

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1
JUDAH LED ISRAEL AGAINST THE CANAANITES
JUDGES 1:1 - 36

1. There are eleven paragraphs in Judges chapter one. There is a brief summary of each paragraph on the following table.

1:1-7	
1:8-10	
1:11-15	
1:16-21	
1:22-26	
1:27, 28	
1:29	
1:30	
1:31, 32	
1:33	
1:34-36	

2. In Judges 1:1-7, the author described the defeat of Adonai bezek by Judah and Simeon.
- a. Verse one suggests the way Israel went about determining their future after the death of Joshua. What did they do? What does this say about them?
 - (1). What was Israel's question?
 - (2). How did God answer that question?
 - b. Verse two describes God's response.
 - (1). What was Jehovah's response?
 - (2). What was the tone of God's response?
 - c. God said, "Behold I have given the land into his hand."
 - (1). What did God really say?
 - (2). Look at the tenses of the statement. What do they tell you?
 - d. Look at Judges 1:3
 - (1). Why would Judah choose Simeon to go and do battle with them in order to claim their mutual inheritance?
 - (2) How would you describe the agreement made between Judah and Simeon?
 - e. Look carefully at 1:4.
 - (1). The author said, "...and the Lord gave the Canaanites and Perizzites into their hands." How do you account for this when the soldiers of Judah and Simeon did the fighting?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). The author does not explain why he indicated the number of soldiers Judah defeated. At the same time, he gave no indication of the number of soldiers Judah had. What suggestion can you make for this situation?
 - f. In 1:5, 6, the author identified the king of the city of Bezek.
 - (1). Look at his name. What does it suggest to you?
 - (2). In verse six, the author described a horrendous event. What would be the purpose of such a terrible deed?
 - g. The king is quoted, in 1:7, as saying that he had cut off the thumbs and great toes of 70 kings.
 - (1). What does this tell you about him?
 - (2). Adonai Bezek said, "So God has repaid me..." What does this tell you about his understanding about God?
 - (3). Adonai Bezek was king over a pagan city. Where would he gain such an understanding of God in such a culture?
3. In Judges 1:8-10, Judah attacked several southern cities
- a. In 1:8, the sons of Judah captured and destroyed the city of Jerusalem.
 - (1). In 1:7, Adonai Bezek was taken to Jerusalem by his Jewish captors. Now, in 1:8, the author tells us that Judah captured and destroyed Jerusalem. How can we explain this?
 - (2). The text says that Judah "set the city on fire". Why would they burn the city rather than using the city as a place of residence?
 - b. In 1:9, the author indicated that Judah was not content to capture Jerusalem, but went on to fight the Canaanites in the hill country, the Negev and the lowlands.
 - (a). Why would they do this?
 - (b). What does this tell us about Judah?
4. In 1:11-15, Caleb dealt with his daughter, Achsah.
- a. In 1:11, Caleb continued his military campaign.
 - (1). Look at a map in an atlas or your Bible to locate the places Caleb attacked in 1:8-11. What information does this provide?
 - (2). How can we explain this action?
 - b. In 1:12, Caleb and his men were fighting at Debir.
 - (1). Why would the author refer to this city as Kiriath sepheer?
 - (2). The fact that Caleb offered his daughter to the man who captured Debir gives us some information. What does this tell us?
 - (3). We are offended, to different degrees, by the offer Caleb made in verse 12. How can we explain this?
 - c. In 1:13, Caleb's younger brother captured the city and received his niece as his wife. What can we say by way of explanation of this situation?
 - d. In 1:14, it is reported that Achsah was riding "her donkey." What might this tell us about her?
 - e. Also in 1:14, we are told that Achsah convinced her husband to ask Caleb for a field. What does this tell us about Achsah?
 - f. In 1:15, Achsah also asked her father to give her springs.
 - (1). Why would she want this?
 - (2). What does her request tell us about her?

Study Questions for Judges

- (3). What was Caleb's response?
 - (4). What does this tell us about Caleb?
5. In Judges 1:16-21, Judah drove out Canaanites: Benjamin did not.
- a. In 1:16, there is a strong contrast.
 - (1). What is the contrast that exists between Judah and the Kenites?
 - (2). How can we explain this situation?
 - b. In 1:17, Judah and Simeon attacked Zephath.
 - (1). There is a contrast between verses 16 and 17.
 - (a). What is the contrast?
 - (b). What is the significance of this contrast?
 - (2). The author wrote that Judah and Simeon utterly destroyed Zephath and changed the name to Hormah.
 - (a). Consult a Bible dictionary or Bible helps to discover the meaning of the name "Hormah".
 - (b). What is the significance of this name change?
 - c. In 1:18, 19, there is a contrast.
 - (1). What is the contrast?
 - (2). How can we explain the fact that "The Lord was with Judah", but they could not drive the Canaanite inhabitants from the valley?
 - d. In 1:20, Caleb finally received the land set apart for him.
 - (1). What did Caleb do?
 - (2). What does this say about him?
 - e. In 1:21, there is a contrast with Caleb's experience in 1:20.
 - (1). The author said, "the sons of Benjamin DID NOT drive out the Jebusites." What does this mean?
 - (2). How would you evaluate the author's statement, "So the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day"?
6. In Judges 1:22-26, the scene shifts back to the sons of Joseph.
- a. In 1:22, there is a comparison with the events of Judah in 1:16-21.
 - (1). In what way are the two stories similar?
 - (2). What message does this comparison convey?
 - b. In 1:23, the author reported that "the house of Joseph spied out Bethel."
 - (1). If God was with them, why was this necessary?
 - (2). The author identified both the former name of the city "Luz," and the new name "Bethel." What is the significance of this report?
 - c. In 1:24, the spies encountered a native of Bethel.
 - (1). What did they ask of the man?
 - (2). If you were he-man, how would you feel?
 - d. In 1:25, the man responded to the spies' question.
 - (1). What did the man tell the spies?
 - (2). What did the spies do?
 - (3). How did the spies treat the man?
 - e. In 1:26, the man of Bethel left the area.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). Where did he go?
 - (2). What did he do?
 - (3). What can we learn from these facts?
7. In Judges 1:27, 28, Manasseh attacked Beth-shean.
- a. In 1:27, Manasseh failed to obey God. What did the tribe do?
 - (1). Why did they do this?
 - (2). What were the consequences?
 - b. In 1:28, the author adds additional information.
 - (1). What new information did he provide?
 - (2). How does this affect our understanding of Israel's situation?
 - (3). How would this affect Israel's relationship with God?
8. In 1:29, Ephraim took over the city of Gezer.
- a. In view of God's command, how do you account for this situation?
 - b. Why didn't Ephraim expel the people of Gezer?
9. In 1:30, Zebulun didn't drive out the Canaanites.
- a. Why didn't Zebulun drive out the Canaanites?
 - b. What did Zebulun do to the inhabitants.
 - c. What new information does this suggest?
10. In 1:31, 32, Asher conquered seven cities.
- a. What did the men of Asher do?
 - b. What difference did this make?
11. In 1:33, Naphtali attacked the northern city of Beth-shemesh.
- a. What were the results of this campaign?
 - b. Why did Naphtali act as he did?
 - c. What inevitable consequences did the people of Naphtali face?
12. In 1:34-36, Dan had a strange experience with the Amorites.
- a. When God was with His people, how can we explain the situation in 1:34?
 - b. 1:35, adds information to our understanding.
 - (1). What did it add?
 - (2). The author said, "But when the power of the house of Joseph grew strong..." What is the implication of this statement?
 - (3). If you were a member of the tribe of Dan and this verse was said of you, what would you be thinking?
 - c. In 1:36, is the closing verse of this chapter, how does the verse bring the chapter to a close?
13. Now review your study of chapter one. How would you express the message of this chapter in one sentence?
14. Review the chapter and record the things the author has told us about God.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 2
GOD RESPONDED TO ISRAEL'S REBELLION
JUDGES 2:1 - 23

1. There are four paragraphs in the second chapter of Judges. On the table which follows, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

2:1-5	
2:6-10	
2:11-15	
2:16-23	

2. In 2:1-5, the angel of the Lord spoke to Israel.
- a. In Judges 2:1, the angel of the Lord said three things to the people:
 - (1). What three things did the angel say?
 - (2). What is the basic message of these three things?
 - (3). Why was it necessary?
 - b. In 2:2, the angel had two instructions for the people.
 - (1). What are the instructions?
 - (2). Why are they important?
 - (3). The instructions are followed by the word "but." What hint does this give us?
 - (4). How did the angel evaluate the conduct of the people?
 - (5). Read the verse again. There is a hint concerning the emotional condition of the angel as the message was given. What is it?
 - c. Judges 2:3 begins with the word "therefore."
 - (1). What does this suggest?
 - (2). In your own words, describe the punishment these people were to receive.
 - (3). In this verse, God said, "I will not drive them out before you." What does this tell us?
 - d. In 2:4, the people responded to the angel's announcement.
 - (1). What was their response?
 - (2). In view of their previous actions, why would they respond in this way?
 - e. Judges 2:5 is additional information.
 - (1). In a Bible Dictionary or Exhaustive Concordance, look up the name "Bochim."
 - (a). What does it mean?
 - (b). Why would they give this name to that place?
 - (2). In the last part of this verse they "sacrificed to the Lord."
 - (a). In view of the rest of the paragraph, what kind of sacrifice would this be?
 - (b). Why would they do that?
3. In Judges 2:6-10, the author described the death of Joshua.

Study Questions for Judges

- a. In 2:6, we seem to encounter a problem.
 - (1). Reread 1:1 and then reread 2:6.
 - (a). What problem do you encounter?
 - (b). How can we understand this?
 - (2). Now read Joshua 24:29.
 - (a). At what point did this really happen?
 - (b). How can we explain this situation?
 - b. In 2:7, there is a summary statement.
 - (1). What conclusions can we draw from this statement?
 - (2). What is the significance of the fact that the "people served the Lord..." and that this lasted as long as Joshua and the elders "who survived Joshua who had seen all the great works which he had done for Israel"?
 - c. In 2:8, the author recorded Joshua's death. What does it add to the story when the author indicated that Joshua died at age 110?
 - (1). In a Bible Dictionary or Encyclopedia, look up the name "Joshua." Record your findings.
 - (2). What does this add to our understanding of the impact of his life?
 - (3). The author described Joshua as "the servant of the Lord." In simple terms, what does this mean?
 - d. In 2:9, the author described the burial of Joshua.
 - (1). From this verse, what has the author told us about the character of Joshua?
 - (2). In view of the fact that we have three accounts of the death of Joshua, what does this verse suggest concerning the death of Joshua:
 - (a). Was it in the land or before they came into Canaan?
 - (b). Was it before or after the first crossing of the Jordan?
 - e. In 2:10, the author described a serious problem.
 - (1). What is the problem?
 - (2). On the basis of this verse, what is the cause of the problem?
4. In 2:11-15, there is a cause and effect relationship between God and Israel.
- a. In 2:11-13, the author made eight statements about Israel.
 - (1). What are the eight statements?
 - (2). The author said, "the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord". How is this statement changed by the addition of the words "in the sight of the Lord"?
 - (3). The author took special care to describe "the Lord" in these terms:
 - (a). The God of their fathers
 - (b). Who had brought them out of the land of Egypt.
 - (c). What do these statements add to the meaning of these three verses?
 - (4). In verse 11, the author accused Israel by saying, "and served the Baals." In 2:13, however, the author said, "they forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashteroth." What is the significance of this?
 - b. In 2:14, 15, the author described God's response to Israel's worship of idols.
 - (1). What were God's responses?
 - (2). What was the effect upon Israel caused by God's response?

Study Questions for Judges

- (3). What does this sobering statement tell us about God?
5. In 2:16-23, the author gave a brief summary of Israel’s experiences with the judges.
- a. Read 2:11-15 again, and then read; 2:16.
 - (1). What is your reaction?
 - (2). Something in the content of 2:16 is shocking. What is it?
 - (3). How can you explain this shocking turn of events.
 - (4). What did the Judges do?
 - (5). Why would God give them over to the plunderer and then send a judge to deliver them?
 - b. In 2:17, there is a different kind of shock.
 - (1). What is this shock?
 - (2). How can we explain the shock?
 - (3). What illustration did the author use to describe Israel’s actions?
 - (4). What is the significance of this?
 - (5). The author said of Israel, “they turned aside quickly.” What is added to the meaning of the statement by the use of the word “quickly”?
 - (6). The author also added “they did not do as their fathers.” What is the implication of this statement?
 - c. In 2:18, there is a severe contrast with verse 17.
 - (1). On the following table, record the information verses 17 and 18 which create this serious contrast.

Verse 17	Verse 18

- (2). What is the message of this contrast?
- d. In 2:19, the author continued the contrast.
 - (1). What indictment does the author make in this verse?
 - (2). Why does the author say, “When the judge died”?
 - (3). What picture has the author painted of the people of Israel?
- e. In 2:20, 21, the author quoted the Lord’s indictment of Israel.
 - (1). How would you describe the author’s picture of God when he said, “The anger of the Lord burned against Israel”?
 - (2). What is the implication when God said, “I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died.”
 - (3). What was the basis of God’s announced punishment of Israel?
- f. 2:22 is a continuation of God’s announced judgment of Israel.
 - (1). What is a “test”?
 - (2). What is the difference between “testing” and “tempting”?
- g. In 2:23, there is an interesting statement about the pagan nations.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). In the text, the author said, “so the Lord allowed these nations to remain.” Why would God do this when His clear desire for Israel was that the nations be driven out?
 - (2). The author also said, “not driving them out quickly.” What is added to the idea of the text by the inclusion of the word “quickly”?
 - (3). There seems to be a problem with this verse. In 1:1 and 2:8, the author reported the death of Joshua. Now, in 2:23, it seems that he speaks of Joshua as still being alive. How can we account for this apparent confusion?
6. Review your study of this chapter. What do you discover in the author’s message concerning the nature of God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 3
EHUD KILLED EGLON, THE MOABITE KING
JUDGES 3:1 - 31

1. There are eight paragraphs in the third chapter of Judges. A brief summary of each paragraph appears on the following table.

3:1-6	
3:7-11	
3:12-14	
3:15-23	
3:24, 25	
3:26-30	
3:31	

2. In 3:1-6, the author identified the nations God left in the land of Canaan.
- a. In 3:1-3, the author identified two reasons God left the nations in Canaan.
 - (1). What are these reasons?
 - (2). In view of the fact that this was Israel's judgment, what does this tell you about God?
 - (3). Study the names of the mountains in this verse. What did you discover?
 - b. In 3:4, the author gave another reason for the nations to be left in the land.
 - (1). What reason did he give?
 - (2). What does the author mean when he wrote "for testing Israel"?
 - (3). How can we explain what the author meant when he wrote, "to find out if they would obey the commandments of the Lord"?
 - c. In 3:5, 6, in view of what God had just done for Israel, what do these verses tell us about Israel? Study the list of the people among whom Israel lived and intermarried. What information did you discover?
3. In 3:7-11, the Mesopotamians conquered Israel.
- a. There is a cause and effect relationship between 3:5,6, and 3:7.
 - (1). What is the cause?
 - (2). What is the effect?
 - (3). Study the three descriptions the author gave of Israel's rebellion. What did you discover?
 - b. In 3:8, the author gave God's reaction to Israel's sin.
 - (1). What did he say?
 - (2). What did the author mean when he said, "He (God) sold them into the hands of..."?
 - c. In 3:9, you can see an interesting response on the part of Israel.
 - (1). What was that response?
 - (2). If this situation was God's punishment, why did God send a judge to deliver them?
 - (3). Look at the identity of the judge. What did you learn?

Study Questions for Judges

- d. In 3:10, the author said, "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he judged Israel..."
 - (1). What does this mean?
 - (2). The author also indicated that "the Lord gave ...the king of Mesopotamia into his hands." How can we explain what this means?
- e. In 3:11, the author identified the results of this victory.
 - (1). Reread 3:8 and then reread 3:11. What did you learn?
 - (2). Reread 3:11 again. What is the relationship of the first part of this sentence with the second part?
- 4. In 3:12-14, the author described Israel's next attempt to do evil.
 - a. In 3:12, 13, the author described how God dealt with His people when they disobeyed.
 - (1). Why does the author repeatedly use the name "LORD"?
 - (2). Why did God strengthen Eglon against Israel?
 - (3). What reason does the author give for the actions of God?
 - (4). What does this tell you about the character of God?
 - b. Who is the "He" that "gathered to himself the sons of Ammon and Amalek"?
 - (1). Who was it who defeated Israel?
 - (2). How can you explain that God used pagan people to accomplish His will?
 - c. In 3:14, the punishment of God is described. What does it tell you?
- 5. In 3:15-23. Ehud killed Eglon.
 - a. In 3:15, there is a cause and effect relationship in the first sentence of this verse.
 - (1). What was the cause?
 - (2). What was the effect?
 - (3). What does this tell you about God?
 - (4). The author mentioned that Ehud was a Benjamite and that he was left handed. Why would this be important information?
 - b. In 3:16, the author described the preparation Ehud made for his task.
 - (1). What, if anything, does this have to do with the presentation of tribute money?
 - (2). What is the significance of the fact that the sword was fastened to his right thigh?
 - c. Recreate, in your mind the scene that is presented in 3:17, 18.
 - (1). What observations came to mind?
 - (2). What feelings did you sense?
 - d. There is a surprise element in 3:19.
 - (1). The text says that Ehud, "turned back from the idols which were at Gilgal." What could this mean?
 - (2). When Ehud told Eglon that he had a secret message, the king said, "keep silence." What possible reasons would the king have had to say this?
 - e. In 3:20, the author described the scene of the attack.
 - (1). What does this verse tell you about the area in which Eglon lived?
 - (2). When Ehud told Eglon he had a message from God for him, "he arose from his seat." Who is "he" that is referred to here?
 - (3). What does this verse tell us about Ehud's view of his task here in Gilgal?
 - (4). What does all this tell us about God?

Study Questions for Judges

- f. In 3:21, 22, the author described Ehud's attack on Eglon.
- (1). Read verse 21 again. What reason can you suggest why Eglon was not suspicious when Ehud reached under his garment to get the sword?
 - (2). Verse 22 describes the gory details of the attack. It says that "the refuse came out." What does this tell you about Ehud's thrust with the sword?
- g. In 3:23, the author told us what Ehud did after killing the king.
- (1). What is the significance of his closing the doors and locking them?
 - (2). The author mentioned the "roof chamber" again. What is the significance of this reminder?
6. In Judges 3:24, 25, the servants discovered the body of Eglon.
- a. In these verses, the author described the servant's dilemma. What was it?
 - b. Put yourself into the place of the servants. How would you describe your feelings on this occasion?
 - c. Now, put yourself into the place of the author. Why would you feel compelled to tell this part of the story?
7. In 3:26-30, Ehud became the leader of Israel.
- a. In 3:26, the author told us that Ehud "passed by the idols and escaped."
 - (1). To what idols does he refer?
 - (2). What does he mean when he wrote, "He (Ehud) passed by the idols"?
 - (3). What does this tell us about Ehud's escape plan?
 - (4). In this verse, the author also told us that "Ehud escaped to Seirah." What does this tell us? - b. In 3:27, the author described Ehud's reconciliation with his people.
 - (1). It tells us "he blew the trumpet in the hill country."
 - (a). What kind of instrument was this?
 - (b). What does this information mean? - (2). In this verse, what did the author mean when he told us, "The sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country and he was in front of them."
 - (a). What has the author told us?
 - (b). What does it mean?
 - (c). Why was this vital information for us to know?
 - (d). From which tribe did Ehud come?
 - (e). What does this add to our understanding? - c. In 3:28, Ehud gave his men a command. Read it carefully.
 - (1). What reason did Ehud give his men for the command that he gave?
 - (2). What did he mean by this statement?
 - (2). What does this tell you about the man?
 - (3). In this verse, the author also told us that they "seized the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab and did not allow anyone to cross." What is the significance of this information?
 - (4). What does this tell you about the men of Ephraim? - d. Read 3:29 very carefully.
 - (1). In 3:28, the author informed us that Ehud's men took the ford of the Jordan. In 3:29 he told us that the men of Ehud struck down about 10,000 robust Moabites. What do these two verses have to do with each other?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What does it add to our information when the author told us that "no one escaped"?
- e. In 3:30, the author gave us some surprising information.
 - (1). It would be shocking for the author to say, "Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel." What would be so shocking about this?
 - (2). The author indicated that the "land was undisturbed for eighty years." How does this compare with the length of time that they had been troubled?
 - (3). What does this information tell us about God?
- f. In 3:31, the author shifts the focus to the next Judge.
 - (1). In an exhaustive concordance, look to see where else Shamgar is mentioned.
 - (a). What is said about him?
 - (b). What does the author tell us about Shamgar in that instance?
 - (2). The author told us that Shamgar "struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad."
 - (a). What is an "oxgoad"?
 - (b). Why was this information so important as to include it here?
 - (c). Just how unusual was this for the people of Israel?
 - (3). The author adds, almost as an afterthought, "and he also saved Israel."
 - (a). What did he mean by this statement?
 - (b). How does this information relate to the previous statement?
- 8. Review this chapter. What have you discovered about God as you studied?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4
DEBORAH JUDGED ISRAEL
JUDGES 4:1 - 24

1. There are six paragraphs in the fourth chapter of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

4:1-3	
4:4-10	
4:11	
4:12-16	
4:17-22	
4:23, 24	

2. In Judges 4:1-3, we observe the death of Ehud and the rise of Jabin, king of the Canaanites.
- a. In 4:1, the author tells an all-too-familiar story.
 - (1). What is the story?
 - (2). How do you account for this fact?
 - (3). What does this tell us about sin?
 - (4). What does this tell us about God?
 - b. Read 4:2 very carefully.
 - (1). What is the relationship between 4:1 and 4:2?
 - (2). Who is performing the action in this verse?
 - (3). What does this say about God?
 - c. In 4:3, the author described Israel's response to God's action.
 - (1). What does this tell you about Israel?
 - (2). Why was it important for the author to tell us that Jabin had 900 iron chariots in his army?
 - (3). What did the author add to our understanding by stating that Jabin oppressed Israel severely for 20 years?
3. In Judges 4:4-10, Deborah became the Judge in Israel.
- a. In 4:4, the author stated that Deborah, a married woman, was Judge in Israel.
 - (1). What kind of problems would this create for her?
 - (2). What kind of problems would this create for Israel?
 - b. In 4:5, the author spoke of "the palm tree of Deborah."
 - (1). Why would this be unusual?
 - (2). What does this tell us?
 - c. In 4:6, 7, Deborah took active control over all Israel.
 - (1). What did she do?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). How did she demonstrate her authority?
- (3). Along with her instruction, Deborah's prophecy added some vital information.
 - (a). What is that information?
 - (b). What does it tell us?
- (4). Look at the size of the army God commanded through Deborah. What complications could this create?
- d. In 4:8, Barak answered Deborah's command.
 - (1). What did he say? Why?
 - (2). What does this say about him?
- e. In 4:9, Deborah answered Barak's response.
 - (1). What was her answer?
 - (2). How would you describe her words which prophesied that God would sell Sisera into the hands of a woman?
 - (3). If you were Barak, how would you feel when she said this?
- f. In 4:10, the author described Barak's carrying out of his commission.
 - (1). What is there in this that seems strange?
 - (2). If you were Deborah in this verse, how would you feel?
4. In 4:11, a problem seems to have developed.
 - a. What is the problem?
 - b. How did they solve the problem?
5. In 4:12-16, the author reported the battle between Barak and Sisera.
 - a. In 4:12, 13, Sisera responded to the news that Barak moved his army from Kedesh to Mt. Tabor.
 - (1). How did Sisera respond?
 - (2). From the way these verses are written, what appears to be Sisera's attitude to this move by Barak?
 - b. In 4:14, Deborah spoke to Barak.
 - (1). What is her role as she accompanied Barak to the place of battle?
 - (2). What was the basis of Deborah's message to Barak?
 - (3). What does this tell us about God?
 - (4). Look at Barak's response. What does this tell us about him?
 - c. In 4:15, the author gives a specific description of the outcome of the battle.
 - (1). What did he say?
 - (2). How do you explain the fact that the author said that "the Lord routed Sisera, with the edge of the sword"?
 - d. Read 4:16 again.
 - (1). Notice the way the author reported the killing of the entire army. Why would the author do this?
 - (2). Why would Barak pursue the army rather than Sisera himself?
5. In 4:17-22, the author described the death of Sisera.
 - a. In 4:17, the author described the flight of Sisera.
 - (1). On a map look to see how far it is from Mt. Tabor to the Tent of Heber, which is located near Kedesh.
 - (a). Approximately how far is it?

Study Questions for Judges

- (b). What additional information does this give us?
 - (2). What problem can you foresee when Sisera fled to the tent of Jael?
 - b. In 4:18, Jael invited Sisera into her tent.
 - (1). If you were Sisera, how would you understand this invitation by Jael?
 - (2). There is a problem in this verse.
 - (a). What is the problem?
 - (b). How would you explain the problem?
 - c. In 4:19, there is a picture of near eastern hospitality.
 - (1). Sisera asked for water, but Jael gave him milk. Why would she do this?
 - (2). If you were Sisera, how would you interpret Jael's actions in this verse?
 - d. In 4:20, Sisera made a request of Jael.
 - (1). What is the request?
 - (2). If you were Jael, how would you respond to such a request?
 - (3). What moral implications are involved in his request?
 - e. In 4:21, the author reported the death of Sisera.
 - (1). How do you feel when you read this?
 - (2). Put yourself in Jael's position. What would it take for you to do this?
 - (3). What does this tell us about Jael?
 - f. In 4:22, the author described Barak's approach to Jael's tent.
 - (1). Read the verse carefully. What does it tell us about Jael?
 - (2). Put yourself in Barak's position. What would run through your mind as you viewed the body of Sisera?
6. In 4:23, 24, the author summarized the defeat of Jabin.
- a. In 4:23, the author said that God subdued Jabin.
 - (1). In chapter four, Barak killed the army and Jael killed Sisera. How do you explain this seeming contradiction?
 - (2). What does this tell us about God.
 - b. In 4:24, the author emphasized again how thoroughly Israel defeated Jabin.
 - (1). What does verse 24 add to verse 23?
 - (2). How does this verse fit with God's command to Israel as they entered the land of Canaan?
7. Reflect upon this chapter again. What does it tell us about the nature of God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 5

DEBORAH'S SONG

JUDGES 5:1 - 31

1. There are six paragraphs in the fifth chapter of Judges. On the table which follows, record a summary of seven words or less for each of the paragraphs.

5:1-5	
5:6-11	
5:12-18	
5:19-23	
5:24-27	
5:28-31	

2. In Judges 5:1-5, Deborah and Barak sang praise to God because of His power.
- In 5:1, 2, they begin their song of praise. For what do they give God praise?
 - In 5:3, they appear to be calling kings and rulers to notice their praise to God. The text does not explain this invitation. What appears to you to be the reason for their invitation to kings and rulers?
 - In 5:4,5, Deborah and Barak made reference to several places outside Palestine in their song of praise.
 - For what was each place noted in Israel's history?
 - Why would they sing about these places?
3. In 5:6-11, Deborah and Barak sing about the failure of Israel.
- In 5:6, they sang about a particular time in Israel's history.
 - Reread 3:31 and compare it with 5:6. What did you learn?
 - Why was it important for Deborah and Barak to include this information in their song?
 - Read 5:7 carefully.
 - It sounds as if Deborah was blowing her own horn. Is that true?
 - What claims are made in this verse?
 - What did they mean when they called Deborah a "mother in Israel"?
 - In 5:8, 9, there is a cause and effect relationship.
 - What cause do they identify?
 - What effect do they claim is the result?
 - There is some new information in these verses. What is it? Why would this be true?
 - There is a note of sadness in their song in these verses. Why is that?
 - In 5:10, they sang about three groups of people.
 - Who are these people?
 - Why would they instruct these people to sing?
 - In 5:11, they sang about a different group.
 - Who are they?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What do they call upon this group to do? Why?
- (3). They sang that “the people went down to the gates. What does this mean?
4. In 5:12-18, the song turns to the battle in the North.
 - a. In 5:12, read carefully to see who is doing the singing.
 - (1). What instructions are being given?
 - (2). Read this instruction very carefully. What did you learn?
 - b. In 5:13, the song talks about survivors.
 - (1). About whom were they singing?
 - (2). What is the importance of this report?
 - c. On a map, look up the location of the places mentioned in 5:14, 15.
 - (1). Where are these places located?
 - (2). What information does this provide for our understanding?
 - d. In 5:16, Deborah turned her attention again to Reuben.
 - (1). Reread 4:14 and then read 5:16 again. What do you gather from this situation?
 - (2). In this verse you find the words, "among the divisions of Reuben there was great searching's of heart." What does this mean?
 - e. In 5:17, 18, there is a strong contrast.
 - (1). What is the contrast?
 - (2). What were Deborah and Barak trying to say in this contrast?
 - (3). Why was it necessary to include this message in the song?
5. In 5:19-23, the song includes information about the affect of nature on the battle.
 - a. In 5:19, they sang about the Canaanite kings.
 - (1). How does this fit into the story in view of 5:12-18?
 - (2). Why was it important to sing about the Canaanite kings who took no silver in plunder?
 - b. In 5:20, 21, they sang about the involvement of nature in the battle.
 - (1). What does it mean, "the stars fought from heaven...against Sisera"?
 - (2). It also mentions "the torrents of Kishon".
 - (a). What are these torrents?
 - (b). What, if anything, does chapter four say about these torrents?
 - c. In 5:22, the song takes a different turn. What does this mean? What does this have to do with the previous two verses?
 - d. In 5:23, the song takes another turn.
 - (1). What did the song pronounce against the people of Meroz?
 - (2). Why?
6. In 5:24-27, the song takes still another turn as they described the death of Sisera.
 - a. Look carefully at 5:24. There is a surprising emphasis in the verse. What is it? Why is this important?
 - b. In 5:25, the song described the encounter between Sisera and Jael.
 - (1). It says he asked for water and she gave him milk. Why would that be important?
 - (2). It also says that she brought him curds of cheese in a magnificent bowl. What does this tell us?

Study Questions for Judges

- c. In 5:26 the song described, in grim detail, how Jael killed Sisera.
 - (1). Read this verse several times. Put yourself in Jael's position. What do you feel as you re-enact this scenario?
 - (2). What does this tell us about Jael?
 - (3). What, if anything, can you see in this verse that is difficult to understand?
 - d. In 5:27 the song gives a detailed picture of the death of Sisera.
 - (1). Read the verse carefully and put yourself in Sisera's place. How would you describe what happened?
 - (2). Why was it important to give each traumatic detail?
 - (3). Compare 4:17-22 with 5:24-27. What do you learn from this comparison?
7. Again in 5:28-31 the song takes a very different turn. The song deals with Sisera's mother.
- a. In 5:28, they sang about how Sisera's mother would feel at this point.
 - (1). Put yourself in the place of Deborah. What kind of emotions would you feel in singing these words?
 - (2). Deborah imagined how Sisera's mother would feel. What feelings did Deborah describe?
 - (3). Read the verse again. What does the verse tell us about the conditions in which Sisera's mother lived?
 - b. In 5:29, 30, the song described the dividing of the spoil from the perspective of Sisera's mother.
 - (1). What is the underlying assumption that Sisera's mother is portrayed as making?
 - (2). What feeling is hinted at concerning Sisera's mother?
 - (3). Why would Deborah indulge in this kind of fantasy?
 - c. In 5:31, they conclude the song.
 - (1). There is a contrast in this verse.
 - (a). What is the contrast?
 - (b). Why would they sing this as the closing of the song of praise?
 - (2). Read the last sentence in this verse.
 - (a). What does this tell us?
 - (b). Compare this last sentence with 4:1-4.
 - [1]. What did you learn from this comparison?
 - [2]. Why would they include this at this point?
8. Review the chapter again. What does it tell you about God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 6

GIDEON JUDGED ISRAEL

JUDGES 6:1 – 40

1. There are eight paragraphs in the sixth chapter of Judges. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

6:1-6	
6:7-10	
6:11-18	
6:19-24	
6:25-27	
6:28-32	
6:33-35	
6:34-40	

2. In Judges 6:1-6, the author described Israel's sin which led to their defeat by Midian.
- Compare the author's statement in 6:1 with his statement in 4:1, 2. What did you learn from this comparison?
 - Read 6:2 very carefully.
 - What does this verse tell you about the plight of the people of Israel?
 - What does it tell you when God delivered Israel into the hands of the idolatrous Midianites?
 - Read 6:3, 4.
 - Why would the Midianites deal with Israel in this way?
 - How would you describe the logic of the Midianites devastating Israel in this way?
 - As you read 6:5, how would you explain the reason the Midianites would deal with Israel in this way?
 - In 6:6, the author summarized Israel's condition. In simple terms, what did the author say about this situation?
3. In Judges 6:7-10, the author dealt with Israel's repentance.
- If you were one of the people of Israel, how would you feel if you cried to the Lord for help and He sent you a prophet?
 - Look at the things the prophet said about how God had dealt with the people of Israel in the past. What does this tell you? Why would the prophet give such a message?
 - Read the paragraph again. What does the author say about God in this paragraph?
4. In Judges 6:11-18, the author described the visit of the angel of the LORD with Gideon.
- In 6:11, it says Gideon "was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites."
 - What does this tell us about conditions in Israel at this time?
 - What does this tell us about Gideon?

Study Questions for Judges

- b. In 6:12, the angel of the LORD spoke to Gideon.
 - (1). What did the angel say?
 - (2). If you were Gideon and the angel said to you, “The LORD is with you,” how would you feel?
 - (3). Again, if you were Gideon and the angel called you “valiant warrior,” how would you feel?
- c. In 6:13, Gideon responded to the angel’s words.
 - (1). Read this verse several times. How would you describe Gideon’s emotional state at this point?
 - (2). Gideon asked two questions in this verse.
 - (a). What are the questions?
 - (b). What was Gideon really asking in these questions?
 - (3). How did Gideon evaluate God’s dealings with them concerning the Midianites?
 - (4). What was Gideon saying about God?
 - (5). Was this evaluation appropriate?
- d. In 6:14 records the response to Gideon’s evaluation.
 - (1). Identify the speaker in this verse.
 - (a). Compare the speaker in 6:14 with the speaker in 6:12.
 - (b). How would you account for this change?
 - (2). How did “the LORD” deal with Gideon’s evaluation?
 - (3). What is the significance of the words of “the LORD” “Have I not sent you?”
- e. In 6:15, Gideon responded to the LORD.
 - (1). Read this verse carefully. How would you describe Gideon’s feelings?
 - (2). What difference does it make that Gideon’s family was “least in Manasseh”?
 - (3). Why was it important that Gideon was the youngest of his father’s house?
- f. In 6:16, the LORD responded to Gideon.
 - (1). In this verse, the LORD made two promises. What are they?
 - (2). Think carefully about the LORD’S statement.
 - (a). What pieces of information does this statement convey?
 - (b). What picture is conveyed when the LORD said “as one man”?
 - (3). If you were Gideon, how would this make you feel?
- g. In 6:17, Gideon, again, responded to the LORD.
 - (1). This is an “IF...THEN” (conditional) statement.
 - (a). What is the “IF” part?
 - (b). What is the “THEN” part?
 - (c). Identify the areas of Gideon’s disbelief.
 - (2). In view of this verse, read Hebrews 11:32.
 - (a). What does this verse say about Gideon?
 - (b). How can we understand this evaluation in lieu of the conversation in Judges 6:17?
- h. There seems to be a shift in Gideon’s thinking in 6:18.
 - (1). Identify the change?
 - (2). How can we explain this offering when their food supply was so short; when life was so threatening because of the Midianites?

Study Questions for Judges

5. In Judges 6:19-24, Gideon entertained the angel of the LORD.
 - a. In 6:19, the author described Gideon's presentation of the sacrifice.
 - (1). What does this sacrifice tell you about Gideon?
 - (2). What would this sacrifice mean to Gideon?
 - b. In 6:20, the angel of the LORD gave Gideon some strange instructions.
 - (1). What were the instructions?
 - (2). Can you see any reason why the angel of the LORD would give such instructions
 - (3). If you were in Gideon's position, what would you have done?
 - (4). How would you have felt?
 - c. In 6:21, the angel of the LORD consummated the sacrifice
 - (1). What was accomplished by this sacrifice?
 - (2). If you were in Gideon's position, what would you have thought?
 - d. In 6:22, the angel of the LORD vanished.
 - (1). What was Gideon's reaction?
 - (2). Why would he react that way?
 - e. In 6:23, there is a response to Gideon.
 - (1). How do you account for the fact that in 6:22 the angel of the LORD vanished, but in 6:23 it was the LORD Himself who responded?
 - (2). There are three parts to this response. What is the essential message the LORD gave Gideon?
 - f. In 6:24, Gideon responded to the message of 6:23.
 - (1). What was his response?
 - (2). Look at the name Gideon gave the altar. What does this suggest to you?
6. In 6:25-27, God commanded Gideon to destroy his father's altar to Baal and Asherah.
 - a. Read 6:14 and then 6:25.
 - (1). God commanded Gideon to destroy the Midianites. In 6:25, when it was time to start, God commanded him to destroy his father's altars. What does tearing down the altar to Baal have to do with delivering Israel from the Midianites?
 - (2). Read the verse again. What pieces of information do you find there?
 - (3). In 6:25, God commanded Gideon to tear down his father's altar to Baal and Asherah. What is the significance of the fact that he was to do this at night?
 - b. In 6:26, God commanded Gideon to build an altar to God.
 - (1). Where was this altar to be built?
 - (2). What was the significance of using the Asherah statue as fuel for the sacrifice to Jehovah?
 - (3). Why would God insist that this sacrifice be a bull?
 - c. In 6:27, the author identified Gideon's real feelings about destroying his father's altar to Baal.
 - (1). What feelings did Gideon have?
 - (2). What does this tell you about Gideon?
 - (3). What does this tell you about God?
 - (4). Read verse 27 again. What new pieces of information do you find here?
 - (5). Think carefully again about this verse.

Study Questions for Judges

- (a). What dangers would Gideon face from the family? From the community?
- (b). If Gideon took ten servants to help with this task, what does this say about the size of the task?
About the ability to maintain secrecy about who did it?
7. In Judges 6:28-32, the author described the reaction of the people to Gideon's actions.
- a. In 6:28, the author described the scene which greeted the people the next morning.
- (1). Compare verse 28 with what God previously told Gideon to do. What did you discover?
- (2). What is suggested by the fact that they discovered this in the morning?
- b. In 6:29, the people assessed blame for this tragic action.
- (1). How would they know this?
- (2). Read the verse again in an attempt to discover the emotional tone the author sought to convey.
- (a). What is the emotional tone?
- (b). How do you know this?
- c. In 6:30, the men of the community took action.
- (1). Read the verse again to gather any pieces of cultural information you can find. What did you find?
- (2). The announcement of punishment tells us something of how serious this crime was in that community.
- (a). How serious was it?
- (b). Why was it so serious?
- (3). What does this verse tell us about their legal system?
- (4). What does this verse tell us about their collection of evidence?
- d. In 6:31, there appears to be some confusing information.
- (1). We know that Joash had an idol to Baal and Asherah on his property, but here he made what appears to be disparaging remarks about Baal. How can we explain this seeming contradiction?>
- (2). On what grounds can Joash put someone to death for defending Baal?
- (3). Notice that Joash said, "if he is a god..." What is the significance of this carefully worded statement?
- (4). Notice that Joash said, "because SOMEONE has torn down his altar..." What is the significance of his wording?
- (5). What was Joash trying to say by the way he worded this statement?
- e. In 6:32, Joash changed Gideon's name.
- (1). In a Bible dictionary, look up the meaning of Gideon's new name – Jerubbaal.
- (a). What does the name mean?
- (b). Why would Joash give him that name?
- (c). What does this say about Joash?
- (2). What does this verse tell us about the real feelings of Joash concerning the power of Baal?
- (3). What could account for this apparent change in the thinking of Joash?
8. In Judges 6:33-35, Gideon collected men to form the army with which he was to defeat the Midianites.
- a. In 6:33, the Midianites, Amalekites and "sons of the east" met and camped in the valley of Jezreel.
- (1). Why did the three groups have to go when Israel was already a subdued nation?
- (2). Why would they go up to Jezreel instead of the place where Gideon lived?
- b. In 6:34, Gideon made his first aggressive act as a commander.
- (1). What was the action?

Study Questions for Judges

- (b). What did it mean?
- (3). Who were the Abiezrites who came to follow him? Could some of them be the same ones who opposed his destruction of the Baal and Asherah?
- c. In 6:35, Gideon sent messengers to enlist men from different tribes to join him in the fight.
 - (1). On a map of Palestine, find the location of Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, as well as Manasseh, where Gideon lived.
 - (2). As you study this map, what did you learn?
 - (3). Why would Gideon choose these places?
- 9. In Judges 6:34-40, the author told the story of the fleece.
 - a. In 6:36, 37, Gideon approached God with a conditional (IF...THEN) request.
 - (1). What condition was bothering Gideon?
 - (2). What request did Gideon make?
 - (3). What promise did Gideon make?
 - (4). What does this tell us about Gideon's frame of mind?
 - (5). How could this request for a miracle convince Gideon when God's word had not convinced him?
 - b. In 6:38, God responded to Gideon's request.
 - (1). What did God do?
 - (2). What does this tell us about God?
 - (3). The text says that Gideon rose early in the morning and squeezed the fleece. What does this tell us about Gideon?
 - c. In 6:39, Gideon responded to God's miracle.
 - (1). How did Gideon respond?
 - (2). Did Gideon keep his promise?
 - (3). Why would Gideon fail to believe when his own criteria were met?
 - (4). Why would Gideon begin his response with, "Do not let thine anger burn against me...?"
 - d. In 6:40, God responded to Gideon's inappropriate request.
 - (1). How did God respond?
 - (2). What does this say about God?
- 10. Review your study of Judges chapter six.
 - a. What did you discover About God?
 - b. What did you discover about Gideon?
 - c. How does all of this apply to your life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 7
GIDEON DEFEATED MIDIAN
JUDGES 7:1 - 25

1. There are seven paragraphs in the seventh chapter of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

7:1	
7:2, 3	
7:4-8	
7:9-14	
7:15-18	
7:19-23	
7:24, 25	

2. In Judges 7:1, Gideon moved his army to Harod.
- In a Bible atlas trace their move from Manasseh to Harod. What do you observe about this move?
 - Reread 7:1 to observe the battle strategy of this move. What two strategic ingredients did Gideon provide for his troops by this move?
3. In 7:2, 3, God told Gideon his army was too large.
- In 7:2, God explained why Gideon's army was too large for His purposes.
 - What reason did God give?
 - Study these reasons. What did God imply by these reasons?
 - Observe that God said, "...for me to give Midian into their hands." What is the inference in this statement?
 - What does this verse say about God?
 - What does this verse say about Israel?
4. In Judges 7:4-8, God sent 9,700 soldiers home.
- In 7:4, God indicated that the army was still too large and described the criteria for selecting the warriors who would remain.
 - What was that criteria?
 - We know that Gideon could see the Midianite army while this army reduction was in process. If you were in Gideon's position, how would you feel?
 - What explanation, if any, did God give for this further reduction?
 - What would one expect this to do to the confidence of Gideon?
 - In 7:5, Gideon brought his soldiers to the spring called Harod.
 - The men drank from the Harod Spring in two different ways:
 - What were the two ways?

Study Questions for Judges

- (b). What difference would this make?
- (2). What does this obedience of Gideon tell us about his character?
- c. In 7:6, the author reported on the number of men who drank by bringing water to their mouths.
 - (1). How does it seem to you Gideon would react as he discovered the information in this verse?
 - (2). In view of the fact that the Midianite army could be plainly seen, what kind of picture of Gideon has the author presented up until now?
- d. In 7:7, God gave Gideon a promise concerning Midian.
 - (1). What was the promise?
 - (2). In this verse, God said, "I will deliver you with 300 men." He also said, "(I) will give the Midianites into your hands." What should Gideon have gathered from these statements?
 - (3). Think about the 9,700 men who God rejected for this battle.
 - (a). What might they be thinking?
 - (b). How would they explain their rejection to the family and community when they returned home?
- e. In 7:8, the 300 men prepared for battle.
 - (1). In 7:1, the army was camped by the Harod Spring. In 7:8, however, it speaks of going "down." How can we explain this situation?
 - (2). Reread 7:8 again. What armament does the author mention for these 300 soldiers who were about to battle the Midianites?
 - (3). Observe that the author spoke of "the people's provisions and their trumpets." Think about this for a minute. What does this information tell the 300 men?
 - (4). What does an out numbered army of 300 men need of 300 trumpets?
- 5. In Judges 7:9-14, God instructed Gideon to listen to the fears in the Midianite camp.
 - a. In 7:9, God instructed Gideon to go down to the Midianite camp.
 - (1). In 7:9, the author emphasized the fact that it was, "the same night." What is the significance of this emphasis?
 - (2). Observe that the LORD also said, "For I have given it into your hands."
 - (a). What is the significance of the fact that this is written in the past tense?
 - (b). How can we explain the statement, "I have given it into your hands" when the battle has not taken place as yet; when Gideon is preparing to attack the Midianite army?
 - b. In 7:10, 11, God dealt with the fact that Gideon might be frightened at what he had to do.
 - (1). What would the presence of Purah, the servant, have to do with the quieting of Gideon's fears?
 - (2). In this instruction, God gave a promise - "and afterward your hands will be strengthened that you may go down against the camp."
 - (a). What is there about the presence of Purah that would quell the fears of Gideon?
 - (b). As you read these verses, what do you learn about God?
 - (c). In view of the precarious situation in which Gideon's small army found itself, what do these verses tell us about Gideon?
 - c. In 7:12, the author described the enemy that was in the valley below Israel.
 - (1). In this verse, the author described the enemy of Israel as three distinct groups - Midianites, Amalekites and "all the sons of the east."

Study Questions for Judges

- (a). This is not the first time this distinction has been identified. What is the meaning of this identification?
- (b). Again, the author gave us an emphasis - The soldiers were "as numerous as locusts." Their camels were, "without number, as numerous as the sand on the seashore." What is the purpose of this repeated emphasis?
- (2). Observe the descriptive images the author used to describe the number of soldiers and their camels. What has the author accomplished by the use of these images?
- d. In 7:13, the author described a Midianite soldier relating his dream to a fellow soldier.
 - (1). What is the significance of the barley loaf?
 - (2). Read the verse again and write down the four things the verse tells us about barley loaf striking the tent.
 - (3). How would you explain the meaning of these four details of the dream?
- e. In 7:14, the soldier's friend explained the meaning of the dream.
 - (1). The friend displayed considerable knowledge about Gideon. How would he have gained this knowledge?
 - (2). The friend said, "God has given Midian and all the camp into his hand."
 - (a). How would he gain this information from the dream?
 - (b). How would this idolater ever credit God with giving Midian into the hands of Gideon?
 - (c). If you were the friend who had this dream, how would you feel?
- 6. In Judges 7:15-18, Gideon gave his forces a battle plan.
 - a. In 7:15, Gideon responded to the explanation of the dream.
 - (1). Read the verse again.
 - (2). What was the first thing Gideon did upon hearing this report?
 - (3). As you read this verse, what impression do you get about the emotional condition of Gideon?
 - (4). Notice the instruction Gideon gave his men - "Arise, for the LORD has given the camp of Midian into your hands."
 - (a). What understanding about God does Gideon demonstrate in these words?
 - (b). What does this say about his understanding of this battle?
 - b. In 7:16, there is a new picture of Gideon.
 - (1). How does this differ from the way Gideon was portrayed in the past?
 - (2). How can we account for this change?
 - (3). Study this verse in relation to their preparation for battle.
 - (a). What weaponry did he give his men?
 - (b). If you were one of those men, how would you feel, in view of the fact that there were thousands of the enemy at the foot of the hill?
 - c. In 7:17, 18, Gideon gave his men instructions about the beginning of the battle.
 - (1). Compare these verses with 6:1-15. What did you discover?
 - (2). We have talked about the reason for the trumpets. Gideon instructed them to say, "For the LORD and for Gideon." The text gives no reason for this. What can we say about the reason for this statement?
- 7. In Judges 7:19-23, the author reported the flight of the Midianites.
 - a. In 7:19, 20, the author described the way the 300 soldiers obeyed the instructions of Gideon concerning the beginning of the battle.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). What is the significance of the fact that this took place at the beginning of the middle watch?
 - (2). How does the author describe their armament for this engagement?
 - (3). What is the significance of this fact?
 - (4). If you were one of these soldiers, how would you feel about this armament situation?
 - b. In 7:21, the author described the reaction of the Midianite camp when the 300 soldiers blew their rams' horns and smashed their pitchers.
 - (1). What was the Midianite reaction?
 - (2). There is a contrast between the 300 Jewish soldiers and the Midianite soldiers in this verse.
 - (a). Identify the contrast.
 - (b). What information does this contrast provide for us?
 - (3). How would you describe conditions in the Midianite camp at this point?
 - c. In 7:22, the author reported the way the Midianites responded to the shock of this attack.
 - (1). Granted, the Midianites were shocked and surprised, but how can we account for the fact that they were killing each other rather than the Jews?
 - (2). In a Bible atlas, trace the way the Midianites went when they left Jezreel.
 - (a). Where did they go?
 - (b). What does this tell us about them?
 - d. In 7:23, though Israel was winning, still they had a problem.
 - (1). What was the problem?
 - (2). How did they solve that problem?
 - (3). In a Bible atlas, trace where Gideon sent for help? What does this tell us?
8. In Judges 7:24, 25, Gideon called on other tribes for assistance.
- a. In 7:24, the author described the next step Gideon took in the pursuit of Midian.
 - (1). Look at 7:23 and 7:24 again.
 - (a). What is the difference between what Gideon did in these two verses.
 - (b). Why was it important to do as Gideon did in these verses?
 - (2). It is clear that God had given Israel victory over the Midianites and their neighbors. In view of this fact, why was it important for them to continue to chase the enemy army after the battle had been won?
 - b. In 7:25, the author described the capture and murder of the two leaders of the Midianites.
 - (1). Why did they have to be killed?
 - (2). Having killed the enemy generals, why was it necessary for the Jewish soldiers to decapitate these generals and take their heads back to Gideon?
 - (3). What is the message of this verse in view of what God had done throughout this battle?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 8
GIDEON CONQUERED EPHRAIMITES
JUDGES 8:1 - 35

1. There are eight paragraphs in the eighth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

8:1-3	
8:4-9	
8:10-12	
8:13-17	
8:18-21	
8:22-28	
8:29-32	
8:33-35	

2. In Judges 8:1-3, the men of Ephraim challenged Gideon.
- a. In 8:1, the men of Ephraim contested vigorously with Gideon because he did not call them to take part in the battle.
 - (1). Look back through chapters one through seven to see how Ephraim had participated in previous battles. What did you learn?
 - (2). In view of your findings, if you were Gideon, how would you have felt?
 - b. In 8:2, Gideon used two images to respond to the men of Ephraim.
 - (1). What images did he use?
 - (2). What did he mean by these images?
 - (3). Was Gideon being accurate or facetious? Why?
 - c. In 8:3, Gideon made some direct statements about Ephraim's part in the battle.
 - (1). Was he telling the truth?
 - (2) Why did he do this?
 - (3). What does it mean when the author said, "Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that."?
3. In Judges 8:4-9, Gideon was rebuffed by the cities of Succoth and Penuel.
- a. In 8:4, the author described the condition of Gideon's men as they approached these cities. How did the author describe the men?
 - b. In 8:5, Gideon approached the men of Succoth requesting food for his men.
 - (1). How did Gideon approach the men of Succoth?
 - (2). How would you evaluate Gideon's integrity and forthrightness as he spoke with the leaders of Succoth?
 - c. In 8:6, the men of Succoth responded to Gideon's appeal for help.
 - (1). How would you describe the emotional quality of their response?
 - (2). What did the men of Succoth mean by their reply?

Study Questions for Judges

- (3). Why would the men of Succoth take such a position toward fellow men of Israel?
 - (4). If you were with Gideon, how would you feel when you heard this reply?
 - d. In Judges 8:7, Gideon responded to the reply of the leaders of Succoth.
 - (1). What was the emotional tone of Gideon's reply?
 - (2). How would you evaluate the confidence of Gideon's reply?
 - (3). What did Gideon really say?
 - (4). How would you evaluate the appropriateness of Gideon's reply?
 - e. In 8:8, Gideon went from Succoth to Penuel with the same request for food.
 - (1). How did the men of Penuel respond?
 - (2). Why would they respond that way to fellow Israelites who had fought on their behalf?
 - f. In 8:9, Gideon responded to the reply of the men of Penuel.
 - (1). How did Gideon Reply?
 - (2). How would you describe the emotional tone of Gideon's reply?
 - (3). How would you describe Gideon's confidence level as he spoke to these men?
4. In Judges 8:10-12, Gideon moved on and attacked the Midianites.
- a. In 8:10, the author described the condition of the Midianite army.
 - (1). How did he describe that army?
 - (2). What surprises did you encounter in this information?
 - (3). In a Bible atlas, locate the cities of Succoth, Penuel and Karkor. What does this tell you about the strategy of Gideon's approach to this battle?
 - b. In 8:11, the author describes two strategic moves that Gideon used to give him an advantage over the more numerous Midianites.
 - (1). What are these moves?
 - (2). How would these decisions help the small army of Gideon?
 - (3). The author tells us how Gideon got to Karkor, but does not describe how the Midianites got there. What reason can you see for this fact?
 - c. In 8:12, the author described the flight and capture of two Midianite kings.
 - (1). Read the verse carefully. Notice that the names of the two kings appear twice in one sentence. In view of the content of the verse, what does this suggest to you?
 - (2). Write down the order of events listed in this verse. Study the list. What can we learn from such a study?
5. In Judges 8:13-17, the author described Gideon's destruction of Succoth.
- a. In 8:13, 14, the author described Gideon's return to Succoth.
 - (1). The author identified the route Gideon took to return to Succoth, but did not identify the route he took going to Karkor. What suggestion can we make concerning the reason for this fact?
 - (2). In 8:14, the author indicated that Gideon captured a young boy from Succoth.
 - (a). What did Gideon do with this boy?
 - (b). Why would he do that?
 - (3). The author indicated that there were 77 princes and elders of Succoth. What does this tell us about the city?

Study Questions for Judges

- b. In 8:15, the author told of Gideon coming to Succoth.
- (1). Describe the tone of voice that appears to have been used in his statement about Zebah and Zalmunna.
 - (2). If you were one of the leaders of Succoth at this point, how would you feel? What would you want to do?
- c. In 8:16, the author described Gideon's dealings with the leaders of Succoth.
- (1). What did he do?
 - (2). How do Gideon's actions compare with the promise that he made in 8:7?
- d. The author, in 8:17, describes the destruction of Penuel in summary fashion.
- (1). Why does he not deal with this experience as carefully as he did with that of Succoth?
 - (2). What effect would tearing down the tower have upon the city of Penuel?
 - (3). Compare what Gideon did in 8:16 and 8:17.
 - (a). Was the punishment of one city greater than that of the other?
 - (b). How can we deal with the fact that this was a Jew punishing Jews when he had just destroyed the army that was reaping great punishment upon Jews?
 - (4). Compare what Gideon promised in 8:9 with the punishment he meted out in 8:17. How do the two verses compare?
6. In Judges 8:18 - 21, the author described Gideon's dealings with Zebah and Zalmunna.
- a. In 8:18, Gideon questioned the two kings about the men they killed at Tabor.
- (1). What was Gideon's question?
 - (2). If you were one of the kings, what would you think when you heard this question?
 - (3). Look at the answer the two kings gave Gideon. What were they saying?
- b. In 8:19, the author reported Gideon's response to their answer.
- (1). How would you describe the emotional tone of Gideon's statement?
 - (2). Why would Gideon precede his statement with the words, "As the LORD lives"?
 - (3). What does this tell us about Gideon's faith?
- c. In 8:20, the author described Gideon's instructions to his first-born son, Jether.
- (1). What did he command his son?
 - (2). How did Jether respond to this command?
 - (3). Why?
 - (4). Why would Zebah and Zalmunna plead with Gideon to kill them?
 - (5). In this verse, it mentions the fact that Gideon took the "crescent ornaments which were on their camels' necks." What were these for?
 - (6). There is a turning point in the story of Gideon in this verse. What is it? What does it mean?
7. In Judges 8:22-28, Gideon made an ephod of gold.
- a. In 8:22, the "men of Israel" made a request of Gideon.
- (1). What specifically did they request?
 - (2). What did this mean?
 - (3). What reason did they give for their request?
- b. In 8:23, Gideon responded to the request of the men of Israel.
- (1). What was his response?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What reason did he give for his response?
- (3). What did his response mean?
- c. In 8:24, there is a change in the response of Gideon.
 - (1). What was the change in Gideon's response?
 - (2). What was his request?
 - (3). Why would he make such a request?
 - (4). The author gave an explanation for the request Gideon made. What was this explanation?
- d. In 8:25, the author described the response of the men of Israel to Gideon's request.
 - (1). How did they respond?
 - (2). What does this tell you about their feelings?
- e. In 8:26, the author indicated that there were gifts given which were beyond the earrings that Gideon requested. What does this tell you about the soldiers?
- f. In 8:27, Gideon took the gold back to Ophrah.
 - (1). For what did Gideon use the gold?
 - (2). Why would he make such a thing?
 - (3). What happened to the thing for which Gideon used the gold?
 - (4). The text does not evaluate what Gideon had done. On the basis of this verse, how would you evaluate it?
 - (5). This seems totally out of character for Gideon in view of the rest of his story. How can we understand this?
- g. In 8:28, the author summarized this part of the story of Judges.
 - (1). How did he summarize it?
 - (2). The author said, "Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel and they did not lift up their heads anymore." What does this mean?
 - (3). In view of the unfortunate events in verse 27, what does it tell us about God that He would bless Israel in such a way when they did what they did?
- 8. In Judges 8:29-32, the author reported the death of Gideon.
 - a. In 8:29, the author spoke of Gideon as "Jerubbaal" and not as Gideon.
 - (1). What is the significance of this change?
 - (2). What does it tell us?
 - (3). The author told us that Gideon "went and lived in his own house." What could this mean?
 - b. In 8:30, there is a rather great surprise.
 - (1). What is that surprise?
 - (2). The text states that these sons were his direct descendants. What is the significance of this addition to the text?
 - (3). The author then told us that Gideon had many wives. What can we learn from this fact?
 - c. In 8:31, the author indicated that Gideon had a concubine.
 - (1). In view of the fact that Gideon had many wives and 70 other sons and an undisclosed number of daughters, why would he have a concubine as well?
 - (2). From the rest of Scripture, what do we know about this man Abimelech?
 - (3). Notice that the concubine lived in Shechem while he and the rest of his family lived in Ophrah.

Study Questions for Judges

- (a). In a Bible atlas, locate the cities of Shechem and Ophrah.
- (b). What can we learn from this information?
- (c). Though the text does not give us the information, why would he have his concubine living in Shechem and his family in Ophrah?
- d. In 8:32, the author told of the death of Gideon.
 - (1). Though the author did not reveal the age of Gideon, he stated that he died "at a ripe old age."
 - (a). This phrase "ripe old age" is used elsewhere in Scripture to describe a person's age at death. What is the significance of this?
 - (b). What does this say about Gideon?
 - (2). The author made two statements about the burial place of Gideon.
 - (a). What were these statements?
 - (b). What do they mean?
- 9. In Judges 8:33-35, the author described Israel's actions following the death of Gideon.
 - a. In 8:33, the author described the actions of Israel following the death of Gideon. He began by saying "as soon as..."
 - (1). What does this suggest?
 - (2). Why would they refrain from this while Gideon was alive, but turn to paganism as soon as he died?
 - (3). The author spoke of "Baals" and "Baal-berith". What is the difference between the two? A Bible dictionary may be helpful here.
 - (4). Notice that the author spoke of "Baals" rather than "Baal." How can we explain this fact?
 - b. In 8:34, 35, the author summarized the condition of Israel.
 - (1). What did he mean when he said, "Israel did not remember the LORD their God..."?
 - (2). What did he mean "they did not show kindness to the household of Jerubbaal..."?
- 10. Review your study of this chapter.
 - a. How can you apply this to your own spiritual life?
 - b. What does it say about our situation when we serve well and then fail?
 - b. What does this tell us about the nature of God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 9
JOTHAM SPOKE AGAINST ABIMELECH'S CONSPIRACY
JUDGES 9:1 - 57

1. In our best manuscripts, there are nine paragraphs in the ninth chapter of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

9:1-6	
9:7-21	
9:22-25	
9:26-29	
9:30-33	
9:34-40	
9:41-45	
9:46-49	
9:50-57	

2. In Judges 9:1-6, the author described how Abimelech replaced Gideon as King
- a. In 9:1, 2, Abimelech appealed to his mother's family for political support.
 - (1). What was Abimelech's appeal?
 - (2). Read these verses carefully. What pressure did Abimelech place on the family members?
 - (3). There is an irony in these verses.
 - (a). What is that irony?
 - (b). Why would Abimelech use this with his mother's family?
 - (4). Why would Abimelech have to resort to these means to gain assistance?
 - b. In 9:3, Abimelech's mother's family spoke to the leaders of Shechem.
 - (1). On what basis did these relatives attempt to persuade the leaders of Shechem?
 - (2). Think carefully about this verse. On what basis did the leaders of Shechem respond favorably to the request?
 - (3). What would the leaders of Shechem tend to gain if they sided with Abimelech?
 - c. In 9:4, the leaders of Shechem also gave Abimelech money.
 - (1). Where did the leaders of Shechem get this money? What is the significance of this fact?
 - (2). How much money did they give Abimelech?
 - (3). There are a number of conflicts in this verse. Identify each conflict.
 - (4). What can be learned from the disclosure of what Abimelech did with the money that the leaders of Shechem gave him?
 - d. In 9:5, the true character of Abimelech came to the surface.
 - (1). What was it that identified Abimelech's character?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What did this incident identify about Abimelech?
- (3). Why would Abimelech consider it necessary to kill the 70 sons of Gideon?
- (4). The verse closes by disclosing the fact that Jotham hid himself. What, if anything, does this tell us?
- e. In 9:6, Abimelech became king.
 - (1). Who made him king?
 - (2). What is the significance of this fact?
 - (3). Over what body of land did Abimelech become king?
 - (4). Look at the way Abimelech became king..
 - (a). Compare the way Abimelech became ruler with the way Gideon became the ruler of Israel.
 - (b). In what ways are they the same?
 - (c). In what ways are they different?
 - (5). The author identified the place where this coronation took place. What is the significance of this information?
3. In Judges 9:7-21, Jotham chastised the men of Shechem for what they had done.
 - a. In 9:7, Jotham spoke to the men of Shechem.
 - (1). What did Jotham do?
 - (2). How would you describe this action?
 - (3). What could he hope to accomplish by this action?
 - (4). Study Jotham's message to the Shechemites.
 - (a). What did he say?
 - (b). What does this mean?
 - (c). Read, again, what Jotham said.
 - (d). What questions does it raise in your mind?
 - b. In 9:8, 9, Jotham used an allegory, a story of one thing told in the terms of another, to give his message to the men of Shechem.
 - (1). What was the allegory?
 - (2). What was this allegory really about?
 - (3). What did Jotham say to the men of Shechem?
 - c. In 9:10, 11, Jotham told a second allegory.
 - (1). What was this allegory?
 - (2). What did Jotham say to the men of Shechem?
 - (3). Compare this allegory with the first one, in 9:8, 9. What did you learn?
 - (4). What does this allegory add to the message of the first one?
 - d. In 9:12, 13, Jotham told the men of Shechem a third allegory.
 - (1). What was this allegory?
 - (2). What did Jotham say to the men of Shechem?
 - (3). What does this allegory add to the message of the first two?
 - e. In 9:14, 15, Jotham told a fourth allegory.
 - (1). What was the allegory?
 - (2). What did Jotham say in this allegory to the men of Shechem?

Study Questions for Judges

- (3). How is this allegory different from the other three?
 - (4). What does this allegory add to the message of the first three?
 - (5). There is humor in this allegory. Can you identify it?
 - f. Jotham listed three conditional challenges as he began his conclusion in 9:16.
 - (1). What are the three conditional challenges?
 - (2). What did Jotham really say in this verse?
 - g. In 9:17, 18, Jotham made three statements about his father, Gideon, and made three accusations against the men of Shechem.
 - (1). Identify the three statements about Gideon.
 - (2). List the three accusations Jotham made against the men of Shechem.
 - (3). What was Jotham really saying?
 - h. In 9:19, 20, Jotham gave his final conclusion.
 - (1). Read these verses carefully. What is the emotional tone of these verses?
 - (2). These two verses present two conditional statements:
 - (a). What are the statements?
 - (b). What is the meaning of these statements?
 - (3). In 9:20, Jotham called for fire to consume the men of Shechem and Beth-millo and Abimelech. What was he saying in this request for judgment?
 - i. In 9:21, Jotham finished his message and fled.
 - (1). What is the significance of the fact that the author said, "Because of Abimelech his brother"?
 - (2). There is a caustic inference in this verse.
 - (a). What is that inference?
 - (b). What did the author mean by its use?
4. In Judges 9:22-25, the author described the fall-out between Abimelech and the men of Shechem.
- a. In 9:22, there is a subtle contrast.
 - (1). What is the contrast?
 - (2). Why would the author include the length of Abimelech's reign?
 - b. In 9:23, the author described a serious change in events.
 - (1). What was that change?
 - (2). In this verse, the author told us that this is something that God did. What does this tell us about God?
 - c. In 9:24, the author explained what God had done in the previous verse.
 - (1). By the use of the words, "in order that," the author described the purpose of God's actions.
 - (2). What does this tell us about what happened in that encounter?
 - (3). What does this verse tell us about how God deals with people?
 - (4). What does this verse tell us about God?
 - (5). What does this verse tell you about judgment?
 - d. In 9:25, the author described how the men of Shechem set out to create a disturbance for Abimelech.
 - (1). What did they do?
 - (2). How would this be a disturbance for Abimelech?
5. In Judges 9:26-29, Gaal came to Shechem.

Study Questions for Judges

- a. In 9:26, Gaal, with his relatives, came to Shechem .
 - (1). Why would the author include the information that he brought relatives with him.
 - (2). The author also mentioned that the men of Shechem put their trust in him. What does this suggest to you?
 - b. In 9:27, the author described an unfolding plan.
 - (1). Identify the parts of that plan.
 - (2). Identify the "they" in the author's statement, "They went out into the field and gathered the grapes..."
 - (3). What does the festival have to do with gathering and treading grapes?
 - (4). What does the cursing of Abimelech have to do with this festival held in the house of the god of Shechem?
 - c. In 9:28, Gaal made an attack on Abimelech.
 - (1). This attack came in the form of five questions.
 - (a). What are the questions?
 - (b). How would the men of Shechem answer these questions?
 - (c). What would Gaal accomplish by the use of these questions?
 - (2). How does Zebul figure in this attack?
 - d. In 9:29, Gaal made an appeal.
 - (1). What was his appeal?
 - (2). What was the purpose of this appeal?
 - (3). How would you describe the attitude of Gaal in this verse?
 - (4). How does Zebul figure in this picture?
6. In Judges 9:30 -33, Zebul warned Abimelech about Gaal.
- a. In 9:30, the author described the response of Zebul.
 - (1). What was that response?
 - (2). Why would Zebul burn with anger?
 - b. In 9:31, Zebul responded to the attack by Gaal.
 - (1). How did Zebul respond?
 - (2). Why would he respond that way?
 - (3). What message did Zebul send to Abimelech?
 - (4). If you were Abimelech, how would you feel upon receiving this message?
 - c. In 9:32, 33, Zebul outlined some instructions for Abimelech.
 - (1). What were the instructions?
 - (2). What was the significance of coming at night?
 - (3). On the basis of verse 33, what would you say was Zebul's view of Abimelech's power?
7. In Judges 9:34-40, the author described Abimelech's routing of Gaal.
- a. In 9:34, Abimelech came, by night, to Shechem.
 - (1). What is the importance of the fact that Abimelech's army was divided into four companies?
 - (2). What is the advantage of coming by night?
 - b. In 9:35, 36, the confrontation between Gaal and Abimelech begins.
 - (1). What is the stance of Abimelech in these verses?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What is the stance of Gaal in these verses?
 - (3). What was Gaal's response to this situation?
 - (4). What was Zebul's response to Gaal's misunderstanding?
 - c. In 9:37, Gaal began to discover the plot against him.
 - (1). What was his discovery?
 - (2). How would you describe Gaal's attitude at this point?
 - (3). When Gaal said, "one company comes by the way of the diviners' oak," what should this have told him?
 - (4). What does the presence of the "diviners oak" tell us about these people?
 - d. In 9:38, Zebul responded to Gaal's discovery.
 - (1). What was his response?
 - (2). How would you describe Zebul's attitude at this point?
 - (3). How would you describe Zebul's treatment of Gaal in this verse?
 - e. In 9:39, 40, the author recorded the brief battle between Gaal and Abimelech.
 - (1). If you were Gaal, how would you feel?
 - (2). Think back to the boasting of Gaal. Compare the claims then with the experience recorded in these verses. What did you learn?
8. In Judges 9:41-45, the author described Abimelech's destruction of Shechem.
- a. In 9:41, the author described the events following the defeat of Gaal.
 - (1). Look carefully at Zebul's actions. What did you learn?
 - (2). What are the probable implications for Gaal?
 - b. In 9:42, 43, Abimelech dealt with the people of Shechem.
 - (1). What did he do?
 - (2). Why did he do that?
 - (3). In view of these verses, what can we say about the relationship between Abimelech and the people of Shechem?
 - c. In 9:44, 45, the author described Abimelech's step by step destruction of Shechem.
 - (1). In 9:44, the author described the military strategy Abimelech used in approaching Shechem.
 - (a). What was that strategy?
 - (b). Why was it so helpful and important to him?
 - (2). In 9:45, the author described Abimelech's systematic destruction of the city.
 - (a). List the steps the author reported.
 - (b). Why was each step so important?
9. Judges 9:46-49 describe Abimelech's killing of Shechem's leaders.
- a. In 9:46, the author described the actions of the leaders when the city fell.
 - (1). What did they do?
 - (2). Why would they do this?
 - (3). Notice that the name of their god, here, is "El-berith" and not "Baal berith." With the help of a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, attempt to find the difference between the two. Why would the different name be used here?

Study Questions for Judges

- b. In 9:47-49, the author reported how Abimelech prepared for the burning of the city.
 - (1). What did he do? Why?
 - (2). As you read verse 49, what thoughts go through your mind?
 - (3). In view of the name for their god that was used here, what does this verse tell you about that god?
- 10. In Judges 9:50-57, the author described the death of Abimelech.
 - a. In 9:50, 51, the author described the siege of Thebez.
 - (1). The reported capture of Thebez was written in quite matter-of-fact style.
 - (a). Why would it seem so simple?
 - (b). Ask yourself why there is no report of the battle for the city?
 - (2). The author said that the tower was in the center of the city. Why would this seem strange?
 - (3). In view of verse 51, how large does it seem that this tower was?
 - b. In 9:52, the author described a situation which seemed simple and easy. What problems could Abimelech have in finishing such a project?
 - c. In 9:53, there is a real problem involved in what the author said in the verse. What is that problem?
 - d. If Abimelech were going to die anyway, as recorded in 9:54, what difference would it make if his armor bearer killed him or the woman killed him?
 - e. In 9:55, the author said that the soldiers went home when they saw that Abimelech was dead. Why would they do that?
 - f. In 9:56, the author ascribed the death of Abimelech to a divine action.
 - (1). Why did God do this?
 - (2). What does this tell us about God.
 - g. In 9:57, the author ascribed the destruction of Shechem to divine action.
 - (1). What reason did the author offer?
 - (2). The author spoke of the "curse of Jotham." What was that?
 - (3). What does this tell us about God?
- 11. Review the chapter. What does this chapter tell us about God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 10
TOLA AND JAIR JUDGE ISRAEL
JUDGES 10:1 – 18

1. There are five paragraphs in our best manuscripts of Judges chapter 10. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

10:1, 2	
10:3-5	
10:6-9	
10:10-16	
10:17, 18	

2. In Judges 10:1, 2, the author described the judgeship of Tola.
- Study these verses carefully
 - What did God call Tola to do?
 - Did he accomplish what God called him to do?
 - What did Tola accomplish for his people in the 23 years he was their judge?
3. In Judges 10:3-5, the author described the judgeship of Jair.
- In 10:3, what does the author tell us that Jair accomplished for the people of Israel?
 - In 10:4, the author spoke of Jair's 30 sons.
 - What did the author say about these sons?
 - What does this tell us about them?
 - What does this tell us about Jair's planning for his sons?
 - In 10:5, the author tells of Jair's burial. What can we learn from this information?
4. In Judges 10:6-9, the author described the response of Israel to the death of Jair.
- In 10:6, the author listed the gods that Israel began to serve after the death of Jair.
 - What does this tell us about Jair?
 - In this verse, the author identified the gods Israel served.
 - The list contains gods identified by name and another list identified by location. What, if anything, is the significance of this?
 - Look at the list of places whose gods the people of Israel worshipped. What knowledge can we gain from that list?
 - Look at the closing statement in the verse. How would you describe the emotional tone of the statement.?
 - In 10:7, God responded to the rebellion of Israel.
 - Read this verse again, carefully. Can you find a problem described in this verse? What is it?
 - What does this tell you about God?

Study Questions for Judges

- (3). The author spoke of "the Philistines" but then he spoke of "the sons of Ammon." What reason can you find for this difference in his reference?
 - c. In 10:8, the author described the way Israel was treated by the Philistines and Ammonites.
 - (1). In view of past events, why would you think these two groups were so brutal to Israel?
 - (2). What would you say concerning the fairness of this punishment?
 - d. In 10:9, the Ammonites came to battle Jewish tribes.
 - (1). Read 10:8 and 10:9 together.
 - (a). Place the information you find on a map of Palestine.
 - (B). What did you learn from this effort?
 - (c). What questions does it cause you to ask?
 - (2). What did you find about the other nine tribes in these verses?
5. In Judges 10:10-16, Israel put their idols away.
- a. In 10:10, the people of Israel cried to the LORD.
 - (1). What did they say?
 - (2). What did this mean?
 - (3). Evaluate the accuracy of their statement.
 - (4). What, if anything, did they leave out of their confession?
 - b. In 10:11, God responded to Israel's plea.
 - (1). What did God say?
 - (2). How does this compare with His previous responses?
 - (3). In this verse, the LORD mentioned four nations from whom He had delivered Israel.
 - (4). What was God trying to say through this reminder?
 - (5). Why would God choose these four when there were others?
 - c. In 10:12, God continued His reminder.
 - (1). What does this include that was not present in the list in 10:11?
 - (2). Why would the LORD choose to remind them of these three nations?
 - d. In 10:13, the LORD concluded His response.
 - (1). Record the OORD'S response in your own words.
 - (2). Think carefully about this verse. What problems does it create for your thinking?
 - (3). There is a strong contrast between 10:12 and 10:13,
 - (a). What is the contrast?
 - (b). What does this tell us about God?
 - (c). What Biblical Illustration can you find to support what you have found?
 - e. In 10:14, God continued His response to Israel.
 - (1). How would you describe God's feelings in this verse?
 - (2). Why would God deal with Israel in this manner?
 - (3). How would you describe God's frame of mind in this verse?
 - f. In 10:15, Israel responded to God's statement.
 - (1). In this verse, there is a list of three things which they had done.
 - (a). What are these things?

Study Questions for Judges

- (b). How would you evaluate their confession?
- (c). Describe the intensity of their plea.
- (2). Why do you feel that it was this intense?
- g. In 10:16, there is a picture of both God and Israel.
 - (1). How did the author describe the actions of Israel?
 - (2). How did the author portray God in this verse?
- 6. In Judges 10:17, 18, the princes of Gilead sought a leader.
 - a. In a Bible atlas, locate both Gilead and Mizpeh.
 - b. In view of their location, reread these two verses. What difficulty can you discern here?
- 7. Review your study of this chapter. What have you discovered concerning the nature and character of God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 11
JEPHTHAH DRIVEN OUT: JEPHTHAH MADE RULER
JUDGES 11:1 - 40

1. There are five paragraphs in the eleventh chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, record a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

11:1-3	
11:4-11	
11:12-28	
11:29-33	
11:34-40	

2. In Judges 11:1-3, the author recorded the ejection of Jephthah by his half-brothers.
- a. In 11:1, there are three pictures of Jephthah.
 - (1). What are these pictures?
 - (2). What do they tell us about the man?
 - b. In Judges 11:2, the author described the initial confrontation between Jephthah and his half-brothers.
 - (1). How would you describe this confrontation?
 - (2). What was the issue involved?
 - (3). What, if anything, does this have to say about the man, Gilead?
 - c. In 11:3, the author described the breakup of Gilead's family.
 - (1). Read this verse carefully. What does the verse tell you?
 - (2). What do we learn by the author's statement that "worthless fellows gathered themselves about Jephthah, and they went out with him"?
3. In Judges 11:4-11, the Jewish elders pleaded with Jephthah to be their leader.
- a. In 11:4, the author told us that the "sons of Ammon" came to fight against Israel.
 - (1). Think back over our study. Is there any possible reason why they would do this?
 - (2). The text says that "after a while..." the sons of Ammon came. Why would they wait this long?
 - b. In 11:5, the sons of Gilead came to get Jephthah.
 - (1). What does this tell you about the sons of Gilead?
 - (2). Read the verse again. Who was the leader of the Jews when the sons of Ammon came to do battle?
 - (3). Put yourself in the place of the sons of Gilead in this verse. How would you feel?
 - (4). Put yourself in the place of Jephthah in this verse. How would you feel?
 - c. In 11:6, the leaders of Israel came to ask Jephthah to be their leader.
 - (1). How did they deal with the way they had treated Jephthah previously?
 - (2). What would have happened to them if Jephthah had refused?
 - (3). Again, if you were Jephthah, how would you feel at this point?
 - d. In 11:7, Jephthah responded to their invitation.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). What did he say? What did he mean?
 - (2). How would you put his response in your own words?
 - (3). How would you describe his emotional state as he responded to their invitation?
 - e. In 11:8, the elders of Gilead responded to Jephthah's question.
 - (1). How did they answer his question?
 - (2). How would you characterize their answer?
 - f. In 11:9, Jephthah again responded to their words.
 - (1). On the basis of this verse, what hint do you find concerning his spiritual condition?
 - (2). In this verse Jephthah asked the elders a question.
 - (a). What was the question?
 - (b). Why did Jephthah have to ask the question?
 - (3). Literally, what responsibility did Jephthah have to these elders?
 - g. In 11:10, the elders responded to Jephthah's question.
 - (1). Why did the elders have to present the LORD as their witness?
 - (2). Look carefully at this verse. What was the nature of the vow that they made?
 - (3). Can you find a weakness in this vow? What is it?
 - h. In 11:11, Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead.
 - (1). The text says that they made Jephthah "head" and "chief." What is the difference between these two titles?
 - (2). The author said that "Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah." What did he mean by this statement?
4. In Judges 11:12-28, the king of Ammon demanded the return of land.
- a. In 11:12, Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon.
 - (1). Why would he do this?
 - (2). What answer does it appear that he expected?
 - b. In 11:13, Sihon, king of Ammon, replied to the questions of the messengers.
 - (1). What was his response?
 - (2). What problem can you see with his demands?
 - (3). Study this verse carefully. What could Sihon hope to gain by this response?
 - c. In 11:14, 15, Jephthah responded to the king's statement.
 - (1). What was his response?
 - (2). What response was it likely to stimulate?
 - d. In 11:16, 17, Jephthah continued to defend Israel's activities.
 - (1). What was his response?
 - (2). How necessary was this?
 - (3). In 11:17, Jephthah told the story of Israel's request of Edom to let them pass. What does this have to do with Ammon?
 - (4). What is the significance of the fact that when Edom refused Israel passage, they remained in Kadesh?

Study Questions for Judges

- e. In 11:18, Israel went around the land of Edom and Moab. How does this support Jephthah's argument with the Ammonites?
- f. In 11:19, 20, Israel contacted Sihon king of the Amorites requesting permission to pass through their land.
 - (1). What is the importance of this request?
 - (2). What was the response to this request?
 - (3). What does this add to Jephthah's presentation to Ammon?
 - (4). Why did Jephthah remind Sihon that he had refused the request and fought with Israel?
- g. In 11:21, Jephthah reminded Sihon that Jehovah had given the Amorites into the hand of Israel.
 - (1). How did this impact Jephthah's argument?
 - (2). The author concluded this verse by saying that Israel possessed the land of the Amorites. What does this add to Jephthah's argument?
- h. In 11:22, the author summarized what had happened. What does this add to Jephthah's presentation to Sihon?
- i. In 11:23, Jephthah asked a staggering question.
 - (1). What was the question?
 - (2). What was Jephthah trying to say by this question?
 - (3). Look at the names the author used for God. What is the significance of these names?
- j. In 11:24, Jephthah asked a burning question that Sihon would be hard pressed to answer.
 - (1). What is the question?
 - (2). How does this question affect the debate?
 - (3). Jephthah drew a conclusion in this verse?
 - (a). What was the conclusion?
 - (b). If you were Sihon, how would this statement affect you?
- k. In 11:25, Jephthah asked three questions.
 - (1). What were the questions?
 - (2). What did Jephthah accomplish by asking these questions?
 - (3). If you were Sihon, how would these questions affect you?
- l. In 11:26, Jephthah changed the direction of his verbal attack on Sihon.
 - (1). What was the nature of this change?
 - (2). Why would this question be important?
 - (3). What did Jephthah accomplish by the question?
- m. In 11:27, Jephthah drew his final conclusion.
 - (1). What was his conclusion?
 - (2). What is the benefit of this conclusion?
 - (3). Jephthah concluded this verse by requesting God to judge between them. What is the significance of this act?
- n. In 11:28, the king of Ammon responded to Jephthah's presentation.
 - (1). How did he respond?
 - (2). What was accomplished by this response?

Study Questions for Judges

5. In Judges 11:29-33, Jephthah made a vow before the Lord.
 - a. In 11:29, the author described Jephthah's response to Sihon's reply. What was Jephthah's response? Why?
 - b. In 11:30, 31, Jephthah made a vow before the Lord.
 - (1). What were the conditions of this vow?
 - (2). What were the promises that Jephthah made?
 - (3). What does this vow tell us about Jephthah?
 - c. In 11:32, the author described the beginning of the battle.
 - (1). How does the author describe this?
 - (2). What is the relationship between 11:31 and 11:32?
 - d. In 11:33, the author described the result of the battle.
 - (1). How did the battle end?
 - (2). What is the significance of this information?
6. In Judges 11:34-40, the author described Jephthah's return home.
 - a. In 11:34, the author described Jephthah's welcome home.
 - (1). How would you describe that welcome?
 - (2). The author informed us that this daughter was the only child of Jephthah. What does this add to our understanding?
 - b. In 11:35, the author described Jephthah's response on seeing his daughter.
 - (1). What was the response?
 - (2). Why would he respond that way?
 - (3). How would you explain this verse to a new Christian who asks why God would demand this?
 - c. In 11:36, the daughter responded to her father's grief.
 - (1). What did she say?
 - (2). What was the basis for her response?
 - (3). What does this tell you about her?
 - d. In 11:37, the daughter made a request of Jephthah.
 - (1). What was her request?
 - (2). Why would she make such a request?
 - e. In 11:38, Jephthah responded to his daughter's request.
 - (1). What was his response?
 - (2). If you were Jephthah, how would you respond?
 - f. In 11:39, 40, Jephthah kept his vow.
 - (1). What do these verses tell us about Jephthah?
 - (2). Some would say that these verses say something important about God.
 - (a). What would the verses say about God.
 - (b). How would you explain this?
1. Review your study of chapter eleven. What has the author told you concerning the nature of God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 12
IBZAN, ELON ABDON AND 31 YEARS
JUDGES 12:1 - 15

1. There are five paragraphs in Judges chapter twelve. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

12:1-6	
12:7	
12:8-10	
12:11, 12	
12:13-15	

2. In Judges 12:1-6, the author told of Jephthah's fight against the Ephraimites.
- a. In 12:1, the Ephraimites were upset because they were not invited to take part in the battle against the Ammonites.
 - (1). Think about the cause of Ephraim's distress. What comes to mind?
 - (2). They threatened Jephthah. What was their threat?
 - (3). There is a contradiction in this verse. What is that contradiction?
 - b. In 12:2, Jephthah responded to their angry challenge.
 - (1). What was Jephthah's response?
 - (2). If you were an Ephraimite, how would you feel when Jephthah said these things?
 - c. In 12:3, Jephthah continued his response to the Ephraimites.
 - (1). What was this response?
 - (2). How does Jephthah's report of the events differ from those of the Ephraimites?
 - (3). Read the verse again. What does it tell you about his spiritual life?
 - d. In 12:4, the Ephraimites ridiculed the Gileadites.
 - (1). What did they do?
 - (2). What was the result of this activity?
 - (3). What was the motive behind this ridicule?
 - e. In 12:5, 6, the author reported the way the Gileadites tracked down the escaped soldiers.
 - (1). How did they trap these soldiers who fled?
 - (2). How could the Gileadites find the Ephraimites who had fled?
 - (3). What was the result of this operation?
3. In Judges 12:7, Jephthah judged Israel six years.
- a. Read this verse carefully. Where was Jephthah buried?
 - b. What does this tell us?
 - c. Compare this situation with that of the burial of the other judges. What did you find?
4. In Judges 12:8-10, Ibzan judged Israel for six years.

Study Questions for Judges

- a. In 12:8, the author told us where Ibzan came from.
 - (1). Where was that?
 - (2). What would the importance of this be?
 - (3). What does this verse tell us about how Ibzan came to power?
 - b. In 12:9, the author told us about Ibzan's family.
 - (1). There are four pieces of information. What are they?
 - (2). What does this tell us about the man and his values?
 - (3). What does this tell us about his way of ruling the nation?
 - c. In 12:10, the author told us of the death of Ibzan.
 - (1). He judged Israel for seven years. Does this give us any other information?
 - (2). Besides the historical fact, what do we learn from the fact that he was buried in Bethlehem?
5. In Judges 12:11, 12, Elon became the judge in Israel.
- a. In 12:11, the author told us of the background of Elon.
 - (1). What was his background?
 - (2). What does this help us to understand?
 - (3). How long did he reign? How does this compare with those who judged Israel before him?
 - b. In 12:12, the author told us of the death and burial of Elon.
 - (1). Where was he buried? What is the significance of this?
 - (2). What do we know about the ten years that Elon judged Israel?
6. In Judges 12:13-15, Abdon became the judge in Israel.
- a. In 12:13, the author described Abdon's background.
 - (1). What was his background?
 - (2). What did he accomplish while in power?
 - (3). What do we know about how he came to power?
 - (4). What is the significance of the fact that he ruled for eight years?
 - b. In 12:14, the author gave us information about Abdon's family.
 - (1). What information did the author give?
 - (2). What does this tell us about Abdon?
 - (3). What can we learn from the fact that Abdon's sons and grandsons rode on donkeys?
 - c. In 12:15, the author again gave us the burial information about Abdon.
 - (1). Why is this important?
 - (2). What do we learn from the fact that he was buried in the city where he grew up?
7. Review your study of chapter twelve. What did the author teach you about God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 13

THE BIRTH OF SAMSON

JUDGES 13:1 - 25

1. There are five paragraphs in the thirteenth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

13:1	
13:2-7	
13:8-14	
13:15-20	
13:21-25	

2. In Judges 13:1, the author said, "Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD."
- What does this statement suggest?
 - Read the verse again. There is a cause and effect relationship in this verse.
 - What is that relationship?
 - What can we learn from this?
 - The Philistines controlled Israel 40 years.
 - How long were previous captivities?
 - What can we learn from this?
3. In 13:2-7, the author told of the announcement of Samson's birth.
- In 13:2, the author indicated that Manoah and his wife had no children.
 - The author, in two ways, identified the fact that this couple was childless. Why would he do this?
 - Notice that the husband's name was given, but the name of the wife is not? Can you offer a good reason for this?
 - In 13:3, the angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife.
 - What difference would it make that she had been barren?
 - Why would the angel appear to the unnamed wife rather than to Manoah?
 - Some say that this verse is evidence of the mercy of God. How could we explain this idea?
 - In 13:4, the angel gave the wife some instructions.
 - What were the instructions?
 - Why would these instructions be necessary?
 - In 13:5, the angel gave his reason for the instructions given in 13:4.
 - What reasons did the angel give for these instructions?
 - In a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, find out as much as you can about what it means to be a Nazirite.
 - In this verse, the angel said, "He shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines." What does this mean?
 - In 13:6, the wife came to Manoah and told him what the "man of God" had said to her.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). Put yourself in the place of Manoah. What would you think when you heard what happened?
- (2). If you were the wife, how would you explain this experience to your husband?
- f. In 13:7, the wife continued to explain to her husband what the angel had said to her.
 - (1). Review 13:3-5. Now compare the message the angel of the LORD gave the wife with the message she gave to Manoah. What did you find?
 - (2). This message would be a surprise to Manoah. Can you think of a good reason this would be true?
4. In Judges 13:8-14, the angel gave instructions for Manoah's wife.
 - a. In 13:8, Manoah responded to the report of his wife.
 - (1). How did he respond?
 - (2). How did he treat his wife in these unusual circumstances?
 - (3). How did he deal with God in what seemed an impossible situation?
 - (4). How would you describe Manoah's treatment of God in this environment?
 - b. In 13:9, God responded to the prayer of Manoah.
 - (1). Manoah asked for further instruction, but God sent the angel back to Manoah's wife. How should we understand this?
 - (2). Put yourself in the place of Manoah. How would you feel when this happened?
 - c. In 13:10, 11, Manoah's wife hurried to tell Manoah about the angel.
 - (1). The text says that she ran quickly. Why would she be in such a hurry?
 - (2). Read verse 11 again. How would you describe the question of Manoah to the angel?
 - (3). How would you describe the response of the angel to Manoah?
 - (4). How did you feel when you read the words, "are you the man who spoke to the woman"?
 - d. In 13:12, Manoah gives us an indication of his mental attitude.
 - (1). What is Manoah's mental attitude?
 - (2). There is some confusion in this verse.
 - (a). What is the confusion?
 - (b). How did Manoah deal with it?
 - e. In 13:13, the angel responded to Manoah.
 - (1). What was the angel's reply?
 - (2). How did the angel answer Manoah's question?
 - (3). What was the angel saying by the answer that he gave?
 - f. In 13:14, the angel continued with his instructions.
 - (1). Describe what these instructions would entail for Manoah's wife.
 - (2). Manoah and his wife were very strict Jews. Why would the angel have to insist on the instruction not to eat anything unclean to such people?
5. In Judges 13:15-20, Manoah and his wife made a sacrifice to God.
 - a. In 13:15, Manoah and his wife perform the hospitality which was required for travelers.
 - (1). What were they doing?
 - (2). Why were they doing this?
 - b. In 13:16, the angel refused the offered meal from Manoah.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). How would you describe the angels response when he said, "Though you detain me, I will not eat your food...?"
 - (2). What possible reason could the angel give for not eating the food?
 - (3). Think carefully about the angel's reply. Why would he want Manoah and his wife to offer a burnt offering when food was so scarce?
 - c. In 13:17, Manoah responded to the angels instructions in verse 17.
 - (1). What does the question of Manoah tell us about his conviction regarding this whole experience?
 - (2). What was so important about knowing the name of the angel?
 - d. In 13:18, the angel responded to Manoah's request.
 - (1). How would you describe the angel's answer to Manoah's question?
 - (2). How would you explain the statement, "seeing it is wonderful"?
 - e. In 13:19, you have two sets of actions going on in the same verse.
 - (1). What are these actions?
 - (2). What kind of "wonders" did the angel perform?
 - f. In 13:20, the angel left Manoah and his wife.
 - (1). The sentence begins with the word "for." This usually indicates that a reason is forthcoming. What reason is there in 13:20 for the events in 13:19?
 - (2). If you were Manoah or his wife and saw the angel ascending like this, what would you think?
 - (3). Why would Manoah and his wife fall on their faces?
6. In Judges 13:21-25, the author told of the birth of Samson.
- a. In 13:21, the author told of a discovery by Manoah and his wife. When did they discover that this angel was the "angel of the LORD"?
 - b. In 13:22, Manoah expressed great fear.
 - (1). What was he afraid of?
 - (2). Why would he be afraid of this?
 - c. In 13:23, Manoah's wife disagreed with him.
 - (1). She gave three reasons why she was sure they would not die. What were these reasons?
 - (2). What does this tell you about her understanding of God?
 - d. In 13:24, the author told us that "the LORD blessed him (Samson)". In view of what we know about Samson's later life, what does this tell us about God?
 - e. In 13:25, the author told us that "the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him..." Again, in view of what we know of his later values and decisions, what does this tell us about how God works?
7. Review your study of this chapter. What did you discover about what the author was trying to say about God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 14

SAMSON DECEIVED BY HIS PHILISTINE WIFE

JUDGES 14:1 - 20

1. There are four paragraphs in the fourteenth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary for each paragraph.

14:1-4	
14:5-9	
14:10-14	
14:15-20	

2. In Judges 14:1 - 4, the author described Samson's choosing of a Philistine wife.
- a. In 14:1, Samson went to Timnah and saw a woman he wanted for his wife. What problem, if any, do you see with this fact?
 - b. In 14:2, Samson approached his parents to get the Philistine woman for his wife.
 - (1). How would you describe his request to his parents?
 - (2). What problems does this create for Samson's parents?
 - (3). From the perspective of his family and neighbors, what problem did this request create for them?
 - c. In 14:3, Samson's parents responded to his request.
 - (1). What did they reply?
 - (2). Why would they respond in this manner?
 - (3). Samson also responded to their reply.
 - (a). What did he reply?
 - (b). What was the basis for wanting this woman for his wife?
 - d. In 14:4, the author gives us a glimpse into the story of which Samson's parents were not aware.
 - (1). What do we know that Samson's parents did not know?
 - (2). What difference does this make?
 - (3). It sounds as though God would violate the command not to marry outside the covenant people in order to punish the Philistines. Is this true?
 - (4). The closing statement of the verse suggests that this was a time when the Philistines ruled over the Israelites.
 - (a). What difference would this make?
 - (b). How would this impact what God did through Samson?
3. In Judges 14:5-9, the author tells how Samson killed a young lion.
- a. In 14:5, 6, the author tells the story of this young lion.
 - (1). How does this episode relate to the story of Samson?
 - (2). What does this story add to our store of knowledge of the life of Samson?
 - (3). The text says that the Spirit of Jehovah enabled Samson to do this. What are the implications of the Holy Spirit working in Samson when he was doing something God told them not to do?
 - b. In 14:7, Samson went to talk to the woman he wanted for his wife. How did Samson evaluate this woman?
 - c. In 14:8, the author described Samson's return for his intended bride.
 - (1). What does the lion have to do with Samson's trip to get his bride?
 - (2). What effect do the bees and honey have upon the story being told?
 - d. In 14:9, Samson returned to the spot where he killed the lion and took some of the honey to share with his parents.
 - (1). The author hinted of the secrecy with which the lion incident was held. Why would this be important?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What benefit would this secrecy provide?
4. In Judges 14:10-14, the author tells us of the marriage of Samson.
 - a. In 14:10, 11, the author tells of a feast that Samson provided for the members of the wedding party, family and friends.
 - (1). In this situation, Samson was feasting with Philistines who were the enemies of his people; people who took advantage of his countrymen. Why does Samson do this?
 - (2). The family provided 30 "companions" for Samson. Is there any parallel in our culture for this provision?
 - b. In 14:12-14, Samson, as the custom was, provided the entertainment by means of a riddle.
 - (1). What were the conditions of the riddle?
 - (2). Was Samson participating in a gambling situation?
 - (3). What were the terms of this gamble?
 - (4). What was the result of this gamble?
 - (5). If you were one of the 30 men, how would you feel?
5. In Judges 14:15-20, Samson paid the debt he promised to pay if he lost.
 - a. In 14:15, a serious problem is described.
 - (1). What is it?
 - (2). What pressure did the 30 men bring upon the bride and her family?
 - (3). What threat did these men make?
 - b. In 14:16, Samson's wife appealed to Samson.
 - (1). What was the basis of her appeal?
 - (2). What did she want? Why?
 - (3). What was Samson's reply to his wife?
 - (4). What should Samson have realized from this experience?
 - c. In 14:17, Samson's wife pressured him to explain the riddle to her.
 - (1). How did she do this?
 - (2). What did she do with the information Samson gave her?
 - d. In 14:18, the men of the city told Samson the answer to his riddle.
 - (1). How did they tell him?
 - (2). What was his reply to them?
 - (3). What did he mean by this statement?
 - e. In 14:19, the author described Samson's response to their answer.
 - (1). How did Samson respond?
 - (2). What help did Samson have?
 - (3). What problem, if any, do you see in this verse?
 - (4). How does the author describe Samson's feelings toward the 30 men?
 - (5). What did Samson do?
 - (6). How pleased would the 30 men be with Samson's payment of the debt?
 - f. In 14:20, there is a surprise ending to the chapter.
 - (1). What was so surprising?
 - (2). Why would the bride's father do such a thing?
 - (3). What does this verse tell you about the atmosphere at the feast when Samson paid his debt?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 15
SAMSON'S REVENGE - FOXES, JAWBONE OF AN ASS
JUDGES 15:1 - 20

1. There are three paragraphs in the fifteenth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

15:1-8	
15:9-13	
15:14-20	

2. In Judges 15:1-8, the author told of Samson's burning of Philistine fields.
- a. In 15:1, 2, Samson attempted to visit his wife, but his father-in-law refused to allow him to enter her part of the tent.
 - (1). Why would the father-in-law refuse?
 - (2). What was the father-in-law's excuse? Was it valid?
 - (3). On the basis of the text, how would you evaluate the actions of the father-in-law?
 - (4). If you were in Samson's place, how would you feel?
 - b. In 15:3, Samson responded.
 - (1). The text says of Samson, "He said to them".
 - (a). Whom would the author identify as "them"?
 - (b). What does this suggest for our understanding?
 - (2). What response, if any, did Samson give to the news that his wife had married another man?
 - (3). Samson said, "This time I shall be blameless in regard to the Philistines when I do them harm."
 - (a). What is the inference of this statement?
 - (b). What was Samson really saying?
 - c. In 15:4, 5, several questions are raised.
 - (1). What questions can you discover in the text?
 - (2). What impact would Samson's actions have on the Philistine community?
 - (3). How would the Philistines survive because of his actions?
 - d. In 15:6, the Philistines discover the damage and identify the one to blame.
 - (1). What reason did the Philistines give for Samson's actions?
 - (2). What does this tell us?
 - (3). How did the Philistines react to the actions of Samson?
 - e. In 15:7, Samson responded to the actions of the Philistines.
 - (1). Samson said, "Since you act like this..."
 - (a). To whom was he speaking?
 - (b). What did he mean?
 - (2). Samson gave them two promises.

Study Questions for Judges

- (a). What are the promises?
- (b). What change does this represent for the Philistines?
- f. In 15:8, the author described Samson's attack on the Philistines.
 - (1). What did he do?
 - (2). Why would he hide in a cave?
- 3. In Judges 15:9-13, the author described the coming of the men of Judah.
 - a. In 15:9, the Philistines came and camped in Lehi.
 - (1). What is the implication of this action?
 - (2). What does this say about the men of Judah?
 - b. In 15:10, the men of Judah met with the Philistine army.
 - (1). What did they ask the Philistine army? Why?
 - (2). What was the response of the Philistines?
 - (3). What motive did the Philistine army express as they answered the men of Judah?
 - c. In 15:11, 3,000 men of Judah went down to the rock of Etam to seize Samson.
 - (1). The men of Judah brought 3,000 men to take Samson.
 - (a). What does this tell us about the attitude of the men of Judah toward the Philistines?
 - (b). What does this tell us about the attitude of the men of Judah toward Samson?
 - (2). The men of Judah asked Samson two rhetorical questions.
 - (a). What would Samson's answer be to the first question?
 - (b). What would Samson's answer be to the second question?
 - (3). Read Samson's answer again. What motive does he reveal?
 - d. In 15:12, the men of Judah told Samson why they had come.
 - (1). What reason did the men of Judah give for their coming?
 - (2). What does this tell us about the men of Judah?
 - (3). Read Samson's reply again.
 - (a). What did he say?
 - (b). Why would he be so concerned about these men of Judah killing him?
 - (c). What does this tell us about him?
 - e. In 15:13, the men of Judah responded to Samson's request.
 - (1). What was their response?
 - (2). If you were Samson, how would you feel when you heard these words?
- 4. In Judges 15:14-20, Samson killed 1,000 Philistines.
 - a. In 15:14, 15, the men of Judah delivered Samson over to the Philistines.
 - (1). If you were Samson, at this point how would you have felt, especially with the Philistines shouting over your tragedy?
 - (2). How would you explain the fact that the "Spirit of the LORD" came upon Samson and enabled him to kill 1,000 Philistines?
 - (3). What does this tell us about God?
 - b. In 15:16, Samson summarized his exploit.
 - (1). Read this verse again. What was Samson saying?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). How would you explain that Samson took credit for what happened?
 - c. In 15:17, Samson renamed the area.
 - (1). How would you describe the emotions described in this verse?
 - (2). In a Bible dictionary, look up- the new name of the area - Ramath Lehi.
 - (a). What does this mean?
 - (b). Why do you think he gave the area this name?
 - d. In 15:18, Samson grew very thirsty.
 - (1). In this verse, Samson prayed about his thirst.
 - (a). How would you describe his attitude as he prayed?
 - (b). His prayer was presented in logical fashion. How would you express this logic?
 - (2). Why was he so concerned about falling into "the hands of the uncircumcised"?
 - e. In 15:19, God answered Samson's prayer.
 - (1). How did God answer that prayer?
 - (2). What does this tell us about God?
 - f. In 15:20, the author summarized the time that Samson judged Israel.
 - (1). In view of all that had happened in the time Samson judged Israel, is this an appropriate summary?
 - (2). The author has said nothing about whether the people worshipped God during this time or not. What does this say about the impact of Samson's rule?
5. Review your study of chapter 15. What have you discovered about God in this story?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 16
DELILAH BETRAYED SAMSON - DEATH
JUDGES 16:1 - 31

1. There are eight paragraphs in the sixteenth chapter of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

16:1-3	
16:4-9	
16:10-12	
16:13, 14	
16:15-17	
16:18-22	
16:23-27	
16:28-31	

2. In Judges 16:1-3, the author told the story of how Samson destroyed the gates of Gaza.
- In 16:1, compare Samson's actions with the message of the angel in 13:5-7.
 - What did you learn?
 - How do the passages compare?
 - How can we account for this?
 - In 16:2, the men of Gaza "lay in wait for him."
 - Why would they do this?
 - On the basis of this verse, what motive could they have for killing Samson?
 - In 16:3, Samson surprised the men of Gaza.
 - What did he do?
 - In a Bible atlas, trace the steps of Samson reported in this verse.
 - What did you learn?
 - What does this tell us about Samson's motives?
3. In Judges 16:4-9, Samson toyed with Delilah's determination to betray him.
- In 16:4, Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah. How can we explain his actions in view of the fact that as a Jew he was supposed to stay away from pagan women and marry within the people of Israel?
 - In 16:5, the Philistine leaders compelled Delilah to attempt to discover the source of Samson's strength.
 - What motives can you see at work in Delilah?
 - How would you describe Delilah's relationship with Samson at this point?
 - In 16:6, Delilah asked Samson, directly, about the source of his strength.
 - How can we explain her actions?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). Put yourself in Samson's place. Would you tend to become suspicious at her insistence?
- d. In 16:7, Samson answered Delilah's persistent question.
- (1) How would you describe his answer?
 - (2) What problems are evident in his answer?
 - (3) To what danger is Samson opening himself?
- e. In 16:8, the Philistine leaders tested Samson's explanation.
- (1). This verse is evidence of Delilah's loyalty. Where is her loyalty?
 - (2). In view of this fact, how can one account for Samson's actions?
- f. In 16:9, Delilah continued her unrelenting pressure to discover the source of Samson's strength.
- (1). Think about the fact that she said to him, "the Philistines are upon you, Samson!" What does this tell you?
 - (2). If you were Delilah, how would you feel when Samson snapped the cords like string?
4. In Judges 16:10-12, Delilah again attempted to find the source of Samson's strength.
- a. In 16:10, Delilah complained because Samson had deceived her.
- (1). Think about her complaint for a moment. What comes to mind?
 - (2). If you were Samson, how would you feel when Delilah said these words?
- b. In 16:11, Samson responded to Delilah's complaint.
- (1). What was his reply?
 - (2). There is a serious problem with his answer. What is it?
 - (3). What danger did Samson face in this situation?
- c. In 16:12, Delilah followed Samson's instructions to bind him.
- (1). In view of Samson's other instructions, how could Delilah believe this one?
 - (2). It appears that Samson was getting away with his toying with Delilah. What was really happening?
5. In Judges 16:13, 14, Delilah again attempted to discover the source of Samson's strength.
- a. In 16:13, Delilah complained, again, that Samson had lied to her.
- (1). Think about this for a minute. What comes to mind?
 - (2). Look at Delilah's question. How has she approached the problem of discovering his strength?
 - (3). How did Delilah increase the pressure on Samson?
 - (4). Samson answered Delilah's pressured question.
 - (a). What mistakes did Samson commit in his answer?
 - (b). How could he have done the right thing?
- b. In 16:14, Delilah tested the latest explanation Samson had given her.
- (1). What should Samson have discovered from what Delilah had been doing?
 - (2). What had Delilah revealed by her pressure?
6. In Judges 16:15-17, Samson finally confided the truth to Delilah
- a. In 16:15, Delilah again complained that Samson had lied to her.
- (1). What charges did Delilah make against Samson?
 - (2). How did she increase the pressure on Samson to tell her the truth?
- b. In 16:16, the author described Samson's response to her pressure.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). How did the author describe this response?
- (2). How would you phrase Samson's feelings in your own words?
- c. In 16:17, Samson finally told Delilah the truth.
 - (1). How would you describe his feelings as he did that?
 - (2). Think about Samson's decision to tell Delilah everything.
 - (a). Did he really think he could continue to stay alive if he confided the source of his strength?
 - (b). How would you describe the relationship between Samson and Delilah?
7. In Judges 16:18-22, Delilah had a man shave off Samson's hair.
 - a. In 16:18, Delilah called for the Philistine leaders to return.
 - (1). What was she doing?
 - (2). What does this tell us about her?
 - (3). There are hints about motive in this verse. What are they?
 - (4). How would you describe the religious significance of what she did?
 - b. In 16:19, Delilah had Samson's hair cut.
 - (1). Why would Delilah be apt to believe Samson concerning this explanation when he had deceived her repeatedly?
 - (2). There is a message in the words, "and his strength left him." What is that message?
 - c. In 16:20, Delilah checked to see if Samson's strength was really gone.
 - (1). Samson's words, in this verse, tell us something about him. What is it?
 - (2). The author said, "He did not know that the LORD had departed from him." What should we discover from this statement?
 - d. In 16:21, the author described the Philistines' treatment of Samson after his capture.
 - (1). What was to be gained by gouging out his eyes?
 - (2). The text says, "they bound him with bronze chains." What is the significance of this?
 - (3). Why would they take Samson to Gaza?
 - e. In 16:22, the author informed us that Samson's hair began to grow again.
 - (1). What does this tell us about Samson's condition?
 - (2). What does this tell us about the Philistines?
 - f. There is some interesting information to be found in reviewing the times Samson toyed with Delilah over the source of his strength. Study the four verses, 16:7, 11, 13 and 17. What did you learn as you reviewed these experiences?
8. In Judges 16:23-27, the Philistines held a great festival mocking Samson and sacrificing to Dagon.
 - a. In 16:23, the Philistines attributed the capture of Samson to their god, Dagon. What can we learn from this fact?
 - b. In 16:24, there is a strong contrast.
 - (1). How did the Philistines see Samson?
 - (2). How did God see Samson?
 - c. In 16:25, the people talked about Samson.
 - (1). This verse seems out of character for Samson. How can one explain this?
 - (2). If you were Samson, what effect would this experience have on you?

Study Questions for Judges

- d. In 16:26, Samson begins his action of revenge.
 - (1). The text says that Samson spoke to “the boy who was holding his hand.” What insight can we gain from this information?
 - (2). Since Samson was blind, how would he know about these pillars?
 - (3). Review this verse again. What does it tell you about the character of Samson?
- e. In 16:27, the author gave us a picture of the crowd at this festival.
 - (1). What was the author attempting to do with this information?
 - (2). What was your immediate reaction when you read these words?
- 9. In Judges 16:28-31, Samson took revenge against the Philistines.
 - a. In 16:28, Samson prayed for help.
 - (1). List the things Samson asked God to do?
 - (2). Study this list. What does it tell you?
 - (3). There is a serious theological problem in this verse. What is it?
 - b. In 16:29, Samson prepared to pull down the temple.
 - (1). What does this verse tell you about Samson?
 - (2). What does this verse tell you about Samson’s relationship to God?
 - c. In 16:30, Samson pulled down the temple to Dagon.
 - (1). Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.”
 - (a). Is this suicide or self-sacrifice on behalf of God? How did you decide?
 - (b). What problems can you see concerning this situation?
 - (2). What significance, if any, do you attach to the statement, “So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life”?
 - d. In 16:31, the author described the burial of Samson. Why would this be important?
- 10. In Judges 13:5, the angel spoke to Manoah’s wife. In that conversation, the angel told her the reason for the fact that her son was to be a Nazirite. As you reflect over the life of Samson, in what way was that purpose accomplished in Samson’s life?
- 11. In Hebrews 11:32, Samson appears in Faith’s hall of fame. In view of the events and actions of Samson’s life, how would you explain his presence on this list?
- 12. Review this chapter again. Record the things that the author teaches us concerning the person and nature of God.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 17
MICAH HIRED A LEVITE FOR A PRIEST
JUDGES 17:1 – 13

1. There are two paragraphs in the seventeenth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

17:1-6	
17:7-13	

2. In Judges 17:1-6, Micah stole his mother's silver.
- a. In 17:1, 2, the text raises two main questions.
 - (1). What are the two questions?
 - (2). What can we learn from these problems?
 - b. In 17:3, Micah returned the silver to his mother.
 - (1). This verse presents a problem. How would you identify this problem?
 - (2). What explanation can we offer for this situation?
 - c. In 17:4, the mother did something that is quite confusing. Hint: Read verses 3 and 4 together.
 - (1). What is the confusion?
 - (2). How can we understand this confusing situation?
 - d. Read 17:56 very carefully. What errors can you detect on the part of Micah?
 - e. How would you express the content of 17:6 in your own words.
3. In Judges 17:7-13, Micah hired a Levite to be his priest.
- a. In 17:7, there is, again, the potential problem in this verse. What is the potential problem?
 - b. In 17:8, the author described the Levites situation. How would you interpret the words "to stay wherever he might find a place"?
 - (1). There are some implications here concerning God. What are they?
 - (2). What does this tell us about conditions in Israel?
 - c. In 17:9, 10, Micah invited the priest to be his priest.
 - (1). Why would this be wrong?
 - (2). What are the implications of such an arrangement?
 - d. Read 17:10, 11 together.
 - (1). Who is "the young man"?
 - (2). What inconsistency do you discover in these verses?
 - e. In 17:12, Micah consecrated the priest in
 - (1). What are the implications of this action?
 - (2). What problems could this create?
 - f. Read 17:3 very carefully.
 - (1). What information has the author shared with us on this issue?
 - (2). What are the implications of this statement?

Study Questions for Judges

4. What positive statements, if any, about God can you find in this chapter?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 18
THE DANITES ABUSED MICAH'S PRIEST
JUDGES 18:1 – 31

1. There are six paragraphs in the eighteenth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

18:1-6	
18:7-10	
18:11-13	
18:14-20	
18:21-26	
19:27-31	

2. In Judges 18:1-6, the Danites asked the Levite to inquire concerning their success.
- In 18:1, the tribe of Dan was looking for their inheritance in land.
 - In this verse it says, "In those days there was no king in Israel." What does this have to do with the rest of the verse?
 - How can we account for the fact that the text says, "for until that day an inheritance had not been allotted to them as a possession among the tribes of Israel. In Judges 1:34, however, the men of Dan were unable to drive the Amorites out of their allotted land?"
 - In 18:2, 3, Dan sent spies to search out their land.
 - There is a problem in these verses.
 - What is the problem?
 - How can we explain this problem?
 - How can we explain the fact that the spies recognized the Levites voice?
 - In 18:4, there are two problems with which we must deal.
 - What are these problems?
 - How can we explain these problems?
 - In 17:9, this person referred to himself as a "Levite." In this verse, and from this point on, he called himself a "priest." What is the significance of this change?
 - In 18:5, 6, The spies asked the Levite to Inquire of God on their behalf.
 - The spies did something wrong. What was it?
 - Why did God answer their request even though they were disobedient?
3. In Judges 18:7-10, the Spies of Dan search out the land.
- In 18:7, The author tells what the spies found.
 - How would you describe their report?
 - How does the author describe what the spies found?
 - In 18:8, 9, the spies gave their report.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). What did they report to the people of Dan?
- (2). What admonitions did they give?
- c. In 18:10 the spies said, "God has given it into your hand"
 - (1). Think about this a moment. Is there a problem you can discover here?
 - (2). How would you explain this?
4. In Judges 18:11-13, 600 soldiers left to attack Laish
 - a. In 18:11, 12, the 600 men left their homes.
 - (1). Why would they only take 600 soldiers for this engagement?
 - (2). What can we learn from these facts?
 - b. In 18:13, they stopped at the home of Micah. Why would they do this?
5. In 18:14-20, the soldiers took the Levite and the graven images.
 - a. In 18:14, the spy told the soldiers about Micah's home.
 - (1). What, if anything, was he suggesting?
 - (2). Study the verse. Why would he say this as he did?
 - b. In 18:15, the 600 soldiers came to the house of Micah. If you were Micah, how would you have felt when the soldiers greeted you?
 - c. In 18:16, it became clear that this was not a social call.
 - (1). What would have been the first clue?
 - (2). Now, in view of this verse, if you were Micah, how would you feel?
 - d. In 18:17, the five spies stole Micah's idols.
 - (1). In view of their mission, why would they do this?
 - (2). Read this verse from the perspective of the priest. Seeing both the disappearing idols and the 600-armed soldiers, how would you feel?
 - e. In 18:18, the priest confronted the five spies. How would you describe the question he put to them?
 - f. In 18:19, the five spies answered the priest's question.
 - (1). How would you describe their response?
 - (2). There is a double threat and a double invitation in this verse.
 - (a). What are the threats?
 - (b). What are the two invitations?
 - (3). The five spies asked the priest a question. On the basis of the text, what were they saying?
 - g. In 18:20, the priest went with the soldiers.
 - (1). There is a curious contrast between verses 19 and 20.
 - (a). What is the contrast?
 - (b). How can we account for this?
 - (2). What does this tell you about the priest?
6. In Judges 18:21-26, Micah unsuccessfully chased after the soldiers.
 - a. In 18:21, the soldiers left the home of Micah.
 - (1). What strategic move did they make?
 - (2). Why did they make this move?

Study Questions for Judges

- b. In 18:22, Micah's neighbors came to his defense.
 - (1). Why did they take so long to respond?
 - (2). Why did they go with Micah to chase after the soldiers?
 - c. In 18:23, Micah and his neighbors caught up with the soldiers.
 - (1). What was the response of the soldiers?
 - (2). What did the soldiers infer by their question?
 - d. In 18:24, Micah responded to the question of the soldiers.
 - (1). How would you describe Micah's emotions on the basis of this verse?
 - (2). What was he saying by the questions he asked?
 - c. In 18:25, the soldiers responded to Micah's emotional charge.
 - (1). In view of the fact that the soldiers stole Micah's idols and their response to him in 18:24, how would you describe their response to him in 18:25?
 - (2). What type of political relationship does this encounter reflect?
 - d. In 18:26, Micah reacted to the threat of the soldiers.
 - (1). What attitude is reflected in the actions of the soldiers?
 - (2). What was the cause of Micah's reaction?
 - (3). Describe Micah's feelings as pictured as pictured in this verse.
7. In Judges 18:27-31, the men of Dan conquered the land.
- a. In 18:27, the soldiers moved from Micah's home to Laish.
 - (1). Why would the soldiers want to take the priest and the idols with them into battle?
 - (2). There is a confusing problem in this verse.
 - (a). What is this confusing problem?
 - (b). How can we explain their actions?
 - b. In 18:28, 29, the author explained part of the reason that Laish was defeated.
 - (1). Reread 18:27-29 very carefully. The word "they" appears four times in these verses. Identify the people referred to by each use of the word.
 - (2). How does this help the interpretation?
 - c. In 18:30, the soldiers of Dan set up the idols they stole from Micah.
 - (1). In view of what God had done for them, how can we explain what they did in this verse?
 - (2). Read Judges 18:19 and then read 18:30.
 - (a). What problem do you observe?
 - (b). How can we explain what happened?
 - (3). What do you learn from the fact that Jonathan and his sons were priests in Dan "until the day of the captivity of the land"?
 - d. In 18:31, the author gave us a time designation dealing with the time the people of Dan worshipped the idols they took from Micah.
 - (1). From a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, find the year concerning which the author was speaking.
 - (2). Compare this with the time designation the author used in 18:30
8. Review your study of this chapter. What did you find concerning the nature of God in the chapter?

Study Questions for Judges

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 19
THE LEVITE’S CONCUBINE WAS ABUSED
JUDGES 19:1 – 30

1. There are five paragraphs in the nineteenth chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

19:1-9	
19:10-15	
19:16-21	
19:22-26	
19:27-30	

2. In Judges 19:1-9, a Levite went to retrieve his erring concubine.
- a. In 19:1, the author inconspicuously identified a problem.
 - (1). What was the problem?
 - (2). What does this tell us?
 - b. In 19:2, the author gave us a picture of the moral decline of the land.
 - (1). What pictures did he give us?
 - (2). Why was such a situation possible?
 - c. In 19:3, the Levite went to Bethlehem to bring back his concubine.
 - (1). What is there in this verse that gives you a clue concerning the Levite’s attitude?
 - (2). In the opening verses of this chapter, it speaks of this person as a “concubine.” In this verse, however, the author spoke of her as a “girl.” What is the significance of this change?
 - d. In 19:4, the father-in-law detained them for three days. What, if anything, does this tell you?
 - e. In 19:5, the father-in-law detained his son-in-law another day.
 - (1). Put yourself in the Levite's position. What would you do?
 - (2). Look carefully at what the concubine’s father said. On a scale of 1-10, how sincere would you judge him to be?
 - f. In 19:6, the father detained them further.
 - (1). Why would he do that?
 - (2). Why wouldn’t the Levite just insist on going home?
 - g. In 19:7, the father detained them yet again.
 - (1). Put yourself in the father’s position. What possible reasons could you have for doing this?
 - (2). Put yourself in the Levite’s position. How would you feel?
 - h. In 19:8, the father once more urged them to stay.
 - (1). There is an impossible situation in this verse. What is it?
 - (2). What does this tell you?
 - i. In 19:9, the father again detained them. What was the father doing with all these delays?

Study Questions for Judges

3. In Judges 19:10-15, the Levite spent the night in Gibeah.
 - a. In 19:10, the Levite started home.
 - (1). Why could he refuse the invitation this time, but had been unable to do so previously?
 - (2). The author took special care to describe the Levite's group. Why?
 - b. In 19:11, the servant urged the Levite to spend the night in Jebus. Why would he want to do this?
 - c. In 19:12, the Levite refused to stop in Jebus.
 - (1). Why wouldn't he stop there?
 - (2). Why would he want to stop in Gibeah?
 - d. In 19:13, the Levite chose to stop in Gibeah.
 - (1). Why would the Levite say "Gibeah or Ramah"?
 - (2). How realistic was it to consider going to Ramah?
 - e. In 19:14, the author described a serious problem.
 - (1). What was the problem?
 - (2). The author mentioned the fact that Gibeah belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. Why was this important?
 - f. In 19:15, the author described their entrance into Gibeah. How would you describe their dilemma?
4. In Judges 19:16-21, an elderly man took them into his home.
 - a. In 19:16, the author described the old man.
 - (1). Read this verse again. What information did the author give us about this man?
 - (2). Why was this information important?
 - b. In 19:17, the old man questioned the Levite.
 - (1). Why would he do this.
 - (2). There is a contrast between 19:15 and 19:17.
 - (a). What contrast do you see?
 - (b). Make a chart to show the differences in this contrast.
 - c. In 19:18, the Levite answered the old man.
 - (1). Compare 19:16 with 19:18. What did you discover?
 - (2). What pain does the Levite express as he answered the old man's questions?
 - d. In 19:19, the Levite expressed a level of emotion.
 - (1). What was his emotional expression?
 - (2). How would you say this in your own words?
 - e. In 19:20, the old man welcomed them. There is a contrast between the old man and the men of Gibeah. How would you describe that contrast?
 - f. In 19:21, there is a hint concerning the old man's financial situation. What is that hint?
5. In Judges 19:22-26, the men of Gibeah abused the Levite's concubine.
 - a. In 19:22, some men of Gibeah beat on the old man's door.
 - (1). What did they want?
 - (2). What can we learn from this description?
 - b. In 19:23, the old man pleaded with these men not to do as they had stated. What was the basis of his pleading?
 - c. In 19:24, the old man made an alternative suggestion.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). What was it?
 - (2). Describe your emotions as you read this verse.
 - (3). Why was the old man so concerned about the man; so unconcerned about the two women?
 - d. In 19:25, the village men rejected the offer of the old man.
 - (1). Who gave the concubine to the village men?
 - (2). What questions went through your mind as you read this verse?
 - e. In 19:26, the author described the condition of the concubine. What was her condition?
6. In Judges 19:27-30, The Levite responded to the death of his concubine.
- a. In 19:27, the Levite found his concubine at the doorstep.
 - (1). Read this verse carefully. Where was the Levite while his concubine was being raped and killed?
 - (2). Put yourself in the place of the Levite. What would you feel when the author wrote, “When her master arose in the morning and opened the door of the house and went out to go on his way...”?
 - b. In 19:28, the Levite found his concubine.
 - (1). What did he say to her?
 - (2). How would you describe him at that moment?
 - (3). How would you describe his actions when the author said, “the man arose and went to his home”?
 - c. In 19:29, the Levite cut up his concubine.
 - (1). What did the Levite do?
 - (2). Why would he make 12 pieces?
 - (3). What emotional expression do you find on the part of the Levite?
 - d. In 19:30, the author recorded the reaction of the people.
 - (1). What was their reaction?
 - (2). What demand did they make?
7. Review the chapter. What does it tell you about God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 20
THE BENJAMITES DEFEATED –
HARBORED TWO MURDERERS
JUDGES 20:1 – 48

1. There are eight paragraphs that make up the content of Judges chapter 20. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

20:1-7	
20:8-11	
20:12-16	
20:17, 18	
20:19-23	
20:24-28	
20:29-35	
20:36 – 48	

2. In Judges 20:1-7, all Israel gathered at Mizpeh.
- a. In 20:1, the author used three geographical designations:
 - (1). What are these geographical designations?
 - (2). What do these designations stand for?
 - (3). How would you describe the author’s intent in the words, “The congregation assembled as one man to the Lord”?
 - (4). Why did they gather at Mizpeh rather than in Gibeah?
 - b. In 20:2, leaders and soldiers gathered.
 - (1). Read this verse carefully.
 - (2). What is indicated by the fact that they came prepared for war?
 - (3). What is the significance of the fact that they brought 400,000 troops?
 - c. In 20:3, the hearing got under way.
 - (1). How would the Benjamites hear about this gathering?
 - (2). If you were a Benjamite, how would you feel?
 - d. In 20:4, 5, The Levite told his story.
 - (1). In verse four, the text speaks of the murdered woman as both the “wife” and the “concubine” of the Levite. How can we explain this?
 - (2). The Levite said, “They intended to kill me.” The previous story does not indicate this. How would he know that?
 - (3). What, if anything, did the Levite omit as he retold the story?
 - e. In 20:6, the Levite admitted that he cut up the body.
 - (1). There is a problem with this action. What is the problem?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). What reason did the Levite give for his actions?
- f. In 20:7, the Levite gave a call for action.
 - (1). What did he request?
 - (2). What did he really want?
3. In Judges 20:8-11, the eleven tribes prepared for battle
 - a. In 20:8, the people responded to the Levite.
 - (1). What was their response?
 - (2). What did it mean?
 - (3). In this verse, the people spoke of both their “tents” and their “houses.” What is the intent of this?
 - b. In 20:9, they made plans for battle.
 - (1). Where is the report of their decision to attack Gibeah?
 - (2). Why would they make their decision “by lot”?
 - c. In 20:10, they chose the size of their army.
 - (1). How big was their army?
 - (2). Why 10% from each group?
 - (3). What purpose did they affirm?
 - d. In 20:11, the author restated the unity of their decision. What is the purpose of this restatement?
4. In Judges 20:12-16, Benjamin refused to hand over the guilty men.
 - a. In 20:12, the tribes went throughout Benjamin asking about the crime. In this verse there are several assumptions.
 - (1). What are the assumptions?
 - (2). What did they really ask?
 - b. In 20:13, the men of Israel issued their request.
 - (1). What was their request?
 - (2). What was their announced intent?
 - (3). What was Benjamin’s response?
 - (4). What does this say about the men of Benjamin?
 - c. In 20:14, the Benjamites gathered men for battle.
 - (1). What was the significance of this move?
 - (2). What is the problem with their decision?
 - d. In 20:15, the author reported the size of the Benjamite forces.
 - (1). How large was their army?
 - (2). How does this compare with the army of Israel?
 - (3). Why was their number so small?
 - e. In 20:16, the author highlights a special interest in the Benjamite ranks.
 - (1). What is this specialty?
 - (2). What is the significance of the emphasis on “left-handed”?
5. In Judges 20:17, 18, the men of Israel sought the Lord concerning the battle.
 - a. In 20:17, the author described the 400,000 soldiers of Israel in two ways:

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). What are they?
- (2). What does this say about Benjamin's decision to go into battle?
- b. In 20:18, Israel sought God's guidance.
 - (1). Why would they go to Bethel to pray?
 - (2). What does this say about Israel?
 - (3). What does the answer say about God?
6. In Judges 20:19-23, the author reported Benjamin's victory over Israel.
 - a. In 20:19, the author reported Israel's preparation for battle. What did they do?
 - b. In 20:20, the author reported that "Israel arrayed for battle." What does this mean?
 - c. In 20:21, the author reported the results of the battle.
 - (1). What was the result?
 - (2). If you were a Benjamite soldier, what affect would this have on you?
 - (3). If you were an Israelite soldier, what affect would this have on you?
 - e. In 20:22, the author described Israel's response to this defeat. How did they respond?
 - f. In 20:23, the army of Israel wept before the Lord.
 - (1). What does this tell us?
 - (2). How can we account for their previous defeat when they did what God asked of them?
7. In Judges 20:24-28, Benjamin defeated Israel a second time.
 - a. In 20:24, 25, the second battle was enjoined.
 - (1). What was the result of this encounter?
 - (2). If you were a soldier in Israel, how would you feel?
 - (3). If you were a soldier in Benjamin, how would you feel?
 - b. In 20:26, the author described the reaction in Israel
 - (1). What was that reaction?
 - (2). What did the people of Israel do? Why?
 - (3). What does this tell us about Israel?
 - c. In 20:27, the author described the next move for Israel.
 - (1). Why did they go to Bethel?
 - (2). Put yourself into this scene. What would you be feeling at this time?
 - d. In 20:28, Phinehas prayed before the ark.
 - (1). What was his request?
 - (2). What was God's reply?
 - (3). If you were a leader in Israel, how would you feel at this point?
8. In Judges 20:29-35, Jehovah dealt with the Benjamites
 - a. In 20:29, Israel changed their tactics in battle. What did they do? Why did they do this?
 - b. In 20:30, the third battle was set.
 - (1). In this verse it says, "as at other times." Was this true?
 - (2). In what ways did this encounter differ from the previous two?
 - (3). What does this tell us?

Study Questions for Judges

- c. In 20:31, the Benjamites came to do battle a third time.
 - (1). The author used the words, “as at other times.” What does he mean by this?
 - (2). The author mentioned “about thirty men of Israel.” What is the significance of this information?
- d. In 20:32, there is a contrast between the statements of Israel and Benjamin.
 - (1). What is the contrast?
 - (2). What does this contrast mean?
 - (3). What information is confirmed by the statement of Israel?
 - (4). How would you describe Israel’s attitude?
- e. In 20:33, 34, Israel’s battle plan became evident. Read these verses carefully.
 - (1). What do these verses tell you about the army of Benjamin?
 - (2). The author gives us a hint in the words, “Benjamin did not know that disaster was close to them.” What did he mean?
 - (3). How did the author describe the conditions for Benjamin?
- f. In 20:35, the author described Israel’s victory over Benjamin.
 - (1). There is an apparent contradiction in this verse.
 - (a). What is the apparent contradiction?
 - (b). How can we account for this?
 - (2). Compare verses 15 and 35. How many Benjamite soldiers were left after this defeat?
- 9. In Judges 20:36-48, The Israelites burned Gibeah.
 - a. In 20:36, 37, Benjamin realized that they had been trapped.
 - (1). How would they know this?
 - (2). What do these verses say about the relationship within the Israelite army?
 - b. In 20:38, the city of Gibeah was torched.
 - (1). How would this affect the Israelite soldiers?
 - (2). How would this affect the Benjamite soldiers?
 - c. In 20:39, marks the turning point in the battle.
 - (1). What was the turning point?
 - (2). There is a contrast in this verse. What is the contrast?
 - d. In 20:40, 41, The Benjamites realized what had happened.
 - (1). How did the Israelites react?
 - (2). How did the Benjamites react?
 - e. In 20:42, the author described how the trap was sprung. Explain this in your own words.
 - f. In 20:43, the author used two word pictures to describe how Israel destroyed the Benjamites.
 - (1). Explain these two word pictures.
 - (2). What evidence of motivation can you see in this verse?
 - g. In 20:44, the author identified the losses of Benjamin.
 - (1). The author referred to the dead soldiers as “valiant warriors.” How would you describe what this means?
 - (2). What is the author’s emphasis in this description?
 - h. In 20:45, the author described the reaction of the rest of the Benjamite army.

Study Questions for Judges

- (1). What was their reaction?
 - (2). How many Benjamite soldiers were left at this point? (In order to answer this question, reread verses 15,16,35, 44 and 45.)
 - i. In 20:46, the author summarized the losses of Benjamin.
 - (1). Check the author's addition. Does your accounting match that of the author?
 - (2). There is a problem that becomes evident in this verse.
 - (a). What is the problem?
 - (b). How can we deal with this problem?
 - (3). The author used two word pictures to describe the Benjamite soldiers.
 - (a). What are these descriptions?
 - (b). What does he mean by their use?
 - j. In 20:47, 48, the author accounted for some of the soldiers who did not die.
 - (1). Why would they flee toward the wilderness?
 - (2). Why didn't the soldiers of Israel pursue them?
 - (3). In verse 48, the author described the Israelite dealing with the cities.
 - (a). What did they do?
 - (b). Why would they do that?
10. Review the chapter to discover what it says about God.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 21
WIVES FOR THE BENJAMITES
JUDGES 21:1 – 25

1. There are four paragraphs in the twenty-first chapter of the book of Judges. On the following table, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

21:1-7	
21:8-12	
21:13-15	
21:16-25	

2. In Judges 21:1-7, the author described the provision of wives for Benjamites.
- a. In 21:1, there is a seeming inconsistency in the vow the men of Israel took. What was inconsistent about it?
 - b. In 21:2, the people of Israel came to Bethel to pray.
 - (1). Why would they go to Bethel?
 - (2). Why would the people of Israel be so concerned about the fact that there were no wives for the men of Benjamin?
 - c. In 21:3, the author described the burden of Israel's prayer. What was it?
 - d. In 21:4, the people of Israel built an altar in Bethel, where there was already an altar to God. Why would they do this?
 - e. In 21:5, the men of Israel asked concerning the ones who had not come up to the assembly to the Lord. What difference would that make?
 - f. In 21:6, 7, you can sense deep concern on the part of the people of Israel for the Benjamites. There is something strange about this concern.
 - (1). What is it?
 - (2). How can we explain this situation?
3. In Judges 21:8-12, Israel pursued the idea of those who did not come to the assembly.
- a. The author mentioned a second time, in 21:8, that some people did not come to the assembly in Mizpah. What makes this fact so important?
 - b. In 21:9, the author mentioned the fact that no one came to the assembly from Jabesh-gilead. Can you think of any reason why the men of Jabesh-gilead would not come?
 - c. In 21:10, Israel sent a large army to destroy Jabesh-gilead. The battle with Benjamin was finished. Why would it be necessary to do this?
 - d. Make a comparison of 21:11 with 21:5.
 - (1). What did you discover?
 - (2). How important would this be?
 - e. In 21:12, the men of Israel brought the 400 virgins from Jabesh-gilead to be wives for the Benjamites.
 - (1). What problem can you discover with this decision?

Study Questions for Judges

- (2). Why would the men of Israel bring the virgins to Shiloh rather than send the Benjamites to Jabesh-gilead?
4. In Judges 21:13, the men of Benjamin were given the virgins from Jabesh-gilead as wives.
- In 21:13, Israel sent a message to the Benjamites.
 - Why would it be necessary for the whole congregation of Israel to send this message?
 - The text says that the people of Israel proclaimed peace to the Benjamites. What would the purpose of this be?
 - Read this verse carefully, at least twice.
 - What emotional tone do you sense?
 - What would Israel hope to gain by this?
 - In 21:14, there is a problem.
 - What is it?
 - What makes this so crucial?
 - In 21:15, there is a seeming inconsistency.
 - What is it?
 - How can you explain it?
5. In Judges 21:16-25, the people of Israel devise a plan to find more wives for Benjamin.
- In 21:16, the men of Israel struggle to find wives for the men of Benjamin.
 - How would you describe the concern of Israel?
 - In view of Israel's determination to destroy the cities and people of Benjamin, why would they now be so concerned?
 - In 21:17, 18, Israel struggled again over this problem.
 - How would you describe the emotion expressed in these verses?
 - What does this have to say about the men of Israel?
 - In 21:19, the men of Israel planned a solution to the problem of Benjamin.
 - Compare this solution with their vow as recorded in 21:5. What did you discover?
 - Is this solution reasonable and appropriate?
 - In 21:20, 21, instructions were given to the men of Benjamin.
 - What were the instructions?
 - There is a potential problem with the instructions.
 - What is the potential problem?
 - How would you explain this to a new believer?
 - In 21:22, the men of Israel seek to reassure the men of Benjamin.
 - What problem do the men of Israel anticipate with this solution?
 - If you were one of the men of Israel, how could you square this statement to Benjamin with the vow you took at Mizpah?
 - In 21:23, the sons of Benjamin did as they were instructed.
 - The men of Benjamin went back to their cities. That being the case, how can we explain Israel destroying the cities and burning them?
 - What does this say about the men of Israel?

Study Questions for Judges

- g. In 21:24, the men of Israel went home. What does this say about this whole episode?
 - h. Read verses 24 and 25 together.
 - (1). What did you discover about the makeup of the verses?
 - (2). There are two statements in verse 25.
 - (a). What are these statements?
 - (b). What was the author trying to say.
6. Review chapter 21 to discover what this chapter has to say about the nature and character of God.

Study Questions for Judges