



JUDGES CHAPTER 13 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What's one of the best gifts you have ever received that has completely taken you by surprise?
- What's one of the best gifts you have ever given that has completely taken the recipient of the gift by surprise?
- What's one of the best gifts that you have ever received that you never thought you would need and/or like?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Judges 13:1-25)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU INTRODUCE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES AND THE JUDGES CYCLE WITH YOUR GROUP.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Judges 13:1-7

- What one part of the cycle of Judges is missing from this particular story? (Hint...the answer is found in verse 1).
 - Israel does not cry out for deliverance nor do they repent. God gives them a deliverer before they do anything.

- What does this indicate about the character and nature of God as it pertains to all of humanity and more specifically as it pertains to you and me?
 - God has never waited for people to get their acts together before He richly lavished His love, grace, and mercy on them. For you and me today, God has chosen to love us even before we chose Him, even when we flat out disobey and reject Him, His love endures, and His faithfulness remains.
 - How do you daily practice embracing God's love, grace, and mercy? How would you encourage someone to daily do this?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - How do you daily practice giving those around you God's grace, love, and mercy, even when you don't think they deserve it and even when they haven't asked for it?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why are the events surrounding Samson's birth significant, specifically Samson being born to a woman who was both childless and barren?
 - They are significant because they highlight God's intervention with barren women throughout Scripture. More specifically, this highlights the beautiful reality that God moves and stirs in the midst of seemingly hopeless situations.
 - In what seemingly hopeless situations that you are a part of and/or that you are witnessing do you need to relentlessly cling to the hope that God is providing you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Judges 13:6-14

- Notice how God responds to Manoah's request regarding sending the angel of the Lord again that has appeared to his wife. What does this indicate about God?
 - God is faithful in meeting us where we are at, even when we are struggling to believe exactly what He has told us and even when we can't see the bigger picture that He does.
 - Notice God's answer to Manoah's question in verses 13-14. What does God's answer reveal about His nature?
 - God does not feel compelled to give us all of the answers that we may want. He is concerned about our obedience and living out of what He has told us to do.

Judges 13:15-25

- What do Manoah's questions indicate about his understanding of God in this section of text?
 - Manoah's questions indicate that he may believe that God can fit in his box/level of understanding. In other words, God is far too small, at least according to Manoah's understanding.
 - In what ways do you diminish and/or forget the bigness of God in your own life and in the lives of others?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How does Manoah's perspective about the bigness of God change in this passage?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - In what circumstances is it easiest to forget God's grace towards you? Why do you think that is?
 - What looks different in someone's life when they truly believe in and live God's grace?

- Would you say it's easy or difficult for you to accept the grace that God extends to you? Why is it difficult or easy?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Judges Chapter 14)



JUDGES CHAPTER 13 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- What's one of the best gifts you have ever received that has completely taken you by surprise?
- What's one of the best gifts you have ever given that has completely taken the recipient of the gift by surprise?
- What's one of the best gifts that you have ever received that you never thought you would need and/or like?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Judges 13:1-25)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU INTRODUCE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES AND THE JUDGES CYCLE WITH YOUR GROUP.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Judges 13:1-7

- What one part of the cycle of Judges is missing from this particular story? (Hint...the answer is found in verse 1).

- What does this indicate about the character and nature of God as it pertains to all of humanity and more specifically as it pertains to you and me?
 - How do you daily practice embracing God's love, grace, and mercy? How would you encourage someone to daily do this?
 - How do you daily practice giving those around you God's grace, love, and mercy, even when you don't think they deserve it and even when they haven't asked for it?
- Why are the events surrounding Samson's birth significant, specifically Samson being born to a woman who was both childless and barren?
 - In what seemingly hopeless situations that you are a part of and/or that you are witnessing do you need to relentlessly cling to the hope that God is providing you?

Judges 13:6-14

- Notice how God responds to Manoah's request regarding sending the angel of the Lord again that has appeared to his wife. What does this indicate about God?
 - Notice God's answer to Manoah's question in verses 13-14. What does God's answer reveal about His nature?

Judges 13:15-25

- What do Manoah's questions indicate about his understanding of God in this section of text?
 - In what ways do you diminish and/or forget the bigness of God in your own life and in the lives of others?
- How does Manoah's perspective about the bigness of God change in this passage?

- In what circumstances is it easiest to forget God's grace towards you? Why do you think that is?
- What looks different in someone's life when they truly believe in and live God's grace?
- Would you say it's easy or difficult for you to accept the grace that God extends to you? Why is it difficult or easy?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Judges Chapter 14)