

# Growth Teams

**Week Beginning  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

## **Going deeper**

Jephthah vows to make a sacrifice to God if God gives him the victory. He probably expected it to be a human sacrifice, but not his only daughter. It could probably also be assumed that he made the vow, because in his eyes it would help encourage God to give him the victory. Although, this story is a warning about how not to behave we need to consider what kind of sacrifice God does demand of us.

## **Read Romans 12:1-2**

5. What kind of sacrifice are we called to? How is it different to the kind of sacrifice offered by Jephthah?
6. Why does it say we should make this sacrifice? Why is this different from Jephthah's motivation?
7. How will we be able to test and approve what God's will is?
8. In what ways did Jephthah conform to 'the pattern of his world'? How did he act against God's will?
9. In what ways is God's will 'good, pleasing and perfect' compared with some of the 'patterns of thinking in our world'?

***Now do the applying it to our lives questions...***

## **Growth Team News**

If you are free at any of the times for Growth Teams below, then why not give one a try? They are a great opportunity to build real friendships with other Christians and to grow deeper in your faith with God.

We are looking to start new teams in the autumn, so if you cannot make any of the times below, but would like to be a part of a team, then please see Paul, the vicar and we'll try to make sure a new one is set up that you can make.



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## Pulling tragedy from victory

*Judges 11:29-40 (page 255)*

*Space to take notes on the talk*

### What can we learn from the story?

❖ **Wisdom:** \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **Faith:** \_\_\_\_\_

• **God is not** \_\_\_\_\_

• **God is** \_\_\_\_\_

• **God is** \_\_\_\_\_

### Starter question

❖ Have you ever made a promise that you regretted?

### Responding to the talk

1. What was the most important thing you learned from this week's talk?
2. Read Judges 10:6-16
  - a. What did Israel do wrong and what were the consequences?
  - b. Why does God not immediately answer their cry this time?
  - c. Why does God eventually answer their cry for help?
3. Read Judges 11:29-31
  - a. What enables Jephthah to go out and fight the Ammonites?
  - b. What influences made Jephthah make this vow? (cf. Lev. 18:21; 1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 3:26-27)
  - c. What or who do you think Jephthah was expecting to come out the door?
4. Read Judges 11:32-40
  - a. What would Jephthah's daughter have been celebrating?
  - b. Why is this story so tragic for Jephthah?
  - c. What lessons do you think we are meant to learn from the story?

*You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.*

### Applying it to our lives

10. When is it tempting to make promises we may regret? How can we avoid doing so?
11. How can we make sure that our understanding of who God is, what he does and what he wants from us is true and not influenced by the values of the world around?