

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, Jan 27th – Judges 6:1-32

We have resumed our Journey through the Bible and will continue it until Lent. As discussed, we will be looking at the story of each judge in the Book of Judges. This week we will study the call from God on Gideon to be a judge. Let's start by reading verses 1-10. This is a recap as to why Israel needs judges. What did Israel do and how did God respond (vs. 1)? Remember, doing evil was usually tied to idol worship – turning to false foreign gods and worshipping them. How did the Midianites control Israel (vss. 2-6)? What brought about the change (vs. 7-10)? Note the change was coming, but what they got in response to their cries was an explanation of why they were in the predicament they find themselves. This leads to the call of Gideon. Read verses 11-22. What is the call of God upon Gideon (vss. 11-14)? What was Gideon's response (vs. 15)? Does this remind you of Moses? What does the Angel of the Lord tell Gideon (vs. 16)? How does Gideon get proof that the Angel of God is speaking the truth (vss. 17-22)? What assurance does God give Gideon and how does Gideon respond (vss. 23-24)? Now comes the test. What does God ask Gideon to do (vss. 25-26)? Gideon does what the Lord requests, but at night so no one would see him. See, even God's judges are afraid at times. What was the result of these actions (vss. 27-32)? Notice that the text confirms that Israel is worshipping Baal and at the Asherah pole. Did you notice it was Gideon's father who stands up for him? The father whose altar and Asherah pole Gideon tore down! What does Joash say to rebuke those seeking revenge on Gideon for his actions? What does this remind us about God? Will God just tolerate sin? Will God abandon us even when we do sin? What does this reveal about us and our always seeking new gods and idols in our lives? How does this point to our need for a judge and redeemer? Jesus doesn't save us from others but saves us from ourselves – from our own sinfulness. Spend some time in prayer today, asking God to show you where you worship idols. Repent and turn back to God, accepting his love and forgiveness. Turn from idols – cut them down or cut them out!

Tuesday, Jan 28th – Judges 6:33-40

Continuing the story of Gideon, what happens next (vss. 33-35)? Notice that Gideon does nothing in his own power, but rather in the power of the Holy Spirit which comes upon him. But Gideon still has doubts and asks that the Lord help relieve his doubts, by showing him that this is really God's command. What is the first test (vss. 36-38)? Now Gideon still has doubts because what if the skin was wet, because it absorbed all the water from the ground? Then it could still not be of God. So, what does Gideon ask next and how does it turn out (vss. 39-40)? When God calls you, it is natural to question whether it is God or not, especially at the beginning. Consider all the leaders and judges we have read about thus far. All at the beginning question whether God is really calling them. What does this reveal about God and His call on people's lives? What does this reveal about us? How might God be calling you today? What might you need from God to understand the call?

Wednesday, Jan 29th – Judges 7 and 8

The story continues today with stuff of which movies are made. It is time to go to battle. But first God says they need to pare down the army. Why does Gideon need to do this (vss. 1-2)? So, what methods does Gideon get to use to reduce the size of his fighting contingent (vss. 3-8)? Now 300 men to a hoard can be quite intimidating, but God assures Gideon that the victory will be His. How does God convey and confirm this to Gideon (vss. 9-14)? After hearing what was said in the enemy camp, Gideon is up and ready to fight. So how do 300 men plus God get victory over the enemy hoard (vss. 15-22)? Once the majority of the battle is finished, who does Gideon call in for clean-up (vss. 23-25)? But just killing the generals isn't enough. For the full victory, Gideon will need to kill the kings. This doesn't go smoothly. What things occur on this journey to capture the kings (vss. 8:1-9)? Once Gideon captures the kings, what happens (vss. 10-17)? Now it is time to deal with the kings. How does this all end (vss. 18-21)? With victory over the Midianites, what do the Israelites ask (8:22). As we saw in verse 23, Gideon declines saying God is their King, but he wants a reward. What does he ask for and what does he do with it (vss. 25-27)? But what happens regarding the ephod? Read verses 28-32. How long did Israel have peace? How many sons did Gideon have? What happens after Gideon's death (vss. 33-15)? What does this reveal about God? About us and how easily we are lured into worshipping other things besides God?

Thursday, Jan 30th – Judges 9:1-21

We finish this week with the story of Gideon's family and the problems that ensue after his death. Remember the son born of the concubine in Shechem? Today and tomorrow is his story. How does Abimelech's story begin (vss. 1-6)? We see that Jotham is the only son of Gideon to survive. What comes next is the parable he spoke to the residents of Shechem. Read verses 7-15. Do you understand the parable? If not, that's okay, because it is explained in verses 16-21. What is Jotham's point to Shechem? Do you think they acted honorably? Where is God in all of this? How does this point to how having a concubine can cause problems for everyone? This will be a repeated lesson over the next year. Finally, Abimelech is the first king in Israel, but not God's first king. He is self-declared. How do you think that will go over with God?

Friday, Jan 31st – Judges 9:22-57

Today we finish Abimelech's story. Remember yesterday, when we thought God was silent? Well, not anymore. How does God begin to address the sin of Abimelech (vss. 22-25)? Who arrives in Shechem and what happens (vss. 26-30)? So, what does Abimelech do (vss. 31-41)? But notice, the people don't give up. What happens next (vss. 42-45)? Remember these are his relatives. But the story isn't over yet. What happens next (vss. 46-49)? When sin takes hold, it takes really takes hold, doesn't it? But Abimelech is not done yet. Where does he go next and what happens (vss. 50-55)? Notice that these many years later, we still know it was a woman who ended Abimelech. But in the end, who really gets the credit and why (vss. 56 & 57)? Does sin go without consequences? What does this reveal about God? What does this say about us? How has our savior, Jesus, broken this pattern? What do we now have that corrects us from a life of sin-filled folly? How does having the Spirit of God, who moves us and transforms us, make us different from the Abimelechs of the world? Is there a difference? If not, why not?

Saturday, Feb 1st – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Judges 11:29-31.