How can you commit to seeking God's guidance before moving forward?

JOSHUA 10

SUMMARY

In Joshua 10, we learn about God's miraculous intervention on behalf of Israel in a decisive battle where the sun and moon stood still, hailstones fell from the sky and the enemies of Israel were defeated. This chapter shows us how God works through both natural and supernatural events to fulfill his promises and support his people. Despite being drawn into a war that initially wasn't their own, Joshua and his army courageously trusted God's plan. Through their obedience and reliance on God, they witnessed his might and faithfulness as he fought for them and led them to victory in Canaan. The theme of this chapter reminds us that God is always in control, even when we face challenging and unprecedented circumstances.

QUESTIONS

What is the theme of this chapter?

Why did Adoni-Zedek fear when he heard about Gibeon making peace with Israel?

Why did Joshua and the Israelites agree to help the Gibeonites?

How did God intervene in the battle against the five kings?

What miracle is remembered as the longest day recorded in the Bible?

Why did Joshua order his soldiers to put their feet on the necks of the five defeated kings?

REFLECTION

What does this story teach us about trusting God during difficult battles in our own lives?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you show faith in God's ability to fight your battles and guide you through challenging times today?

JOSHUA 11-12

SUMMARY

Joshua 11-12 highlights Israel's mission to conquer Canaan under God's guidance. Joshua led the Israelites to defeat the Northern kingdoms, including giants like the Anakim, trusting in God's promise of victory. With unwavering faith, they saw God harden their enemies' hearts, ensuring their defeat and giving Israel strength to overcome all odds. The story shows that God's promises are trustworthy and victory is certain when his people fully rely on him, even if the journey takes time.

QUESTIONS

What is the key theme in Joshua 11-12?

Why did God instruct Joshua to destroy the enemy's horses and chariots?

How did God ensure the enemies of Israel would be defeated?

Who were the Anakites, and why were the Israelites afraid of them?

What does the text mean by "The Lord hardened their hearts"?

How many kings and major cities did Joshua and Israel conquer in total?

REFLECTION

What does the story of Joshua's conquest teach us about God's plans in the face of challenges?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you trust God's timing and plan in your own life, even when obstacles seem overwhelming?

JOSHUA 13-19

SUMMARY

Joshua 13-19 records how the land of Canaan, promised by God to Abraham and his descendants, was divided among the 12 tribes through the drawing of lots, demonstrating God's involvement in fulfilling his promises. While many areas were conquered, some Canaanites remained, leading to lasting consequences for Israel. Caleb's faith stands out as he inherits Hebron due to his trust in God. These chapters emphasize the importance of obedience, trusting God's guidance, and fully following his plans to experience his promises. The theme, "Drawing the Map," reminds us that God's promises are fulfilled when his people actively trust and remove obstacles to their mission.

QUESTIONS

What was the main theme of Joshua Chapters 13-19?

What method did the Israelites use to divide the land?

What special role did the Levites have regarding the land division?

Why did Caleb receive Hebron as his inheritance?

Why didn't Israel fully drive out all the Canaanites, and why was this a problem?

Which city was not fully conquered by Judah and remained in the hands of the Jebusites?

REFLECTION

What do these chapters teach us about obeying God completely and trusting him in unfinished areas of our lives?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area in your life -- like choices, talents or resources -- that God may be asking you to fully surrender to him? How can you act on this today?

JOSHUA 20-21

SUMMARY

In Joshua 20-21, God's justice and care are evident. Joshua 20 introduces "cities of refuge" for those accused of accidental killings, providing protection from vengeance and showcasing God's wisdom in balancing justice and mercy. Chapter 21 focuses on assigning 48 cities to the Levites, the priestly tribe without a land inheritance, ensuring equitable land distribution among Israel. These chapters reveal God's fairness in dividing land, preserving order and providing for those who serve him faithfully. The themes of justice, mercy and provision highlight how God's wisdom brings structure to spiritual and civil life.

QUESTIONS

What was the purpose of the cities of refuge?

How did the cities of refuge work to protect the accused?

What was the "avenger of blood" mentioned in Joshua 20?

Why didn't the Levites receive land like the other tribes?

How many cities were given to the Levites in total?

What does Joshua 21 reveal about God's promises to Israel?

REFLECTION

How does God's design for justice in the cities of refuge inspire you to pursue fairness and mercy in your own life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there a situation in your life where you need to trust God for provision or fairness? How can you rely on him to guide you through it?

JOSHUA 22

SUMMARY

Joshua 22 reminds us of the importance of understanding the complete story before making judgments about others. The eastern tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh were returning to their land east of the Jordan after faithfully helping their fellow Israelites conquer Canaan. On their way home, they built an altar near the Jordan River. The western tribes misunderstood this action, believing the altar was for rebellious worship. This misunderstanding quickly led to accusations and near conflict. However, after the eastern tribes explained that the altar was simply a witness to their unity and fidelity to God, peace was restored. The western tribes realized they had jumped to conclusions without getting the full story. This chapter teaches us the value of clear communication and unity, especially within the body of believers. It reminds us to avoid rash judgment and seek understanding instead.

QUESTIONS

What was the purpose of the altar built by the eastern tribes?

How did the western tribes react to the building of the altar?

What role did Phinehas the priest play in resolving the conflict?

Why were western tribes worried about the altar being built?

How did the eastern tribes explain their true intentions for the altar?

What was the outcome after the misunderstanding cleared up?

REFLECTION

How can this story of misunderstanding remind us to seek understanding and clarity before jumping to conclusions about others?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there someone in your life you need to communicate with better to avoid misunderstandings or conflict? How can you work toward unity?

JOSHUA 23-24

SUMMARY

Joshua 23-24 concludes Israel's conquest of Canaan with Joshua's farewell speech and a renewal of Israel's covenant with God. Joshua reminds the Israelites of God's faithfulness and warns against idolatry and alliances that would lead them astray. At Shechem, the tribes renew their commitment to serve God. Joshua's leadership leaves a legacy of faith and the challenge to remain devoted to the Lord.

QUESTIONS

What does Joshua remind the Israelites about in Chapter 23?

Why does Joshua warn the Israelites about associating with the people remaining in Canaan?

What does Verse 6 in Chapter 23 encourage the Israelites to do?

What declaration does Joshua make in Chapter 24 that challenges the Israelites to choose whom they will serve?

Why does Joshua recount the history of Israel in his farewell?

What happened at the covenant renewal ceremony in Shechem?

REFLECTION

Why do you think Joshua emphasized remembering God's miracles and blessings from the past? How can history help us stay faithful?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Who or what are you serving in your life? How can you follow Joshua's example and commit yourself to serving the Lord?

JUDGES 1-2

SUMMARY

Judges 1-2 introduces the time after Joshua's leadership ended, when Israel failed to fully obey God's commands to drive out the Canaanites. Idolatry and immoral practices infiltrated their lives, leading to disobedience and oppression. However, God raised up Judges to deliver the Israelites when they repented. This repeating cycle of disobedience, punishment, repentance and restoration shows God's faithfulness even in times of rebellion. It reminds us that incomplete obedience brings struggles, but God's mercy offers redemption when we turn back to him.

QUESTIONS

What were the judges in the book of Judges, and what role did they play?

Why did Israel fail to drive out the Canaanites?

What consequence did Israel face for being disobedient to God?

In Chapter 2, who is the Angel of the Lord believed to represent?

What does "prostitution with other gods" refer to in Judges 2?

What cycle does the Book of Judges repeatedly display in Israel's relationship with God?

REFLECTION

Why is it so important to respond in complete obedience to God instead of hesitating or compromising?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In which area in your life are you procrastinating or delaying acting on what God has asked of you? How can you take the first step of obedience today?

JUDGES 3

SUMMARY

Judges 3 describes Israel's recurring cycle of disobedience, discipline, repentance and deliverance. When the Israelites worshipped idols like Baal and Asheroth, God allowed their enemies to oppress them. Upon repentance, God sent judges -- leaders empowered by His Spirit -- to rescue his people. The chapter introduces the first three judges: Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar, who led Israel back to God and brought peace. This chapter reminds us that God's mercy and power can restore us when we repent and turn back to him.

QUESTIONS

What were the recurring cycles shown in Judges 3?

Why did Israel begin drifting into idolatry?

Who was the first judge mentioned in Judges 3, and what did he accomplish?

How did Ehud defeat Eglon, king of Moab?

What was Shamgar's unconventional weapon, and how did he save Israel?

What lesson about repentance and restoration does Judges 3 teach us?

REFLECTION

How does God's willingness to forgive and restore his people encourage us to repent and seek him today?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in your life in which you've drifted from God? What steps can you take to turn back to him?

JUDGES 4-5

SUMMARY

Judges 4 and 5 tell the story of how God used Deborah, a prophetess, and Jael, an ordinary woman, to deliver Israel from oppression by King Jabin of Canaan. Sisera, Jabin's military commander, dominated Israel for 20 years with his iron chariots, until Deborah called Barak to lead an army against him. When Barak hesitated, Deborah predicted that the victory would ultimately come through a woman, which is exactly what happened. Jael killed Sisera by driving a tent peg into his temple, ensuring Israel's triumph. Chapter 5 celebrates this victory in "The Song of Deborah," praising God's deliverance and the courage of Deborah and Jael. This story shows how God works through unexpected people to accomplish his plans.

QUESTIONS

Who was Deborah, and what role did she play in Israel's victory?

Why did Barak's leadership fall short, and how did Deborah step in?

Who was Jael, and what decisive action did she take against Sisera?

How long had Sisera oppressed Israel before they called out to God for help?

What does "The Song of Deborah" in Chapter 5 symbolize?

What key lesson can we learn from Deborah and Jael's roles in Israel's victory?

REFLECTION

How does this story of God using Deborah and Jael inspire you to trust his plans, especially when solutions come from unexpected places?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area in your life where you can step up and take leadership or action, even if it feels unexpected or outside your comfort zone?

JUDGES 6

SUMMARY

Judges 6 tells how God called Gideon to rescue Israel from the oppression of the Midianites. Israel's idolatry had brought seven years of suffering, and when they cried out to God, He chose Gideon -- a humble, reluctant man -- despite his doubts. Gideon sought reassurance through signs like the wet and dry fleece, and God patiently responded. Gideon's first act of obedience was tearing down his father's altar to Baal. This chapter reminds us that God uses ordinary people to accomplish his plans, offering guidance and strength to those who trust him.

QUESTIONS

Why were the Israelites suffering under the Midianites?

Who were the Midianites, and how did they oppress Israel?

Where was Gideon when the angel of the Lord first appeared to him, and why?

Why did Gideon ask for signs, and what were they?

What did Gideon do to show his initial obedience to God?

What does the story of Gideon teach us about God's faithfulness and reassurance?

REFLECTION

How does God's patience with Gideon's doubts encourage us to trust him, even when we feel unqualified or uncertain?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in your life where you feel unprepared to follow God's calling? What steps can you take today to trust his guidance?

JUDGES 7-8

SUMMARY

Judges 7-8 recount how God used Gideon and his army of only 300 soldiers to defeat the powerful Midianites. God reduced the army to ensure the victory would show his power, not human strength. Using an unusual strategy of trumpets, clay jars and torches, Gideon's men incited panic in the enemy camp, leading to their defeat. Afterward, Gideon declined to rule Israel as king, recognizing God's sovereignty. However, Gideon's creation of a golden ephod, meant to honor God, became an object of idol worship, leading Israel back into sin after his death. These chapters remind us to trust God even when the odds seem impossible.

QUESTIONS

Why did God reduce Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300 soldiers?

How did God decide which soldiers would remain with Gideon?

What was Gideon's battle strategy?

Why were the Ephraimites upset with Gideon after the battle?

What mistake did Gideon make after the victory over the Midianites?

What happened to Israel after Gideon's death?

REFLECTION

How can Gideon's victory encourage you to trust God when faced with overwhelming situations?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area in your life, as with Gideon's leadership, in which you're reluctant to trust God's plan? What action can you take to step out in faith?

JUDGES 9

SUMMARY

Judges 9 tells the story of Abimelech, Gideon's son, whose thirst for power led to betrayal, violence and destruction. Abimelech killed his 70 brothers to seize control, but Jotham, the youngest, escaped and warned against his leadership through a parable. God allowed conflict and betrayal between Abimelech and Shechem, ending with Abimelech's humiliating death at the hands of a woman. The chapter highlights the dangers of unchecked ambition and the chaos of polygamous families, with Gideon's many sons torn apart by rivalry. Abimelech's tragic story reminds us to entrust power to God and avoid selfish ambition.

QUESTIONS

How did Abimelech seize power in Shechem?

What did Abimelech do to Gideon's sons, and why?

What was the meaning of Jotham's parable?

How did God allow judgment to unfold against Abimelech and Shechem?

What key mistake did Gideon make that indirectly contributed to this chaos?

How did Abimelech meet his end, and why was it significant?

REFLECTION

How does Abimelech's downfall remind us to guard against ambition that hurts others and leads to destructive behavior?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in which your ambitions might be negatively impacting your relationships or your heart? How can you align your desires with God's will?

JUDGES 10-11

SUMMARY

Judges 10-11 introduces Jephthah, a judge chosen by God to deliver Israel from the Ammonites despite his troubled past. Rejected by his family for being the son of a prostitute, Jephthah was later asked to lead Israel in battle. After refuting the Ammonites' false claims about stolen land, Jephthah led Israel to victory. However, his rash vow to offer whatever came out of his house as a burnt sacrifice led to tragic consequences involving his daughter. This story illustrates the dangers of impulsive promises and reminds us that God's mercy can work through imperfect people when they trust in him fully.

QUESTIONS

Who were the two judges briefly mentioned in Chapter 10?

Why did God allow Israel to suffer under the Philistines and Ammonites?

Who was Jephthah, and what made him an unlikely savior for Israel?

What false claim did the king of Ammon make against Israel?

What vow did Jephthah make, and why was it considered rash?

Did God approve of Jephthah's vow?

REFLECTION

What does Jephthah's story teach us about being careful with our promises to God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area where you've made rash decisions, hoping to secure God's favor? How can you trust his promises instead of rushing into impulsive actions?

JUDGES 12-13

SUMMARY

Judges 12-13 highlights two key events in Israel's history. Chapter 12 recounts the unnecessary war between Jephthah and the Ephraimites, stemming from jealousy over being excluded from the battle with the Ammonites. Using the word "Shibboleth" as a test, Jephthah defeated the Ephraimites with tragic loss of life. Chapter 13 introduces Samson, who was set apart as a Nazirite from birth to deliver Israel from Philistine oppression. Samson's future role as God's strongman reflects how God raises up leaders to rescue his people during times of distress. This lesson teaches us that God works through chosen individuals and calls all of his people to live faithfully despite challenges.

QUESTIONS

Why did Jephthah and the Ephraimites go to war in Chapter 12?

What does the story of "Shibboleth" teach us about language differences and conflict?

How many years did the three "minor judges" lead after Jephthah?

Why was Samson set apart as a Nazirite from birth?

What are the key elements of the Nazirite vow, and what do they symbolize?

How does the Angel of the Lord's appearance to Samson's parents reveal God's presence and plan?

REFLECTION

How does Samson's Nazirite vow remind us of the call to live set apart for God's purposes?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in your life in which God may be asking you to live differently from others? How can you commit to living more faithfully for him today?

JUDGES 14-15

SUMMARY

Judges 14-15 recount Samson's story as an imperfect judge who displayed supernatural strength but often lacked wisdom in his decisions. Despite impulsive actions, God used him to confront the oppressive Philistines and deliver Israel. From killing a lion and creating conflict at his wedding to tying torches to foxes and defeating thousands of Philistines, Samson's story teaches us that God can accomplish his plans through human imperfection. It encourages us to seek God's wisdom alongside using our gifts.

QUESTIONS

Why was Samson's choice to marry a Philistine woman controversial?

How did Samson violate his Nazirite vow?

What was the significance of the riddle at Samson's wedding?

How did God use Samson despite his impulsive choices?

Why was Samson's supernatural strength tied to the Nazirite vow?

What do Samson's mistakes reveal about human imperfection and God's grace?

REFLECTION

How does Samson's story encourage us to rely on God's wisdom and guidance, not just our strengths?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in which your impulses or poor judgment have caused trouble? How can you focus on seeking God's wisdom to make better decisions in the future?

JUDGES 16

SUMMARY

Judges 16 recounts the tragic story of Samson's fall and ultimate redemption. Samson's strength was tied to his Nazirite vow, but his poor choices, especially his relationship with Delilah, led to betrayal. Delilah revealed the secret of his strength -- his uncut hair -- and Samson was captured, blinded and imprisoned by the Philistines. In his final act, Samson prayed to God for strength, bringing down the Philistine temple and defeating thousands of enemies, though losing his own life. Despite Samson's failures, God's plans prevailed, showing his power is greater than human flaws.

QUESTIONS

Who was Delilah, and what role did she play in Samson's downfall?

How did Samson reveal the secret of his strength?

Why did the Philistines believe their god Dagon gave them victory over Samson?

How did Samson ultimately defeat the Philistines?

What does Samson's hair symbolize in this story?

How does Samson's death demonstrate God's ultimate power over the Philistines?

REFLECTION

What does Samson's story teach us about trusting God's power rather than relying solely on personal strength?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you avoid the mistakes Samson made, especially letting poor choices weaken your relationship with God?

JUDGES 17-18

SUMMARY

Judges 17-18 reveals Israel's spiritual decline as they drifted from God's law. Micah created idols from stolen silver and hired a Levite to be his personal priest. Meanwhile, the tribe of Dan abandoned their allotted territory, stealing Micah's idols and priest to set up idolatrous worship after conquering the city of Laish. These chapters highlight the chaos of a time when "everyone did what was right in his own eyes," and warn against idolatry and disregarding God's guidance. When we replace God's truth with our own ideas, we risk spiritual destruction.

QUESTIONS

What did Micah do with the silver he had stolen?

Why was Micah's version of worship considered idolatrous?

What role did the Levite play in Micah's life?

What territory were the Danites supposed to occupy, and why did they abandon it?

What did the Danites do after discovering Micah's idols and priest?

How did the tribe of Dan's actions impact their future status in Israel?

REFLECTION

How does this story warn us about the impact of disregarding God's guidance and replacing it with our own version of worship?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there any modern-day "idols" in your life that you place above God's Word? How can you refocus your faith and trust in him fully?

JUDGES 19-21

SUMMARY

Judges 19-21 reveals the deep chaos and tragedy in Israel when God's authority is rejected. A Levite's concubine is abused to death by the men of Gibeah, sparking outrage and civil war as Israel battles the tribe of Benjamin for defending the criminals. The conflict leads to devastating losses and desperate measures to save Benjamin from extinction. These chapters teach the dangers of relying on human reasoning and show how rejecting God's guidance results in moral and societal collapse.

QUESTIONS

What led to the Levite's concubine being abused to death?

How did the Levite respond to the crime committed in Gibeah?

Why did Israel declare war against the tribe of Benjamin?

How many battles did Israel fight against Benjamin, and what happened?

How did Israel try to ensure the survival of Benjamin?

What overarching lesson do these chapters in Judges teach?

REFLECTION

How do these chapters reveal the danger of relying on human reasoning instead of following God's authority?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there decisions in your life that have been driven by personal desires rather than God's truth? How can you redirect your focus back to him?

RUTH 1

SUMMARY

Ruth 1 introduces us to a story of sadness and resilience during the challenging time of the Judges. Naomi and her family, seeking refuge from famine, leave Israel for Moab. But tragedy strikes when Naomi loses her husband and two sons, leaving her and her Moabite daughters-in-law in despair. Naomi, bitter and broken, decides to return to Bethlehem, urging Orpah and Ruth to stay in Moab. Orpah agrees, but Ruth -- displaying remarkable loyalty-- vows to stay with Naomi and adopt her people and her God. This chapter teaches us that even in times of profound loss and bitterness, there is room for hope and perseverance. Ruth's unwavering faith and dedication become a model for trusting God through life's hardest challenges.

QUESTIONS

Why did Naomi and her family move to Moab?

What happened to Naomi's husband and sons while in Moab?

Why did Naomi decide to return to Bethlehem?

What did Naomi tell Orpah and Ruth to do?

How did Ruth show amazing loyalty and commitment to Naomi?

Why did Naomi call herself "Mara" when she returned to Bethlehem?

REFLECTION

How does Ruth's loyalty to Naomi inspire you to show commitment and compassion to others, even in hard times?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

When life feels overwhelming, how can you move forward and trust God's guidance, instead of focusing on bitterness or grief?

RUTH 2

SUMMARY

Ruth 2 shows how Ruth's hard work and selflessness opened unexpected opportunities despite her challenges as a poor widow. She gleaned leftover barley in the fields to provide for herself and Naomi. By God's providence, Ruth worked in the field of Boaz, a kind and wealthy relative of Naomi. Boaz admired Ruth's loyalty and protected her while ensuring she had food and safety. This chapter reminds us that trusting God and embracing hard work can lead to unexpected blessings and hope, even in difficult circumstances.

QUESTIONS

Why did Ruth decide to glean in the fields?

What was "gleaning," and how did it benefit the poor?

How did God guide Ruth to Boaz's field?

How did Boaz first react to Ruth, and what did he do for her?

Why was Boaz called Naomi's "kinsman-redeemer"?

What does Ruth 2 teach us about hard work and trusting God in challenging situations?

REFLECTION

How does Ruth's determination inspire you to embrace opportunities and hold on to hope, even during struggles?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in which you need to step out in faith and trust God to guide the results? How can Ruth's example encourage you to take action?

RUTH 3

SUMMARY

Ruth 3 describes the delicate yet exciting courtship between Ruth and Boaz, orchestrated by Naomi's guidance. Naomi, recognizing Boaz's kindness and role as a kinsman-redeemer, instructs Ruth on how to approach him respectfully to propose marriage. Ruth boldly follows Naomi's advice, signaling her desire for Boaz's protection and redeeming care through symbolic actions at the threshing floor. Boaz, impressed by Ruth's virtue and dedication, assures her that he will take action to fulfill his role as redeemer, but mentions another relative who has the right to redeem her first. This chapter highlights themes of integrity, patience and faith in God's perfect timing. It reminds us that God provides hope and blessings through humility, commitment and wise decisions, even amid life's challenges.

QUESTIONS

Why does Naomi encourage Ruth to approach Boaz at the threshing floor?

What does Ruth's request to "spread your wings over your servant" mean?

How does Boaz show his kindness and respect toward Ruth?

What does Boaz mean when he mentions another kinsman-redeemer?

How does Ruth demonstrate boldness while still honoring tradition?

What lesson about timing and trust does Ruth 3 teach us?

REFLECTION

How does the story of Ruth and Boaz remind you of the importance of patience and trusting God's plan when seeking blessings and opportunities?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in your life in which you need to step out in faith, trusting God's timing, as Ruth did? How can you remain humble and respectful in your actions?

RUTH 4

SUMMARY

Ruth 4 brings the heartwarming conclusion to the book of Ruth, in which tragedy turns to joy. Boaz meets with city elders at the gate to formalize the redemption of Naomi's family property. He offers a closer relative the opportunity to marry Ruth, but the man declines, fearing for his inheritance. Boaz steps forward as the kinsman-redeemer, marrying Ruth and preserving Naomi's family line. God blesses them with a son, Obed, who later becomes the grandfather of King David. Naomi's bitter sorrow transforms into blessing and hope as God's providence restores her fortune. This chapter embodies themes of redemption, faith and the blessings of family sticking together through hard times. Ruth's story reminds us that God operates according to his perfect timing and can turn even the darkest moments into blessings when we trust him.

QUESTIONS

What was Boaz's role as a kinsman-redeemer, and what did he do at the city gate?

Why did the closer relative choose not to redeem Naomi's land?

How did Boaz ensure that Ruth and Naomi's family inheritance was preserved?

Why did the townspeople mention Rachel, Leah and Perez when blessing Ruth and Boaz?

What significant role does Ruth's son Obed play in Israel's history?

How does Ruth 4 show us that God can turn hardships into blessings?

REFLECTION

How does the story of Ruth and Boaz challenge you to trust God's timing and believe in his ability to bring good from difficult situations?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are there areas in your life where you feel stuck or overwhelmed?

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How can you trust God to work in his perfect timing to bring restoration or blessing?

ANSWERS

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 1

Joshua was chosen because he was Moses' assistant, a person of faith and courage, who had proven himself by trusting God in earlier battles.

God promises Joshua that every place they set foot in the Promised Land will belong to them, fulfilling the covenant he made with Abraham.

Joshua is commanded to meditate on the Book of the Law daily, keeping God's Word central to his actions and leadership.

God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous because he will face challenges, but God promises to remain with him and bring victory.

The tribes east of the Jordan, including Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, agreed to fight alongside the other Israelites during the conquest of Canaan before returning to their land.

Joshua's leadership brings unity, ensuring all tribes work together to fulfill God's promise and support one another in battle.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 2

Joshua sent spies to gather military intelligence on Jericho before leading Israel into battle.

Rahab tells the spies that everyone in Jericho is terrified because they know the God of Israel gave his people the land and performed mighty miracles.

Rahab hides the spies on her roof under flax stalks and lies to the king's men, sending them in the wrong direction.

The scarlet cord acts as a sign for the Israelites to spare Rahab and her family during the attack on Jericho.

Jericho's sin and idolatry demanded judgment. Negotiating peace would have endangered Israel's faith and purpose in the Promised Land.

Rahab demonstrates faith by risking her life to protect the spies, believing

God's promises even though the Israelites are strangers to her.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 3-4

Crossing the Jordan marked the Israelites' entrance into the Promised Land and their fulfillment of God's promise.

The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant, which represented God's presence with the people and his leadership.

When the priests stepped into the river, the waters stopped flowing and piled up, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground.

Joshua had the 12 men take stones from the riverbed to set up a memorial at Gilgal, marking their miraculous crossing.

The stones reminded future generations of how God stopped the Jordan's waters and gave Israel victory, pointing to his strength.

The priests demonstrated courage and faith by stepping into the flooded river, teaching the importance of trusting God with the first step.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 5-6

Circumcision was part of the covenant between God and Abraham, and many younger Israelites had not yet been circumcised.

The Israelites ate from the land of Canaan because they no longer needed manna as God provided natural resources in the Promised Land.

Joshua met the commander of the Lord's army, believed to be a manifestation of Jesus or a powerful angel.

God's plan involved marching around the walls, blowing trumpets and shouting to make the walls crumble.

Rahab's family was spared because of her faith in God and her help in hiding the spies.

Jericho's fall teaches that victory comes through obedience to God and trusting his power, not human abilities.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 7

Achan stole a cloak, silver and gold from Jericho, disobeying God's command to devote all items to the Lord.

Israel lost the battle at Ai because Achan's sin caused God to withdraw his protection.

Joshua tore his clothes, cried out to God and asked why Israel had been defeated.

Achan's sin was discovered when God revealed the guilty tribe, clan, family and individual.

Achan and his family were stoned, and all their belongings were burned. His sin had endangered the entire nation.

The story teaches us that trying to hide sin harms not only ourselves but others. Confessing and repenting brings healing.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 8-9

Israel defeats Ai by using an ambush strategy, as God directed, drawing the army out of the city and attacking it from behind.

God allows Israel to take the spoils of Ai because the first fruits of victory at Jericho were devoted entirely to him.

At Mount Ebal, Joshua builds an altar, writes the Law on stone tablets and reads God's commandments to the people.

The Gibeonites dress in worn-out clothes, carry old food and claim to be from a distant country to deceive Israel into making a peace treaty.

Joshua honors the treaty because he swore an oath before God, and breaking it would bring his wrath on Israel.

The chapters show that seeking God's guidance protects us from deception and ensures blessings.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 10

The theme of this chapter is that God fights for his people and uses miraculous interventions to bring about victory when they obey him.

Adoni-Zedek feared because Gibeon, a strong city with powerful warriors, made peace with Israel, threatening the balance of power among the

neighboring kingdoms.

Joshua and the Israelites helped the Gibeonites because of their earlier covenant with them, pledging to protect them.

God intervened by throwing the enemies into a panic, casting hailstones from the sky that killed more enemies than Israel did with swords, and making the sun and moon stand still to prolong the day for the battle to be won.

The miracle in this chapter is when Joshua prayed, and God made the sun stand still, ensuring daylight for Israel's victory against their enemies.

Joshua instructed the soldiers to place their feet on the necks of the five kings to demonstrate God's ultimate power and remind Israelites of his promise to defeat all their enemies.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 11-12

The theme is that God fulfills his promises and fights for his people, ensuring their victory over seemingly impossible odds.

God instructed them to destroy the captured horses and chariots to show that victory depended on his power, not on human resources or military equipment.

God hardened the hearts of the Canaanite kings, ensuring they would fight against Israel, which united the enemy forces in one place for simultaneous defeat.

The Anakites were giants who lived in the land of Canaan. They were large and strong warriors, but they were no match for God's power working through Joshua and the Israelites.

God hardened their hearts by allowing them to resist, making their rebellion clear and bringing his judgment upon them for their wickedness.

Joshua and Israel defeated a total of 31 kings, conquering their cities and taking possession of the land of Canaan as God had promised.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 13-19

The theme is "drawing the map," highlighting how God divided the Promised Land for the Israelites and called them to actively claim their inheritance by removing obstacles and obeying him completely.

They divided the land by drawing lots under the supervision of priests at the Tabernacle, trusting God to guide the outcome.

The Levites were not given land as an inheritance; they were assigned cities with pasturelands because their duties involved serving God at the Tabernacle.

Caleb inherited Hebron because of his faithfulness and unwavering trust in God when others doubted his promises.

Israel didn't drive out all the Canaanites due to fear, laziness or lack of complete obedience. This resulted in Israel's vulnerability to idolatry and sin.

The city of Jerusalem remained in the hands of the Jebusites and wouldn't be taken until King David's reign.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 20-21

The cities of refuge were places where people accused of accidentally killing someone could find safety and fairness, avoiding revenge until their case was heard.

The accused could explain their situation to the city elders, who would protect them until a trial determined guilt or innocence.

The avenger of blood was a family member seeking to avenge the death of a loved one. These cities protected the accused from unjust retaliation.

The Levites didn't receive land because their role was serving God through priestly duties. Instead, they were given cities and pasturelands across Israel.

The Levites were given 48 cities spread across the land, including six cities of refuge.

Joshua 21 reveals that every promise God made to Israel was fulfilled -- they received the land, rest from enemies and provision, showing God's faithfulness.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 22

The altar was built as a witness to the eastern tribes' unity with the western tribes and loyalty to God, not for sacrifices or rebellious worship.

The western tribes misunderstood the altar, assuming it was for rebellion against God, and they planned to go to war against the eastern tribes.

Phinehas the priest led a delegation to speak with the eastern tribes, investigate the issue and clarify their true intentions, preventing unnecessary conflict.

The western tribes worried the altar would lead to idolatry or rebellion, dishonoring God and bringing punishment to all of Israel.

The eastern tribes explained that the altar was meant to remind future generations that they were part of the same faith and community as the western tribes.

Once the explanation was heard, peace was restored, and the western tribes praised God, realizing the eastern tribes had acted out of faith, not rebellion.

ANSWERS | JOSHUA 23-24

Joshua reminds the Israelites of all the victories and blessings God has provided, and he encourages them to remain faithful to his covenant as their leader's final wish.

He warns that intermarriage and close contact with the remaining Canaanites would lead the Israelites into idolatry and rebellion against God.

Verse 6 emphasizes strength and obedience, urging the Israelites to completely follow God's laws without turning aside to the right or the left.

Joshua declares: "Choose this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

He recounts the history of Israel to remind them of God's faithfulness and encourage them to trust him for their future challenges.

At Shechem, the Israelites renew their commitment to God, promising to obey his commands, and Joshua sets up a large stone as a witness to their covenant.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 1-2

The judges were God-appointed leaders who delivered Israel from oppression and guided the people back to faithfulness.

Israel lacked determination and trust in God and allowed the Canaanites to remain, compromising their loyalty to God's commands.

Disobedience led to God allowing Israel's enemies to oppress them as a form of discipline.

The Angel of the Lord is considered a manifestation of God, likely Jesus, appearing before his incarnation.

It represents the spiritual rebellion of idolatry that undermines Israel's covenant with God. It also reflects the immoral practices of Baal worship, including adultery and ritual prostitution.

The cycle includes disobedience, punishment through oppression, repentance and deliverance by a judge, repeating over generations.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 3

The cycles include disobedience, discipline through oppression, repentance and deliverance by judges.

Israel drifted into idolatry because of intermarriage with Canaanites and their influence in the worship of idols like Baal and Asheroth.

Othniel, the nephew of Caleb, was the first judge. Empowered by God's Spirit, he defeated King Cushan-rishathaim and brought peace to the land for 40 years.

Ehud, a left-handed man, used a hidden double-edged sword to defeat the overweight King Eglon. His victory led Israel to defeat the Moabites and brought 80 years of peace.

Shamgar used an oxgoad -- a pointed stick used to prod oxen -- to kill 600 Philistines and save Israel.

Judges 3 teaches us that no matter how far we stray, God is merciful and willing to restore those who repent and follow him faithfully.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 4-5

Deborah was a prophetess and judge called by God to lead Israel against

oppression, providing wisdom, courage and leadership when the men hesitated.

Barak hesitated to act without Deborah's help, relying on her instead of stepping into full leadership. Deborah predicted that the final victory would come through a woman as a result.

Jael was Heber's wife, who killed Sisera by driving a tent peg into his temple, securing victory for Israel.

Sisera had oppressed Israel for 20 years before they repented and cried out to God for help.

"The Song of Deborah" celebrates the victory over Sisera and praises God's power and the bravery of Deborah, Jael and the tribes who fought alongside them.

The story shows God's ability to use unexpected people and circumstances to bring about his plans for deliverance and victory.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 6

The Israelites had fallen into sin and idolatry, worshiping Baal and Asherah, leading God to discipline them through oppression by the Midianites.

The Midianites were descendants of Abraham, but they fiercely oppressed Israel by destroying crops and stealing livestock, leaving the land devastated.

Gideon was hiding in the winepress, secretly threshing wheat to avoid detection by the Midianites.

Gideon asked for God to reassure him with signs, including fire-consuming an offering, dew wetting only a fleece while the ground remained dry, and vice versa.

Gideon obeyed God by destroying his father's altar to Baal and building an altar to God in its place, although he was too afraid to do it during the day and did it at night.

Gideon's story shows that while doubts may arise, God is patient and faithful, offering reassurance and guidance to equip us for his purpose.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 7-8

God reduced the army so Israel would not boast about their victory, but instead recognize that it was God's power alone that gave them success.

God kept those who lapped water with their hands while looking around alertly, choosing 300 men who were ready for action.

Gideon's army used trumpets, clay jars and torches to create fear and confusion, causing the Midianites to panic, attack each other and flee.

The Ephraimites were upset because they weren't called earlier to fight. Gideon calmed their anger by highlighting their important contribution in capturing Midianite leaders.

Gideon made a golden ephod from the spoils of war. Though well-intentioned, it became an object of idol worship and led Israel into sin again.

After Gideon's death, Israel returned to idolatry, worshiping Baal once more and forgetting all that God had done for them.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 9

Abimelech manipulated the leaders of Shechem, using his connection as a relative to gain their favor and crown himself king.

To secure control, Abimelech murdered his 70 brothers, sparing only Jotham, who managed to escape.

Jotham's parable compared Abimelech to a thornbush -- unfit to rule and dangerous to those who chose him.

God allowed conflict and betrayal between Abimelech and Shechem, leading to battles, destruction and the downfall of both.

Gideon's polygamy resulted in family chaos and rivalry, and paved the way for Abimelech's destructive ambitions.

Abimelech was mortally wounded by a millstone dropped by a woman, which humiliated him and fulfilled Jotham's curse.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 10-11

Tola and Jair were briefly mentioned as judges before Jephthah. Tola led

for 23 years, and Jair led for 22 years.

Israel fell into idol worship and disobedience, serving Baal and other false gods. This led God to allow their oppression by foreign enemies.

Jephthah, the son of a prostitute, was disowned by his family and lived with a band of adventurers but was called upon to lead Israel against the Ammonites.

The king of Ammon falsely claimed that Israel had stolen their land during their journey from Egypt, but Jephthah refuted this claim with historical evidence.

Jephthah vowed to offer as a burnt offering whatever came out of his house when he returned victorious, which led to tragic consequences involving his daughter.

No, God did not approve of Jephthah's rash vow or human sacrifice, but the Bible records his tragic mistake without condoning it.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 12-13

The Ephraimites felt left out of the battle against the Ammonites and accused Jephthah, leading to unnecessary war and loss of life.

The story shows how small differences -- like pronunciation -- can escalate tensions. It also reminds us how prejudice can lead to tragic conflict.

Ibzan judged for seven years, Elon for 10 years and Abdon for eight years, totaling 25 years of leadership among them.

Samson was set apart by God to deliver Israel from the Philistines, symbolizing strength and dedication to God's plan.

The vow included abstaining from grape products, avoiding contact with dead bodies and allowing hair to grow long. This symbolized devotion, separation from the world and rejecting death's influence.

The Angel of the Lord revealed God's power and closeness, showing that Samson's birth would be through divine intervention and set apart for God's plan.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 14-15

Samson's marriage to a Philistine woman was controversial because the

Philistines were Israel's oppressors and worshipped false gods.

Samson violated his vow by touching the carcass of a lion and eating honey from it, defiling himself by coming into contact with death.

Samson's riddle exposed his impulsiveness, as his Philistine wife revealed the answer to her people after pressuring him, which led to conflict and retaliation.

Despite his impulsive actions, God used Samson's battles and strength to punish the oppressive Philistines and deliver Israel from their control.

His vow included not cutting his hair, abstaining from wine and avoiding death-related impurity. If he kept the vow, God's Spirit gave him incredible physical strength.

Samson's mistakes show that God can work through imperfect people and teach valuable lessons through their failures and successes.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 16

Delilah was a Philistine woman who seduced Samson. She betrayed him by discovering his source of strength -- his hair -- and helping the Philistines capture him.

After Delilah's persistent pleading, Samson revealed that his strength came from his uncut hair as part of his Nazirite vow to God.

The Philistines credited their victory over Samson to Dagon, their false god, misunderstanding God's greater plan for Samson's final act of deliverance.

Samson prayed for strength and pushed down two pillars of the Philistine temple, killing thousands, including himself, in his last act of obedience to God.

Samson's hair symbolizes his covenant with God and the supernatural strength tied to his Nazirite vow.

Samson's death showed that, even in his weakness, God's power prevailed, proving that the Philistine god Dagon was powerless in comparison.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 17-18

Micah used stolen silver to create carved and metal idols for his personal shrine, which he dedicated to "the Lord."

Micah's worship was idolatrous because he created and worshipped manmade images, violating God's law and replacing proper worship with his own inventions.

Micah hired the Levite to be his personal priest but later abandoned Micah when the Danites offered him a higher position and greater wealth.

The Danites failed to occupy the land God had allotted to them, so they sought easier territory and eventually took over the city of Laish.

The Danites stole Micah's idols and priest, set up their own idol worship in Laish, and descended into spiritual corruption.

Dan's idolatry negatively impacted their legacy, leading to their exclusion from the tribes listed in Revelation due to their deep roots in false worship.

ANSWERS | JUDGES 19-21

The men of Gibeah surrounded a house demanding to abuse the Levite but instead took his concubine, abusing her all night and leaving her for dead.

The Levite divided her body into 12 pieces and sent them to the tribes of Israel to highlight the atrocity committed in Gibeah.

Israel declared war because the tribe of Benjamin refused to deliver the guilty men to justice.

Israel fought three battles against Benjamin, losing the first two. In the third battle, they defeated Benjamin, killing 25,000 men and nearly wiping out the tribe.

To preserve Benjamin, Israel instructed the Benjamites to abduct women from Shiloh during a festival to marry.

These chapters show the chaos and destruction that arise when humanity rejects God's authority and acts according to their own desires.

ANSWERS | RUTH 1

Naomi's family moved to Moab to escape a famine in Israel.

Naomi's husband, Elimelech, and her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, died in Moab, leaving Naomi and her daughters-in-law as widows.

Naomi heard that God had provided food in Bethlehem and decided to return to her homeland.

Naomi urged Orpah and Ruth to stay in Moab, remarry and start anew.

Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi, vowing to follow her, care for her, and adopt Naomi's people and God as her own.

Naomi renamed herself "Mara," meaning "bitter," reflecting her anger and sorrow over the hardships she had faced.

ANSWERS | RUTH 2

Ruth decided to glean to gather food for herself and Naomi, making use of Israel's provision for the poor.

Gleaning was collecting leftover grain after harvesters finished, a law in Israel allowing the poor to gather food to survive through their effort.

Ruth's arrival at Boaz's field looked accidental, but God's guidance led her there, where she found favor and safety.

Boaz noticed Ruth's character and kindness. He protected her, provided water and food, and instructed his workers to leave extra barley for her to glean.

A kinsman-redeemer was a close male relative who had the responsibility to protect or restore family members in need, including property or marriage redemption.

Ruth's story shows that hard work, generosity and trust in God's guidance can lead to unexpected blessings.

ANSWERS | RUTH 3

Naomi hopes to help secure Ruth's future by encouraging her to request Boaz's care and protection as a kinsman-redeemer.

Ruth's request signifies her desire for Boaz to step into his role as redeemer, marry her and ensure her security.

Boaz praises Ruth for her dedication to Naomi and her integrity, ensures her safety from gossip and harm and sends her home with extra barley for Naomi.

Boaz explains that another relative closer to Naomi has the first right to act as her redeemer, so the formalities must be settled before Boaz can proceed.

Ruth boldly approaches Boaz, signaling her intentions without violating moral traditions or cultural context.

Ruth 3 teaches that blessings often come through patience, integrity and trusting God's perfect timing.

ANSWERS | RUTH 4

Boaz met city elders to address the redemption of Naomi's land and offered the closer relative the chance to buy it and marry Ruth. When declined, Boaz fulfilled the role and promised to act.

The closer relative feared his inheritance would be impaired if he married Ruth, a foreign widow, and chose not to redeem.

Boaz officially redeemed the land and married Ruth, declaring his commitment to preserve Naomi's family line and inheritance.

The townspeople mentioned Rachel, Leah and Perez as examples of how God can bless families despite challenges, hoping Boaz and Ruth's family would also prosper greatly.

Obed became the grandfather of King David -- a key figure in Israel's history and the lineage of Jesus Christ.

Ruth 4 demonstrates how God can take hardships, such as death and poverty, and transform them into blessings through his grace and providence.



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