



# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Violating God's Life | Judges 20:34-48

1. Can you tell of an incident that started full of promise and went downhill from there?
2. This story is Sodom and Gomorrah revisited (compare Judges 19 with Genesis 19). What does it say as a narrative that Judges begins with Israel in the Promised Land and ends with them in Sodom?
3. What does it say about murder that this story ends by violating this command?
4. What could have motivated the Levite to carve up his concubine and send her parts to each tribe of Israel (I Sam. 11:7)?
5. What other famous Israelites come from the tribe of Benjamin. How do they reflect their tribal temperament, if at all?

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NEXT WEEK:

Violating God's  
Gift of Sex

2 Samuel 11:26-12:14



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<sup>34</sup>And there came against Gibeah 10,000 chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was hard, but the Benjaminites did not know that disaster was close upon them. <sup>35</sup>And the LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel, and the people of Israel destroyed 25,100 men of Benjamin that day. All these were men who drew the sword. <sup>36</sup>So the people of Benjamin saw that they were defeated.

The men of Israel gave ground to Benjamin, because they trusted the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah. <sup>37</sup>Then the men in ambush hurried and rushed against Gibeah; the men in ambush moved out and struck all the city with the edge of the sword. <sup>38</sup>Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in the main ambush was that when they made a great cloud of smoke rise up out of the city <sup>39</sup>the men of Israel should turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty men of Israel. They said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle." <sup>40</sup>But when the signal began to rise out of the city in a column of smoke, the Benjaminites looked behind them, and behold, the whole of the city went up in smoke to heaven. <sup>41</sup>Then the men of Israel turned, and the men of Benjamin were dismayed, for they saw that disaster was close upon them. <sup>42</sup>Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness, but the battle overtook them. And those who came out of the cities were destroying them in their midst. <sup>43</sup>Surrounding the Benjaminites, they pursued them and trod them down from Nohah as far as opposite Gibeah on the east. <sup>44</sup>Eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell, all of them men of valor. <sup>45</sup>And they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. Five thousand men of them were cut down in the highways. And they were pursued hard to Gidom, and 2,000 men of them were struck down. <sup>46</sup>So all who fell that day of Benjamin were 25,000 men who drew the sword, all of them men of valor. <sup>47</sup>But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and remained at the rock of Rimmon four months. <sup>48</sup>And the men of Israel turned back against the people of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, the city, men and beasts and all that they found. And all the towns that they found they set on fire.

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