

I. CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing?
- Reflect on last week's challenge:

"Most bibles have a description at the beginning of each book. This week, take time to familiarize yourself with the books of the Torah and what makes each of them unique."

this week's topic:

BIBLE BASICS (PART 3) THE HISTORY BOOKS

II. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

JOSHUA

II. THE HISTORY BOOKS

- The book of Joshua records the culmination of Israel's journey to the Promised Land. Here we see God fulfill His promise to give the land of Canaan to Jacob's descendants.

JUDGES

- The book of Judges describes a cycle that repeated itself multiple times during the reign of the judges. Because the Israelites failed to remove wicked influences from the promised land, they became entangled in sin and were conquered and afflicted by their enemies.

1 SAMUEL

- First Samuel chronicles the beginning of Israel's monarchy, following the lives of the prophet Samuel, the ill-fated King Saul, and God's ultimate choice of David as king.

2 SAMUEL

- Second Samuel recounts the long reign of David, beginning with his becoming king over Judah.

1 KINGS

- The book of 1 Kings provides an account of the death of David, the reign of his son Solomon, and the decline and division of the Kingdom of Israel after Solomon and many of his successors turned to idol worship.

2 KINGS

- The book of 2 Kings describes the history of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, focusing on the spiritual successes and failures of each kingdom.

III. CHALLENGE

The Old Testament is full of difficult stories. Your challenge this week is to reach Judges 19. Sit with it then write down some thoughts. What do you make of this text? Why do you think it was included in the bible? In your mind, is any part of it helpful?

III. DISCUSSION

- What is something **new** you learned about the history books through this SermonCast?
- These books have many violent stories that readers might shy away from. Dr. Wolfe reminds us that these stories are ancient literature written by ancient people in a time when people were constantly at war to see who's deity (god) was strongest. With this in mind, what do you make of all the violence in these books. [for reference see
- Some stories appear over and over in the Bible. Dr. Wolfe mentions that these stories were a culmination of many different people telling the same stories and then all being included when the bible was put together. Does this change your understanding of scripture? Why? Why not?
- In the Sermoncast there is a conversation about the super powers of the world during the events of the Old Testament (Egyptians, Philistines, Canaanites, Assyrians, and Babylonians). You can probably add more modern superpowers that have oppressed the Israelites. What do you make of the fact that all of these superpowers have fallen, but the Israelites have remained? How is this relevant to your journey today?