



GIDEON

FAMILY DEVOS

The Judges

Scripture: Judges 2:11-19

Memory Verse: Judges 21:25

“In those days, there was no King in Israel and everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

For My Family

Over the next two weeks, we will be studying the life of a man named Gideon. Before we start reading about Gideon, let's take a look at what life was like in Israel when Gideon lived.

Our memory verse, Judges 21:25, shows us that one of the problems with Israel was that there was no king, and that everyone was doing whatever *they* thought was right, not what God thought was right. Inevitably, that meant that the people would do evil in the Lord's eyes and start worshipping false gods. Because of this, the Lord would remove His hand of protection from them. He would effectively say to the people, “Okay, if you want Baal to protect you, let's try that for awhile and see how that works out.” Of course Baal is a false god and couldn't protect the people at all, so when Israel's enemies attacked them (like the Philistines or the Moabites), the people of Israel would be defeated. The people would turn back to the true God and cry out for help, so God would raise up a judge who would lead the people (strengthened by the Lord) to victory over their enemies. Sadly, as soon as the trouble was over and the people were saved, they would turn back to their Baals, their false gods, and the whole situation would go around and around again.

Gideon, the man we are going to study, was one of the judges that God chose to lead His people. You might think that means that Gideon was a very brave warrior, or that he was someone who always made the right choice and never did anything wrong. Actually, Gideon was a very ordinary man. He was a man who made mistakes, who was afraid of his enemies, and who had trouble trusting God, but we will start looking at those things next time.

Sometimes you and I can be a bit like the Israelites during the time of the judges. When everything seems to be going well, we can forget about God and start doing things our own way. Then when things start to go badly, we remember God and we cry out to Him for help, which of course He does. Right now, as we live through uncertain and confusing times, it might be a little bit easier to turn to God for help. Maybe you have been praying more. Let's all do our best to continue to honor our King when all this is over, the way that we are desperately seeking after Him now. Let's not be like the Israelites who, after the Lord was good to them and delivered them from their oppression, turned away and forgot about the One who was so good to them during the trial.

Questions for Young Children:

Who did the people serve instead of God? Why did this cause them problems?

When Israel's false gods failed them, who did they call to for help?

What were the people called who the Lord raised up to lead the people? They weren't Kings, they were J_____

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Can you relate to the Israelites in this passage, calling out to God and asking Him for help when there is trouble, but then kind of forgetting about Him when things are going well? Why do you think we allow that to happen?

If you pick the characteristics of a good leader, what would they be like?

Has being stuck at home these past few weeks helped, or hindered your relationship with God?

What can we do better as a family to follow God during this time?