

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: Has it Come to This? A Journey Through Judges and the Cost of Compromise

Part 12: How Low Can God's People Go?

BIG Idea: When God's people reject God's rule, freedom becomes self-rule, self-rule becomes darkness, and darkness eventually destroys the vulnerable.

Application: Do not merely grieve the darkness around you; repent of the darkness within you and return to the King.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: Have you ever been surprised to discover that a situation—or even a person—you thought was safe or trustworthy turned out to be very different than you expected? What happened, and what did you learn?

1. Read Judges 19:1–10. Why do you think the chapter begins with the statement, "In those days Israel had no king"? What does that reveal about the condition of Israel?
2. Pastor Brian said, "Public collapse is usually preceded by private disorder." Where have you seen that principle play out in Scripture, culture, or your own life?
3. Read Judges 19:11–22 alongside Genesis 19. What similarities do you notice? Why do you think the author intentionally wants us to make that connection?
4. The sermon stated, "The great tragedy of Judges 19 is not that Israel wandered too close to Sodom; it is that Sodom had taken root among God's people." What warning does that hold for the Church today?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:17 and 2 Corinthians 7:1. Why does God so often begin His work of judgment, refinement, and cleansing with His own people?
6. Which of the three movements of the sermon challenged you the most?
 - Broken hearts become normal.
 - God's people become what they condemn.
 - Outrage can replace repentance.
7. Why is it often easier to become outraged over the sins of culture than to repent of our own sins? How does the gospel confront that tendency?
8. Read Joel 2:12–15 and James 4:8–10. What does genuine repentance look like according to these passages? How is it different from guilt, regret, or public outrage?

9. Pastor Brian contrasted the Levite with Jesus: the Levite used another's broken body to expose sin, while Jesus willingly gave His own body to redeem sinners. How does that contrast deepen your appreciation for the gospel?
10. What is one specific area where you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to move from outrage to repentance this week? How can this group encourage and pray for you?

Prayer Prompt: Spend time praying that God would begin revival in His Church by beginning with each of us. Ask Him to reveal hidden compromise, soften hardened hearts, cleanse His people, and help us live joyfully under the gracious reign of King Jesus so that our lives become a faithful witness to a dark world.