



## JUDGES CHAPTER 11 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What does it mean to be the “black sheep” in a family?
- How are the “black sheep” in families usually treated?
- **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 11:1-40)**

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 11:1-11**

- Describe Jephthah's childhood/upbringing in verses 1-3. Why is this important to understand?
  - Jephthah's childhood/upbringing was one in which he was exposed to being rejected by his own family while also being exposed to violence and idolatry. This is important to understand because Jephthah had decisions to make about how he was going to allow both of these realities to shape who he was for the rest of his. This is also important to understand because

Jephthah had decisions to make about how he was going to allow his past to drive the decisions he made.

- In what ways have you allowed/do you allow your negative things in your past to dictate some of the ways in which you live currently?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  - What can you do to avoid allowing your past to hinder you in the present?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Judges 11:12-27**

- In what ways did Jephthah not necessarily fit the mold of a leader of God? In what ways did God begin to work through Jephthah's broken family situation?
  - Jephthah didn't come from a royal line of leadership and he was rejected by the very people who came back to him and desired him to be their leader. Rather than coming from nobility and having status, he was an outcast whose mother was a prostitute. While God obviously knew about all of this, God didn't raise up and qualify Jephthah based upon anything in his past including how people thought about him. Rather, God raised him up and qualified him because of His power and ability.
  - In what ways is what God did in Jephthah similar to how God works in and through us today?
    - God does not qualify and call us to be on mission both with and for Him because of our own power, skill, might, and great history. The exact opposite is true. God sees us for who we are, but He also sees us for who we can be because of His work within us.

### **Judges 11:28-40**

- What is significant about the timing of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon Jephthah in verse 20 and Jephthah's vow about sacrificing whatever first came out of his home?
  - Jephthah's vow was totally and completely unnecessary. God had already begun to raise Jephthah up as Israel's deliverer and this didn't have anything to do with him being skilled in words, wisdom, or background. It

had everything to do with God and His might and power. Somehow, Jephthah lost sight of that and made a vow that had incredibly terrible consequences.

- In what ways have you acted foolish and immature in falling into the trap that God needs your help in His will being accomplished versus Him desiring to use you as His instrument? How can you avoid falling into that trap?
  - 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 12)



## JUDGES CHAPTER 11 (STUDENT)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What does it mean to be the “black sheep” in a family?
- How are the “black sheep” in families usually treated?

### **Judges 11:1-11**

- Describe Jephthah’s childhood/upbringing in verses 1-3. Why is this important to understand?
  - In what ways have you allowed/do you allow your negative things in your past to dictate some of the ways in which you live currently?
    - What can you do to avoid allowing your past to hinder you in the present?

### **Judges 11:12-27**

- In what ways did Jephthah not necessarily fit the mold of a leader of God? In what ways did God begin to work through Jephthah’s broken family situation?
  - In what ways is what God did in Jephthah similar to how God works in and through us today?

### **Judges 11:28-40**

- What is significant about the timing of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon Jephthah in verse 20 and Jephthah’s vow about sacrificing whatever first came out of his home?
  - In what ways have you acted foolish and immature in falling into the trap that God needs your help in His will being accomplished versus Him desiring to use you as His instrument? How can you avoid falling into that trap?