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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?

Summer Events:



Vacation Bible School

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High School Apologetics Camp

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Week 2 Sermon Guide - June 2, 2024

This series will help us become better leaders. Today's message is about leading when the chaos around us seems overwhelming. How does this world's chaos typically affect you and the way that you lead others?

LEADERSHIP IS _____ with _____.

“A leader is one who _____ the way, _____ the way, and _____ the way.”
- John Maxwell

Describe the CYCLE that is repeated throughout the book of Judges:

Read Judges 3:12-18. What do these verses tell us about godly leadership?

1. GODLY LEADERS ARE _____.

How was Ehud available to God? What could he have done instead?

How would you assess your availability to God and to those you're leading? How have you done a good job of being available? How can you make yourself more available?

2. GODLY LEADERS ARE _____.

How did Ehud arm himself, and for what purpose?

Read Ephesians 6:12. What does it mean for godly, Christian leaders to “arm themselves” today?

How would you assess your readiness to fight a spiritual battle on behalf of those you're leading? What can you do to better prepare yourself for spiritual warfare?

3. GODLY LEADERS ARE _____.

Read. Judges 3:19-30. How does Ehud prove that he's all-in as a leader?

What are some key differences between "halfway" leaders" and "all-in" leaders? How would you rate your leadership style? How can you be more all-in?

4. GODLY LEADERS ARE _____.

Where's the evidence of Ehud's audacity?

How audacious and fearless have you been as a leader? What's held you back from being bolder and more courageous?

5. GODLY LEADERS ARE _____.

To whom did Ehud give the glory and the credit for Israel's victory? What can you do to make sure those you're leading know that all glory belongs to God?

What role does Jesus play in the book of Judges? How is he the same as Ehud and the other judges, and how does he stand apart?

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Week 3 Sermon Guide - June 9, 2024

This series will help us become better leaders. Today’s message is about leading when the chaos around us seems overwhelming. How does this world’s chaos typically affect you and the way that you lead others?

As leaders go, so go(es) the:

What personal patterns, habits, thoughts, or attitudes sometimes prevent you from being a more effective leader?

Read Judges 4:1-7. Who was Deborah? What do we know about her from this passage?

3 Things that Made Deborah So Extraordinary

1. DEBORAH’S _____

What did God call Deborah to do?

How did Deborah respond? How might her response to God’s call have been costly to her?

Check out these passages about being called:

2 Tim. 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

Rom. 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

1 Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

How has God called you to serve Him? How have you responded so far?

2. DEBORAH'S _____

Read Judges 4:8-10. Where do you see Deborah's candor in this story? How might she have responded to Barak's cowardice if she lacked candor?

Ephesians 4:15 says we are to "speak the truth in love". Which tends to be more difficult for you: speaking the truth, or speaking it with love? Why?

Why is candor such an important trait for Christians to foster in this day and age?

3. DEBORAH'S _____

Read Judges 4:11-24. Why were Deborah's words and actions here so courageous? Had she lacked courage, how might she have responded under the circumstances?

What happens in a world, nation, city, business, church, or family when leaders lack the courage to lead?

Think of a time when you witnessed a Christian demonstrating real courage. What happened, and what difference did it make?

How do you think God may be calling you to be more courageous, and how will you respond to His call?

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Week 4 Sermon Guide - June 16, 2024

Repeating the cycle (Judges 6:1-6)

1. Why are we so prone to keep repeating the same errors?

God sends a prophet (Judges 6:7-8)

Godly leaders begin by properly _____ their circumstances.

2. How can we better interpret our circumstances so that we get to the root cause?

God calls out Gideon (Judges 6:11-16)

Godly leaders remember that God is _____.

3. If God called you to a task like Gideon, what kind of excuses would you give?

4. How can remembering that God is with you give you confidence to obey God?

Gideon tears down one altar and builds another (Judges 6:25-27)

Godly leaders tear down false idols and _____ God alone.

5. What idols is God calling you to tear down?

Gideon seeks confirmation (Judges 6:36-40)

Godly leaders seek God's guidance with a heart of _____.

6. Read *Romans 12:1-2*. What does it mean to offer yourself as a living sacrifice, not conform to the pattern of this world, and be transformed by the renewing of your mind? How can this lead to knowing what God's will is?

God gives the victory (Judges 7:1-25)

Godly leaders let God take the _____.

7. When are you most likely to take credit instead of giving it to God?

8. What is something you can give credit to God for today?

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Week 5 Sermon Guide - June 23, 2024

Have you ever tried to make a deal with God? How did it turn out?

The Rebellion (Judges 10:6-14)

What was so despicable about Israel's rebellion in this specific case?

How does God respond when we stubbornly refuse to worship Him and instead turn to other gods or idols?

The Origin Story (Judges 11:1-11)

What makes Jephthah an unlikely judge?

The Promise and the Vow (Judges 11:28-31)

What comes first, God's promise or Jephthah's vow?

Why do you think Jephthah makes a vow to God after he has already been filled with the Spirit?

Leadership Lesson #1 -

The Downfall (Judges 11:32-39)

Leadership Lesson #2 -

How was Jephthah treating the one true God like the other pagan gods?

How has our culture influenced the way you worship or are in relationship with God?

Does God approve of all of the people's actions found in Scripture? *Read Deuteronomy 12:31 and Jeremiah 32:35.* What does God say about child sacrifice?

Leadership Lesson #3 -

In what areas of your life do you need to trust, wait on, and obey God this week?

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“The Kingdom Strikes Back: Supernatural Power for Defeating the Enemy and Experiencing Freedom” - June 30, 2024

There have never been such great OPPORTUNITIES and BRIDGES for the church than right now. YET – many Christians are experiencing OPPRESSION and BONDAGE in their own spiritual lives.

Reality Check: We have an active enemy that wants to NEUTRALIZE and DEFEAT us so that we will be profoundly INEFFECTIVE and POWERLESS.

Philistines have been attempting to bind Samson and neutralize his power. How about us? What is the biggest area of your life where you are feeling the enemy's attack and bondage?

Three God-Given SUPERPOWERS Available to Every Believer:

#1 – POWER of _____ and _____ Action (v.4-5)

What one person do you have that you are battling the enemy with and sharing openly about your challenges?

#2 – POWER over _____ (v. 9-15)

What area of weakness, brokenness, or sin has Christ given you victory over so that you can use this as a vehicle for encouragement with others? (2 Cor 12:9-10)

#3 – POWER of _____ (vs. 18-19)

In what ways have you seen Christ practically supply you with power?

Action Plan:

Don't Go _____ – Team Up for Maximum Effect

Don't Give into _____ – Embrace the Grace of God

Don't _____ – Tap into the Power of the Holy Spirit

Final Challenge: What does God need to free us from today? - NO MORE BONDAGE!

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Guard your Heart - July 7, 2024

Reflection Question - If you were to create the ideal Christian leader what skills, attributes, or words would you use to describe him/her?

Why is the **heart** one of the most critical areas for leaders to protect?

How can we guard our hearts as we Lead Others?

Pursue the Right _____ (Judges 16:4-5)

Who are the people you spend the most quality time with? Are they pursuing the same things you want to pursue?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-15. Why is being “equally yoked” so important for Christians who want to lead?

Pursue _____ (Judges 16:6-13)

Is there any area of your life that feels divided? (Meaning you say something or act one way in one situation, but live contrary in another) In what areas can you lead more consistently?

Pursue _____ (Judges 16:14-21)

Read Proverbs 16:18 and Psalm 10:4. What does God say are the dangers of Pride?

How has Pride crowded out God in your life or thought patterns?

As we read the end of Samson's Tragic Story (Judges 16:22-30)

Remember...

YOUR STORY IS NOT OVER.
GOD IS NOT DONE WITH YOU YET.

Where have you seen God's Grace in your life?

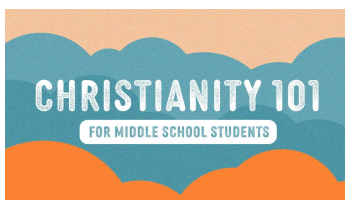
Where is God calling you to step up and lead today?

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