

## *Ice Breaker* (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share about one of the more difficult tests you've ever had to take and how you did with it!

## *Talk About it!*

1. Read **Judges 3:1-2**

a. How have you seen an example of God allowing difficulties in a person's life to actually help them learn something? Why would God want this new generation of His people to 'learn warfare' - and what could that mean for you, now?

2. Read **Judges 3:7-8**

a. Have you ever seen a person get caught up in the cycle of sin? What did you learn in the message about it - and about how to get out of it?

3. Read **Judges 3:12-14**

a. What does it actually look like when a person is actively contributing to something that's conquering them? Have you ever gotten caught up in that?

4. Read **Judges 3:15-23** (and jaw-drop, laugh, and tremble!) --

a. Ehud's left-handedness is a disadvantage - but he found the divine in it. How have you seen or experienced a disadvantage being used for divine advantage in some way? Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 to add some fuel to the fire.

5. Read **2 Corinthians 10:4**

a. How does the unexpected of Ehud's attack on Eglon spur you on to think of how you can attack life's problems from the unexpected angle of the Spirit's power?

6. What is the 'Eglon' that needs to die from your life? Can you envision taking any step toward accomplishing that based on what you learned in this message?

7. Read **Hebrews 4:12** and **Romans 5:1-2**

a. How is God's Word a secret weapon - and how have you experienced using it? How has your life changed by receiving the peace of God through Christ?

## Scripture References Questions 1-3

### QUESTIONS 1 SCRIPTURE

#### Judges 3:1-2 NLT

*1 These are the nations that the Lord left in the land to test those Israelites who had not experienced the wars of Canaan. 2 He did this to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in battle.*

### QUESTIONS 2 SCRIPTURE

#### Judges 3:7-8 NLT

*7 The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. They forgot about the Lord their God, and they served the images of Baal and the Asherah poles. 8 Then the Lord burned with anger against Israel, and he turned them over to King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram-naharaim. And the Israelites served Cushan-rishathaim for eight years.*

### QUESTIONS 3 SCRIPTURE

#### Judges 3:12-14 NLT

*12 Once again the Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight, and the Lord gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil. 13 Eglon enlisted the Ammonites and Amalekites as allies, and then he went out and defeated Israel, taking possession of Jericho, the city of palms. 14 And the Israelites served Eglon of Moab for eighteen years.*

## Scripture Reference Questions 4-7

### QUESTIONS 4 SCRIPTURE

#### **Judges 3:15-23 NLT**

*15 But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, the Lord again raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Ehud son of Gera, a left-handed man of the tribe of Benjamin. The Israelites sent Ehud to deliver their tribute money to King Eglon of Moab. 16 So Ehud made a double-edged dagger that was about a foot long, and he strapped it to his right thigh, keeping it hidden under his clothing. 17 He brought the tribute money to Eglon, who was very fat. 18 After delivering the payment, Ehud started home with those who had helped carry the tribute. 19 But when Ehud reached the stone idols near Gilgal, he turned back. He came to Eglon and said, "I have a secret message for you." So the king commanded his servants, "Be quiet!" and he sent them all out of the room. 20 Ehud walked over to Eglon, who was sitting alone in a cool upstairs room. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you!" As King Eglon rose from his seat, 21 Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled out the dagger strapped to his right thigh, and plunged it into the king's belly. 22 The dagger went so deep that the handle disappeared beneath the king's fat. So Ehud did not pull out the dagger, and the king's bowels emptied. 23 Then Ehud closed and locked the doors of the room and escaped down the latrine.*

### QUESTION 5 SCRIPTURE

#### **2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV**

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

### QUESTION 7 SCRIPTURE

#### **Hebrews 4:12 NIV**

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

#### **Romans 5:1-2 NLT**

*Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace[a] with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*