



## JUDGES CHAPTER 9 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is one of the best plans that you have ever been a part of and/or led that resulted in a great deal of success?
- What is one of the worst plans that you have ever been a part of and/or led that resulted in a great deal of failure?
- **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 9:1-57)**

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 9:1-21**

- How would you characterize Abimelech's leadership versus his dad's Gideon's (Jerubbaal) leadership? Notice how infrequently God is mentioned in the story of Abimelech versus how frequently God is mentioned in the story of Gideon.
  - Abimelech's leadership is terrible compared with his dad's leadership. While Gideon certainly was not perfect, we do see Gideon's leadership that is characterized by seeking after what God desires and seeking to follow through on what God has commanded. Abimelech's leadership begins with

him being power hungry and on his own agenda and his selfishness continues to spiral out of control throughout the rest of chapter 9.

- Why do you think the leaders of Shechem still made Abimelech king after they knew about him killing his seventy brothers?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  - In what ways are you stubborn when it comes to doing things your own way versus God's way?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What does Jotham's parable illustrate about what the men of Shechem have chosen?
  - Jotham wants the men of Shechem to understand that they have chosen someone to rule over them who is not a quality leader and who also isn't producing anything good or valuable and thus, they will not be led well in any way.

#### **Judges 9:22-41**

- What does verse 26 say about the leaders of Shechem in terms of who and what they are trusting?
  - The leaders of Shechem have put their trust and confidence in the leadership of imperfect men, men who are on their own agendas, and men who are not following God.
    - Why do you think it is easier at times to follow people including ourselves rather than following God?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

#### **Judges 9:42-57**

- Notice where the leaders of the Tower of Shechem seek refuge from Abimelech in verse 46. What is the significance of this?
  - The leaders of the Tower of Shechem hide in the home (stronghold) of the god they have chosen to serve, and they are literally burned alive and

obviously, this god that they have chosen to serve does absolutely nothing for them.

- How can you more intentionally remember what God has to offer you and invite you to over and above anything and anyone else?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice that the leaders of Shechem and Abimelech both endure the same “end result.” What do you think this says about God and His justice and what should this teach us today?

- 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 10)



## JUDGES CHAPTER 9 (STUDENT)

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- What is one of the worst plans that you have ever been a part of and/or led that resulted in a great deal of failure?

### **Judges 9:1-21**

- How would you characterize Abimelech's leadership versus his dad's Gideon's (Jerubbaal) leadership? Notice how infrequently God is mentioned in the story of Abimelech versus how frequently God is mentioned in the story of Gideon.
- Why do you think the leaders of Shechem still made Abimelech king after they knew about him killing his seventy brothers?
  - In what ways are you stubborn when it comes to doing things your own way versus God's way?
- What does Jotham's parable illustrate about what the men of Shechem have chosen?

### **Judges 9:22-41**

- What does verse 26 say about the leaders of Shechem in terms of who and what they are trusting?
  - Why do you think it is easier at times to follow people including ourselves rather than following God?

### **Judges 9:42-57**

- Notice where the leaders of the Tower of Shechem seek refuge from Abimelech in verse 46. What is the significance of this?
  - How can you more intentionally remember what God has to offer you and invite you to over and above anything and anyone else?

- Notice that the leaders of Shechem and Abimelech both endure the same “end result.” What do you think this says about God and His justice and what should this teach us today?