

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Out of the Ashes

Week 1: Secure Judges 11:1-32
Judges 11:1-32

Week of September 13, 2020
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

This week we embarked on a five-week study of an unsung hero named Jephthah. Jephthah rose up to national leadership out of the most unfortunate of beginnings. He models for us how we too can rise up “out of the ashes” of our failures and losses.

Kicking it off: Jephthah had the great privilege of being included in the Hall of Faith found in *Hebrews 11*. What biblical character would you select for a spiritual hall of fame? In other words, who is one of your favorite biblical characters?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Judges 11:1b-3* Jephthah’s father was Gilead; his mother was a prostitute. Gilead’s wife also bore him sons, and when they were grown up, they drove Jephthah away. “You are not going to get any inheritance in our family,” they said, “because you are the son of another woman.” So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob.

In what ways do you suspect that Jephthah struggled with insecurity?

2. Do you have the courage to share of an insecurity that you struggle with?
3. Reread *Judges 11:1* Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior.

Here we see God’s view of Jephthah. How does God’s view of you differ from your own?

4. Jephthah, though an impressive sinner, is included in the Hall of Faith (*Hebrews 11*). As it turns out, he joins a lot of other failures in the Hall. Take a look at the failures of others on that list:

Noah was a drunk.

Abraham & Isaac betrayed their wives.

Jacob was a liar.

Moses was a murderer.

Samson was a sex addict.

Samuel failed as a father.

Rehab was a prostitute.

David was an adulterer.

How can people with impressive moral failures be elected by God to a list of spiritual heroes? What implications does this have for you?

5. How would you counsel a Christian suffering with a painfully low self-esteem?
6. Why is being “secure” in our identity in Christ essential if we are going to be resilient and rise up “out of the ashes” of our failures?

Wrapping It Up: Pray together that God would help us see ourselves as He see us.