



## JUDGES CHAPTER 20 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- Are you a person who likes or hates group projects? Why?
- **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 20:1-48)**

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 20:1-11**

- What do you think it means to be desensitized? In what ways are you currently desensitized to the things that happen in this world on a daily basis?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  - What is encouraging about the actions of the Israelites in this text? What is discouraging?

- The Israelites were appalled by what happened and not only did they feel bad about what happened, they were moved to action. The discouraging thing is that it took such a horrific event to move them to action, especially considering their own wickedness throughout the course of the history with the judges.
  - What can you proactively do to ensure that you're seeing people and situations including yourself in the same ways that God does?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Judges 20:12-48**

- What are some things that strike you as sad and tragic about this passage of Scripture?
  - Responses will certainly vary but here are some things to consider.
    - The response of the Benjamites...Rather than admit and acknowledge their own wickedness and responsibility in what happened, they sought to defend their actions against their own brethren.
    - The fact that a civil war took place between God's chosen people...what we see take place in this passage of Scripture is an extremely sad but accurate reflection of how deeply dark and flawed the nation of Israel had become. It was not God's original plan or intention for His people in any way on any level.
- What do we see about the nature of God in this passage?
  - God doesn't force His people to follow Him and when they don't, He doesn't swoop in to rescue them. He allows people to experience the full weight and implications of their decisions.
  - The discipline of God is a real and tangible thing, and that discipline isn't intended to make people miserable or just to punish but to bring about change and transformation in people's hearts, souls, and minds.
- In what ways can you see yourself in this story? Please consider some of the situations below.

- Are you a man or woman of God who is desensitized to the world around you?
- Are you a man or woman of God who is seeking to see people and situations including yourself in the way that God does?
- Are you a man or woman of God who is resistant to God's correction? Will you do everything in your power to not be wrong or make excuses when you are?
- Are you a man or woman of God who is seeking to be on mission with your brothers and sisters in Christ rather than seeking to tear them down?
- Are you a man or woman of God who is willing to repent and change when you know that you have sinned?

### **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 21)



### **JUDGES CHAPTER 20 (STUDENT)**

#### **Discussion Starter**

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- **Opening Prayer**
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### **Tell the Story**

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### **Judges 20:1-11**

- What do you think it means to be desensitized? In what ways are you currently desensitized to the things that happen in this world on a daily basis?
  - What is encouraging about the actions of the Israelites in this text? What is discouraging?
    - What can you proactively do to ensure that you're seeing people and situations including yourself in the same ways that God does?

### **Judges 20:12-48**

- What are some things that strike you as sad and tragic about this passage of Scripture?
  - Responses will certainly vary but here are some things to consider.
- What do we see about the nature of God in this passage?
- In what ways can you see yourself in this story? Please consider some of the situations below.

### **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 21)