

Talk It Over 15: Serving/Common-Interest Edition

Teaching Series: *The Story*

Message: A Few Good Men ... And Women (*Chapter 8*) – Todd Petkau

Passages: Judges

Date: November 11 and 12, 2017

How to use Talk It Over

This version of *Talk It Over* is designed for groups that are service or common-interest oriented. As such, it is written with the idea of focussing a group at the beginning or end of a meeting with a short Bible reading, questions to invoke conversation, and a time of prayer. ***The intent is for this focussed time to be 15 minutes or less and placed at the beginning or end of your regular activity.*** It is recommended that you do the following (in this order): 1) Read the associated chapter in *The Story*; 2) Watch the sermon for the chapter; 3) Gather as a small group and talk together using this document as your guide.

The Main Idea

Obedience, apathy, and disobedience are a cycle. We see it clearly in the book of Judges. But every time the people of Israel fell away from God here was there to pick them back up when they called out to him.

Warm Up Questions: (Choose 1 or 2)

Q1: Do you see your life as a circle or a line?

Q2: If given the opportunity, would you be a judge?

Q3: In thinking about Todd's sermon, what questions or insights about this part of *The Story* did you come away with?

It is easy to see the cycle of sin—following, drifting, enslavement, repentance—as it is played out in chapter 8. It is more difficult to see this cycle in our own lives, especially as we begin to drift. But for most of us, this cycle is present and we have to be watchful. However, as Todd said, we are never forced to go through the whole cycle. Repentance and forgiveness are always available and we can jump straight to deliverance and following again.

Q1: Can you identify specific points in your life where you drifted from God after following him wholeheartedly? Share these with your group if you are comfortable doing so.

Q2: What can you do to avoid this cycle? If you cannot avoid it, what can you do to shorten the time between times of wholehearted service to God?

Pray with each other about specific areas where you tend to drift from God. Pray that you will spend your time in wholehearted devotion to God and not drifting and experiencing the consequences of that drift.