

we hoped for, help us trust that your grace is sufficient. As we wait, help us to know your will and your character more deeply. May we walk with you this week and experience the joy of obedience. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

나눔 메모

Grace in the Process

Small Group Discussion Guide · Judges 11:1–40

Passage

Judges 11:1–40

Sermon Summary

Jephthah vowed that, if he defeated the Ammonites, he would offer as a burnt offering whoever first came out of his house to meet him. Tragically, that person was his only daughter. Although he believed the outcome of the battle rested with God, the way he went about it reflected the human-sacrifice practices associated with Chemosh and Molek. A good result cannot honour God if the process goes against his will. God cares not only about the outcome, but also about the attitudes and choices that shape how we get there. We are called to entrust the outcome to God and find joy in knowing him and walking with him throughout the process.

Discussion

1. Opening Questions

1. Briefly share a time when something you worked hard for turned out well, but, looking back, you realised you had taken shortcuts or pushed things too far along the way.
2. Jephthah said that victory in the battle depended on God, yet his vow reflected the ways of idols. Are there times when we say we are leaving the outcome to God while choosing methods that do not reflect his character?

2. Exploring the Word

1. What did Jephthah vow, and who came out to meet him when he returned home victorious? Find the details in the passage.

2. Jephthah tore his clothes and said, "I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break." This may look like faithfulness, but it can also be understood as the tragic result of a deeply misguided choice. Why did today's sermon explain that this passage does not teach us to keep every vow at any cost?
3. Instead of being healed, Paul heard, "My grace is sufficient for you." Through prayer, he discovered God's will and learnt to rejoice. Have you ever received a different answer from the one you hoped for, yet come to know more of God's character through the process?
4. The sermon points out that sinful choices do not always bring immediate, visible consequences. Is there an area of your life where you may be holding on to an easier or compromised way simply because nothing bad has happened yet? Share honestly if you feel comfortable.

3. Going Deeper

1. The sermon says, "If we lose the next generation, we cannot call it success." Why is Jephthah's loss of his only daughter not just a personal tragedy, but also a serious warning for the whole community?

4. Life Application

1. This week, when you feel impatient because the result you are waiting for has not come, pause and write down: "What approach am I taking in this process?" Take a moment to reflect honestly.
2. When you catch yourself thinking, "As long as the result is good," try saying aloud, "I will leave the outcome with God and walk through the process with integrity."

Passages to Explore Together

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9 — Instead of being healed, Paul heard, "My grace is sufficient for you," and learnt to rejoice in his weakness.
2. Leviticus 18:21 — God condemns the sacrifice of children to other gods, showing why Jephthah's vow reflected the ways of Chemosh rather than God's will.

3. Psalm 15:4 — Although this verse is sometimes used to justify Jephthah's action, Judges 11 does not teach us to keep every vow at any cost.
4. Judges 11:24 — Jephthah's claim that God gives victory highlights the contradiction between trusting God with the outcome and using an idolatrous method.

Helpful Background

Chemosh, mentioned in the sermon, was originally the god of Moab, while Ammon's chief god was known as Milcom or Molek. Because the Ammonites and Moabites sometimes adopted each other's gods, Jephthah may have used the name Chemosh more broadly. Both forms of worship were associated with the horrific practice of human sacrifice.

This Week's Practice

1. On a day when you feel impatient or things are not going well, tell a family member honestly, "I cannot see the outcome yet, but I am doing my best to act with integrity."
2. When you feel tempted to rush towards an outcome at work or in your studies, ask a colleague or friend, "Could you help me check whether I am going about this in the right way?"

Choose one of these practices to try this week, then share how it went at your next gathering.

Pray Together

- That we would discover more of God's character as we wait for his answer
- That we would value walking with God more than visible success

Closing Prayer

God, we confess that we have often focused only on results and overlooked the process. Help us reject the ways of this world and choose the path of integrity rather than pursuing success at any cost. When we do not receive the outcome,