

The View From Above

Week 7: God Grapples with His People

Adult Study Questions

Highlight:

Read Judges 2

Read Judges 6

Explain:

If you have kids, when have your kids tested your patience with their constant disobedience? What was that like for you?

When have you observed someone be patient beyond understanding? What struck you about that?

The book of Judges repeats a cycle throughout the whole narrative. Israel sins by worshipping false gods, God disciplines them by sending a nation to overtake them, the people cry out to God for help in the midst of their suffering, God hears their cries and raises up a Judge to deliver them, and then the people have a temporary time of worshipping God again. Have you noticed this before? What about this cycle stands out to you?

Why did God want the Israelites to remove the other nations from the land? What happened when they didn't carry this out?

Read Judges 21:25. How does "everyone did what was right in their own eyes" contribute to the cyclical problem in the book of Judges?

Does God act how you expect him to in the story of the Judges? Why or why not?

Where do you see God's faithfulness in the narrative of the Judges?

Read 1 Samuel 8:19-21. Why did Israel want a king? What sort of king did they envision having?

Why was the Israelites' request for a king offensive to God? Was it that they wanted a king at all, or was it that they wanted a king that was contrary to God's standard?

What sort of king did God want the Israelites to have?

Apply:

Where have you tried to be the lord of your own life? Has that gone well for you? Why or why not?

The Big Story:

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We need God to save us AND we need God to be our King. What does someone's faith look like if they want God's salvation without his Lordship? Have you experienced this in your own walk with the Lord?

Why do we struggle to recognize our need to have God be our savior AND our Lord?

What parts of your life are you still trying to be king over?

God has been incredibly patient with His people. How does that change the way you interact with the people in your life?

Respond:

Be reassured that although you were trapped in the cycle of sin, in God's patience He saved you and is at work in your life.