

Introduction (Pt. 1)

Judges 1

As God's people, our obsession with wanting to know just how much we can get away with and still be in reasonably good standing with God demonstrates the true condition of our hearts. _____ is not what loving God looks like.

Discussion 1. What kinds of questions do we ask when we are trying to figure out what we can get away with without getting caught? On the other hand, what kinds of questions do we ask when what we want is to love God well? How is moving from the first kind of questions to the second kind of questions a point of spiritual maturity?

God's objectives almost always take _____ to be fulfilled than we think they should. We may experience His victories in our lifetime, but his larger purposes take generations, centuries, even millennia to come about.

Discussion 2. Can you think of something you believe God wants for your life or for the lives of your family that has taken (or is taking) longer than you would like? How do you find the encouragement to remain patient?

When God raises up people of influence among His people, His expectations are that such influence will be leveraged not only for this generation, but for _____ to come. Godly leaders are mindful of this.

Discussion 3. What are some ways the generation(s) before you challenged you to remain obedient to God and/or to grow spiritually? What are some ways you are challenging the generation(s) behind you to do the same?

God's story has often unfolded in the midst of entire cultures who were lost in their own blindness and just one or two (or a few) Godly people who were willing to _____ those cultural trends and speak truth.

Discussion 4. Name an example from your lifetime of a Christian (or Christians) standing against the culture to speak spiritual truth in love? Have you ever felt compelled to do that? What were the results?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?