

Judges

Lesson #3, Chapters 10-13

Chapters 10-13

1. Read Chapters 10-13. After reading each chapter, briefly summarize the details of the chapter in the space below. Next, in 1-2 sentences write out the theme of the chapter. Remember, a theme is just summing up the main point or the big idea of the chapter. Then, look for a verse in that chapter that best reflects the theme of the chapter. Finally, create a 3-5 word title for the chapter.
 - a. Chapter 10 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - b. Chapter 11 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - c. Chapter 12 summary, theme, key verse, and title.
 - d. Chapter 13 summary, theme, key verse, and title.

Chapter 10

2. After almost 50 years of peace 10:6 records that Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord by serving the gods of the nations. What was the result of the nation turning away from the Lord (10:7-9)?
3. The people had all the right words (10:10), but the Lord didn't immediately step in to help them. What was God waiting for in addition to their confession of sin (10:15-16)?

4. What do the Scriptures have to say about confession of sin and the subsequent blessings that brings? See Ps. 32:1-7; Prov. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:8-10.

5. Are there any areas in your life where you have confessed something as sin, but have not truly repented of it, where you have not truly put that sin away from you and turned to the Lord and His ways? As difficult as it might be, deal now with that area of sin, turning away from it and toward the Lord.

A thousand years of remorse over a wrong act would not please God as much as a change of conduct and a reformed life. —A. W. Tozer

Chapter 11

6. When Israel repented of their idolatry, the Lord raised up a leader for them. What do you learn about this new leader from 11:1-3?

7. Now that they are facing a war with the Ammonites, the elders of Gilead decide Jephthah would be helpful to have around. What deal is struck between the two parties and who is witness to its terms (11:6-11)?

8. The king of Ammon wants his land back. What is Jephthah's argument concerning Israel's right to the land in 11:14-27?

9. In the Old Testament the Spirit occasionally came upon people to enable them to do God's will and to empower them for a special task. Often in the book of Judges we read of the Spirit coming upon the judges for a specific purpose. Look up the following verses to determine some of the times when the Spirit of the Lord came upon someone and any special circumstances for the empowering of the Spirit. See Judges 3:9-10; 6:33-34; 14:4-6; Ex. 31:2-5; Num. 11:24-25; 24:2-4; *1 Sam. 16:13-14.

10. In light of what you have learned about the special empowering of the Spirit, read Ps. 51:10-12 and explain what David meant about the Holy Spirit in his prayer.

11. Jephthah wisely goes to the Lord and asks for help in the battle against the Ammonites, but he makes a very unwise vow. What was his vow to the Lord (11:30-31)? Why wasn't the vow necessary? See Deut. 20:4; Josh. 10:42 and 23:10.

12. What happens when Jephthah returns home victoriously in 11:34-40?

Chapter 12

13. Explain the contentions between the Ephraimites and Jephthah in 12:1-6 and the end results.

14. The Ephraimites had a knack for complaining. Review Judges 7:24-8:3 and Josh. 17:14-18 and explain what their contentions were in both places.

15. What warnings and encouragements do the Scriptures give about "Ephraim-like" attitudes? See Ps. 106:24-25; Prov. 15:18; 16:28; 22:10; 26:20; Rom. 16:17-18; James 3:13-4:3 and Jude 16.

16. The mirror of the word of God may reveal a family connection between you and the Ephraimites. How can you apply what we have learned about these harmful attitudes?

Chapter 13

17. What announcement does the angel of the Lord make to Manoah's wife in 13:2-3? What extra details are given to her in 13:4-7?

18. Just who or what is a Nazirite? See 13:5; Num. 6:1-8, 21; 1 Sam. 1:11, 28; Luke 1:15; Matt. 11:18-19; and possibly, Acts 18:18.

19. What events in Chapter 13 convince Manoah that the angel of the Lord who appeared to them was God?

20. Manoah's response was one of fear once he realized that the angel of the Lord was God. His response is not an isolated one. What do you observe from the following verses about people's reactions when they realize they have seen God? See Gen. 32:30; Deut. 5:26; Judges 6:22-23; Is. 6:5; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 5:8; and Rev. 1:17-18.

21. Manoah's wife breaks through his fear with her quieting words. What details does she piece together to have assurance that they would not die after seeing God (13:23)?

22. How are the two reactions of Manoah and his wife toward God lived out in your life? How is fear to be balanced with assurance in our lives?