

## **The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and God's People**

### **Chapter 8: A Few Good Men.... And Women**

As you read, take note of the cast of characters. Write a short descriptive to help you remember.

Write any notes or questions you have.

Review the questions on page 476-7 in your book to prepare for discussion in class.

Class discussion:

God chooses judges to guide the people. There is a cycle: 1) sin, 2) oppressions, 3) repentance, and 4) deliverance. What do each of these mean? How does this cycle continue today?

What does God's choice of Deborah as judge reveal about God's view of women?

Why does God often use weak and uncertain people like Gideon to do God's work?

Have you ever felt uncertain about your gifts and abilities? How could the story of Gideon encourage and strengthen us?

What reasons may be for the Israelites repeated cycle of sin? What about our reasons?

Why do you think we take God's blessings for granted and slip into indifference, complacency or even sin?

What temptations do we face? How can we face those temptations?

What are some idols in our contemporary culture? Which of these do we find difficult to eliminate from our lives?