



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: God Judges

Suggested Week of Use: August 14, 2022

Core Passage: 2 Kings 17:7-20

News Story Summary

A recent Gallup Poll revealed that half of Americans believe moral values in the United States are “poor,” while another 37 percent judged the nation’s values as “only fair.” Only 1 percent thought the country’s moral values are “excellent.” The 50 percent “poor” rating is the highest since 2002. Americans are also pessimistic about the future, with 78 percent saying morals are getting worse and only 18 percent convinced that things are getting better. The poll also asked respondents to identify the most important moral issue today. “Consideration of others” topped the list at 18 percent. Other issues mentioned included racism, lack of faith/religion, lack of morals, sense of entitlement, and lack of family structure. Based on the numbers, the Gallup organization concluded that Americans see the state of moral values as “dismal” and still declining. While this lack of confidence followed a two-decade downward trend, the “negative ratings . . . are the worst they have ever been.”

For more about this story, search “Americans Rate Moral Values.”

Focus Attention

To replace **FOCUS ATTENTION**, draw two columns on the board or large sheet of paper. Label one column, “Better” and the other “Worse.” Over the columns, write “America’s Moral Values.” As group members arrive, encourage them to think about whether America’s moral values are getting better or worse. Direct them to put a mark in the column that reflects their opinion. To begin the session, draw attention to the chart. Then, using information from the Gallup Poll article, discuss how your group’s ideas compare to the national poll. Ask: *Why do you think Americans are so pessimistic about the country’s moral condition? What happens to a nation when its morals decline over time?* Share that today’s session focuses on how God responds when individuals and nations ignore His Word and His instructions.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, review what the Israelites had done to reject God. Then, remind the group about the poll and what Americans said were the main moral issues today. Ask: *What would be on your list of key moral issues today? Why? What are some non-biblical beliefs that tempt Christians today?* Close with prayer, asking God to help the group reject anything that violates God’s laws and pursue wholehearted obedience to Him.