

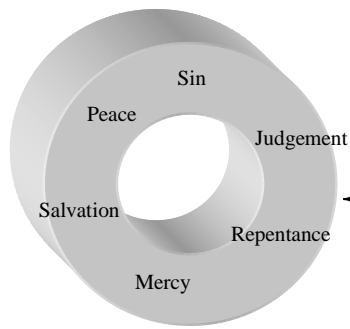
Judges Group Studies – **Conclusion**

Study Plan (see hand-out below)

- Get each person to brainstorm themes from the book using post-its, then put all the post-it's on a board and get everyone to categorize by moving them into groups. Begin by doing 5 minutes of silent categorization, then let people talk about it.
 - E.g. Israel's unfaithfulness, God's faithfulness, The Judge representative of Israel, The Judge a pattern of God's saviour, God's wisdom and glory in salvation, The rightful rule of the judge, God's command for living in the land, The Judge distinguishing between God's people and his enemies
- Remove the post-it's, and on the board make a final refinement of the pattern into a sequence of one-word themes.
- Read out 1 Cor 10:11.
- Get everyone individually to list on their sheet the various characters (not individuals, but roles) that the book has presented, and write beside it a description of their meaning for us.
 - E.g. Israel, Judge, God, Nations, Kings, The Land etc.
- Get volunteers to share, but fill in extra summary info/questions as required:
 - Israel – we are like Israel in that we need salvation from God, but in of ourselves we are unfaithful to God. Yet God has chosen us for special relationship.
 - Judge – the Judge is like Israel in his flaws, but like Jesus in his saving role and rule. This dual role hints at the nature of Jesus – needing to be human and divine to save perfectly.
 - Jordan – the line of judgement between those in God's people and those who aren't. Those who aren't face punishment.
 - The Land – God's place of rest for his people in relationship with himself. This is where his people should respond to him in faithfulness and obedience.
 - The Nations – those who aren't God's people – they distract God's people and detract from their holiness and calling. They are also those who experience God's wrath.
 - The King/Commander – representative of those who aren't God's people, demonstrates the personal aspect of God's judgement.
 - God – their God is our God. The only difference is that we have seen the character and purposes of that God perfectly in Jesus.
- Outline again where the end of Judges leaves Israel, historically speaking.
 - Fill in events/people on the time-line
 - i.e. In the promised land (good), but without a king (problematic)
- Get pairs of people to write out three teaching points that they would want to aim for in preparing a Sunday-school series on Judges.
 - E.g. The right response to God is remembrance and obedience, We need to acknowledge our need for a saviour, God's saviour is the rightful ruler, Jesus is the saviour pointed to in Judges, Jesus determines who are God's people and who aren't
- As a group, attempt to remember the major points of application from the series, and list their top three to work on.
- Pass sheets to the left, and each person pray for the applications of the person on their right.



Summary



Ingredients for a judge narrative:

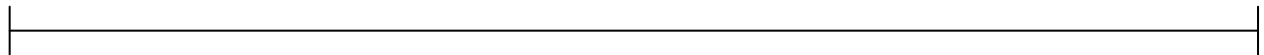
- The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD
- So the LORD sold them into the hands of X
- For N years they oppressed all the Israelites
- they cried to the LORD for help
- and he gave them a deliverer
- "the LORD has given X into your hands"
- the Spirit of the Lord came upon J
- Thus Israel subdued X
- J led Israel M years
- and the land had peace for M years
- No sooner had J died than the Israelites again...

1 Corinthians 10:11

Character	Meaning for Us

Judges in 'Salvation-History' Context

Judges 2:1-3, 2:11-19, 21:25
1 Samuel 8:4-22



3 points I would want to teach...

3 things I want to do...

1 Peter 2:9-10

1.
2.
3.



