

Life Group Discussion Guide
Judges 3

First Things First

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to the Scriptures to shape your thinking, beliefs, and desires for single-hearted devotion to the Lord.
2. Read Judges 2:18-23 for background. Then read Judges 3:1-31 two times out loud together.
3. Have one or two people summarize Judges 3 in their own words.
4. What are some important details that should not be overlooked in this passage? What themes or patterns help us identify what the author of Judges wants us to take note of? Be sure to note key phrases that may be clues.

Renewing our Minds in the Truth

5. We know from Judges 2:20-23 that because of Israel's covenant-breaking idolatry, God left some of the inhabitants in that land to test Israel. Based on 2:22, 3:1-2, and 3:4, what reasons did God have for testing Israel with the enemy's presence?
6. One of God's reasons for testing Israel was so that they would be "taught war." What do you think this means? Is it more than military tactics? What had been the most important factor for Israel to be victorious in war up to this time?
7. What do we learn about God (His character and His ways) in this passage? What might we learn from God's anger being ignited? Where do you see God's mercy?
8. What do we learn about humanity in this passage?
9. How does Judges 3 point us to our need for the gospel?

Taking the Word to Heart and Life

10. The first three Judges of Israel are mentioned in this passage: Othneil, Ehud, and Shamgar. What qualities of these three men might we seek to emulate? Is there anything about them that we should not imitate? What might we attribute to their victory? What was the result?
11. As you reflect on Judges 3, what wisdom might you gather about how to safeguard your own heart? What harmful desires or attitudes or patterns of behavior do you need to guard against in light of Judges 3? What God-oriented desires, attitudes or patterns of behavior do you need to cultivate this week in response to Judges 3? (Begin your answer with "I will...")
12. How does Judges 3 impact how you think about what you need to teach and model to your children/grandchildren for the next generation?

Serving One Another from the Heart

1. What challenge are you facing in life, family, or community that we can help you with (pray, encourage, serve)?
2. Pray for God to meet practical needs and concerns in each other's lives. Pray for God's grace to empower each other to live according to the truths we have learned from Judges 3.