

“DESCENT INTO DARKNESS”*
Introduction to Judges

Of all the Old Testament books that cause us to scratch our heads, the Book of Judges may top the list. Though the book seems foreign to our modern world, much of it reads like the front page of the paper. Caution: It’s dark in there.

CONTEXT: FIGHT IN _____

- A. Abraham _____ of the Land
- B. Moses _____ in the Land
- C. Joshua _____ of the Land
- D. Judges _____ in the Land

CONTENT: FAILURE _____

- A. Repeated _____
- B. Downward _____

CAUTION: FUMBLED _____

- A. _____ to Transfer
- B. _____ to Transfer

**FAILURE TO REPRODUCE
BEGINS THE DESCENT INTO DARKNESS.**

*1st from “*Judges: Descent Into Darkness*”, by Danny Box, 10-1-06
This message can be heard at www.hcbcpf.com or as an iTunes podcast



Use the following questions to reflect on lessons from the 1 Corinthians series, *What Good Is God?* Ponder these during your quiet times, or use them as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends or REALife Group.

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Exodus 19:6. What do these verses tell you about God’s purpose for Israel? How is this similar to our purpose as a church (see 1 Peter 2:9-12)?
2. Review the repeated cycles described in Judges 2:10-17. Have you ever found yourself on this cycle? What did you do? How can someone break this kind of cycle?
3. Each revolution in Israel’s repeated rebellion seemed darker than the previous. Do you see any evidence of a similar downward spiral in our country, your family, or your life?
4. What can happen to a family that fails to transfer its faith to the next generation? What about a church that fails to do the same? How does this relate to our NXNE church-planting goals?
5. Who are you investing in to reproduce your faith and/or ministry commitment? What challenge do you need to overcome to succeed in this goal?

*“In those days Israel had no king;
everyone did as he saw fit.” Judges 21:25 NIV*

A dramatic, low-angle shot of a spiral staircase. The steps are illuminated by a spotlight, creating a strong contrast with the dark shadows. The perspective is from above, looking down the curve of the stairs. The overall mood is mysterious and somber.

Descent Into Darkness

The Book of Judges



Context: Fight in Transition

A. Abraham - Promise of the Land

B. Moses - Purpose in the Land

“Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19:6



Context: Fight in Transition

- A. Abraham - Promise of the Land
- B. Moses - Purpose in the Land
- C. Joshua - Possession of the Land
- D. Judges - Presence in the Land



Content: Failure Tracked

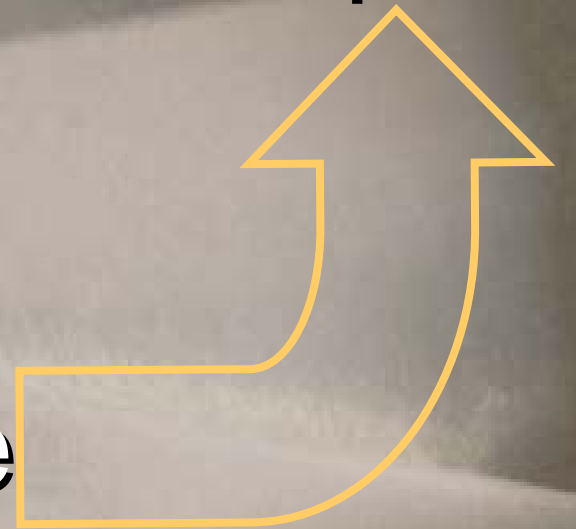
A. Repeated Cycles

Distress

Discipline

Deliverance

Disobedience



“It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness...for you are a stiff-necked people.”

Deuteronomy 9:5-6



Content: Failure Tracked

A. Repeated Cycles

B. Downward Spiral

Distress

Discipline

Disobedience

Deliverance



“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 21:25 *NASB*

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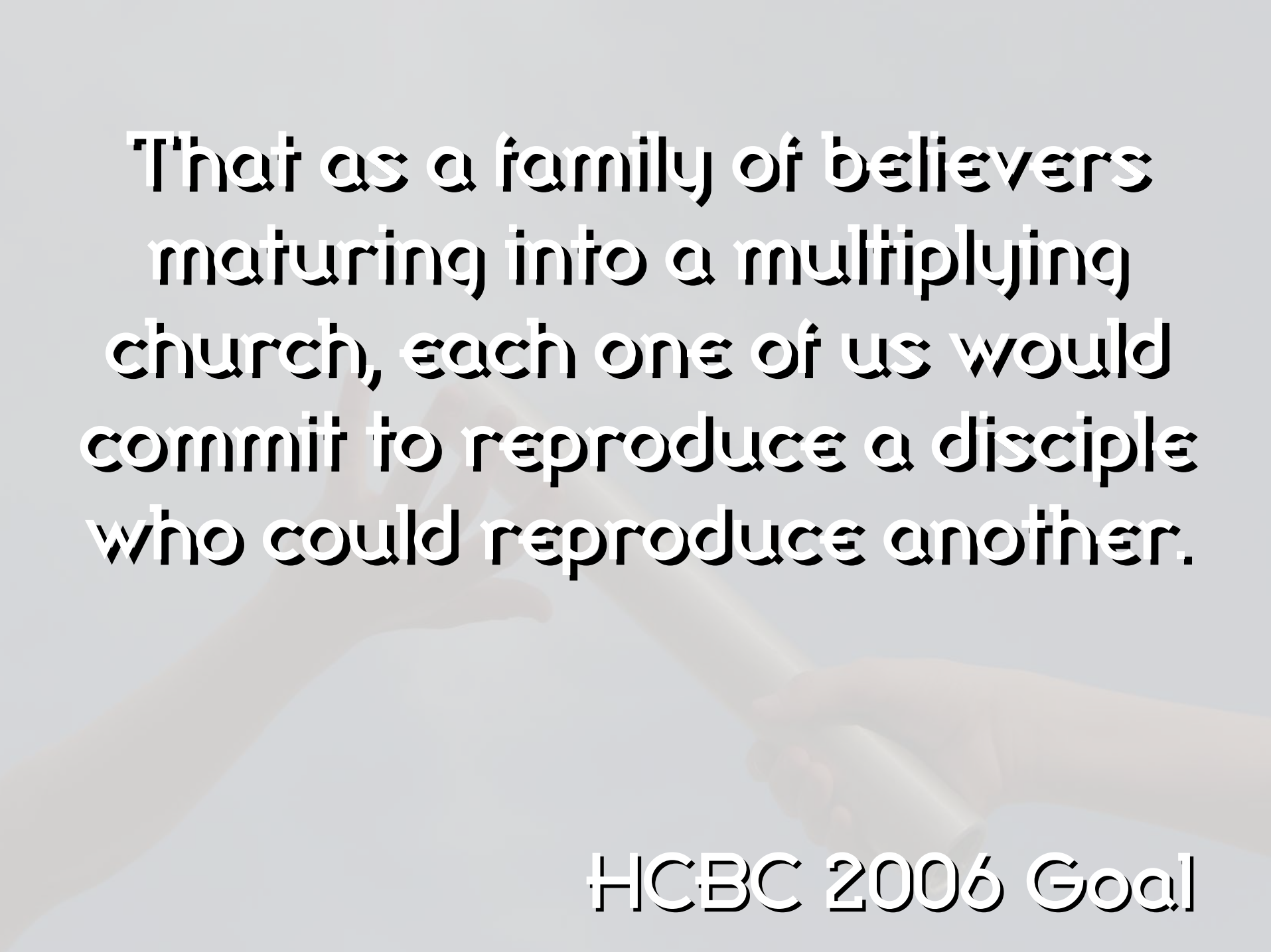
Caution: Fumbled Transfer

A. Truth to Transfer

B. Threat to Transfer

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9



**That as a family of believers
maturing into a multiplying
church, each one of us would
commit to reproduce a disciple
who could reproduce another.**

HCBC 2006 Goal

Descent Into
Darkness



Failure to Reproduce Begins the Descent into Darkness