

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

A Few Good Men and Women

Chapter 8 — April 19, 2015

I. Israel's Three Mistakes after Conquering the Land.

- A. They did not drive out **all** the Canaanites

When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never drove them out completely - Judges 1:28

- B. They fell into the sin of **idolatry**. 2:12

They forsook the Lord, ... They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. – Judges 2:12

- C. They did not **teach their children** about God

After that ... another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel – Judges 2:10

II. Two reasons that God **raises** up the judges.

A. God wants **other nations** to know His goodness and blessing.

B. God powerfully **intervenes** when His people cry out to Him.

III. The repeated **pattern** (or cycle) in Judges.

- A. The people fall into **sin**.

- B. God allows them to be **oppressed**.

- C. The oppressed people **cry out** to God for help.

- D. God raises up a **judge** to deliver them.

IV. Illustrations of **flawed** humanity.

- A. Gideon: A **doubtful** leader. – Judges 7

B. Samson: A **prideful** and **immature** leader. – Judges 13-16

- C. **Today**: The cycle continues.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:8-9

Message based on materials provided by Oak Hills and Shoreline churches.