

Small Group Discussion Guide

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

Part 8: When Passion Replaces Discernment

BIG Idea: God can use passionate and gifted people, but unsundered pain and unchecked zeal can turn even victory into tragedy.

Application: Let God govern your wounds, words, ambitions, decisions, and victories before they harm what He called you to protect.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: When you hear the word “discernment,” what comes to mind? How did this sermon broaden or challenge your understanding of discernment?

1. In Judges 10, Israel cries out to God after years of idolatry and oppression. What is the difference between simply wanting relief and truly returning to God?
2. The sermon said, “Desperation may cry to God, but discernment returns to God.” Where do you see that contrast in Judges 10:6–16?
3. Jephthah was gifted and courageous, but also rejected and deeply wounded. How do you see both his strengths and his wounds shaping his leadership?
4. Why is it dangerous when a person has gifting, passion, or influence but lacks counsel, covering, healing, and surrender?
5. Jephthah knew Israel’s history and argued persuasively in Judges 11:12–28. Why is knowing the right information not the same as being formed by godly wisdom?
6. Jephthah made a vow God never asked him to make. What does this teach us about words spoken in fear, desperation, pride, or control?
7. The sermon said, “It is better to repent of a foolish promise than to be faithful to a sinful one.” How does that help us understand the tragedy of Jephthah’s vow?
8. In Judges 12, Jephthah’s victory over Ammon is followed by violence against Ephraim. What does this show us about victories that do not come with inner surrender?
9. James 3 describes wisdom from above as pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Which of those qualities do you most need God to grow in you right now?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, give us wisdom from above. Help us surrender our pain, words, ambitions, decisions, and victories to You. Heal what is wounded, govern what is passionate, correct what is foolish, and make us people who walk in humility, mercy, peace, and discernment through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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