

Small Group Discussion Guide

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

Part 7: The King No One Asked For

BIG Idea: When God's people forget God's rule, they become vulnerable to destructive leaders who reflect their compromise.

Application: Measure leadership by faithfulness and character, not charisma, confidence, or ambition.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: Have you ever seen someone get put in charge of something and immediately thought, "This might not go well"? What happened?

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon or from Judges 9?
2. Why is it important to see Abimelech's story as connected to Gideon's compromise rather than as a random side story?
3. The sermon said, "Not everyone who wants authority is called to lead." What are some marks of godly leadership according to Scripture?
4. Why do you think the people of Shechem were willing to support Abimelech even after such obvious warning signs?
5. What are some ways people today can confuse charisma, confidence, or ambition with godly character?
6. Jotham's parable warned the people before judgment came. How have you experienced God's warnings as mercy in your own life?
7. The sermon said, "Ignored warnings become fulfilled consequences." Why is it often hard to listen when God confronts us?
8. Abimelech's final concern was his reputation, not repentance. Where are people today tempted to protect image rather than pursue repentance?
9. How does Jesus stand in contrast to Abimelech as the true and better King?
10. What is one "seed" God may be asking you to deal with now before it grows into something more destructive?

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would help us recognize compromise early, listen to His warnings as mercy, and surrender every part of our lives to Jesus, the true King.