

The Stories of the Bible

Judges 2:7-23

Introduction:

- A. How important are the stories of the Bible?
1. We learned last week that the Bible is the f_____ of the church (Eph 2:20). What demonstrates that you believe this?
 2. Judges 2:7-23 teaches us how quickly things can change if the stories of God's work is not told.
 - a. Joshua's generation served the Lord _____ his days.
 - b. The next generation f_____ to tell the stories of God's work for Israel.
 - c. Verse 10 tells us that there arose a generation *who did not k_____ the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.*
- B. Today's lesson show the utmost importance the stories of the Bible must have in our lives.

Know the Stories – *they did not know the Lord, nor the work which He had done for Israel.*

- A. It is much easier for us to remember stories than l_____ of words.
- B. The stories of the Bible reveal to us who God is and what He has done in the lives of people. Can you list the stories in Genesis?
1. The story of c_____
 2. The story of A_____ and E_____
 3. The story of C_____ and A_____
 4. The story of the f_____

Tell the Stories – see Judges 2:11-19

- A. What happened to the generation that did not hear the stories?
1. They followed the ways of the w_____, adopting sinful lifestyles and worshipping other gods.
 2. God would send a nation against them who would overcome them and take their w_____.
 3. After years of such oppression, Israel would c_____ out to the Lord.
 4. The Lord would raise up a j_____ who would deliver the people from the oppressing nation.
 5. The judge would teach them the ways of God, but as soon as the judge died, the people would go back to worldly ways, thus starting the c_____ all over again.
- B. The responsibility to tell stories

1. P_____ and t_____ (the Bible should always be the text book)
 2. P_____
 - a. Eph 6:4 – r_____ children in the instruction of the Lord.
 - b. The c_____ is not a substitute for personal responsibility.
- C. Why do kids of Christian parents go the way of the world?
1. Maybe the parents say they are Christians but do not show it. Kids often conclude that Jesus does not make a d_____.
 2. Maybe the parents are true believers but failed to raise their kids in God's word (they depended upon the church).
 3. Maybe the parents did a good job of raising their kids but the kids c_____ to reject their upbringing (Prov 22:6 – *train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it*).
 - a. This proverb is not a promise but is a wise saying that is g_____ true. There are exceptions (compare Prov 15:1).
 - b. Generally speaking, a child raised right but rebels will eventually repent.
 4. Maybe the parents did a good job of raising their kids but when the kids got out on their own they fell to t_____ and struggle with it (these usually repent early on).

Use the Stories

- A. In ministering to unbelievers – as a tool of w_____ (e.g. what story might you tell to someone who is scared of dying?)
- B. In ministering to believers – as a tool of e_____ (e.g. what story might you tell to a person struggling with their self-worth?)

Conclusion:

Let's break the sinful cycles and continue this cycle: know the stories, tell the stories, and use the stories.