

Life Group Discussion Material – Sunday, May 1st Message

The Jephthah Cycle (Judges 11 & 12)

Judges – The Cycle of Sin

1. Read Judges 11:1-3. What were the reasons that Jephthah was ran off by his own family?
2. Think about the statement, “we can destroy great potential in others due to our prejudices.” Why is it important for us not to hold someone’s personal history against them? How is that different than discerning the character of a person and being cautious in certain circumstances?
3. Read Judges 11:12-28. What are some negotiating techniques that Jephthah uses? How does he seem to come across and what kind of language does he use?
4. What can we learn from Jephthah as we deal with conflict? Discuss the following points:
 - a. Don’t jump to conclusions
 - b. Give the other person the benefit of the doubt
 - c. Understand them
 - d. Reason with them
 - e. Make an informed, calculated decision
5. What does James 3:17 say in regard to the above question?
6. Consider the statement, “Be careful not to overcommit, but once you’ve made a promise, keep your word.” Do you overcommit by struggling to tell people “no,” and then find that you have to back out of things? How do you suppose this impacts the other people who were relying on you?
7. Read Judges 12:1-7. Jephthah stood his ground against his own countrymen. How did he do it? Was he illogical and violent off the bat? Did he lash out right away? Was he calm, cool, and collected? How does he set an example for us when we may have to stand our ground against our own?