



A Note to the Parents and Leaders Regarding Judges/Ruth Youth Lesson 14

Dear parents and administrators,

I want to bring to your attention the very serious nature of the material to be covered in the homework days 2-5 of Judges/Ruth Youth Lesson 14. The lesson notes review the previous week's homework, so those are not the issue. Questions for days 2-5 are another story.

Lesson 14 covers chapter 19 in the book of Judges. This chapter includes Israelite men demanding to have homosexual relations with a traveling man. They settle for the man's concubine (which the man himself offers), and they rape her throughout the night; she dies the next morning. As if that were not enough, the husband returns home with her body and cuts her into 12 parts, then sends each out to a tribe of Israel as a sign of what the people of Israel have become. If you haven't guessed already, it is a picture of Sodom and Gomorah. God's people have become no better than the most wicked of wicked according to their own recorded history.

The event chronologically takes place at the beginning of the book of Judges, but (for literary affect) this most ghastly recantation is held out to end the book to make a statement: Look how bad Israel has become. The following chapters will consist of Israel's tribes deciding how to handle the tribe in question's immorality. A civil war will ensue, and Israel will never again be united as one nation of 12 tribes. It is a tragic story representing man's desperate need for the Savior. And, as ugly and horrifying as it is...to keep proper perspective, we must remember that the cross of Christ is even more so.

As a parent and mother, I am well aware that the students are at varied levels of understanding when it comes to subjects such as rape, let alone gang rape. You will choose to cover this material with your children in your own manner according to your understanding of your child. However, even if your child skipped this lesson and the following class, he/she would still inevitably hear some of the story because the civil war is a result of these acts; it all relates. Therefore, I ask you to go over the following with your student(s) at home. For students with a small group leader, I recommend the leaders use the following verbage in group:

The concubine was not faithful to her husband and left him to go to her father's house. After four months, the husband went to fetch her. The father entertained the man three days. When he went to leave the 4th day, the father talked him into staying one more night. On the 5th day, the father again talked the husband into staying a while longer. But, he refused to sleep over and made a poor decision to travel too late in the day. They would not make it home before dark and be forced to find lodging. He then went to the city of Gibeah thinking it wise to stay the night amongst fellow Israelites. An old man offered him lodging. The people of Gibeah were evil just like Sodom and Gomorah (which God destroyed). During the night, the evil men came to the old man's house wanting to harm the traveling man. Instead, the traveler gave them his concubine, and the evil townspeople tortured her so much that she was dead by morning. In the morning, the man took his dead concubine home and cut up her body into 12 parts because there were 12 tribes of Israel. He then sent each tribe a part of his concubine to show them the proof of how wicked the people of Gibeah, their own fellow Israelites, had become. The tribes gathered in council to decide what to do and how to handle the tribe of Benjamin to which Gibeah belonged.

Please review the questions from days 2-5, read the material yourself before handing the lesson off to your student, and maybe even do this week's lesson with them. Decide how you will handle this material. Feel free to contact me, your Disciplers administrator, or your student's small group leader.

If any student brings up content that is inappropriate (such as talking about rape, or speaking lightly of the woman's dismembering), I recommend that they be asked to stop immediately, out of respect for the other students. If they persist, I would recommend they be removed from class. **PLEASE tell your student what is o.k. to discuss and what is not o.k. to discuss in class.** Leaders should remind students of the expectations before reviewing the homework for Day 2.

We had a similar situation in Acts when Paul decides to circumcize Timothy. We were brief, stuck to the questions, and I gave the students a disclaimer that there is appropriate talk between a child and his/her parents that is not appropriate with his/her friends. Again, topics to be discussed with parents should not be addressed amongst friends. Not in the classroom, in hallways after class, or in a class later in the day. Only speech that is edifying to one another should be used.

The aforementioned recommendations are made for those students 7th grade and under. Disciplers is not meant to be a 'sex-ed' class, nor is my desire to sully the romantic idea of marriage, the marriage bed, etc. At the same time, what is in the Bible is there for a reason. Our society is numb to so many villainous and evil acts, perhaps it is time to raise a generation that is horrified by evil instead of indifferent toward it. As always, remember the cross, our Christ, His suffering, His pain, torture, and humiliation. Remember His words, 'Forgive them, they know not what they do.' His cry of anguish to His Father. His death. His resurrection and His victory...the serpent's head crushed...the sting of death no more. In light of Christ and the cross, even the concubines torture pales.

In Him who is my strength,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marchelle L. Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Marchelle Klein
Director of Youth Studies

The Terrorizing Tribe of Dan and Its Idolatry Judges 18

Introduction

Micah and the entire tribe of Dan adopted idolatry. They bullied and robbed their fellow Israelites. They established a center for idolatry that lasted throughout their nation's independence. God finally judged them for idolatry and allowed them to be taken into **captivity**. Israel returned from **exile** cleansed of its idolatry. However, from then on, other nations have interfered with its independence. Although they exist as a nation today, they have suffered many attacks and needed the help of allies to withstand their enemies.

Outline of Judges Chapter 18

- I. Danites Seek Land - Judges 18:1-26
- II. Danites Seize Laish - Judges 18:27-29
- III. Danites Set up Idols - Judges 18:30-31

I. Danites Seek Land - Judges 18:1-26

In those days there was no king in Israel. Israel did not have a central authority which would oversee justice and govern the people. In the past, they had always gone to God as their authority, but now they had drifted away from Him. This story will show us what it looks like to try and figure things out on our own. In the tribe of Dan, we will see the outcome of this way of living. The strong will terrorize those who are weak.

Dan is an example of the worst failure of a tribe taking control of its allotted land. According to Joshua 19:41-46, their land was given to them along with the other tribes. Afterwards, most of the tribes failed to complete the job of getting out the enemy. As a result, the pagan nations were a bad influence on them. Dan not only failed to get the enemy out, they just gave up their land and moved away. Dan's territory was held by the most ferocious of all enemy peoples: the Amorites and the Philistines. These peoples were strong in the land, had

many chariots, and held the monopoly on iron. Yet, Dan could have overcome them by faith as Joshua (Joshua 10) had done.

Dan failed to receive its promised land inheritance due to lack of faith. By faith in God, their forefather Jacob had conquered the mighty Amorites single-handedly with his sword and bow. When he was dying he had said to his son Joseph, *Moreover, I have given to you one more portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow* (Genesis 48:22). Do you believe that each day you do all that you are able to do for Christ? Are there days when you fail to do as much as you could for Him? What overwhelms you to hold you back from carrying out His commandments? Are you willing to believe God's promises and overcome using the tools God has given you today? In what way would God have you step out in faith to serve Him today?

Five spies were sent to find a place for the Danites to live. It seems similar to the original spying mission ordered by God. Moses organized men to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:1-3). There is one major difference though. These men's orders did not come from God.

Micah's house must have been on the main road. When they came to the hills of Ephraim, they stopped there just like the Levite had. The spies *recognized the voice of the young Levite*. They asked him for guidance, as if he was a fortune-teller. The Levite readily played the role replying, *Go in peace, may the presence of the Lord be with you on your way*. It was as if he was giving them God's blessing through his words, and he did not have the authority to do that, for he was not the High Priest.

The five spies moved north and inland until they came to Laish. It was twenty-five miles north of Galilee and twenty-seven miles east of Tyre and Sidon, in the Lake Hule area. What they saw looked good to them, and it seemed that it would be easy to take the land. Laish was vulnerable in four ways.

- They had no defenses. They lived quietly, safely, and securely in the manner of the Sidonians.
- They had no government *or rulers in the land who might put them to shame for anything*.
- There were no nosy neighbors. They were far from the Sidonians.
- They had no allies or ties with anyone.

This is an ideal living situation as long as no one wants what you have.

Upon returning to Eshtaol and Zorah, the spies said, "Let's go!" They gave five reasons (one each?): it was a good land, secure, spacious, God had given it into their hand, it lacked nothing.

The tribe sent ahead six hundred soldiers armed for war. On their way, as they passed through the mountains of Ephraim, they came to Micah's house. The five spies told them of the ephod, idols, and teraphim and told the soldiers to consider what to do. They took Micah's shrine and the Levite asked, *What are you doing?* They made him an offer to be the priest of the whole tribe. That was a better offer than any offer Micah could give him. It seemed that he willingly, even gladly, went with them. He took charge of the idols and joined the Danites (18:20).

The Danite army, with its new priest and idols, moved on with the civilians and livestock in front of them. In the meantime, Micah's neighbors joined up with him and they all chased after the army. When they caught up with the Danites, the soldiers asked Micah, *What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?* Micah answered, *You have taken away my gods, which I made, and the priest,*

and you have gone away. Now what more do I have?

What a depressing and pathetic question. *Now what more do I have?* Micah had lost everything and felt empty. Idolatry is always empty and emptying. The psalmist says that those who make idols become like them (Psalm 115:8, 135:18). Those who worship something instead of God live life dissatisfied and empty.

On the other hand, the worship of God is satisfying, as Jesus taught the woman at the well (John 4:22). She was accustomed to going again and again to fill her water jar. Then she met Jesus. When she believed His words, she left her water jar and went to tell everyone about the One she had found who gave true and lasting satisfaction (John 4:28).

The Danites advised Micah to be silent and even threatened to kill him and his household if he did not go back. So, he and his neighbors wisely turned around and headed home. Micah was poorer but wiser. The army was too strong for him. His idols had not protected him. In fact, they couldn't even protect themselves!

II. Danites Seize Laish - Judges 18:27-29

Laish was a pleasant, quiet, and peaceful city far from the crowds and the busy life. Everything the people needed was right there. What could possibly spoil their existence? Just as in the case of the three little pigs, a wolf came looking for dinner. The wolf was the Danite army and Laish was pork for dinner. The Danites treated the Laishites the way they should have treated the enemy that lived in the land God had given to them. They struck the Laishites with the edge of the sword and they burned the city with fire.

There was no deliver because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. Be careful of being too **self-sufficient**, of getting too far from others, or too far from God. We need each other. We are made in God's image. He is one in three: the Father, the Son, and the

Holy Ghost. That makes our God a relational God. The Father has a relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the relationship is complete. Because we are in His image, we too are relational. We are made to come together building relationships with one another. Do you build friendships or do you only treasure what you have? Are you a support to your friends or do spend your time together talking about yourself and choosing all the games to play.

They called the name of the city Dan. It became the northern extremity of Israel's territory (1 Samuel 3:20). *From Dan to Beersheba* described Israel as we would say "from Maine to California."

III. Danites Set up Idols - Judges 18:30-31

The children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image... until the day of captivity. The stolen idols brought to Laish, became Dan's **legacy** of idolatry to the nation. *So they set up for themselves Micah's graven image which he made, all the time that the house of God was at Shiloh.*

Charles Pfeiffer says, "For a time Shiloh was the religious capital of Israel (1 Samuel 1:3). But, the Danites maintained their own idolatrous worship. Dan continued as a center of idolatry after the disruption of Solomon's kingdom. Jeroboam set up golden calves at Bethel, and Dan (1 Kings 12:29)" (Wycliffe Bible Commentary).

Referring to Judges 17 and 18, G. Campbell Morgan states, "In these stories we have a **revelation** of the beginnings of those terrible conditions which eventually issued in the ruin of the people" (An Exposition of the Whole Bible). †

Prayer

Lord, let me not lean on my own understanding! Do not allow me to fool myself into excusing sinful behaviors. Forgive me for taking Your salvation for granted, as if I could have ever done anything deserving of You. That is not possible, God.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5-7 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.*

Vocabulary

captivity - taken and held prisoner especially in war

exile - an act of being forced to leave one's home

self-sufficient - able to take care of oneself without outside help

legacy - something that happened in the past and is handed down to another; what is remembered about someone, someplace, or some event

revelation - an act of making something known that was not known previously

QUESTIONS FOR JUDGES/RUTH LESSON 14

All questions are based on the New King James Version of the Bible.

DAY ONE: Read all notes and references.

1. a. Name two or more present day “idols” that people put in God’s place.

- b. ♥ (Heart Question) Is there an “idol” in your life that you need to confess?
What will you do to get rid of it?

2. a. How should those who are strong treat those who are weak?

- b. How can you be a good example of this?

DAY TWO: Read Judges 19:1-13.

3. a. Fill in the blanks. *In those days there was _____ in Israel.*

- b. Write in your own words what the sentence from 3.a. means.

4. A concubine was a second wife who was usually a slave and had a lower legal status than a wife.
 - a. Which character(s) in the story lived in the mountains of Ephraim?

 - b. Which character(s) in the story had “played the harlot?”

 - c. Which character(s) in the story showed warm hospitality?

 - d. Which character(s) in the story were from Bethlehem?

 - e. Which character(s) is said to have spoken “kindly?”

 - f. Which character(s) in the story left to go home on the fifth day?

5. a. What advice did the servant give?

- b. Why did the Levite not listen to that advice?

- c. Where did the Levite want to go instead?

DAY THREE: Read Judges 19:14-22.

6. Find Gibeah on your map. Within which tribe is the city located?

7. a. What did they do when they arrived in Gibeah?

- b. Who showed hospitality this time?

- c. To where were they travelling? See verse 18.

8. a. How did the old man reassure his guests?

- b. As they were enjoying themselves, what happened?

- c. How are the men in verse 22 described?

- d. What did they want? Place a ✓ in the correct ☐

☐ to know him carnally which means to abuse him

☐ to question him and see if he was a spy

☐ to celebrate his arrival with a feast in his honor

DAY FOUR: Read Judges 19:23-30.

9. a. In verse 23, what words did the old man use to describe these men and their actions?

- b. From 1 Samuel 2:12, 1 Samuel 24:17, and 2 Chronicles 13:17, what other words are used to describe men like this?

10. a. How did the old man try to protect his guest?

- b. What did the Levite do to protect himself?

- c. What did the Levite say to his concubine the following morning?
-

11. a. What did the Levite do when he returned home?
-

- b. Rewrite in your own words the following sentence “*Consider it, confer, and speak up*” from verse 30?
-

- c. Circle the words which you think apply to the response of the other tribes.

outraged shocked alarmed unconcerned upset grieved

- d. What words describe your reaction to the incident in Judges 19?
-

DAY FIVE: Review Judges 19.

12. What kind of man was the Levite? Underline the statements below which you think are correct. Give verse(s) from Judges 19 to support your decisions.

- a. A man of God who set an example for others. vs. _____
- b. A person who looked out for himself instead of looking out for others. vs. _____
- c. A religious man who obeyed God. vs. _____
- d. A man who appeared to be religious on the outside but was actually doing what was right in his own eyes. vs. _____
- e. A man who cared deeply for God’s law and for others. vs. _____

13. Read Romans 1:28 and 32 to answer the following questions.

- a. What does God do to those that ignore their knowledge of Him as the Israelites in Gideah had?
-
-

- b. From verses 30 list some others that share their judgment?
-
-

14. What hope is there for people who have done things like this?

1 Corinthians 6:11

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 John 1:7-9

VOCABULARY FOR JUDGES/RUTH LESSON 14

***"The more words you know, the more clearly and powerfully you will think...
and the more ideas you will invite into your mind."***

— Wilfred Funk

DAY ONE: Write the definition of each vocabulary word.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

DAY TWO: Write three sentences using three different vocabulary words from this lesson.

1.

2.

3.

DAY THREE: Circle the word's synonym(s). (Synonym is a word/phrase that means the same thing.)

1. . **captivity**inprisonment..... freedom slavery

2. . **exile** kicked out evacuation return

3. . **legacy** walking heritage inheritance

DAY FOUR: Match the word to its meaning.**Word****Definition****exile**

an act of making something known that was not known previously

self-sufficient

able to take care of oneself without outside help

legacy

an act of being forced to leave one's home

captivity

taken and held prisoner especially in war

revelation

something that happened in the past and is handed down to another; what is remembered about someone, someplace, or some event

DAY FIVE: Review previous vocabulary words. Try to work from memory.

Find and cross out the words in the Word Bank in the puzzle below. Once you are done, begin at the top left corner and write down the letters that are not crossed out from left to right. Continue on the next row down, writing letters that are not crossed out until you have filled in the secret message below.

N	E	O	K	I	N	G	S	I	C	N	I	S	R	A
P	E	N	L	I	O	N	O	U	O	P	P	D	W	S
M	A	F	M	T	C	Q	C	X	N	F	H	E	I	F
P	O	N	Q	I	E	Z	I	O	S	H	L	N	Z	Q
E	S	N	D	Z	T	F	E	N	E	A	C	I	G	A
Q	A	M	O	E	O	Y	T	R	C	F	B	R	S	W
Y	C	Y	I	R	R	E	Y	Z	R	U	X	H	W	R
G	T	L	F	Y	S	A	W	W	A	O	L	S	V	S
A	G	E	S	P	Z	A	P	L	T	F	Z	T	G	G
O	I	W	R	L	C	A	U	E	E	O	Y	S	D	B
T	E	S	K	P	R	Y	T	U	N	L	A	O	W	S
F	K	O	Z	R	L	K	W	W	I	L	H	R	S	V
L	L	F	A	D	B	P	Q	E	P	Y	W	M	Q	H
Y	C	A	R	C	O	E	H	T	Y	H	E	P	K	Y
V	A	O	N	Z	U	O	S	B	B	P	H	F	V	E

WORD BANK

forfeit
 shrine
 pander
 folly
 Yahweh
 consecrate
 enmity
 society
 theocracy
 cult
