



## JUDGES CHAPTER 12 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- Do you typically tend to overreact or remain calm when things don't go how you envisioned or expected?
- **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 12:1-15)**

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 12:1-7**

- Why were the men of Ephraim so upset that Jephthah didn't ask for their help when he went to battle against the Ammonites and how do we know that their motives were not pure?
  - The men of Ephraim had a similar reaction to Gideon (Judges 8:1) and their reaction in both cases is rooted in jealousy for not being included. In a time that Israel should have been celebrating because they had again been delivered by their oppressors, Ephraim finds reason to complain because they didn't have a role that they desired in the battle. How they seek to

address Jephthah in desiring to burn his house down also lets us know that their motives are impure.

- How are you and I similar to the men of Ephraim at times regarding our own selfishness, jealousy, and ambition?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is behind Jephthah's response to his own people and what does this say about his leadership?
  - Jephthah's response is absolutely brutal and impulsive. It is interesting to note that in chapter 11, we see God being a big part of Jephthah's actions, but this isn't the case in his response to his Ephraimite brothers. We do not see God being a part of the picture and this is because Jephthah acted on his own. We see his leadership in this situation being rooted in impulsivity rather than on any dependence/waiting on God.
  - How are you and I similar to Jephthah at times regarding being impulsive rather than depending/waiting on God?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
    - In what ways did Jephthah not finish well as a leader and what should this teach us today?
      - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Judges 12:8-15**

- How would you compare the time of the judges in verses 8-15 versus the time with Jephthah as a judge?
  - The time of these "minor" judges seems relatively quiet as compared to the judgeship of Jephthah and this is a big part of the cycle of Judges. God gives his people victory over their oppressors and allows them to rest and in that time of rest, they become extremely complacent seeking again to be on their own agendas.
  - How can we avoid falling into the trap of complacency in our walks with God?

- This is an opinion and perspective question 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 13)



## JUDGES CHAPTER 12 (STUDENT)

### **Discussion Starter**

- Do you typically tend to overreact or remain calm when things don't go how you envisioned or expected?

### **Judges 12:1-7**

- Why were the men of Ephraim so upset that Jephthah didn't ask for their help when he went to battle against the Ammonites and how do we know that their motives were not pure?
  - How are you and I similar to the men of Ephraim at times regarding our own selfishness, jealousy, and ambition?
- What is behind Jephthah's response to his own people and what does this say about his leadership?
  - How are you and I similar to Jephthah at times regarding being impulsive rather than depending/waiting on God?
    - In what ways did Jephthah not finish well as a leader and what should this teach us today?

### **Judges 12:8-15**

- How would you compare the time of the judges in verses 8-15 versus the time with Jephthah as a judge?
  - How can we avoid falling into the trap of complacency in our walks with God?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

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