

HOW THE PROMISED LAND BECAME A SPIRITUAL WASTELAND

A GOOD START:

Rising Up To The Challenge

Judges 1:1-19 / Genesis 49:8-9 / Deuteronomy 8:1-9 / Joshua 23:6-11 / Genesis 15:16

- **Listen** closely to God in times of **transition**.
- **Testing** reveals what is **actually** in your heart.
- With many of God's promises, there is still **work to be done**.

A WEAK FINISH:

Backing Down From The Challenge

Judges 1:20-36 / Deuteronomy 7:17-24 / Isaiah 42:16-17 / James 4:17 / Philippians 3:12-14

- **Half-hearted** obedience leads to long-term **disasters**.
- Sometimes God's timing and progress is **gradual**.
- If you are on the right track, **don't quit**.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ALL OF THIS?

Judges 2:1-10 / Genesis 3:9 / 1 Kings 19:9 / Jonah 4:10-11 / Matthew 6:27 / 2 Corinthians 7:10

- God uses **questions** to sharpen our **thinking**.
- God desires more for us than just a **shallow faith**.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Can you think of any situations in your own life where you may be tempted to partially obey God's commands?

What are some steps you can take to keep from giving in to this temptation?

2. Looking back on Digging Deeper Question 3, is there an area in your life that you'd like to experience more of God's rest, comfort or hope?

How would you like your Growth Group to pray for you in this regard?



The Family Recovery Center in Oceanside has 12 residence rooms that are in need of painting and renovation. Under some guidelines from the center, your Growth Group will paint and redecorate a room that is "home" to a young mother and her child/children during her recovery at the center. Your Growth Group will purchase the items and spend a day painting the room and sprucing it up. (North Coast Community Service Dept. has approved this project for "matching funds.")

For more information or to sign-up, contact Kathie D. at (760) 724-6700 x124 or at kathie@northcoastchurch.com.

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Judges 1:1-19 / Genesis 49:8-9 / Deuteronomy 8:1-9 / Joshua 23:6-11 / Genesis 15:16

- _____ closely to God in times of _____.
- _____ reveals what is _____ in your heart.
- With many of God's promises, there is still _____.

A WEAK FINISH:

Backing Down From The Challenge

Judges 1:20-36 / Deuteronomy 7:17-24 / Isaiah 42:16-17 / James 4:17 / Philipians 3:12-14

- _____ obedience leads to long-term _____.
- Sometimes God's timing and progress is _____.
- If you are on the right track, _____.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ALL OF THIS?

Judges 2:1-10 / Genesis 3:9 / 1 Kings 19:9 / Jonah 4:10-11 / Matthew 6:27 / 2 Corinthians 7:10

- God uses _____ to sharpen our _____.
- God desires more for us than just a _____.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 13, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back over your sermon notes from *How The Promised Land Became A Spiritual Wasteland*, what was most challenging, helpful or interesting to you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time growing up when you disobeyed your parents and got caught? What was your reaction to getting caught and what were the consequences?

2. When you're facing adversity, what are some of the most important things for your closest friends to know how best to support you in that season?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. God doesn't ask us to wholeheartedly obey Him just because He is God. He gives us a number of reasons why obedience is the best thing for us. Read each of the following verses and identify the reason it gives for obeying God.

Galatians 6:7-8

Hebrews 12:7-11

2 Corinthians 5:10

Psalms 119:1-2

Which of these do you find most motivating to you? Which is least motivating?

What does Matthew 6:1-5 say about wrong motivations for obeying God?

2. King Saul is an example of someone who demonstrated half-hearted obedience. In 1 Samuel 15, we read about God giving him a mission that he failed to carry out completely. Because of that, God sent the prophet Samuel to confront him. Read 1 Samuel 15:6-26 and answer the questions below.

How do Saul's actions demonstrate his half-hearted obedience?

In what ways does Saul try to justify his actions?

Can you think of any ways Christians might be tempted to partially obey God's commands in their employment, finances, sexuality, or some other area of life?

3. We heard this weekend that if you're on the right track, don't quit even when you're facing challenges, hardships, and trials. God has a way of meeting us in the midst of those challenges. What encouragement do you find in the following passages for continuing to trust and follow God even when the going gets tough?

Matthew 11:28-30

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Can you think of any times in your life when you experienced the rest, comfort or hope talked about in these verses?