

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: When We Decide

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Importance of Leadership

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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: Spiritual leaders speak out, uphold truth, and hold fast to God's standard.

Read Judges 17

1. Micah's mother is misguided in her worship when she provides silver to overlay an idol (vv 3-4). If you were returned 1,100 shekels of silver, what would you do with it? How could that money have been used differently so that it honored God?
2. Syncretism is a form of religion that occurs when a person picks and chooses aspects of different faiths and combines them into something new. Micah and his mother are practicing a form of syncretism (vv 5-6). Why do you think people often mix true worship with personal or cultural beliefs? When have you been tempted to "customize" your faith to fit your preferences? How can we lovingly guide others back to God's standard when truth is being compromised?
3. A Levite abandons his post, seeking a "better" opportunity (vv 7-8). Have you ever experienced the pull to prioritize career, comfort, or ambition over calling



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or obedience? If you were sharing with a co-worker the 5 most important things in your life, what would they be? Where does your faith rank?

4. By accepting Micah's offer, the Levite is validating Micah's false worship and teaching him that the priesthood is a commodity that can be bought (vv 10-13). In what ways are we "priests" or examples to those around us? Knowing that others may discern what is acceptable for Christians based on your behavior, how does that change your perspective?

Read Judges 18

5. The Danites steal Micah's idols and persuade his priest (vv 19-20). Have you ever seen (or experienced) situations where people pursue religious symbols, experiences, or leaders more than they pursue God Himself? In what ways can we be tempted to treat faith as something that benefits us, like a charm or tool, rather than a relationship that calls for trust and obedience?
6. The Levite willingly joins the Danites for a bigger platform (vv 19-20). How can ambition blind us to the fact that we may be compromising for the sake of "more"? Have you ever faced pressure to compromise your faith in order to fit in or get ahead? If so, how did the situation resolve?
7. Micah's perspective is that he is left with nothing when the gods he created are pillaged and his priest leaves for a bigger platform (v 24). Why do we often seek tangible things or people to provide us with the security and peace that only God can truly offer? How does the emptiness and despair that Micah feels after losing his idols compare to the emotional and spiritual void we can experience when we place our hope in things that are temporary?
8. What started as one wayward priest has now led an entire tribe into idolatry (vv 30-31). What does this tell us about the long-term impact, good or bad, a single person can have? The chapter ends by noting that their idol worship continued until the time of captivity. What does this long-lasting consequence teach us about the spiritual decay that can take root in a community and be passed down through generations? How can our 2030 vision be a movement for positive, lasting change that is passed down through generations?



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