

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: When We Decide

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Message: Driving in the Dark

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Memory Verse: Judges 2:16-17 NIV

Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Living right in our own eyes leads to chaos and casualties.

Content Note: Judges 19 contains graphic descriptions of violence and sexual assault. This text confronts us with the depths of human depravity and the consequences of a society abandoning God's design.

Read Judges 19

1. The theme of hospitality is seen in the Levite's father-in-law and Gibeah. What is biblical hospitality? Where can we find examples of it being done well in Scripture? How comfortable do you feel helping outsiders feel like insiders?
2. Gibeah's lack of hospitality is a behavioral indicator that the people have strayed from God (v 15). What does this convey about the importance of hospitality for God's people? What are some other behavioral indicators we can look for within ourselves to know if we are beginning to stray?
3. The Levites' inaction and the old man's flawed response to the evil at their door highlight an example of what it looks like to be apathetic or silent toward sin (vv 23-25). What could a godly response have looked like for the old



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man and Levite? How should we, as believers, respond to injustice or sin?

4. The Levite selfishly sends his concubine to face the mob in his place (v 25). In sharp contrast, Jesus willingly takes our place, laying down His life to protect us from sin and death. What emotions stir in you when you think about Jesus willingly taking your place, bearing your punishment? When you think about moments when you've acted selfishly over choosing sacrificial love, what motives drove the decision?

Read Judges 20

5. When the Levite retells the story to the Israelites who have gathered, he whitewashes his responsibility in the events (vv 4-5). Have you ever been tempted to omit your role in a conflict or mistake? What was behind that temptation? What can help us find the courage to confess the whole truth, even when it costs us?
6. The 11 tribes move from seeking justice to committing genocide. What warning does this give us about righteous anger? Why is it so easy for anger, especially when it feels justified, to cross the line into sin? Where in your life do you most often feel like you fall into this trap?

Read Judges 21

7. The Israelites are saddened by what has happened to the tribe of Benjamin and ask God, "Why has this happened?" (v 3), not taking responsibility for the role they played. How does pride, self-protection, or spiritual blindness keep us from owning our mistakes? Who in your life helps you see your blind spots, and how do you invite their input? What does genuine confession look like when we've played a role in creating hurt or brokenness?
8. The book closes with the often-repeated refrain: "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (v 25). How does this summarize the spiritual low of Israel? Where do you see this mentality today? How can you keep God's Word as a "lamp unto your feet" in your daily life?



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