OHBC Six-Day Bible Study
Judges 2
The Danger of Forgetting God and the Faithfulness of His Mercy

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Weekly Theme

Judges chapter 2 provides *the spiritual foundation* for understanding the rest of the book. Israel had entered the Promised Land and experienced God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises. Yet, instead of responding with wholehearted obedience, the Israelites began making compromises with the surrounding nations. **They failed to remove the influences that God had commanded them to reject**, and those compromises eventually led them into idolatry. **What began as incomplete obedience developed into widespread rebellion against the Lord**. This chapter reminds us that spiritual decline rarely happens all at once. It often begins when God's people become comfortable with small acts of disobedience.

One of the most troubling statements in this chapter is found in Judges 2:10, where we learn that a generation arose that did not know the Lord or the mighty works He had accomplished for Israel. Although their fathers had witnessed God's faithfulness, the following generation failed to remain faithful to Him. **This should concern every Christian family and every local church**. We cannot assume that the next generation will faithfully follow Christ simply because they grow up around Christian people or attend church services. Each generation must hear God's Word, understand the gospel, repent of sin, and personally trust in Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility to faithfully teach God's truth and demonstrate obedience in our own lives.

Yet, even in the midst of Israel's repeated rebellion, we see the extraordinary mercy of God. Although His people continually turned away from Him, God raised up judges to deliver them from their enemies. These temporary deliverers point us toward our need for a greater and permanent Deliverer, Jesus Christ. Unlike the judges of Israel, Jesus does not merely rescue His people from earthly oppression. Through His death and resurrection, He saves sinners from the guilt and power of sin. As we study Judges 2 this week, let us examine our own hearts, consider our responsibility to the next generation, and rejoice in the mercy of our faithful God.

Monday — The Danger of Compromising with Sin

Reading: Judges 2:1–5

Focus Verse — Judges 2:2 (ESV)

"*And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars. But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?*"

Study Question:

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

What command had the Israelites failed to obey, and what does God's response reveal about the seriousness of their disobedience?

Personal Application:

Consider whether there are areas of your life where you have become comfortable with something God has clearly forbidden. **Partial obedience is not complete obedience**. Ask the Lord to help you recognize sinful compromises and respond with genuine repentance rather than excuses.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through **1 Samuel 15:22**.

example: Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us that obedience is better than sacrifice Help me recognize the areas of my life where I have compromised with sin. Give me a heart that loves Your commands and a willingness to obey You faithfully, even when obedience is difficult. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tuesday — The Importance of Remembering God's Faithfulness

Reading: Judges 2:6–10

Focus Verse — Judges 2:10 (ESV)

"*And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel*."

Study Question:

What happened after Joshua's generation died, and why was the next generation's failure to know the Lord so significant?

Personal Application:

Faithfulness to God must be taught and demonstrated from one generation to the next. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, young adult, or church member, consider how you can help others understand God's Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do not assume that familiarity with church activities produces genuine faith.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through **Psalm 78:4**

example: Lord, Your Word commands us to tell the coming generation about Your glorious deeds and mighty works. Help me faithfully share Your truth with those who come after me. May my words and actions point others to Jesus Christ, and may the next generation place its hope in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Wednesday — The Consequences of Turning Away from God

Reading: Judges 2:11–15

Focus Verse — Judges 2:12 (ESV)

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

"*And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.*"

Study Question:

What did the Israelites do that provoked the Lord to anger, and how did God respond to their rebellion?

Personal Application:

Idolatry is not limited to worshiping carved images. **Anything that takes God's rightful place in our hearts can become an idol**. Examine your priorities, desires, and daily decisions. Are there things you value more than your relationship with Christ? Remember that sin carries consequences, and genuine love for God should lead us to turn away from whatever competes with our devotion to Him.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through **1 Corinthians 10:14**

example: Holy Father, Your Word commands us to flee from idolatry. Reveal anything in my heart that I have placed above You. Forgive me for the times I have pursued the things of this world instead of seeking Your kingdom. Help me worship You alone and live for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thursday — God's Mercy Toward an Undeserving People

Reading: Judges 2:16–18

Focus Verse — Judges 2:16 (ESV)

"*Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.*"

Study Question:

Why did God raise up judges for Israel, and what does His willingness to deliver them reveal about His character?

Personal Application:

God's mercy should never cause us to take sin lightly. Instead, His kindness should lead us to repentance and gratitude. Consider the many ways God has shown patience toward you. Thank Him for His mercy, and remember that our greatest deliverance comes through Jesus Christ, who saves His people from their sins.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through **Psalm 145:8**

example: Merciful Father, Your Word reminds us that You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Thank You for showing compassion toward undeserving sinners. Help me never presume upon Your kindness but respond with sincere repentance, gratitude, and faithful obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

Friday — The Tragedy of Repeated Disobedience

Reading: Judges 2:17–19

Focus Verse — Judges 2:19 (ESV)

"*But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways*."

Study Question:

What pattern developed among the Israelites after each judge died, and what does this reveal about the condition of their hearts?

Personal Application:

Temporary changes in behavior are not the same as genuine repentance. The Israelites repeatedly returned to their sinful practices because their hearts remained stubborn. **Examine whether your obedience to God depends upon circumstances, difficulties, or the influence of others**. Ask the Lord to produce lasting spiritual growth in your life through His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through **Matthew 3:8**

example: Father, Your Word calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Keep me from treating repentance as a temporary response to difficult circumstances. Change my desires, strengthen my faith, and help me turn away from sinful habits. May my life demonstrate the transforming power of Your grace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Saturday — Faithfulness in the Midst of Testing

Reading: Judges 2:20–23

Focus Verse — Judges 2:22 (ESV)

"*In order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the LORD as their fathers did, or not*."

Study Question:

Why did God allow certain nations to remain in the land, and what did their continued presence reveal about Israel's obedience?

Personal Application:

Difficult circumstances can expose what we truly believe and where we place our trust. Rather than allowing trials or worldly influences to draw you away from God, use these opportunities to examine your faith and grow in obedience. Remember that genuine faith is demonstrated not merely by what we profess but also by how we respond to God's Word.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through **James 1:2–4**

example: Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness. Help me remain faithful when I face temptation, hardship, or opposition. Strengthen my trust in Your promises, guide my decisions through Scripture, and teach me to walk in obedience to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Closing Thought — Remembering God's Faithfulness and Responding with Obedience

Judges chapter 2 reminds us that the greatest danger facing God's people is not always opposition from the world around them, but unfaithfulness within their own hearts. Israel's spiritual decline began when the people failed to obey God's commands completely. Over time, their compromises became accepted practices, their devotion weakened, and another generation arose that did not know the Lord. This should serve as a serious warning to the church today. We must never become so comfortable with the world that we neglect the Word of God. Nor should we assume that our children and grandchildren will faithfully follow Christ simply because previous generations did. Every generation must be taught the truth of Scripture, confronted with the seriousness of sin, and called to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Judges 2 also reminds us of the remarkable mercy and patience of God. Despite Israel's repeated rebellion, the Lord continued to raise up deliverers for His people. However, each judge provided only temporary relief, and the people eventually returned to their sinful ways. This repeated failure reveals humanity's need for something greater than an earthly deliverer. We need a Savior who can change the human heart and provide lasting salvation. That Savior is Jesus Christ. Through His perfect obedience, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, Jesus accomplished what no judge could ever accomplish. He reconciles sinners to God and gives eternal life to everyone who trusts in Him.

As we finish this week's study, let us consider our responsibility as followers of Christ. We have been entrusted with the glorious message of the gospel, and we must not allow that message to be forgotten by the next generation. The Great Commission calls us not only to proclaim the gospel but also to make disciples, teaching them to observe everything Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:18–20). This responsibility belongs to the entire church. Whether we are young or old, newly converted or mature in the faith, we have opportunities to encourage others, teach God's Word, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. May we be a generation that faithfully remembers the Lord, joyfully obeys His Word, and diligently teaches others to do the same.

"*We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the* LORD*, and his might, and the wonders that he has done*." — Psalm 78:4 (ESV)