



## JUDGES CHAPTER 15 (FACILITATOR)

### Discussion Starter

- What has been one of the greatest victories you have ever had in your life? How did you respond?
- **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 15:1-20)

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 15:1-8

- Who is noticeably absent from this very sad part of Samson's story?
  - God is missing from this part of Samson's story. The text doesn't state implicitly or explicitly that Samson inquired of God, consulted with God, prayed to God, etc. Rather, we see Samson again being on his own agenda fulfilling his own desires and lust for revenge. Now, God does use all of this to defeat the Philistines even in the midst of Samson doing his own thing.
  - In what ways are you tempted to forget about God and forget that He should be at the center of your story? What do you do to avoid this?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  - How is Samson's leadership a microcosm (reflection) of how Israel was acting towards God?
    - Israel was quick to cry out to God when things were bad but then they got comfortable and complacent and relied on their own power, ability, and strength.
      - How do Christians avoid getting comfortable and complacent in their relationships with God?
        - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Judges 15:9-13**

- What is so sad and ironic about this section of Scripture and what does this indicate about Samson's leadership thus far?
  - The very people that Samson has been intended to rescue and deliver are the very people who come to take Samson and deliver him into the hands of the Philistines. Samson's leadership thus far hasn't been about acting on behalf of others but acting on behalf of himself.

### **Judges 15:14-20**

- Notice when Samson cried out to God and God's response. What does this indicate about the character and nature of God?
  - Samson cries out to God when he is thirsty and needs something. God provides exactly what he needs. God's provisions, grace, and mercy are not contingent upon whether or not I deserve them because Samson clearly did not. He didn't call out to God until he was desperate, but God didn't hold this against him.

### **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 16)



### JUDGES CHAPTER 15 (STUDENT)

#### **Judges 15:1-8**

- Who is noticeably absent from this very sad part of Samson's story?
  - In what ways are you tempted to forget about God and forget that He should be at the center of your story? What do you do to avoid this?
    - How is Samson's leadership a microcosm (reflection) of how Israel was acting towards God?
    - How do Christians avoid getting comfortable and complacent in their relationships with God?

#### **Judges 15:9-13**

- What is so sad and ironic about this section of Scripture and what does this indicate about Samson's leadership thus far?

#### **Judges 15:14-20**

- Notice when Samson cried out to God and God's response. What does this indicate about the character and nature of God?

#### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

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- 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 16)