나눔 메모

The First Step in Sharing the Gospel

Passing on the gospel as our greatest treasure · Small Group Discussion Guide · Judges 12:8-15

Bible Passage

Judges 12:8-15

Sermon Summary

Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon led Israel during a peaceful period in which no wars are recorded. Yet the Scripture focuses more on their children, marriage alliances, wealth and status than their achievements. Ibzan and Abdon appear to have been more concerned with passing worldly influence and success on to their children than with passing on the values of God's kingdom. These choices formed part of the spiritual backdrop for the next generation, when Israel turned away from God and suffered under Philistine oppression. Before we carry the gospel to distant and unfamiliar places, we must first live as though it is our greatest treasure and faithfully pass it on to the next generation.

Discussion

1. Opening Questions

1. What is the most valuable legacy you have received from your parents or an older Christian mentor?
2. What is one thing you most hope to pass on to the next generation or to those around you?

2. Exploring the Passage

1. What details about the time of Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon are repeated or emphasised in Judges 12:8-15? Why might the passage focus on their children, marriage alliances, and donkeys rather than on wars or achievements?
2. What do Ibzan's use of his children's marriages to increase his influence and Abdon's seventy donkeys for his descendants show about what they valued most?
3. Compare the peace and prosperity enjoyed by these judges with the spiritual despair of Samson's generation. What spiritual warning emerges from the contrast between these two periods?
4. Is there a gap between the values I say matter most and how I actually use my time, money, and attention?

3. Going Deeper

1. How might our loving desire to provide a good home, a good education, financial security, and a stable future unintentionally push the gospel into the background?
2. If we want to pass the gospel on to the next generation, what must they see in the lives of parents and older Christians—not simply hear in their words? What might I need to change first?

4. Life Application

1. This week, tell one younger person why the gospel is precious to you, drawing on a specific experience from your own life.
2. Review your schedule and spending, then make one practical change that places God's kingdom ahead of comfort or success.

Related Bible Passages

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 — The command to keep God's word in our hearts and teach it diligently to our children shows that passing on faith is an everyday responsibility.
2. Deuteronomy 17:16-17 — The warning against a king accumulating horses, wives, or wealth teaches that leaders must resist the world's patterns of power.
3. Psalm 78:5-7 — We are called to tell the next generation so that they will put their hope in God and remember what he has done.
4. 2 Timothy 1:5 — The sincere faith passed from Lois to Eunice and then to Timothy offers a model of a faithful spiritual legacy.

Good to Know

In Judges, young donkeys were more than a means of transport; they could also signal wealth and social standing. Ibzan's many children and marriage alliances, together with the seventy donkeys ridden by Abdon's sons and grandsons, highlight the influence and prosperity of their households. The passage warns that even in times of peace, leaders can place worldly success ahead of preserving their God-given inheritance and passing on faith.

This Week's Practice

1. Read a Bible verse with a family member or younger person, and share how that verse influenced a choice you made.
2. Write down what you hope to provide for your children or the next generation. Then ask whether your list includes time and practical steps for passing on faith.
3. Choose one person and serve them in a small, practical way that shows the gospel is your greatest treasure.

Choose one of these actions this week, then share what you noticed and learned at your next gathering.

Pray Together

- Pray that we would treasure the gospel of Jesus Christ above money, success, and comfort.
- Pray that our everyday choices—not only our words—would show the next generation the values of God's kingdom.
- Pray that our families and church would faithfully pass on the gospel so that God's kingdom continues to grow in the next generation.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pause to consider the legacy we are leaving to our children and the next generation. Forgive us for investing so much in providing a good environment and a secure future while neglecting to live out and pass on the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teach us to seek your kingdom before money, success, and comfort, and may the gospel be our one true boast. Help us live by your word at home, at work, and in the church, so that the next generation may see through our words and choices how precious you are to us. May our lives be the first step in sharing the gospel, and may your kingdom continue from generation to generation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2026. 10. 11. Wellington Letter of Christ Church