

Judith

Session 2: Besieged

1. What are Nebuchadnezzar and Holofernes' goals in conquering other regions?
2. What purpose does the storyteller have in placing the time of these events after the return from exile and in the fictitious region of Bethulia?
3. What message do you think the character of Achior the Ammonite sent to diaspora Jews hearing this story?
4. Name some of the ancient strategies of warfare described in <i>Judith</i> . How do they foreshadow the downfall of Holofernes?

5. What are some of the ways the sense of being "besieged" affect people's behavior? Can you offer a personal example?

6. What are the implications of this session's material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

EXTENDED STUDY: See what you can find out about one of the main concepts of the Pentateuch, the "Deuteronomic Code" (essentially, "You get what you deserve and you deserve what you get"). What's your hunch on how the Deuteronomic Code is supported or undercut by the actions of the various characters in *Judith*?

