

## JUDGES 2:11-13

- › In verse 10, how did the generation after Joshua forget what God had done for them? How can we avoid a similar fate?
- › How do these verses characterize the spiritual unfaithfulness of the Israelites? Why is idolatry so offensive to the Lord?

## JUDGES 2:14-15

- › What consequences were a result of the Israelites' unfaithfulness to God? Who was ultimately responsible for the difficulties Israel faced in these verses?
- › Look at the end of verse 15 (see also 2:2-3). Should the Israelites have been surprised by their suffering? What does this tell us about God?
- › What did the Lord want His people to understand when He handed them over to their enemies? How did He want them to respond?

## JUDGES 2:16-19

- › How did the Lord respond to the Israelites' distress (vv. 16, 19)?
- › How does His response show the difference between punishment and discipline (see Heb. 12:3-11)?
- › How can we put an end to the cycle of sin, deliverance, and punishment that seems to repeat itself in our lives (see 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 7:27)?

## CENTRAL TRUTH

*God loves His people enough to oppose them.*

## NOW WHAT?

- › When we abandon the Lord and turn instead to something else, what are we hoping to find? How can we avoid this temptation?
- › What is your typical response when God points out sin in your life? What does it take to admit our guilt instead of defending our actions or blaming others for our choices?
- › How might God be using your present circumstances to correct you and help you grow? How can we be more aware of God's work in our lives?
- › Think about some ways God tests people today. How should we respond to these tests?

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Read Joshua 2:11-19 again. As you read, consider how Israel's cycle of sin relates to your daily life. Are there any patterns of sin that you seem to keep falling back into? Ask God to break the cycle of sin in your life so that you would no longer be enslaved to it. If there are persistent cycles of sin in your life that keep coming up, consider confessing this to a trusted Christian friend or mentor and asking for accountability in fighting it.
- › **Memorize:** Judges 2:18
- › **Pray:** Are there patterns of sin in your heart and life that feel like they are almost unbreakable? Spend some time confessing these sin patterns to God, admitting your inability to overcome them on your own. Ask God to soften your heart to His Spirit so that you hate the sin that is keeping you from Him. Look to Christ for the strength and grace necessary to overcome patterns of sin.

## KEEP ON DIGGING

Read Hebrews 7:11-28. As you read, consider the following questions.

- › How does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross compare to the sacrifices of the priests?
- › What made Jesus able to offer a once for all sacrifice for sin?
- › How has Jesus broken the cycle of sin in our lives?
- › How will you trust Jesus this week to help you overcome cycles of sin?