



**Scripture:** Judges 3:12-30

**Opening Activity:** Have every member of your group perform a simple, everyday activity using their non-dominant hand. The activity can be as simple as writing out a sentence—or if you have time, you could try something more complicated like making a sandwich.

Today, we are going to talk about someone that was left-handed. Regardless of which hand is dominant for you, we all know that it's more difficult to do things with our non-dominant hand. Follow along as I read you one of the coolest, and most bizarre, stories in the Bible.

[Read Judges 3:12-30.](#)

God chose to use Ehud. We don't know why God chose Ehud for sure, but there are a couple of distinct reasons that stand out in the text:

**1. Ehud took advantage of the opportunities that he was given.**

When Ehud's people, the Israelites, were facing economic oppression, he did not sit on the sidelines and whine about it. Ehud worked for change.

What are you like when something bad or frustrating happens to you? Do you whine or do you spring into action? Are we taking advantage of the opportunities in our lives or are we being lazy? Ehud was definitely not lazy.

*Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. — Ephesians 5:16 (NLT)*

*Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. — Colossians 4:5 (NLT)*

Too many Christians are unwilling to take the opportunities given to them because of fear, laziness, or just being content with the status quo. We are fine with where we are instead of reaching for where God wants us to be.

**2. Ehud was different.**

He was a lefty. In Tennessee growing up we said, "Southpaw." Left-handed people are different; they are not the right-handed norm. The *Scientific American* journal says that somewhere between 70% - 95% of the world's population is right-handed.

Now, lefties look like the rest of us. Since the hero in today's lesson is left-handed, let's take a little survey. Raise your hand if you are left-handed.

See — they look just like the rest of us.

You might be thinking that it's not that different to be left-handed. You should talk to a lefty about the little difficulties that they have. Think about things like scissors or desks at school. Lefty's have some inconveniences because they are not the norm.

We sometimes see differences in a negative way, but God used Ehud's difference in a positive way.

A right-handed person would have strapped the dagger on his left thigh in order to grab it with his right hand at the opportune moment. King Eglon would have been on guard when seeing a man's right hand go under his cloak. But left-handed Ehud was not suspected when he slipped his left hand beneath his cloak to grab his short sword.

Pause! Side note: In "Bible times" a person could not be left-handed. They might "be" left-handed, but they were not "allowed" to be left-handed. The right hand was sort of the "hand of righteousness" and the left hand was the hand that you — well — wiped your bottom with. The king never could have expected to be stabbed with the left hand because that was so impossible to comprehend at the time.

Do you feel that you are "different" from the normal person? We're all different in one way or another. God can use these differences for His glory. What seems like a disadvantage, from our limited perspective, can become a unique advantage when dedicated to the Lord.

Do not ever think that you are too shy, or unpopular, or tongue-tied, or young, or slow, or whatever, for God to use you.

## **What you see as a difference, can make a difference in the Kingdom of God.**

### **Now, let's switch gears and talk about King Eglon.**

What do we know about him?

We know that he had a problem with his flesh. So, what does that mean? It means that King Eglon had a hard time keeping his human side in check.

Let's rewind:

[Leader note: these first two bullets will not fly with every group and setting. Know your audience.]

- The Moabite people came to be because Lot and his daughter had an incestuous relationship. Sleeping with family is not keeping your flesh in check.
- In Numbers 25, we find out that the Moabite women would seduce the men of Israel into inappropriate sexual encounters. Having sex with anyone that you are not married to is not keeping the flesh in check.
- And in Judges 3, it describes King Eglon as extremely obese and obsessed with luxury. Indulging in every desire you have is not keeping the flesh in check.

So how do we keep the flesh under control?

*Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.*

— Romans 13:14 (NLT)

*So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.* — Galatians 5:16 (NLT)

That all sounds very churchy, right? So, how can we practically keep ourselves in check? One way is by using the Bible. Not just reading it but following what it says.

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and*

*marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.* — Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

Living out the Word of God can help us to live for God instead of living for ourselves! This isn't always easy or pleasant.

When something takes over your physical body, the doctors have to treat it, or sometimes even go in and cut it out. The same is true spiritually. It's a process. And when we've been living for ourselves for so long, it might be painful to change. But in the end, it's eternally worth it.

So, let's recap:

- God often uses people that are different, like Ehud. God can and will use what makes you distinct if you let Him.
- We need to take advantage of the opportunities that God puts before us.
- We need to get our flesh in check.
- We need to not just read our Bibles, but actually live out what it says.