

Message Discussion Guide DEPRAVITY AND DELIVERANCE

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

March 27, 2010

Judges 2:10-23

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Invite learners to share about a time when they received a gift, favor, compliment, etc. that they didn't deserve. Encourage them to explain how receiving that undeserved thing made them feel and how they were changed by such a gift.

Explain that today we will discuss how receiving God's undeserved mercy should make us respond.

Option 2

Invite learners to share a time in their life when they repeatedly made the same mistake. Ask the following questions: How did it make you feel to keep making the same mistake over and over? How did this cycle affect your life? Why do you think you didn't learn the lesson to begin with?

Explain that today we will discuss the cycle of sin and how only God can bring about real deliverance and change.

Review the Message . . .

One God Over Israel...

- They illustrated man's _____ depravity _____.
 - The core of their sin: blatant _____ idolatry _____.
 - The consequence of their sin: rampant _____ immorality _____.
- They needed God's _____ deliverance _____.
 - They needed someone to rescue them from divine _____ judgment.
 - They needed someone to show them divine _____ mercy _____.

Discussion

- Enlist a learner to read Numbers 33:50-56. What were God's strict instructions to the Israelites when they entered the Promised Land? Why did He insist on them driving out all of the foreign inhabitants?
- What did God indicate would happen if they did not drive out the inhabitants?

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- Direct learners to scan Judges 1:19-36. How did the Israelites respond to God's instructions for driving out the inhabitants of the land that they entered?
- Enlist a learner to read Judges 2:10-23.
- In what ways were God's warnings (about not driving out the inhabitants) being realized in the nation of Israel?
- How was Israel's disobedience to God and their defeats and immorality connected?
- How were the people of Israel experiencing the discipline of God?
- What was at the heart of the people's sin against God? Why was their devotion to Him disrupted? Why was their repentance only short-lived?
- David pointed out that idolatry always leads to immorality. How do you see this truth in the life of Israel?
- How did God demonstrate His grace to His people?
- Remind learners that the term "judge" was not strictly along the lines of our judicial system thoughts but basically a warrior or ruler called out to help God's people. As soon as a judge died, the people once again turned from God. What did this behavior indicate about their true hearts toward God?
- How did their lack of changed behavior demonstrate a less-than-genuine repentance? What did their behavior indicate that they really wanted from God?
- What does this passage indicate about man's propensity to sin and ability to save himself?
- What of God's character does He reveal in His interaction with His people in this passage?

One God Over India...

- They illustrate man's depravity.
 - Seemingly innumerable gods .
 - Seemingly inconceivable practices .
- They need God's deliverance.
 - Masses are under divine judgment in their sin.
 - Most are unaware of divine mercy in the Gospel.

Discussion

- David stated that some experts state that India has over 330 million gods that are worshiped. What does this type of worship indicate about their spirituality and their knowledge of the true God?
- David noted that some common practices in India is the feticide or infanticide of females, abuse, forced prostitution, sex trafficking, and slavery. How are these practices indicative of their worship?
- Scripture is clear that sin requires judgment, but like with the Israelites, God provides grace and mercy. Therefore, what does their eternity look like in this state of living?

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What could it look like if they hear and respond to the gospel? What will keep them from hearing and responding to the gospel?

- Over 600 million people in Northern India do not know Christ. How can they accept mercy that they do not know about?

Application

- What response do you have when you think about the creation of 330 million gods to worship and the enslavement that this on the people of India?
- How do you feel when you hear about such horrible practices going on in places like India today?
- How will we be a part of helping the people of India know about the mercy of God so that they can receive it?

One God Over Us...

- We illustrate man's depravity.
 - We are often _____ blind _____ to our own idolatry.
 - We pass the _____ blame _____ for our own immorality.
- We need God's deliverance.
 - Jesus has _____ saved _____ our lives from divine judgment.
 - We now _____ spend _____ our lives proclaiming divine mercy.

Application

- What idols do we worship in our North American culture? Which ones are most obvious? Which ones are nearly invisible?
- Why are we prone to compare our sins as North Americans with the sins of India (like sex trafficking) so that we see ourselves as more righteous? Are our sins of idolatry just as bad as the sins of sex trafficking?
- Who or what do we most blame for our immorality in North America? Are the producers of pornography and immorality in the entertainment industry to blame for our immorality, or are the consumers and idolaters in the pews to blame?
- How do we see the truth that idolatry leads to immorality true in North America just as it is true in other parts of the world?
- Why do we not like to take responsibility for our own decisions and actions?
- How do we encourage younger generations to not take responsibility for their sinful decisions?
- What is the appropriate response to Christ for saving our lives?
- What would our lives and nation look like if we were spending our time serving only the One True God and proclaiming His mercy instead of participating in idolatry of various kinds?