

PARENT GUIDE

Lesson 2.2: Deborah, Gideon, Samson

JOURNEY™

IDENTITY

► SCRIPTURE READING

- » Judges 2; 21:25
- » Judges 4
- » Judges 6–8
- » Judges 13–16; Ephesians 6:8–10

SUMMARY:

God gave the Israelites specific instructions to stay spiritually healthy when they possessed the promised land. The book of Judges is an account of Israel's failure to obey the Lord in that land. In a repeating cycle of sin, the Israelites abandoned the Lord and were oppressed by the nations around them. In His mercy, the Lord raised up 12 judges to deliver Israel.

This week we learned lessons from the lives of three of these judges:

- **Deborah** was fully committed to doing the Lord's work in a countercultural capacity when no one else would.
- **Gideon** drew near to God with the little faith he had, and God multiplied that faith to accomplish much for His people.
- **Samson** often faltered as a judge, but God still accomplished His will despite Samson's failure and sin

None of Israel's judges could inspire true and lasting transformation in God's people. But every judge God sent to Israel points us to the Judge and Deliverer who is far better. We are also surrounded by sinful people. On our own, we are faithless and incapable of lasting change. The judges remind us **Jesus** is the only one who can truly heal our sin-sick hearts.

► MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS

- » Hebrews 11:30–31*
- » Joshua 24:15
- » Judges 2:10

► IDENTITY INSIGHT

I am faithless and incapable of lasting change on my own. Jesus is the only one who can heal my sin-sick heart. He makes me strong to overcome any obstacle and live in obedience to His call.

► IMPORTANT IDEAS:

PROPHETESS: a woman God calls to carry messages between Him and His people

THE BOOK OF JUDGES: (in Hebrew, *shophetim*)
"First the judges deliver the people; then they rule and administer justice."⁷

NAZARITE VOW: one anyone could make voluntarily to consecrate themselves to God. Stipulations included not eating nor drinking anything that came from the vine, not cutting their hair and staying away from dead bodies.⁸ Samson's vow was unique because God chose it for him, for the entirety of his life, and Samson broke every single rule before he died (Judges 14:8–10; 16:21–21).