

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer November 13, 2016

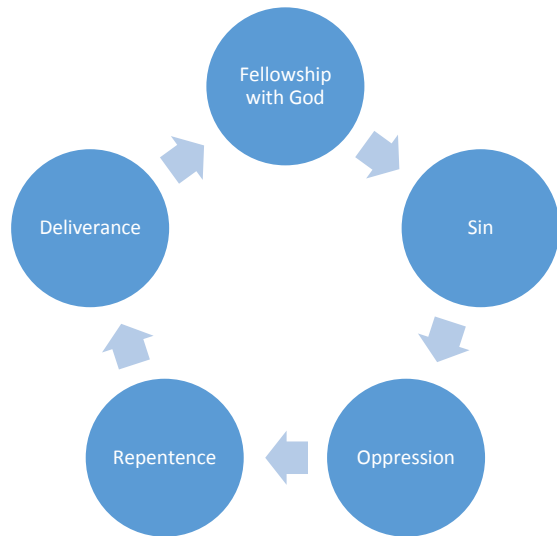
## The Story Series – Chapter 8 – A Few Good Men and Women

Reading this week: **The Story Chapter 8 and the Book of Judges.**

“Judges shows us our potential for greatness and our capacity for catastrophe.” Gary Inrig

**Theme: Cycles – Key Verses – Judges 2:20-21; 21:25; Key Chapter 2.**

### Sinful Cycle



### Spiritually Healthy – Delight yourself in the Lord – Psalm 37:4



**Obedience and Surrender = Spiritual Growth and Walking with God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Avoids Spiritual Drift.**

### The Sinful Cycles

### The Deliverers of God

| Cycle      | Oppressor     | Year of Oppression | Deliverer                    | Years of Peace |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 3:7-11     | Mesopotamians | 8                  | Othniel                      | 40             |
| 3:12-30    | Moabites      | 18                 | Ehud                         | 80             |
| 4:1-5:31   | Canaanites    | 20                 | Deborah                      | 40             |
| 6:1-8:32   | Midianites    | 7                  | Gideon                       | 40             |
| 8:33-10:5  | Abimelech     | 3                  | Tola/ Jair                   | 45             |
| 10:6-12:15 | Ammonites     | 18                 | Jephthah/Ibzan<br>Elon/Abdon | 6, 7, 10, 8    |
| 13:1-16:31 | Philistines   | 40                 | Samson                       | 20             |

**Godly Leadership is used by the Lord to call people out of a cycle of sin to live a life of growing spiritual maturity and fellowship with God.**

**Jesus Christ in Judges** – Each Judge is a saviour, ruler, and a spiritual and political deliverer. Judges portrays the role of Jesus Christ as the Saviour-King of His people. The Book of Judges also illustrates the need for a righteous king.

**As we grow the sinful cycles are smaller while spiritual growth is longer.**  
**Where are you today: The Sinful Cycle or the Spiritual Health journey?**



**THE STORY**  
For Life Groups

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** Have you ever been rescued from a dangerous or difficult situation? What happened and what did you learn?

1. Israel was constantly running from the true God to other false gods. What are some of the false gods in our culture today? Which of them have you trusted?
2. False gods trigger a cycle: a web of sin, God's judgments, crying out for help, and God providing deliverance. What are some destructive cycles you have seen in your own life?

3. Do you think that the Israelites did a good job of passing their faith to the next generation? How can we do this better in the church and in our own families?
4. How would you describe Deborah? What qualities do you admire in her? In what ways (if any) does her story influence your view of women in leadership?
5. What important lessons do you learn from Gideon's story about . . . spiritual leadership? Faith/trust? God's sovereignty? What can you apply to your own life and present situation?
6. In what ways was Samson a faithful man of God? In what ways was he not faithful?
7. What was Samson's true weakness? How can you deal with your weaknesses before they become your downfall?
8. Where do you see God's grace in this chapter?
9. Which character in this chapter of THE STORY stands out to you and why? What qualities do you admire most in this person? How can you develop these qualities in your own life?
10. What was the biggest take away from this message this week or from your reading THE STORY or the book of Judges?

### **Further Notes, Outline and Personal Reflections on Judges.**

- Take time this week as you read Judges to make an outline of the book.
- What spiritual lessons from Judges have impacted your life this week? Write them down in the space below.