

## Introduction (Pt. 2)

### Judges 2

*If we claim to follow Christ but are trusting our feelings as our moral compass rather than God's Word, then we are following a "Jesus" who did not exist. Jesus did not teach us to follow our feelings. He trusted the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 1. Some would say we obey God only because we first know Him. Others say we can only truly know God if we have first obeyed Him. Which statement do you believe is more true? Why?**

*As Christ followers, we experience God's miraculous presence as we obey His Word and do His will; when we rebel and pursue our own will instead, we miss out on His presence. We can call this His "judgment", but it comes by our own \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 2. Can you recall examples from your own life of rebellious (disobedient or partially obedient) choices resulting in negative consequences? Do believe God causes those consequences or merely allows them? How important is that distinction?**

*Unlike God's judgment (which we bring about by our own choices), God's mercy is neither earned nor in any other way tied to anything within our control. His judgment is about \_\_\_\_\_. His mercy is about \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 3. If God's judgment is all about us and his mercy is truly all about Him, i.e., we have some control over His judgment but none over his mercy, do you find that encouraging or discouraging? Limiting or freeing? Why?**

*The brokenness of this world means that, without God's intervention, we are all (individually and corporately) on a path toward \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Spiritually speaking, the world is devolving, not evolving.*

**Discussion 4. If, in God's eyes, the world is getting worse and worse, how does that impact your perspective on God's mercy? How does it impact where your hope lies?**

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