

## Violence

# Small Group Questions

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*The following questions are intended to start conversations.*

*Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

- Read (or summarize) **Judges 19:1-30**, one of the most horrendous stories in all of scripture. Why do you think stories like this are included in the Bible?
- The author of Judges concludes the book with a two-part conclusion, highlighting idolatry (17-18) and widespread violence (19-21). What is the connection between idolatry (turning away from God) and violence?
- Judges reminds us that evil rarely looks like evil at first. Can you think of specific examples in this book? Can you think of specific example in our culture?
- We tend to think of violence mostly in terms of physical. What other kinds of violence can you imagine? What do you think is most prevalent in Calgary?
- The place and role of women significantly deteriorates throughout the book of Judges, from Deborah (chap. 4) to the woman who get dismembered (chap. 19). Have you noticed this before? Is this downward trajectory still an issue in western culture?
- In what ways do we use God to justify our actions?
- In the broader biblical narrative, the violence inflicted on the women in this story is also inflicted on Jesus. Read **Philippians 2:4-11** and **1 Peter 2:18-25**. In what ways is violence overcome? How are we called to live as a result?
- Take some time to pray about the violence in our world (verbal, domestic, sexual, etc.)

*May your kingdom come, and your will be done...*