



*After the time of Moses and Joshua, Israel fell into a period of chaos where “everyone did as they saw fit” (Judges 21:25). Despite Israel's sin, God raised up Judges from among the people to lead them from rebellion to freedom, including Samson, Deborah, and Gideon. Join us for seven weeks as we study the judges and learn what to do, and maybe what not to do, as we lead the people around us through our chaos today.*

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### **Week 1 Sermon Guide - May 26**

This series will help us become better leaders. Leadership isn't about titles or status.

**LEADERSHIP IS \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.**

Take a moment to list individuals' names or groups of people with whom you have some influence. How would you describe your leadership style with them?

**Judges** isn't a book about legal pros who wore long, black robes. **Read Judges 2:16-17**. Based on this passage, who were these “judges” and what was their purpose?

**Read Judges 2:1-2**. How do these verses summarize the tension that's present throughout the book of Judges?

**Judges** covers about 300 years (~1350-1050 BC), but it really goes all the way back to Abraham (aka “Abram”) in the book of Genesis. Read **Genesis 17:1-4**. What were the promises God made to Abraham? And what did God ask in return?

After Moses died, God appointed Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land. As long as Joshua lived, the people of Israel served the Lord (Jos.24:31), but once he and his generation died off, the people fell into sin and idolatry (**read Judges 2:10-13**). How can we explain such a dramatic difference from one generation to the next?

It has been said that, **“Hard times make strong men, strong men make good times, good times make weak men, and weak men make hard times.”** Where have you seen examples of this playing out in our generation?

A similar cycle plays out in **Judges**, as God's deliverance brings comfort, which leads to idolatry, which leads to oppression, which leads to them crying out for deliverance. Can you think of any times from your own life when, in response to God's blessings and comfort, you "let your guard down" and slipped into sin and idolatry?

The fall from "Deliverance" to "Idolatry" doesn't happen overnight; instead, it's the result of a series of seemingly harmless decisions that leaders make.

Small \_\_\_\_\_ → Medium \_\_\_\_\_ → Large \_\_\_\_\_

As leaders of our households and in our spheres of influence, what are the small compromises every Christian leader must avoid, and how can we avoid them?

Name one thing you are willing to do or change THIS WEEK to become a stronger leader for the sake of those around you?

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## **Summer Events:**



### **Vacation Bible School**

Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join us June 24-28 for an energetic week of Bible stories, songs, games, and so much more fun! Learn more and register your children today: [thestory.church/summer](http://thestory.church/summer)



### **High School Apologetics Camp**

At this camp (July 22-25), Pastor Eric will lead all current and incoming high school students through teachings and discussions based on the toughest questions and the biggest issues these young Christians face. Register: [thestory.church/summer](http://thestory.church/summer)



### **Middle School Camp & Retreat**

We have two awesome ways for incoming 6th-8th grade students to connect this summer - Christianity 101 Camp (July 22-25) and a Beach Retreat down in Galveston (July 26-28)! Learn more & register: [thestory.church/summer](http://thestory.church/summer)