

Our Failures and God's Rescue

The daily struggle against failure is familiar to many of us. Whether it's our to-do list or our faith life, distractions and temptations threaten to lead us astray. No matter how hard we try, we regularly discover that we've failed to keep a promise, to complete a job, to resist a bad habit, to keep our word, to do devotions, to pray...again. If we pay attention to the stories in Judges, we'll see a similar pattern of failure and repentance. But that pattern is not complete. Explore Judges and discover a compassionate God who is faithful even when we are faithless.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What contemporary idols can you identify in our culture and world today?
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust God completely?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Our Failures and God's Rescue*](#)

READ [Judges 2:6-19](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In his commentary, *Judges For You*, Timothy Keller pinpoints the real danger of the religion of Canaan, "The pagan world-view was that there were many gods...each of whom had a particular area of influence, and none of whom demanded lordship over every single area of life...Paganism therefore could accept the existence, but not the exclusive sovereignty, of the LORD." God wanted Israel to drive out this dangerous religion so that it would no longer tempt or distract them from serving and worshiping him. What are the false gods in your life, threatening to undermine your complete trust in and worship of the one, true God?
- Why is it so important to share our knowledge about God, talk about his work in our lives, and willingly discuss our relationship with him, particularly with others of the next generation? What opportunities do you have for inter-generational relationships where you can both encourage others in their faith and be encouraged in your own?
- Judges tells us that God gives the Israelites over to their enemies. Keller notes that slavery is a natural consequence of idolatry, "When we make something into an idol, it continually makes us miserable...When we make something into an idol, it binds and enslaves us" (26). God does not oppress us, rather we experience oppression because of what we allow into our lives. Can you identify an example of how this has been true in your own life or an example from history?
- What do you want to cry out to God about? Where do you see a need for revival in your own life, in the life of your family, in the life of the Church?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Deuteronomy 6](#), [Psalm 106:34-47](#), [Romans 1:18-2:4](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on your life. Are there idols you're struggling to eradicate from your life or areas you've misplaced your trust in someone or something that is not God? Have an honest conversation with God about what it is and why. Ask God to strengthen your faith and close your prayer with the words of [Psalm 106:47](#):

*Save us, Lord our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.*

Then imagine your faith legacy. What do you hope it will be? What can you do now to set yourself on the right path towards establishing that legacy? Journal your thoughts, and pray for God's help to abide by [Deuteronomy 6](#), so you and those who come after you will know and love the Lord.

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