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## The Story: Judges – Breaking Destructive Patterns

Judges 2:7-19

### #1 The issue: A lack of intentional discipleship (7-10)

7 The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him...who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died...10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.

- Deuteronomy 6:6-7: These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children...
- Joshua 4:21-22: ...In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' 22 tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'
- Busyness/distraction/comfort led to spiritual amnesia
- Each generation must be taught who God is, and what He has done for mankind.
- Ephesian 6:4, Fathers...bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- 2 Timothy 2:2, And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

### #2 The result: A self-destructive pattern (11-17)

11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt.

They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. 14 In his anger against Israel the Lord gave

them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. 15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress. 16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. 17 Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them...

- Israel's pattern as a nation is often our pattern: Rebellion > Discipline > Repentance > Deliverance > Peace (repeat)
- It's hard to change without help & accountability.
- Galatians 6:2, Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

### #3 The hope: God is compassionate toward us (18)

18 Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

- As discouraging as Judges is, it reminds us how relentless God's love is! God keeps showing up.
- You may think, "My life's a disgrace!" But never forget that His grace is greater than your disgrace!
- Hebrews 12:5-6, "...the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

### #4 The fix: In moments of clarity, break the cycle (19)

19 But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

- Break the cycle by attacking your "stubborn ways"

- Start with prayer asking God for the grace to change, then commit to change your habits.
- Habits have 3-parts: cue, routine, reward.
- 1 Corinthians 9:27, *I discipline my body and bring it into subjection.*
- Write a plan to create a spiritually healthy habit:  
When \_\_\_\_\_ happens (*cue*), I will \_\_\_\_\_ (*routine*),  
because it provides me with \_\_\_\_\_ (*reward*).
- The believer's "keystone habit" = daily bible reading  
(it literally changes everything!)
- You're more likely to succeed if you have a  
community supporting your change.
- Read more about changing & creating habits at  
[www.Go2Cornerstone.com/habits](http://www.Go2Cornerstone.com/habits)