



Overcoming Our Weakness Judges 3

Expect God to test and discipline you to overcome your spiritual weakness.

Judges 3:1-2

- **Tested to reveal biblical obedience.** Judges 3:4-6
"They were for testing Israel, to find out if they would obey the commandments of the LORD..." (v.4)

James 1:2-4, 12
- **Disciplined to return to biblical obedience.** Judges 3:7-9
"Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel...When the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer..." (v.8-9)

Hebrews 12:10-11

Be aware of a misplaced faith in man, rather than God, to overcome weakness.

Judges 3:10-14

"Then the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died. Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD." (v.11-12)

Trust that God will use the weakness of inadequate and disabled people to overcome the challenges of this world.

Judges 3:15

"But when the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man." (v.15)

I Corinthians 1:26-27, I Corinthians 2:1-5

Remain courageous and uncompromised in overcoming evil.

Judges 3:16-26

"But he himself turned back from the idols which were at Gilgal...Ehud stretched out his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh and thrust it into his belly." (v. 19, 21)

I Peter 5:8-9, II Timothy 2:22, Ephesians 6:10-17

Connect with the community and service of all God's people.

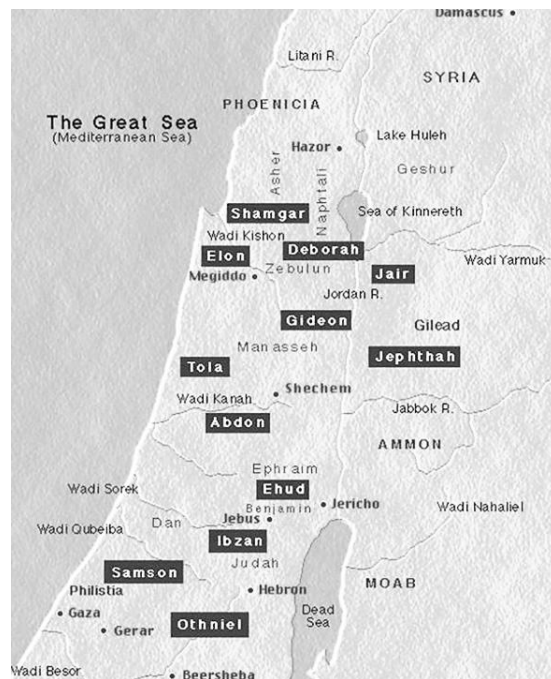
Judges 3:27-30

"It came about when he had arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was in front of them. He said to them, 'Pursue them, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands.'" (v.27-28)

Digging Deeper:

Judges 3 introduces us to the first judges that God used to rule over the Israelites as they take possession of their promised land. Here is a map which marks the location of each judge.

Many of these stories are unbelievable and harsh, but they are all true. Sometimes it may seem difficult to find application for us today. But please remember this simple concept, the Old Testament reveals temporary practices in which we can learn timeless principles to guide us today. In fact, people are no different today than in the days of the Judges because we continue to fail spiritually, get tested and disciplined and often turn back to the Lord when we recognize our need for Him.



LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What are some of your most challenging areas of weakness? They may be emotional, spiritual, physical, relational or financial. Here are some verses that reveal various kinds of weaknesses God knows we may have:
 - Ezekiel 21:7 – Feeling weak over future concern
 - Matthew 26:41 – Weakness in testing
 - Acts 20:35 – Financial and material weakness
 - Romans 4:19 – Weak Faith
 - I Corinthians 11:30 – Physical weakness, sickness
 - II Corinthians 12:9 – Weakness from attacks
 - II Timothy 3:6 – Spiritual weakness
 - Hebrews 4:15 – Life of weakness
 - Romans 15:1, I Corinthians 2:3 – Emotional weakness
2. Judges 3:1, 2. Sometimes we are spiritually weak. Lean how God helps us in that weakness in these verses. Why did God test the Israelites when they occupied their land? What does James 1:2-4 teach us about God's testing of His people? What should be the outcome of His tests? Where have you experienced that in your life?
3. Judges 3:7, 8 reveals God's discipline of the Israelites because of their disobedience. He will not discipline us that way today, but He does still use discipline. Read Hebrews 12:10-11, what does God seek to accomplish in our lives through His discipline? When have you experience God's discipline? How did that help you?
4. Judges 3:10-14, God used the first judge Othniel to bring peace to the land. But after this judge died, what did the people do? This reveals a danger for us today, that we would put our faith in a man or woman rather than directly and personally trusting in God. Once that person we trust in is gone, we lose our way spiritually. I Corinthians 1:11-13 reveals what happens in a church when people follow a man rather than God. What happens to the faith and unity of a church when our eyes are on man rather than God? Have you experienced that?
5. God loves to work in us in spite of our weaknesses. Read I Corinthians 1:26-29. How does Paul describe those of us that follow Jesus? Why has He chosen to use us that way according to vs. 29? Do you see that in your life?
6. How does Paul describe his own ability in I Corinthians 2:1-5? What good can come from admitting our own weakness? What weakness do you have in your life? How can this passage help you in dealing with that weakness?
7. Judges 3:27-30, After Ehud's courageous defeat of the king, he knew he needed the entire community to find full victory. What community are you part of to find victory over any weaknesses?

Next Steps:

1. **Join the Alpha Course on Wednesdays, February 4 - March 25 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Lobby.** Alpha is an 8-week course where you can explore some of life's big questions over a relaxed time of dinner, honest conversation, learning and group discussion. Use the invite card in today's bulletin to invite a friend. calvarylife.org/alpha
2. **Seek counseling or prayer support if sin is preventing you from healthy growth in your spiritual life.** Discover more about receiving counseling, group support, or prayer through Calvary Care Ministries by contacting 714.550.2334 or care@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/care
3. **Use Calvary's new discipleship course called 'Following Jesus' to grow spiritually.** *Following Jesus*, with editions for both students and leaders, is available in the Corner Bookstore. To learn more about how to be discipled by another Christian, or become a discipleship mentor, contact Laura at LCopeland@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/grow