

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

LEAD WITH THE LEFT: EHUD

FLAWED HEROES | JUDGES 3:67-30 | JUNE 18/19, 2016 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"Again the Israelites cried out to the Lord, and he gave them a deliverer - Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite." (Judges 3:15)

Failure (Judges 3:12)

Falling (Judges 3:12-14)

Helped (Judges 3:15-29)

YHWH raises a deliverer in Ehud

The Story of Ehud

Wholeness (Judges 3:30)

1. When have you experienced help from another in the midst of personal need? What happened?
2. We continue our "Flawed Heroes" series at Eastbrook Church by looking at the story of Ehud found in Judges 3:12-30. Whether you are on your own or with a small group, begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak to you through His word, and then read the passage aloud.
3. *Background:* With this week's study we enter the stories of individual judges. The major judges are Othniel (3:7-11), Ehud (3:12-30), Deborah & Barak (4:1-5:31), Gideon (6:1-8:32), Jephthah (10:6-12:7), and Samson (13:1-16:31). Interspersed within these larger accounts are many other, shorter stories of minor judges. Most of the stories of the major judges follow a four-part structure: 1) Israel's sin & disobedience, 2) punishment of that sin & decline, 3) repentance from sin, and 4) deliverance by God through a judge & restoration.
4. Judges 3:12-14 sets the stage for Ehud's arrival as a deliverer. What is the problem with Israel that leads to their oppression?
5. What do you notice about Ehud and his calling as a deliverer from 3:15? How does he prepare for the task according to verse 16?
6. While it is possible that the Benjamites were ambidextrous (see Judges 20:16), it is possible that Ehud's left-handedness was related to a physical defect, or at least was seen as such by the culture of the time.
7. How would you describe Ehud's actions and strategy in 3:17-23? Why do you think this was effective with King Eglon?
8. The delay of the servants (3:24-25) allows Ehud the chance to get away and instigate a rebellion against Moab (3:26-29). What words would you use to characterize Ehud's leadership here? In 3:30 it is important to notice that Ehud's efforts bring the longest stretch of peace (80 years) to the land.
9. Look back over the entire story and consider what God's role in this story was from start to finish. What is God doing?
10. What is one thing that God is speaking to you through this study or something that you need to consider in greater depth? Write that down and pray about it. If you are studying on your own, commit to sharing that with someone this week. If you are in a small group, take some time to discuss and pray about these things together.

[Next week we continue our series, "Flawed Heroes," by looking at the story of Deborah and Barak in Judges 4:1-5:31. Read that portion of the book ahead of time to prepare.]