

## NEW BIBLE STUDY EXPLORES BOOK OF JUDGES

Think for a minute about these issues:

- Tension and strife among rival groups
- Disputes over land and territory
- Uncertainty over the roles of men and women
- Senseless and excessive violence
- Abuse of spouses and children
- Excessive individualism
- Moral confusion and social chaos



Is this a description of our era, or of another? Many will say, this is what's going on today. It also describes the social situation recorded in the Old Testament Book of Judges. (the list is taken from the introduction to the commentary on Judges by J. Clinton McCann in the *Interpretation* commentary series.)

Judges is a difficult book, featuring some of the Bible's most violent stories, and some of its most complicated 'heroes' (such as Deborah and Samson). But, like all inspired Scripture, it points to God who remains faithful in spite of our faithlessness, and to the power of covenant loyalty to make god's people aware of how they have strayed and how they might return. Studying it affords a remarkable opportunity to explore how we might renew covenant faithfulness in our own confused and chaotic times.

The Thursday morning Bible study explored the Book of Joshua, Judges' predecessor, last fall. This fall we take up the next text in the Old Testament's historical literature. This is an ambitious study, but it is designed to welcome newcomers as well as those who have been part of the group in the past. The study meets at 10:00 AM on Thursdays starting September 16 and continuing through December 16. We will read the entire book. Pastor Keller is the teacher for this study.