

## **A Few Good Men...And Women**

*The Story Ch.8 p.p. 103-119*

### **VIDEO:**

Go to <http://vimeo.com/album/1514042>

When prompted for a password enter: **TheStory** (case sensitive)

Find and watch the video titled "The Story For Groups Chapter 8"

### **Summary:**

God's people demonstrate a pattern in their relationship with him that finds them disobedient until things get too tough, and then crying out for his help.

### **Think about:**

How did the Israelites disobey God when they settled in Canaan? (See Exodus 23:31-32). In what ways did such co-inhabitation with a pagan culture influence them? What are some influences that we need to be wary of in today's culture. Does that mean we are to isolate ourselves from the world?

The story says, "After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10) In other words, parents did not teach their children about God. Read what the Bible says about our responsibility as Christian parents in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 and Colossians 3:16. What are ways you, as parents or grandparents, can teach your children.

A recurrent theme of this chapter is God's patience and faithfulness. Repeatedly the Israelites "did evil in the Lord's sight" which always brought about hardship. "But when they cried out to the Lord for help, the Lord again raised up a rescuer to save them." How patient is God when it comes to forgiving us for repeated failures? (See Isaiah 43:25 and 1 John 1:9) Look at the simple Q&A of Matthew 18:21-22. What do you think Jesus' answer meant in terms of God's unconditional love for us?

Gideon needed repeated signs and proof from God before he was willing to follow God's command. Yet, God often expects us to step out in faith. What are some times when you or others you know had to do just that? As Christ-followers what important assurances do we have from God as we face life's battles?

What is your overall impressions of Samson? Super hero? Super flawed? As fellow sinners, can we identify with any of his faults? Hot tempered, easily tempted, revengeful, selfish, etc. What can we learn from the fact that despite Samson's many failings, God was still able to use him for his purpose? What was the key to God helping Samson in his final moments? (See Judges 16:28)

### **Take away:**

Our God is patient and faithful. He disciplines but never forsakes. He hears his people's prayers and comes to the rescue.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we know we often disappoint you and often find ourselves adrift in the ways of this world. Help us stay focused on you and look to you for rescue. Convict us and forgive us for those sins we have committed and let us always take comfort in your forgiveness and faithfulness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.