

Judges

A desert landscape with red rock formations under a teal sky with a diamond-shaped graphic overlay. The text "Jephthah" is prominently displayed in the center of the diamond.

Jephthah

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1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah. **2** Gilead's wife bore him sons; and when his wife's sons grew

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up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, “You shall not have an inheritance in our father’s house, for you are the son of another woman.”

3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers

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and lived in the land of Tob; and worthless fellows gathered themselves about Jephthah, and they went out with him.

Jephthah

*Leaders can come
from any background.*

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29 Now the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to

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the sons of Ammon. **30** Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, "If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, **31** then it shall be that whatever comes out of the

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doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." **32**

So Jephthah crossed over to the

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sons of Ammon to fight against them;
and the Lord gave them into his hand.

33 He struck them with a very great
slaughter from Aroer to the entrance
of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as

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Abel-keramim. So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel. **34** When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with

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tambourines and with dancing. Now she was his one and only child; besides her he had no son or daughter. **35** When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You

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have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me; for I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot take it back.”

Jephthah

*Reckless words can
have a serious impact.*