October 11, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Many situations feel hopeless, but for those who know God and believe in His faithfulness, there's always a reason for hope as we trust His power and grace to carry us through.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Dear God, please let courage and hope flow from my relationship with You to inspire others to turn to You when life is hard.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us fo up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

(Numbers 13:30 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", April 29, 2025)

Fall Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

NEXT WEEK

Unit 2: From Settled People to Judges

An Unlikely Deliverer

Judges 3:15-23, 30

A Faithless Generation
Judges 2:6-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

Joshua had no successor. After his death, God's people became a tribal confederacy, without a central political leader (Judges 21:25). Their shared ancestry, tradition, and service to God bound them to one another. However, the Israelites in the period of the judges regularly neglected their distinctive history. God's covenant was the structure for reinforcing their memories, but the people fell (or jumped!) away. They became more and more like the surrounding nations in this process.

The author of Judges is unknown but exhibits familiarity with previous books—especially Exodus and Deuteronomy. The book of Judges notes God's relationship with the ancestors of Israel through the story of the exodus (Judges 2:1, 12; 6:8-10; 11:13-27). It also cites Joshua's leadership (1:1; 2:6-8, 21-23), God's covenantal relationship with Israel (2:1-3, 20; 3:4; 5:5), and specific elements of devotion such as the Nazirite vow (13:4-7; compare Numbers 6:1-21). It emphasizes portions of God's law given through Moses by focusing on remembrance of what God has done (6; 8; 32:7-11). It also reiterates the blessings and curses for national obedience and disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:1-68).

The focus of today's lesson comes from the book's introduction, a portion of historical review that leads into a doctrinal admonition. It supplies a framework for understanding the narratives of the specific judges that follow (Judges 3:7-16:31). Judges presents a repetitive cycle of sin often referred to as "the Judges cycle": (1) a generation passes away, (2) the next generation ignores God's expectations, (3) the people follow false gods, (4) God is provoked to anger, (5) the Israelites experience oppression under foreign rule, (6) they cry out to God in their distress, (7) the Lord raises up a deliverer for the people, and (8) peace is restored to the land (2:10-19). On a simplified level, one may remember this cycle as duplicity, disaster, distress, and deliverance, or, using a different alliteration, sin, suffering, supplication, and salvation.

Key Verses: Judges 2:11

Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Faithful While Joshua Lived (Judges 2:6-9)

Faithful resulting in obtaining inheritances (6)

An inheritance of God's kingdom (Luke 12:32)
An inheritance because of being an heir (Rom 8:17)
An inheritance of the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)
An inheritance for those who are poor in the eyes of the world (James 2:5)
An inheritance that can never perish (1 Pet 1:3-4)

Faithful in serving God (7)

Serving wholeheartedly (Eph 6:7)
Serving with whatever gifts God has given (1 Peter 4:10)
Serving as a servant (Mark 10:43)
Serving to please and build up others (Rom 15:2)
Serving prompted by love and faith (1 Thess 1:3)

Faithful in honoring Joshua (8-9)

Honoring by serving (Matt 20:26-28)
Honoring by giving honor that is due (Rom 13:7)
Honoring by remembering with great joy (Phil 2:28-30)
Honoring those whose work is leading and teaching (1 Tim 5:17)

Faithlessness Through Worshiping Other gods (Judges 2:10-15)

Faithlessness by forsaking God (10-12)

Forsaking God by not seeking Him (Ps 10:4)
Forsaking God leads to perishing (Isa 1:28)
Forsaking God by forsaking His word (Jer 9:13-14)
Forsaking God through idolatry (Deut 4:25)
Forsaking God by participating with demons (1 Cor 10:18-22)

Faithlessness by serving other gods (13)

Serving other gods is a violation of our covenant with God (Josh 23:16)
Serving other gods by worshiping heavenly bodies (Acts 7:42)
Serving other gods by worshiping idols (Acts 7:43)
Serving other gods leads to corruption (Deut 4:15-16)
Serving other gods through spiritual adultery (Exodus 34:15)

Faithlessness causing God's anger (14)

God's anger is aroused because of complaining (Num 11:1)
God's anger is aroused because of greed (Num 11:32-34)
God's anger is aroused because of rebellion (Num 32:9-13)
God's anger is aroused because of disobedience (2 Sam 6:7)
God's anger is aroused because of wickedness (2 Kings 17:11)

Faithlessness causing calamity (15)

Calamities because of being rebellious (Ezek 21:24)
Calamities because of joining rebellious people (Prov 24:21-22)
Calamities because of rejection of God (Prov 1:24-27)
Calamities because of wickedness (Prov 14:32)
Calamities because of God's judgment of conduct (Ezek 7:24-27)