



Judges Series Study Sheet
Week 17 – November 17
Message Title: A People Without a King
Text: Judges 19 & 20

Read through Judges 19-20.

List all the characters or actors in this dark and deeply tragic story.

Against each character list their key moral failing.

The narrator opens this story with the word, 'In those days Israel had no king? (19:1). What do you think the author means by that?

These chapters give us a picture of what life was like in Israel during the time of the judges. One commentator says, 'These are God's people. They are our spiritual ancestors. And they show us, to an extent, ourselves.' How do you respond to that statement? Talk about the ways in which this story might reflect us, the people of God, today?

How are we like the Gibeonites?

How are we like the old man from Ephraim?

This narrative revolves around the appalling mistreatment of women. Israel, during the time of the judges, had clearly imbibed pagan attitudes towards women. How has our culture shaped the way we treat or look at women?

How are we like the Levite in this story? Can you think of ways in which we have failed to prevent evil, enabling it by our inaction? When, like the Levite, do you find it easiest to edit the truth about yourself?

In what ways are we like the tribe of Benjamin? How do we sometimes put family or tribe over the greater good?

This story ends with civil war and the result is not justice but genocide. The Israelite army slaughters the entire tribe of Benjamin. Why? Again, how is the Israelite army somehow representative of the church today? What can we do about it?

Discuss other ways that the church, like Israel, has allowed itself to be shaped and enslaved by the surrounding culture.

How does this story deepen your grasp of the gospel?