

# THE STORY OF GOD

***“The Downward Spiral of Sin”- Judges 2***  
**November 15th, 2015**

## **OBSERVE & REFLECT**

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

### **READ Judges 2**

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

## **INVESTIGATE & APPLY**

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. Read Judges 2:1-5. What had God instructed the people of Israel to do as they entered the promised land? Had they been obedient? What was the result?
2. Read Judges 2:6-10. This describes the passing away of one generation and the rise to leadership of another one. Verse 10 is deeply saddening. How do you think that this could happen? Where did this failure begin?
3. Read Judges 2:11-23. This is the first of 7 “cycles” of sin that the nation of Israel goes through in the book of Judges. Each cycle contains the same steps:
  - Rebellion- Israel departs from God.
  - Defeat- God chastises Israel by permitting military defeat and oppression.
  - Repentance- Israel prays for deliverance.
  - Deliverance- God raises up judges, either civil or military champions, who lead in the defeat of the oppressors.
  - Afterward, the people fall back into idolatry, which repeats the cycle.

What does this continued pattern show you about sin and humanity?

4. Read Romans 1:18-32. How does the pattern of sin in Judges compare to Paul's description?

## **NEXT STEPS**

- ☀ It's easy to read passages like this and to wonder how the people of Israel could be so stupid and keep falling into the same pattern of sin, over and over again. Yet, when we stop and examine our own lives, we see that we do the same thing. What is it that breaks the pattern of sin in our lives?
- ☀ What patterns of sin are in your life? How can you deal with them? Notice that the people of Israel were called to deal with the roots of the sin from the beginning of their time in the land. Their failure to act decisively against sin kept them in bondage for generations. Whatever traces of sin may be in your life, deal with them harshly and decisively now. Find someone to confess to, and find freedom.

“The principle that always meant defeat in the lives of the nation of Israel is given to us in the very last verse of the book. If you miss that, you miss the key to the book:

“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25 )

Notice that it does not say, “Every man did what was wrong in his own eyes.” These people were not trying to do wrong. They were not essentially rebellious people determined to thwart the will of God in their lives. At this stage of Israel's history these people were very determined to do right, but they were trying to do what was right in their own eyes.”

-Ray Stedman