

Lutheran Foundations: A Confirmation Curriculum[©]

It Starts Here! Stories of the Old Testament

The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Year 1, Lesson 15: Gideon

Tonight, we begin the next chapter in Israel's story: a period between the life of Joshua and the time of Israel's kings. For several hundred years, Israel was governed by a succession of "Judges", (mostly) men who exercised both religious and civil leadership. You can find the stories of the Judges in several of the OT books, but the book of Judges would be the obvious place to start!

Here is a summary of this period from Judges 2:

¹⁸ Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge, for the Lord would be moved to pity by their groaning because of those who persecuted and oppressed them. ¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they would relapse and behave worse than their ancestors, following other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They would not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

We are not going to cover all of the Judges, but it would do you good to read their stories! Here is a list of the first Judges:

8 years of servitude to Aram-naharaim
Othniel the Kenizzite rescued Israel
40 years of peace

18 years of servitude to Moab
Ehud rescued Israel, succeeded by Shamgar
80 years of peace

20 years of servitude to Canaan
Deborah rescued Israel
40 years of peace

And then the Midianites... and Gideon! You can find the stories about Gideon in Judges 6:1 – 8:28. As always, Listen carefully. Imagine yourself in the stories. Let them deep into your mind and heart!