

Walk Thru the Bible

#6: Judges

Judges

Dr. Jeremiah Ebeling ---- July 5, 2026

Well, when I was in the student ministry here at Grace many, many years ago, Matt Cassidy was our youth pastor. And he led the student ministry through what we're doing this summer, through Walk Thru the Bible. Now we're learning forty hand signs over the course of the summer, but back then it was seventy-two hand signs. You really had to want it.

So, I did that Walk Thru back when I was in the student ministry, maybe even twice. But there was one really big problem. And that problem was that for most of my time in middle school and high school I wasn't walking with God. I really didn't care about God all that much at all. And then there were a few years in there when I lived in all-out rebellion against God. I came to church because I had to. I was an Ebeling, and that's what the Ebelings did. But I couldn't have cared less about God. And I ran from Him for a few of those years, including when we did that Walk Thru.

So, I went to the Walk Thru because I had to, and I learned the hand signs. I went through those motions. But it was this sad but perfect picture of my spiritual life at that time. I was just going through the motions spiritually. I was just doing what I was supposed to do, but my heart and my life were so far from God.

Fast forward a decade after that, and I was a junior in college, and I was dating a girl who was a believer. She had grown up in church, but it was a church that didn't really teach the Bible. So, she didn't have much of an understanding of all the different puzzle pieces of Scripture and how they fit together. So, one day she asked me, "Do you understand the storyline of the Bible? Can you help me to understand it better?"

And I said, "I don't know." And then over the next forty-five minutes I talked her through the Old Testament story, from Genesis to Malachi, and took time to share about who went where and what happened when. And by the time I was done, I was shocked. I don't know where it came from. I didn't know it was in there.

And do you know why I surprised myself and was able to do that? It was because of what we're going through this summer. It was because of that Walk Thru the Bible. And as much as I tried to keep it out, God made sure it got in there. He made sure that it stuck. And sure enough, it did.

So, I just want you to consider this. As much as God did in my life, even with a hardened heart, imagine what He could do in your life over the course of this summer, including this morning, if you come to Him surrendered, saying, "God, do what You will. Show me what You want me to know and understand about You and the plan of salvation and Your Scripture, Your word to us. Help me to understand that."

And what will happen if we come to Him like that—sometimes even if we don't—is the Spirit of God will enrich our spiritual lives. He will draw us closer to Him in relationship and intimacy with Him. And then He'll set us up for ministry, for conversation, maybe a decade later, when you are in a position where you share your understanding about the God of the Bible, the God of the world, our God, and His Scripture, His word to us. So, let's come to the Spirit expecting to see what the Lord might do in our hearts and in our lives, this morning and over the course of this summer. Sound good? Awesome. God is setting us up for a lifetime of ministry here.

So, here's what we're going to do today. If you want a review—I think this is our sixth week—of the last five weeks, go listen to last Sunday's sermon. Matt did about a fifteen-minute overview of Genesis through Deuteronomy and walked through that. That would be a great way to go get caught up if you've missed a few, or if you've been gone all summer on a five-week vacation or something like that. Also, there's a QR code up here on the screen. And the hand signs that we are learning this summer that are attached to the Old Testament are linked to that QR code. We'll show you the first twenty hand signs. We're going to learn four more today. But you can see the first twenty hand signs to review them or learn them so you can get caught up with us. Those are two opportunities I want to let you know about.

And how about this? How about before we go any farther let's all stand up and review our first twenty hand signs. Let's go all the way back to the beginning. Hey-hey! Let's do it. I've got them up on the screen if you need or want to cheat. You can do that here. Here we go. We're going to do the first twenty hand signs, and we're going to do it together. And kids (I know we've got some kids in the room), help your parents out. Help me out, too. I may need the help.

We're going to start with Creation. Here we go: Creation, Fall, Flood, Nations, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Passover, Law, Tabernacle, Offerings and Feasts, Counting, Spying, Wandering, Dying, Second Law, Joshua, Divide, Conquer, Twelve Tribes, Judges. Give yourselves a hand! Way to go! All right, you can take a seat. We're going to do it a few more times today, so don't worry. There will be more chances to review. But I'm so glad you guys rocked it. Man, that was awesome!

So, what we're going to do today is study an overview of the Book of Judges. We're going to cover four hundred years of Israeli history in about thirty or so minutes. We're going to learn four new hand signs by the end of our time together. I'm going to teach you four new hand signs to add to the twenty that we've already got. So, by the end of today we'll be at number twenty-four out of forty. So, you guys are making great progress. Well done.

But we're going to be in this Book of Judges. And the name "Judges," the name of this book, comes from the type of leaders that God instituted at that time. This is before Israel had any kings. We're going to learn about their kings next week. But this is a period when Israel was ruled by judges. And don't think about judicial judges only. They were that too, but as judges they were primarily military leaders. These were warriors, men and women who were military leaders among the people of Israel. And where we are in our storyline is that Israel has come into the Promised Land, right here in our center aisle. That's the land of Canaan. It's the land the God promised to Israel all the way back in Genesis 12 to Abraham. The promise He made to Abraham has now been fulfilled, and the people are in the land, that Promised Land from God. They're living there.

And this next four hundred years, the period of judges, we're answering the question, How did it go? Did they obey God? Are they going to obey the Mosaic Covenant they made with God at Mt. Sinai and be blessed? Or are they going to disobey and experience the absence of God and experience the curses that come with that disobedience?

So, I want you to be warned that the Book of Judges is a dark and disturbing book. I mean, preaching a sermon on the Book of Judges with children in the room, a kid-friendly service, is not easy. I just kept reading story after story and thinking, *Nope, I can't tell that one. Nope, can't tell that one.* There's just a lot I'm not going to say, or at least I'm going to try and make this PG. (You're welcome, mom and dad.) If the Book of Judges were a film, I think what you would see is that the first two chapters are rated PG. And then when you turn to the larger

middle section of this book, it's maybe PG-13, somewhere right along there. And then you get to the last couple of chapters, and it is rated R. I mean, it is truly horrific where things end up in this book. This is not a book that you want to read at night. You won't sleep. Honestly, it will give you nightmares. Read it while the sun's up and it's happy and bright outside—especially you kids, but you parents too, you adults as well. It's not a book you want to mess with. But let's go back to the film theme. If judges were made into a film, the first couple of chapters might be *Wicked: For Good*. It's bright and happy adult themes. And then the middle chapters become *The Gray Man*. They're getting a little darker now. And the last few chapters are *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. I mean, it's bad stuff—really bad.

If you looked at Plugged In and they rated the Book of Judges, it would be heavy across the board: kids, teens, adults. It's mature themes—let's say that. It's very mature themes. But that's what you'll find as you open up the Book of Judges.

But there's this movement that you see in the book that I want to point out, because I think it's so important, not just to understanding what's happening in the course of that book, but even to understanding our own lives and what God is doing in our lives. And what you see as you work through this book, as you read through it, is that the farther into the book that you get, the voice of God grows more and more quiet. It continues to grow fainter and fainter.

In fact, kids, you've got a card, and why don't you draw this with me. I'm going to graph it here for us. What you see in the Book of Judges is that as Israel's sin grows (we'll call this the sin of Israel) over the course of this book, what you see with the voice of God is that it becomes fainter and fainter.



You see Him speak less and less, until finally God's not to be heard at all. The people of Israel, the people of God, have shut Him out. And eventually, He obliges. He goes quiet. You see this in that book.

And I think there's an important theme or principle that we'll see in our own lives. That's: **If we won't obey what God said then, if we won't obey what God said in Scripture, we shouldn't expect to hear from Him now.**

If we take Scripture and God has clearly revealed His will to us and we won't follow that and we choose not to obey that, then we shouldn't have any expectation to hear from Him now, that He's going to continue speaking to us—if we won't obey His commands in Scripture and we close our ears to what He would want to say to us now.

So, you see this theme in Judges. You see it in our lives. And so, let's just apply this for a moment. If you're seeking God's will for some area of your life and God just seems to be silent, and you realize that that's gone on for a time, there could be a number of reasons why that's the case. We can't get into those other ones, but one of the reasons that might be the case is because we're not obeying; we're not following Him with what He has shown us in His Word, His clearly revealed will in Scripture. We're saying, *Aaa, I'm good. But God, speak to me now, give me directions, give me guidance in what you want from me.*

So, if you're in a dating relationship and you're discerning, *Lord, do You want us to move toward marriage, or do You want something else for us?* And you're seeking to discern that, but you're not obeying and following God's prescriptions and His commands for how to handle your dating relationship, you shouldn't have any expectation that you're going to hear God's will; that you're going to hear from the Spirit of God about how to move forward. If you find yourself in a place like that, in dating or some other place life, God might call you to repent, to recommit to following Him with His help. We can't do that alone. He'd ask us to recommit and to invite Him in to change us, that we might be able to hear the voice of God again in our lives.

But you see this movement over the course of this book; that if we won't obey what God said, then we shouldn't expect to hear from Him now.

What we're going to be doing here in our remaining time is answer these three questions. The first question we're going to ask is: How did it all go so wrong for Israel? Where did Israel go off the rails spiritually?

The second question that we're going to answer is: What is the pattern or cycle we repeated throughout this book? It's set up in chapter 2. What is that pattern that we see throughout the Book of Judges? And what do we learn about God from that pattern?

The third thing is, we're going to look at three key judges. There are twelve to fourteen judges who are talked about over the course of this book, but we're going to look at three key judges and what we learn from them.

Those are the three things we're going to be doing together this morning.

But let's answer that first question: **How did it go so terribly wrong for Israel? How did they go off the rails spiritually?**

And what we're going to see—turn to Judges 2 if you have your Bibles or your Bible app open—how that happened. We're going to see in that chapter that the older generation didn't teach the younger generation about God. They didn't pass along their faith. They didn't tell their God stories to the younger generation. That's where Israel goes off the rails.

Judges 2:6-7, 10-11

When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. ⁷ And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel ... ¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals.

We see it in the passage here in Judges 2, starting in verse 6: “When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel.” Skipping ahead to verse 10: “And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers.” And then here it is. “And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals”—served other gods.

And so, you see how it goes so wrong. The parents didn't train their children in the faith. They didn't pass their faith along to their children. That's the inflection point in this book that you see take place.

So, again, let's just apply this for a second. Parents, do you know what the strongest predictor of your son or your daughter walking with Jesus as an adult is? Do you know what the strongest predictor is? It's having conversations about God and faith several times a week with

your son or your daughter. You know what? Daily is even better. And the younger your children are, the more important it is that you start them at a very young age, just talking about God and faith. That is what a Christian group called Communio, working with a team of Harvard researchers, discovered. It's the strongest predictor—just talking about the Lord, talking about your faith. When you're driving around, at bedtime, at the dinner table, as you go through life, bring the Lord up, talk about what you're grateful for, asking them, "What are you grateful for that God's doing in your life right now?" It's talking about what you're learning in your time in the Word. What is something God is teaching you? As your children are walking out the front door to go to camp or school, when you're driving them before you drop them off, just be praying out loud. You don't have to have everybody bow their heads and close their eyes. Just as you go along, pray for them. "As they go into their day I pray for my son, my daughter, that You would be with them, that You would understand that You love them deeply, that they would have an experience of Your presence today. Help them to walk courageously in faith in You today. Would You do that in their life? Amen." It's talking about your faith and about God regularly with your kids that is the strongest predictor.

And you know what? If you say, "I only know this much," or "I only have this much," give them what you have. And if this is where you are, like all of us, keep growing. Stay in God's Word. Keep pursuing intimacy with the Lord. And you'll have more and more to give.

But this is not just about parents. There are a lot of grandparents in this room too. Grandparents, I would say that you have enormous influence in the lives of your grandchildren. And I want to remind you of that. As you listen to people's faith stories, their testimonies, you often hear about how a grandma or a grandpa made a significant impact in their walk with Jesus. You hear those stories. You probably have a story like that to tell yourself.

In fact, my grandma made such an impact on me and our whole family that we named one of our kids after her. It was one of our sons. Her name was Joy Taylor. We decided not to name him Joy, because he was going to be a middle schooler one day, and that would be cruel. But we loved that last name, and it spoke to a faith that was simple. It really was. But it was profound.

And so, grandparents, as you're loading your kids up with sugar and then tossing them back to their parents, load them up with spiritual encouragement and wisdom. As you're running Grandma and Grandpa Camp this summer—I know you are—as you're taking them out to a

meal or out to dinner, just talk about what God has done in your life recently, over the years. Share those stories. Talk about the Lord. Read some Scripture at bedtime with them. Just bring it up. It's such an important part of development. So, I encourage us to learn from that and do that.

The second question is: **What is the pattern, what are the cycles that we see in this book?** And again, kids, if you've got a pen and you've got this card, I want you to draw this with me. There's this pattern that you see with the nation over the course of Judges. And this is what it looks like.



This pattern is a series of declines and revivals over and over again. And what you see is that there's a decline in Israel, and then there's revival and then a deeper decline and revival, and a deeper decline and revival. And you see this pattern take place over the course of this book. And what you see is that Israel is descending deeper and deeper into sin.

And what we need to remember about sin is that sin never remains static. When we allow a sin into our hearts it never just stays at is. It always wants to devour more of us. It always wants to consume more of us. So, you see those deeper and deeper declines. But this is what you see—and we'll come back to this--in Judges 2.

Judges 2:11-19

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt ... ¹⁴ So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. ¹⁵ ... And they were in terrible distress. ¹⁶ Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them... ¹⁸ Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and He saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. ¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them.

This is what the writer says: “And the people of Israel did what was EVIL in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt ... So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He GAVE THEM OVER to PLUNDERERS, who plundered them...And they were in terrible DISTRESS. Then the Lord raised up judges, who SAVED them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and He saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to PITY”—the grace of God, pity, compassion—“by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were MORE CORRUPT”—you see that decline—“than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them.”

Let’s just go back here. Again, you hear and see in the emboldened words this cycle, this pattern, with Israel. And the first step is sin. You see them fall into sin, and they turn away from God. Then the second step in each of these patterns is oppression. God allows the Canaanites to come in and conquer them, to take over the people of Israel and to rule them. And then this third step here is distress. The people of Israel cry out to God. They plead with Him to come and help them. And then the final step is deliverance. God brings in a judge. He raises up a judge who

saves Israel out of the hands of their enemies. And then there's a time of peace until Israel forgets about God again and goes their own way. And so, here we are ... back to the roller coaster ride that they've been on.

But there's an incredible principle that you see here in this pattern, and it's this: that God relentlessly shows us grace, even when we don't deserve it or appreciate it. Israel ... we ... relentlessly sin and relentlessly disobey. And what does God do? He relentlessly shows grace. And the reason He does it because He's seeking to draw us back, to bring us back home to our Savior. And so, this is what He does with us.

Let's do this. How about before we move to our third question of those three key judges and describe them, let's get a quick stand up here. Here's what I'd like y'all to do. How about everybody stand up and in groups of four go through the key words that we've learned so far, the hand signs we've learned so far. Then I'll bring us back and we'll do it together. In groups of four go ahead and do that now.

[Congregation reviews the hand signs for Creation through Judges.]

Good job! Well done! Pine Cove, I see you guys working it up there. Well done learning it! You haven't learned any of these before today. Let's go all the way back to the beginning. Remain standing. Here we go. I'm going to lead us here. Again, kids, we're looking to you to help us out. All right: Creation, Fall, Flood, Nations, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Passover, Law, Tabernacle, Offerings and Feasts, Counting, Spying, Wandering, Dying, Second Law, Joshua, Divide, Conquer, Twelve Tribes, Judges.

Man, well done! That's awesome! All right, you can take a seat. We'll do it one more time at the end, but we'll learn our other four hand signs first. Here's what we're going to do today. **We'll look at those three key judges that are described in detail in Judges.** And we're going to study them for a moment and see what we learn from them. What is it that we can pick up from some of their stories?

The first one we're going to start with is Deborah. The hand sign for Deborah is just this *[with right hand start at top of head and run hand down the neck as if stroking long hair]*.

Deborah: you run your hand from the front of your head to the back of your head.

Deborah is the only female judge that we have in the Book of Judges, as a matter of fact. So, that's the sign for Deborah. But even more than being the only female judge, Deborah is one of the only people in this entire book who loves the Lord, who follows YHWH, who does what

He asks of her. She lives surrounded by people who do whatever they want to do, whatever seems right in their own eyes. But not Deborah, so she's this incredible woman. She's a prophetess, she's a songwriter, she's this courageous leader.

In fact, speaking of naming kids, parents, if you're looking for a great name for a daughter, look no further. Deborah would be a fantastic name.

You can read her story in Judges chapters 4 and 5. We don't really have time to get into it much, but what I will say about Deborah is that one of the key points in her story is that there is an Israelite general for whom Deborah has a word from the Lord. And she shares what God has told her to share. She does it faithfully. And this Israeli general says, *I'm not doing it unless you come with me, Deborah. I won't do it without you.* And Deborah says, *Okay.* She goes with him. She is this faithful servant of God surrounded by faithless people. Yet she continues to walk with God as a judge in her time.

Again we see a principle here—something for our lives too. Times are never so evil that a believer can't thrive in them. You look at Deborah, and she lived in an evil time around faithless people, and yet she thrived in that time. She continued to walk with God.

So, if you're surrounded by people who don't honor the Lord and don't love Him, you can still flourish there personally, spiritually. The Spirit of God will help you do that. And I think some of us, perhaps, need to hear this right now. If you walk into your home and you are the only believer here, or at least the only one who seeks to honor God, and you feel so alone in that home, if the other members of your family, the other people you live with, don't respect God and don't respect you or your faith, I want you to know that you could be a Deborah there. You can still be courageous and follow the Lord. You can still honor God with your words and your actions. And what will very likely happen over time is that the members of your household and family will come to respect that. There will be ministry opportunities that will come your way if you're willing to be a Deborah in that place.

Or if you're a graduating senior or a college student and you're headed to a college campus in the next month and a half, I want you to know that if God leads you to a dorm or an organization on that campus where you think, *I am the only Christian here*, and you don't meet any other believers, and you feel so alone spiritually, I want you to know that you can shine with the light of Jesus in that darkness, maybe in a way that you couldn't anywhere else. And those other students around you are going to take notice of that. And as God works on their hearts,

there will probably be ministry opportunities for you too there. But I want to encourage you: be a Deborah in that organization or in that dorm as you head back to your college campus. Because times are never so evil that a believer can't thrive in them.

Our first key judge is this woman Deborah, this awesome woman. So, let's do our two hand signs here. We're going to work from Judges, so let's do that here: Judges, Deborah. Do that again. Judges, Deborah. One more time: Judges, Deborah. Boom.

Our second judge here is Gideon, this judge who didn't really have all that great of a track record. He certainly started out fairly cowardly. What happens is God comes to Gideon and has a plan for him. And Gideon hesitates. He pulls a stunt to test God. What does Gideon lay out on the ground? Do you remember? Fleece. That's right. He says, *All right, God, if that's really You, if You're really talking to me, then I want you to make that fleece wet and the ground around it dry*. So, God does it. He makes the fleece wet and the ground dry. But that's not enough for Gideon. He says, *All right, let's flip that. I want a dry fleece and wet ground around it*.

Look, I don't know if God rolls His eyes. I don't think He does. But if He does, He would be doing it here. So, God does what Gideon asks. *Fine, wet ground, dry fleece*.

And then Gideon says, *All right, I guess it's You. Triple check*. And then Gideon does finally decide to obey.

But our sign for Gideon is to wring out that fleece [*mimic wringing out a towel with two hands side by side*]. Do that with me. You wring out that fleece. And you say "Gideon." Say it out loud. Gideon. Boom. Way to go.

In this Jericho-like experience what happens with Gideon is that God leads him into a battle. And He's whittling down Gideon's army to three hundred men. They go up against this enormous army of Midianites. And what do they have in their hands? They've got torches and clay pots—not a single weapon. (Although I guess a clay pot could do a little damage.) But they go into this battle, three hundred men, no weapons, and they win because God is showing I'm the God of Israel. *All of your strength, all of your power, comes from me*. And yet, after everything that God does in this man's life—He shows Himself to Gideon over and over—Gideon's life ends with a few fantastic failures. He kills Israelites who wouldn't go to battle with him, and he takes gold that he won in a battle and fashions it into an idol. And then after he dies, Israel worships this idol made out of gold that Gideon left. It was a sad legacy that Gideon left.

Let's go through those three right quick. We've got Judges, Deborah, Gideon. Do that again: Judges, Deborah, Gideon. Boom. You guys are killing it. Way to go.

All right, we've got one more key judge that I want to talk to you about. And that is Samson—our friend Samson. It goes from good to awful. And Samson is a complete wreck. He really is. He had so much promise. He's this miracle child that God gives to this couple that couldn't have children. And he becomes a judge. But what you find out pretty quickly is that throughout Samson's life he doesn't care about that. He cares about himself. He's this proud, arrogant, promiscuous man. And that's how he travels, and that's how it ends. That's how things go down for Samson.

Our sign for Samson is a sign for strength [turn head to the side and pose like a bodybuilder, flexing muscles with one lower arm extended up and the other lower arm extending down]. You'll say "Samson," like you're flexing. He's this man known for his strength, and yet, ironically, he couldn't have been any weaker in character and faith. Say it with me one more time: Samson.

Good. Let's do these four right quick. We've got Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson. One more time: Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson. Awesome.

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

All right. We've got one last one. And this last key phrase is found in the very last verse of this book. It says, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." And you see in this book that everyone, or just about everyone, does what feels right, what seems good to them. They follow their heart. And where does it lead them? It leads them not to life and fulfillment, but to death and despair. See, it's when we're walking with God and pursuing Him and doing what is right in His eyes that we find the abundant life that God promises to us, that He says He will bring to us as we walk through life with Him.

So, our last key phrase—this is kind of mean, I know—is actually nine words, but only three signs. Our last key phrase is "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes," because that's the theme of the book. So here's that sign: Everyone [*with index fingers pointing out and down*,

make circles with both hands, moving out and then back in] did what was right [let palms of hands touch in praying motion] in his own eyes [with both index fingers, point to eyes]. Do that with me. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. One more time: Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Let's do Judges through Everyone did, okay? Let's go: Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Let's do that one more time, and then we're going to go all the way back. (Don't cheer.) Here we go: Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. There we go.

All right, everybody stand up. Let's go through it to finish it out here. Let's go through it one last time. Let's go all the way back to the beginning. Look out! I've got it on the screens here too. Do y'all think you can do it without the screen if I just leave it on the last five? I have no idea what any of you are saying. We're doing it. We're going without! I'm not that mean. We'll throw them up here. Don't look at the screen if you don't want to. Just look over here. Here we go: Creation, Fall, Flood, Nations, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Passover, Law, Tabernacle, Offerings and Feasts, Counting, Spying, Wandering, Dying, Second Law, Joshua, Divide, Conquer, Twelve Tribes, Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Boom! Give yourselves a hand. Well done.

Hey, you can remain standing. I'm going to close us in prayer. Let's thank the Lord. Go to the Lord in prayer with me now, if you would.

Heavenly Father, we love You so much. And Your word assures us that "Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law they meditate day and night." Father, that is our hope and desire, that we would delight in You and walk with You all the days of our lives; that we would meditate on Your word throughout our days, throughout our nights, that we might be able to honor You and glorify You, and just enjoy the blessing of intimacy with our Creator, our Savior.

And Lord, I also want to come before You with a heavy heart as we realize the devastating Fourth of July floods from a year ago. Father, we life up the family members and friends of those whose lives were lost. We think about Camp Mystic and all around Kerr County and Central Texas. We thank You that You tell us in Scripture that You are close to the

brokenhearted. Lord, we ask that You would be close to them, that they would know that the Creator of their soul is with them and they don't weep alone. Lord, be with them in their grief and their sadness at that one-year anniversary mark. Lord, I pray that You would draw them to Yourself. Draw them closer to You and minister to them in this time. We pray that in Your Son's name. Amen.