

The Cycle of Judges

Joshua's Warning...

Joshua 23:1-8, 12-13

What specific warnings does Joshua give the Israelites?

What will be the consequences of their disobedience?

Share a time a parent or a friend warned you not to do something for your best interest.

Did you listen? Why or why not?

Did you experience any consequences?

Disobedience

Judges 1:17-19

What is the reason the Israelites were not able to drive out the people?

****Iron chariots of the day were like comparing muskets & knives to modern tanks & machine guns****

Is this a valid excuse? Why or why not?

Discuss past events as evidence to why this is not a valid excuse for the Israelites.

At what times in our lives do we have a tendency to not trust God's Word?

How has God proven trustworthy in your life recently?

Discipline

Judges 2:1-3

What consequences do the people have to face because of their poor decisions?

How will this affect their lives, their futures, etc..?

Why would God allow his treasured possession experience these things?

Why do you think discipline is necessary?

Have you ever been disobedient and not been caught?

If so, what did you learn?

Distress: A reaction to God's discipline

Judges 2:4-5, 12-15

How do the Israelites react to God's discipline?

Do you think this was their first reaction?

What message does our culture send us about discipline?

Hebrews 12:5-6

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

How does the world's view of discipline differ from God's view of discipline?

What is your initial reaction to discipline?

What should our reaction be to God's discipline in our lives?

Deliverance

Judges 2:16-19

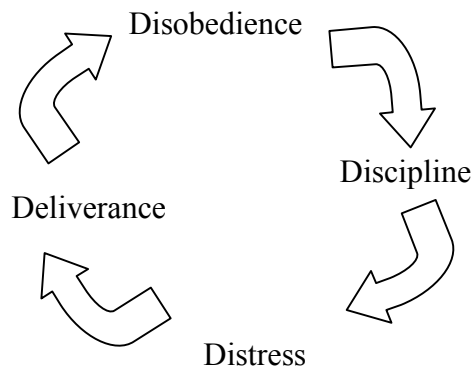
How did God react to the cry of distress from his people?

How would you have reacted to their cry for help?

What does God's reaction tell us about His character?

After God answered their cry and gave them a deliverer "a judge", What would the people do?

Hence the cycle of the Judges....



In the book of Judges, the same pattern will continue through 12 judges.

Read Judges 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1, 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25

Reread Judges 2:19

Where does the cycle start?

How do the Israelites choices affect the cycle?

How could the cycle of Judges be broken?

Deeper Application

What does the book of Judges reveal about God?

What does it reveal about us?

What areas of disobedience in our lives throw us into a continuous cycle?