

Lesson Summary

This lesson from Judges and Ruth contrasts two ways of living: doing things our way or following God's way. The book of Judges presents a sobering picture of what happens when people repeatedly choose their own path. Over hundreds of years, Israel cycles through sin, consequences, repentance, and deliverance, only to repeat the pattern again. The summary statement of the book captures it clearly: people did what was right in their own eyes.

Judges reminds us that human "heroes" are deeply flawed and that God alone is the true hero of the story. Though He shows mercy and raises up leaders to deliver His people, the deeper issue of the heart is often left unchanged, leading to continued failure.

In contrast, the book of Ruth offers a quiet but powerful example of faithfulness. In the midst of a dark and chaotic time, Ruth chooses to trust God and follow Him, and God works through her life in ways far greater than she could have imagined. Her story reminds us that even in difficult circumstances, God is always at work through those who trust Him.

Together, these books challenge us to choose God's way over our own, to live intentionally according to His truth, and to trust that His way leads to the best life.

Ice-breaker Question

Can you think of a time when doing things "your way" seemed right at the time but led to unexpected problems?

Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study

1. What does the repeated cycle in Judges teach us about the consequences of ignoring God's guidance?
2. Why is it important to remember that Bible "heroes" are often flawed and not always examples to follow?
3. How does failing to pass on faith and truth to the next generation affect individuals and society?

4. What stands out to you about Ruth's decision to follow Naomi and trust God despite uncertainty?

 5. How does God work through ordinary, faithful choices in ways we may not immediately see?

 6. What does it look like in your daily life to choose God's way instead of your own?
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Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond

1. Reflect on an area of your life where you may be relying on your own understanding instead of seeking God's direction.

 2. Take intentional steps to build habits that keep you focused on God's Word and His ways.

 3. Look for opportunities to encourage and pass on your faith to someone younger or less experienced.

 4. Trust that even small acts of obedience can be used by God in significant ways over time.
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Prayer Focus

Thank God for His patience and mercy when we choose our own way. Pray for a heart that trusts Him fully, follows His direction, and remains faithful even in difficult or uncertain circumstances.