

OBSTACLES WILL HELP YOU GROW

Family Devotion – Lesson 43

MEMORY VERSE – JUDGES 2:12

“And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods...”

- After Israel was delivered out of Egypt they began to worship and serve false devilish gods instead of the true God. To forsake means to turn your back on or turn away.
- God permitted the heathen nations to be left in the promised land as OBSTACLES for several reasons:
 1. To punish Israel when they were disobedient (Judges 2:3, 20-21).
 - * This would bring them to repentance (to turn from sin).
 - * God can use anything to bring us to repentance.
 2. To prove (test) Israel (Judges 2:22; 3:4).
 - * This would give them an opportunity to prove their love for God.
 - * God can use anything to give us an opportunity to prove our love for Him.
 3. To provide experience in warfare (Judges 3:1-2).
 - * This would keep them strong.
 - * God can use anything to teach us to be stronger.
- When we forsake God, we will naturally replace Him with other gods that suit our own will and cater to our sin.
- WARNING: Obstacles can either help you grow, or help you forsake the Lord. The choice is up to you!

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- How did God prove (test) Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden?
- Has God ever tested you with people around you who were not good influences? Explain.
- How could God use an enemy to make you a stronger Christian?
- If your parents never punished (chastened) you, what do you think would happen. What if God never chastened you? How does the chastening of the Lord help you grow? (Heb. 12:10-11)

PRAYER TIME

- Ask God to protect you from evil influences and ungodly people.
- Tell God that you are committed to following Him and not forsaking Him.

CHALLENGE

- The next time you are tempted to sin, use it as a test to prove your love for God.