



We all have memories of our failures, and some of them were epic. The good news is that God's grace is even more epic. This series will remind us that God is better at forgiving and fixing than we are at failing.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Hebrews 11:32. At first glance what strikes you as odd about the fact that these guys made it into the great hall of faith? Share one way that provides hope for you.

2 WHAT TOOK PLACE? A fickle people. Read **Judges 10:6-16.** This sad cycle of deliverance followed by rebellion just keeps repeating itself in the book of Judges. How comfortable had Israel become with idolatry at this point (see v. 6)? How is it possible to become comfortable with idols without even noticing their control over you?

3 Rick noted that this was the first time in Judges that God rejects the nation's plea for deliverance. What does that tell you about their condition and about God's ways of dealing with His people when we keep getting caught up in the same patterns of sin? Follow up question: Was God being unforgiving in verses 13-14, or was something bigger going on? Explain.

4 WHAT TOOK PLACE? A fugitive leader. Read **Judges 11:1-8.** How would you describe Jephthah based on these verses? How does this make him "fit" or "unfit" to be used by God as a deliverer who served as a leader for 6 years? Follow up discussion: In the middle of Judges 11 (9-28) we see that his first act was to try diplomacy before declaring war. What are some significant things regarding his faith and relationship with God that stand out to you from his letter to the Ammonite king?

5 WHAT TOOK PLACE? A foolish vow. Read **Judges 11:29-39.** What did Jephthah promise to do if God made him successful in battle? Why did he think such a vow would help gain a military victory? Personal application: Share a time when you tried to make a bargain with God. What did you learn from that situation?

6 WHERE'S THE GRACE? In the revelation of the consequences of compromised faith. It is easy to condemn Jephthah's culture and thinking; it is much harder to recognize how we compromise our faith through our devotion to our own culture's idols. Share some examples of how you've seen this to be true in our society. Read **Romans 1:26.** Why do you think God's punishment for our love of idols is to let us keep them?

7 WHERE'S THE GRACE? In the realization that God uses deeply flawed people. Almost all the deliverers in the book of Judges are surprise choices. Why does God choose such flawed people? Read **Philippians 1:6.** What encouragement do you find from that verse?

8 WHERE'S THE GRACE? In the recognition that we need a better Savior. We can benefit from learning about the faith and fails of all the people in Hebrews 11. Describe the type of Savior their stories are meant to deliver us to by finishing this sentence, "I need a Savior who..." With that in mind, what hope does **Hebrews 9:27-28** provide for you?

