

Testing Times

Judges

Insert picture here

INTEGRATED BIBLE STUDY GUIDE



How to the get best value out of these studies...

Welcome to a new series of New Testament studies focused on the book of 1 Corinthians.

If you're using these Guides in a Small Group, it is vital that you have done preparatory work *before* you get to your meeting. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but to the other members of your group.

If you're doing these studies individually, make sure you let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

If you're after good commentaries or resources to complement your looking into the Bible, speak to your Small Group Leader or one of the staff, and we'll be as helpful as possible. Most people aren't going to spend lots of money on theological works, so we're constantly on the look out for quality titles that will result in money well spent.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with **prayer**, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommended Reading:

Michael Wilcock *The Message of Judges (BST series, IVP, 1992)*

1 The Background to Judges...

The book of Joshua closes with Israel in the promised land. Judges opens with the death of Joshua. After his generation dies out, Israel abandons God (2:10 – 12). This begins a pattern that runs throughout the book (rebellion – judgement – repentance – salvation – peace until the judge dies).

Chapter 2:6 – 3:6 gives an important overview of the book. It raises the 'how & why' God uses the nations – to test Israel (2:22, 3:4). Overall, Judges highlights God's enormous faithfulness and grace when Israel keeps turning its back on him.

1

Ehud

Judges 3: 12-30

Appetisers...

1. What 'surprises' you about God? What do you find unusual, weird, unexpected about Him?

2. If you were setting up your own church, who would you choose to have as a part of it?

Main Course...

3. Read Judges 2:6 – 23. What pattern of behaviour by Israel is described?

4. Read Judges 3:12 – 30. What parts of the story line up with the pattern established in chapter 2?

5. Use a Bible Atlas – where was Moab? Look up Gen 19:30 – 38; Ex 15:15, Num 25:1 – 6; Deut 2:1 – 19 and Ex 17:8 – 15. In the light of these verses, how are we meant to react when we hear about the countries mentioned in v12 & 13?

6. Use a concordance to look up 10 – 12 references to 'right hand' in the OT. What ideas are connected with 'right hand'?

7. In the light of what you've discovered in question 6, how are we meant to think about the character of Ehud?

8. What is God teaching Israel by using Ehud to rescue them?

9. Read 1 Cor 1:18 – 25. Why is the cross of Christ 'foolish' and 'a scandal'? Why does God use the cross to save people?

Take Away Value...

10. What is something 'weird' or unusual God has asked you to do (eg. give away money, not chase career, not lie)? How does that make you 'look' to people around you?

11. What makes it difficult to trust the surprising ways God acts? What are you tempted to trust in?

12. Memorise 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25.

²²Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

2

Deborah**Judges 4: 1 - 5: 31****Appetisers...**

1. How would you define 'humility'? Who is a humble person you know?

2. Are you ever jealous of the way God uses other people in his plans?

Main Course...

3. Read Judges 4:1 – 5:31 to yourself. How would you describe each character from what you've read in chapter 4?

4. 'Canaan' is mentioned in verse 2. What do we know so far about Canaan? (see Gen 12:1 – 7; Num 13; Judges 2:1 – 5) You might also like to look up in a Bible Dictionary about Canaanite religion.

3

Jephthah

Judges 10: 6 - 12: 7

Appetisers...

1. Think of a time you've been under pressure and asked God for help. What have you said you'd do if God 'comes through with the goods'?

2. Is prayer 'bargaining with God'?

Main Course...

3. Read Judges 10: 6 - 12: 7. Fill in the following table:

	Conversation between	Point of the conversation	Result
10: 6-16			
10: 17 - 11: 11			
11: 12-28			
11: 29-38			
12: 1-7			

4

Samson**Judges 13: 1 - 16: 31****Appetisers...**

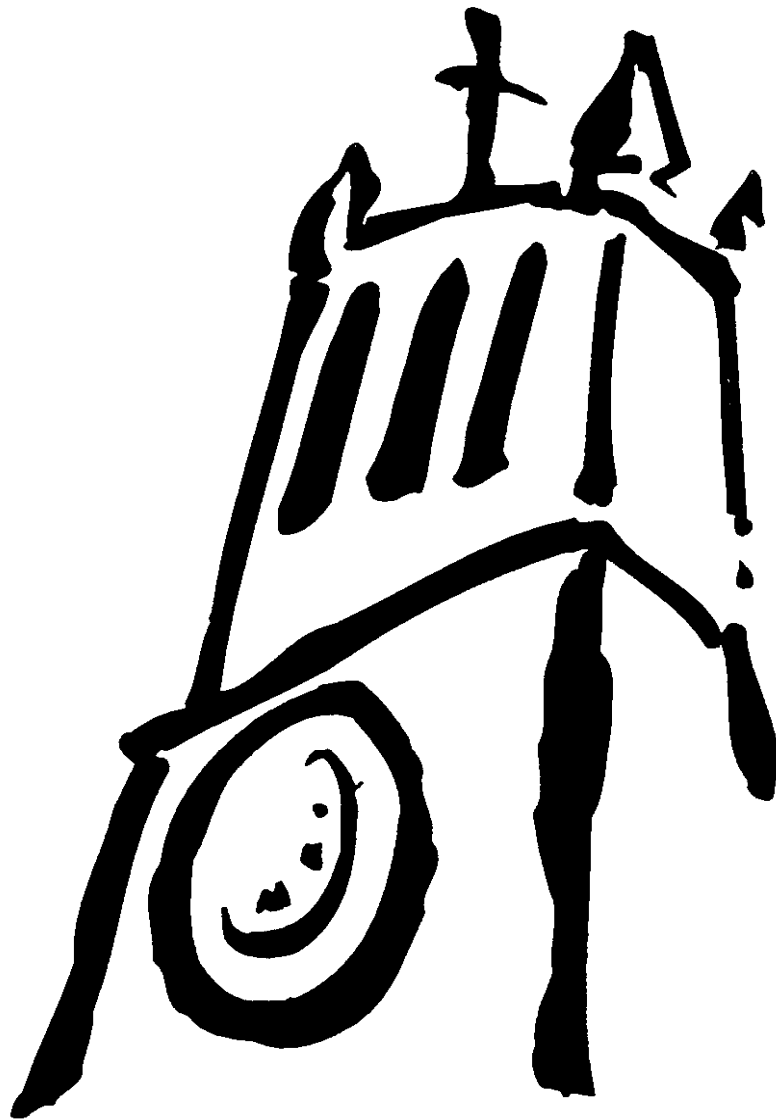
1. Is there any future for the church in Australia? Write down reasons both for and against.

2. If Satan wanted to sabotage Holy Trinity as a church, how do you think he'd try to do it?

Main Course...

3. How does the opening of the Samson story differ from the 'cycle pattern' we've seen so far in the book of Judges?

4. What does the description of Samson's birth (13: 1-24) remind you of?



Holy Trinity Adelaide
87 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000
t: 8213 7300
f: 8212 3611
office@trinity.asn.au
www.trinityadelaide.org.au