

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you’re learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson’s content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

I. Deterioration (Judges 1:1–3:4)

[1] The period of Judges is a time of what?

A. Military Decline

[2] What was the writer emphasizing in Judges?

[3] Which characters did Dr. Stuart say open and close the historical time period covered in Judges?

[4] How many judges were there?

[5] How many “major” judges were there?

[6] What are the names of the major judges?

[7] Because there was military decline, what happened to the territories Israel had conquered?

B. Spiritual Decline

[8] What were Israel’s people doing religiously?

C. Moral Decline

[9] What do we mean by moral decline?

[10] How did the Canaanites influence Israel?

D. Deuteronomic Cycle (Judges 2:7–19)

[11] What did Israel do when things weren't going so well for them?

[12] How did God respond to what Israel did when things weren't going well?

[13] Name the four parts of the Deuteronomic Cycle.

II. Deliverance (Judges 3:5–16:31)

A. Government

[14] How did Dr. Stuart describe “charismatic”?

[15] How did he describe “anarchy”?

[16] How wide was a judge's influence?

[17] What need does the book of Judges bring to the surface?

B. Five Major Judges

[18] Describe the moral nature of the judges.

[19] Which judge comes closest to being a moral model?

C. Samson, the Sixth Major Judge

[20] How is Samson different from the other judges?

III. Depravity

A. Religious Disorder

[21] How far had Israel's spiritual/moral character sunk?

B. Moral Disorder

[22] Summarize the “sad tale” the last three chapters of Judges tells.

[23] How did the book of Judges end?

IV. Love Demonstrated (Ruth 1:1–2:23)

A. Grief, Loyalty, and Conversion

[24] What happened to Naomi in Moab?

[25] Ruth’s statement to Naomi, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back” is what kind of language?

[26] Why is the story of Naomi and Ruth such a wonderful story?

[27] What do we “see” in the Ruth story?

B. Surprising Kindness

[28] What were the gleaning laws in Israel?

[29] What so impressed Boaz about Ruth that it led him to instruct his workers to treat her kindly?

V. Love Rewarded (3:1–4:22)

A. Ruth’s Marriage Proposal

[30] What action did Ruth and Naomi take?

[31] What was the hitch in Naomi and Ruth’s plan?

. Consolation: New Family

[32] What two things happened with Ruth and Boaz?

[33] At the end of the book, what do we realize the book is in fact about?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

A person or culture rarely goes from “good” to “bad” in a moment. Israel’s moral and spiritual life declined steadily over time until they experienced the devastating results of neglecting their relationship with God and His teaching. Describe where you are on your personal life journey. Are you on an incline or a decline? What are some ways you could insure that your life over time will look more like Ruth and Naomi’s than like Israel’s citizens during the period of Judges?