



Jephthah's Rash Vow—

“Was Child Sacrifice Condoned in the OT?”

Use the following discussion questions in your Sunday school class, small group, or family devotions. Read the article “Was Child Sacrifice Condoned in the OT” on page 176 of *Answers* (Vol. 6 No. 3) before answering the questions.

1. Some passages are controversial because we do not have enough information to reach definite conclusions. Does this mean that all controversial passages result from insufficient information? Cite a passage as an example and tell why it would be dangerous to think this way. _____

2. Many Christians recite the ancient dictum, “In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, in all things charity.” This may be great advice, but who decides what is essential? Does “essentials” apply only to those things that pertain to salvation, or do they also extend to matters of biblical authority and practical Christian living? _____

3. Think about your own view of Judges 11. Can you adequately account for all of the details in the text, or do you find yourself trying to explain away certain portions because of influences from outside of Scripture, such as your own emotions or assumptions? _____

4. What insights about this controversial passage can you gain from learning about Jephthah's background in Judges 11 or other relevant sections in Scripture, such as 1 Samuel 14 (King Saul's desire to kill his own son in fulfillment of a vow)? Would God expect Jephthah or Saul to fulfill their rash vows? _____

5. See Proverbs 18:13. What is wrong with giving flippant answers to biblical topics, especially before studying the issue more thoroughly? _____

