



## Group Guide

# No King but Jesus

*April 7, 2024*

**Main Passage:** Judges 2:7-19; 17:6

## Theological Theme

When we sin and reject the Lord by serving other gods, we find ourselves in painful cycles of sin and rebellion. But God is faithful to rescue us when we cry out to Him.

## Introduction

- ❓ What courtroom drama or movie is a favorite of yours and why?
- ❓ What do you know about the role of the judges in the Old Testament?

## 1. Rebellion and Idolatry (Judges 2:7-13)

This passage records the death of Joshua, who had faithfully led the Israelites after Moses. Joshua was a godly leader, and the nation of Israel flourished under his guidance. As often happens with strong leaders, the people followed his example and served the Lord faithfully as long as he lived. Joshua left a legacy of godliness and was a great man of God. The problem came when those who knew and remembered him died off, and a generation rose that didn't know the Lord or the things He had done for Israel. This was a generation that had no personal relationship with the Lord and no respect for His power.

- ❓ What lesson is there for us as we consider the spiritual decline of Israel following the death of Joshua?
- ❓ What are some false "gods" people today might turn to today?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to rid your life of things that may be drawing your worship away from the Lord?

## 2. Sin and Rescue (Judges 2:14-19)

Sin has consequences. The people chose to turn away from the Lord and they paid the price. The anger of the Lord burned against them. It is not a surprise that God responded in this way. He is a God of His word and had promised they would reap the curses of disobedience if they made that choice. We don't get to enjoy the blessings of obedience and be exempt from the consequences of disobedience and the Israelites experienced both.

- ❓ Why is it important to realize and remember the truth that sin has consequences?
- ❓ What makes it challenging to follow godly leadership long term? How can you seek to do that in our church?
- ❓ Application: Where have you experienced these types of pattern in your own life?

### 3. The Ultimate Issue (Judges 17:6)

This one verse in chapter 17 summarizes the spiritual state of Israel during the time of the judges. It is also applicable to our lives today. It is important to study Scripture and learn from the right and wrong choices of those who have gone before us. When we invite God to speak to us about how the Bible applies to our daily lives, we can experience the blessings that come from obedience and avoid making some of the same mistakes believers have made before us.

- ❓ How can studying the Bible give us wisdom to avoid the mistakes of God's people in the past?
- ❓ Where do you see "self-worship" prominent in our culture? What tempts you most in this way?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to do to guard against worshiping anything or anyone other than Jesus?

### Conclusion

- ❓ How can you relate to the children of Israel and their cycles of sinful behavior?
- ❓ Where do you find yourself drawn away from worshipping Jesus? How can this group support one another in faithfulness in these times?
- ❓ Where have you sought control of your life instead of trusting Jesus to be your King?