

**February 12, 2026**

**BOOK: Judges**

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**Opening Questions:**

- a. Have you had a positive experience with your neighbors that surprised you?
- b. What is something unusual you have seen a person do with little resources?

**Discussion Questions:**

**Chapter 3**

1. Recap: The test of Israel. Does God test the nations today?
2. Why was Israel supposed to stay separate from these nations? And what did that look like practically?
3. Why do you think the Bible treats the Israelites living together with the inhabitants of Canaan as something that would lead to worshiping false gods rather than just peaceful coexistence? (*Ex. 19:5-6, Lev. 20:26, Deut 7:3-4, 12:29-31*)
4. How would you characterize the Israelite response to the test? (verse 6) (*Josh 23:12; Ex. 34:16; Deut. 7:3*)
5. How long were the people under the rule King of Mesopotamia? Do you think this time is reasonable? Discuss.
6. In what ways does Othniel resemble Joshua? How is he different as a successor?
7. How was Othniel successful? Describe the benefits, if any, that the Israelites received during Othniel's reign.
8. Are there any companies that are benefitting from the ruler in charge? Discuss.
9. How does the language in Judges 3:10 compare to Spirit language in Numbers 11 (the elders) and Joshua 1? Discuss how the results in Judges are different than Numbers & Joshua.
10. What kind of rest is being described in verse 11? Is this the same concept as *Deut. 12:9-10* and *Josh. 21:44*?
11. Describe Ehud. Does he possess any interesting characteristics?
12. How does God use of deception and weakness here? Have we seen this elsewhere in the Bible?
13. Can you identify any clues as to why Ehud made this mission from the text?
14. Do we have any clues as to his leadership and the effects on the people?
15. Name some reasons why Shamgar is included in this passage.
16. What is the difference between how God decides on Judges verses how leaders were appointed during Moses' and Joshua's tenures? (*Ex. 3:1-12, 4:12-16, 18:13-26, Num. 27:15-23, 31:7-8, 34:9, Jos. 1-9, Deut. 1*)
17. Does how leaders are decided above imply anything about Israel's relationship to God at this stage? Why or why not?
18. Does what you have seen so far in Judges, suggest a breakdown in family discipleship, leadership accountability, or both?
19. Where exactly does this chapter show Israel reversing progress made earlier, and what does that imply about life in the land without covenant faithfulness?