

* God is forgiving in spite of His people's continual sins *

12 THE JUDGES

- Israelites desert God to worship idols
every time they cry out to Him, He sends them a deliverer

CONSIDER THIS

DOING THE RIGHT THING

Think about a time when you just did what you felt like doing without thinking about the consequences. What happened?

- 1. fall
- 2. invasion
- 3. call on God
- 4. deliverance
- 5. fall (repeat)

Role Models - lots of them fall short of being good examples
Jesus is the perfect role model

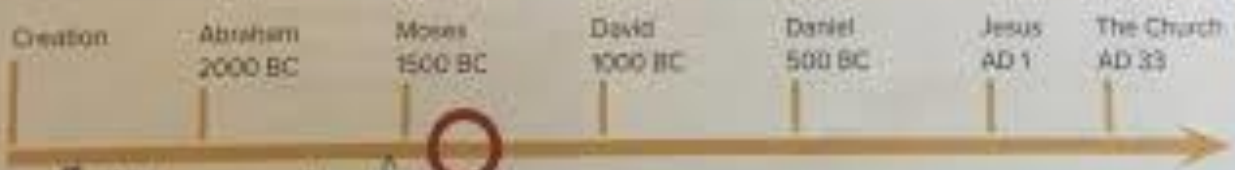
When we act on our feelings, we can end up doing the wrong thing. We need someone to guide us and to help us do the right thing.

In today's lesson, we see what happened when the Israelites did whatever they felt like doing. They ended up doing the wrong things—forgetting God, worshiping idols, doing evil. God continually called them back through punishments and deliverers, but they just kept on going back to doing the wrong thing.

The Big Picture

The Book of Judges begins by listing the various tribes of Israel that did not complete the conquest of the land. Instead, they make some Canaanites serve them as slaves (which went against God's command), and they allow other Canaanites to stay in the land and live among them (which also went against God's command). This causes the Israelites to fall into a sorry cycle: (1) The people fall away from God and adopt the culture and idols of the Canaanites. (2) God allows another nation to invade them. (3) The Israelites call on God to deliver them. (4) God raises up a judge to deliver them. (5) The judge dies. Israel turns back to their evil, idolatrous ways, and the cycle starts over. Things become worse and worse as "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6, 21:25).

This narrative can be found in the **Book of Judges**. The author of the book is unknown. The timeline of this book is 1375-1080 BC, between Joshua's death and the rise of Israel's monarchy.



God is eager to forgive

I can describe the cycle of sin and deliverance of God's people in the Book of Judges, and I can relate it to my own sin and daily need for repentance and deliverance in Christ.

God has a plan for me as His human creature

Unit 3: The Exodus and Conquest