

1

The First Judges

Judges 2:11-23, 3 and 4

Memory verse: “Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them.” Judges 2: 18

Overview: After Joshua died, Israel did not obey God, so God did not help them fight their enemies. They had enemies because they had never finished getting rid of the bad nations in Canaan.

The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals (idols) and did not worship the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. This made God angry, and He let their enemies fight against them and win. Whenever Israel went to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them.

When Israel was in big trouble, they began to call to God for help, and then God sent judges to help them. There were 15 judges. But after each time that God and the judges helped Israel, Israel started being bad again. They did not listen to their judges, and they did not obey the commandments of the Lord. Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, He was with the judge, and he saved them from their enemies as long as that judge lived because He felt pity for the trouble the enemies were causing them. But when the judge died, they turned back and were more evil than their fathers, and they would not stop being bad. So the Lord was very angry and didn’t drive the bad people out of Canaan. God was not with them when they did not obey Him.

Lessons to learn:

We should obey God all the time, so that He will be with us.

When we do something wrong, we must change and do right again.

We can pray for help when we need it.

We are to worship God and only God.

See if you can learn at least the first 4 judges by heart.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Othniel | 6. Abimelech | 11. Elon |
| 2. Ehud | 7. Tola | 12. Abdon |
| 3. Shamgar | 8. Jair | 13. Samson |
| 4. Deborah | 9. Jephthah | 14. Eli |
| 5. Gideon | 10. Ibzan | 15. Samuel |

True or False:

- _____ 1. The name of the only woman judge was Deborah.
- _____ 2. The Israelites got rid of all the evil nations around them in Canaan.
- _____ 3. Another name of one of the idols in Canaan was Baal.
- _____ 4. God still protected His people the Israelites in everything they did.
- _____ 5. When the Israelites called for help, God had compassion (felt concerned and wanted to help them).

Short Answer:

6. How many judges were there? _____

7. When there was a judge, how long did God help the Israelites?

8. What happened whenever a judge died?

9. Why did God let the enemies of the Israelites fight with them and even win battles?

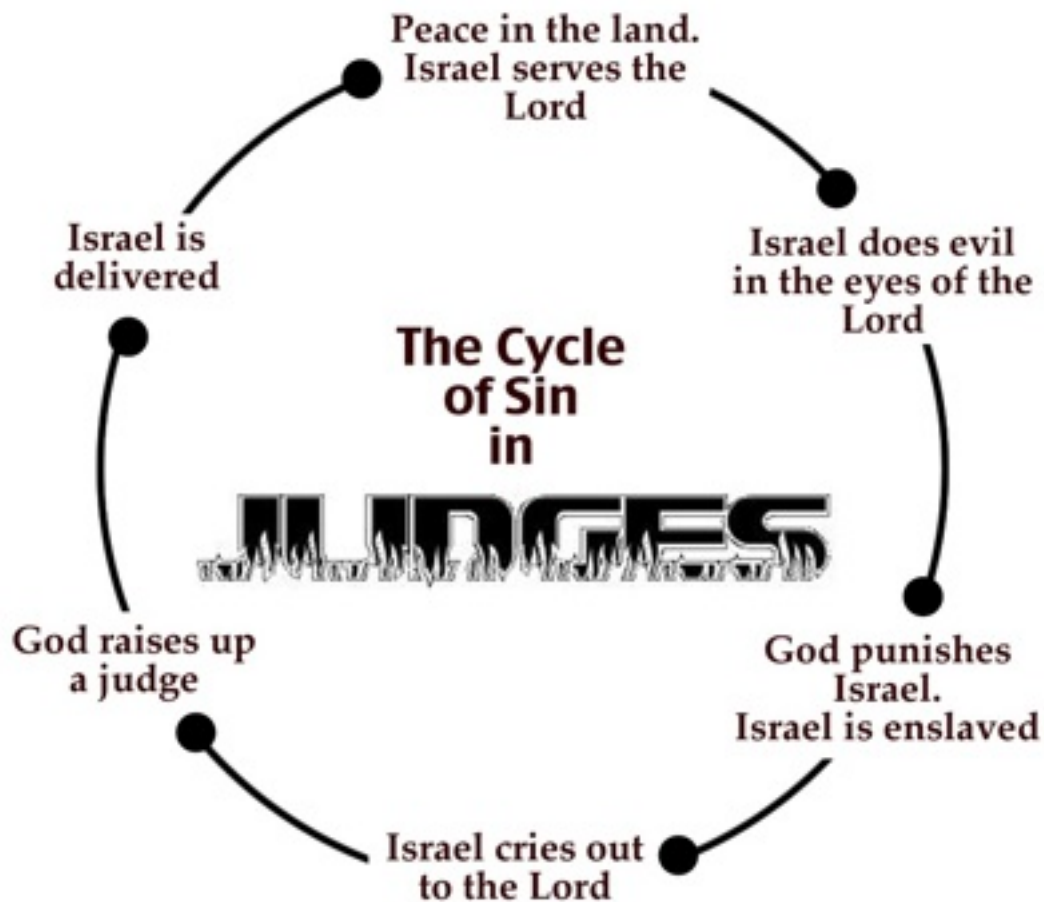
10. What had God told the Israelites about idols and who they should worship? Remember the Ten Commandments.

Remember this:

11. What should we do if people who are bad try to get us to do bad things?

12. Is it O.K. to let people do things that are wrong and just not say anything about it? Why? What does God want us to do?

13. Know the cycle below, so you can say what happened to the Israelites over and over.



2

First Three Judges of Israel

Judges 3

Memory verse: “Follow after me, for the Lord has delivered your enemies ...into your hand.” Judges 3:28

Overview: You remember that when the children of Israel lived in Canaan they did not run all the evil nations out of the land. Israel even tried to worship the idol gods of the other nations, which made God very angry. Remember that God had told Israel “worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.”

We don’t know much about the first judges, but these are the men whom God raised up to save Israel from the bad nations:

Othniel was the first judge. He was the nephew of Caleb (one of the two spies who had believed in God and told Israel that they could take the land of Canaan.) Othniel had the Spirit of God, and when he went to war, God helped him win. Then Israel had peace for forty years.

After that time, Israel did bad things again and Eglon the King of Moab fought against Israel and captured them. Israel had to serve him for eighteen years. God raised up the second judge, Ehud, when the people prayed for help. The Bible says he was a left-handed man.

Ehud went to take a tax payment to Eglon the king of Moab, but he hid a double-edged sword under his cloak. After he gave the tax to the King, he told the king that he had a secret for him. Eglon sent everyone away. Ehud said, “I have a message from God for you.” Then Ehud stabbed Eglon with his sword. Eglon was so fat that the sword and the handle both went inside his fat body. Ehud shut the door, locked it, and went away. The king’s servants thought the king was taking care of himself in there and left the doors locked for awhile. By the time they opened the doors and found the king dead, Ehud had escaped. Ehud led the Israelites in battle against the Moabites and God helped him win. Then the Israelites had peace in the land for eighty years.

After Ehud, came Shamgar, who delivered Israel from their enemies by killing six hundred Philistine men with an ox goad (a stick with a point on it which is used to make cattle move).

Lessons to Learn: God is not happy when his people do bad things. When God’s people are sorry for the evil they did, change, and pray to God, he will listen and help them. We must stay away from bad people.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Othniel was a relative of Joshua's.
- _____ 2. The Israelites chose the men that they wanted to help them fight their enemies.
- _____ 3. Ehud hid a double-edged sword under his cloak when he went to see Eglon, the king of Moab.
- _____ 4. Ehud barely escaped being caught by Eglon's servants.
- _____ 5. Shamgar killed 600 Philistine men with the jawbone of an ox.

Short answer:

6. To whom was Othniel related? _____
What do you remember about the man in the answer above?

7. What did Ehud say to King Eglon that made the king send everyone else out of the room?

8. How did Ehud get away before the servants found out anything about the death of King Eglon?

9. Why didn't the servants unlock King Eglon's door for quite a while?

10. Shamgar killed 600 Philistine men with an _____.

What is that thing he used?

Remember this:

11. Read the verse and fill in the blanks about who God has always said that men are supposed to worship.

“Worship the _____ your _____ and Him
_____ shall you serve.”

Luke 4: 8

12. Think about Luke 4: 8 and answer the questions.

Is it O.K. to put anything else in the world before God? _____

a. Is it O.K. to worship God but worship idols or other religions’ gods at the same time? Why?

b. Is it O.K. to worship men? Acts 10: 25-26

c. Is it O.K. to worship angels? Revelation 22: 8-9

d. Has God ever allowed anything different than what it says in Luke 4: 8?

13. The Israelites cried to God to help them, so they knew He had to power to punish them with their enemies and to save them. When you read Judges 3, why do you think they started worshipping idols again? (v. 1-4)

14. When the Israelites obeyed God after He delivered them from their enemies, what did they have in the land? (for forty years or for eighty years)

15. Be ready to discuss how some people tempt you to do evil things.

3

Deborah

Judges 4 and 5

Memory verse: Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go.” Judges 4:8

Overview: We learned about the first three judges-Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. The fourth judge was a woman named Deborah. She was a prophetess; she had her court under the Palm of Deborah and the Israelites went to her to have their arguments decided - who was right and who was wrong.

Deborah sent for Barak and told him that God commanded him to take ten thousand men and go fight the Canaanites. Barak told her that he would go if she would go; but if she didn't go, he wouldn't go. Deborah agreed to go with him, but she told him that he would not be honored in the battle because a woman would kill Sisera, the captain of the Canaanite army.

So, Barak took ten thousand men and Deborah and went to battle. Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?” Barak chased Sisera's army until they were all killed except for Sisera who had left his chariot and run away.

Sisera ran to the tent of Heber and Jael who were in Moses' family, because their family was friends with his king. Jael, the wife, invited Sisera into her tent, gave him a drink of milk, and covered him with a blanket. Sisera told her, “Stand in the doorway of the tent. If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’” But, when Sisera fell asleep, Jael killed him because she knew he was evil. Barak was still looking for Sisera and got to Jael's tent just then. She showed Barak that she had killed Sisera. Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to God that day, and God continued to help Israel fight against the Canaanites until they destroyed the Canaanite king.

Lessons to learn: Women can do great things for the Lord, too. Deborah was wise, and she spoke what God wanted her to speak.

Jael was brave and did the right thing.

We should not lie, no matter what.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Deborah was one of the women judges.
- _____ 2. Deborah led the Israelite soldiers against the Canaanites.
- _____ 3. Barak said that he would only go to battle if Deborah went with him.
- _____ 4. God was the one who gave Sisera to Israel (Barak).
- _____ 5. Sisera asked Jael to lie about his being in Jael's tent.

Short Answer:

6. Tell where Deborah did her judging and what the Bible said that she did there.

7. Who would be honored for killing Sisera?

8. Fill in the blanks.

“Go! This is the day the _____ has given _____

into your hands. Has not the _____ gone ahead of you?”

Judges 4: 14

9. What did Sisera ask Jael to do when he came into her tent? _____

10. After the battle, what did Deborah and Barak do?

Remember this:

11. Deborah was a judge, which shows that women can work for God; but Deborah didn't lead the men into battle. Why?

12. Sisera told Jael, "Stand in the doorway of the tent. If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone in there?' say 'No.'" If Jael had done that because she wanted to save Sisera, would that have been O.K.? Why?

13. Who actually won the battle against the Canaanites?

14. Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to God after the battle. Read James 5: 13 and fill in the blanks.

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him _____.

Is anyone _____? Let him _____
praise."

15. What are some things that women can do to help God's work?

16. Review the judges.

4

Gideon Obeys God

Judges 6: 1-32

Memory verse: “The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, The Lord is with you.” Judges 6: 12

Overview: The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord again. So God delivered them into the hand of the people of Midian for seven years. The Midianites would come and destroy the food and animals of the Israelites, so the Israelites became very poor. Then they cried to God to help them. God sent a prophet to tell the Israelites that they had not obeyed Him because they worshipped the idols of the nations around them.

But God also sent His angel to Gideon to tell him that God had chosen him to save the Israelites. The angel of the Lord said, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” Valor is great courage or bravery when one is in danger or battle.

Gideon thought that God was not with them because of all the troubles that had come to Israel, but God said that he would use Gideon to save Israel. Gideon said that he would make an offering right then. When he brought his offering of goat meat, bread, and broth, the angel had him put it on a rock. The angel touched the meat and bread with his staff, and fire ate them up. Then the angel disappeared.

That night God told Gideon to knock down the idol that the Israelites were worshipping and cut down the grove of trees around it. Then Gideon was to offer a sacrifice to God right there using his father’s young bull and a second bull. Gideon took ten men and did what God told him to do, but since he was afraid of what the Israelites might do to him, he did it at night.

In the morning when the people got up, Baal’s altar was destroyed, and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar! They asked each other, “Who did this?” When they investigated, someone told them, “Gideon son of Joash did it.” So, the people of the town wanted Gideon’s father to bring him out so they could kill him. But Joash told the people, “If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar.”

Lessons to learn: We must only worship God.
We must obey what God tells us to do.
Sometimes when we obey God, evil people will be angry with us.

God never lies, and we must believe what he says without doubting Him or questioning Him.

True or False:

- _____ 1. When the Israelites did evil, God sent the people of Moab to trouble them.
- _____ 2. God sent his angel to tell Gideon that He would use Gideon to save Israel.
- _____ 3. Gideon did what God commanded him to do.
- _____ 4. Gideon's father believed that the idols could do the same things that God could do.
- _____ 5. The people were glad that Gideon got rid of the Baal idol.

Short Answer:

6. What did the Midianites do that made the Israelites very poor?

7. Who had influenced the Israelites to worship idols?

8. What did Gideon use for an offering?

9. What did God tell Gideon to do? (3 things)

10. What shows that Gideon was afraid of what people might do to him?

Remember this:

11. After Gideon knocked down the Baal idol, what did He build in the same place?

12. Fill in the blanks about what Gideon's father said.

“If Baal really is a _____, he can defend _____
when someone breaks down his _____.”
Judges 6: 31

13. “Baal,” the name of the idol, meant master or lord. Who is the only master or Lord that we should have?

14. The Israelites added Baal idol worship to their worship of God. It was like they had idols for everyday worship and then had God for when they really had trouble. Is it O.K. to add to what God wants us to do?

15. Can we worship two gods or more? _____

16. Israelites worshipped and thanked Baal for bringing rain. Read Matthew 5: 45 and fill in the blanks.

“...your _____ who is in heaven; for He causes His
_____ to rise on the evil and the _____, and
sends _____ on the righteous and the unrighteous.

5

Gideon Doubts

Judges 6: 33-39

Memory verse: “The Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon.” Judges 6: 34

Overview: Remember that God told Gideon to tear down the idol of Baal and Gideon did what God asked him to do. Then all the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern people got together, crossed over the Jordan River and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, to call the Abiezrites to follow him. He also sent messengers throughout the lands of the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali calling them to help him fight; so that they all went to fight the Midianites.

Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew (water drops) only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.” Usually dew is all over everything that is outside on the ground; so, Gideon asked for something very unusual. And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew.” That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Gideon should have known that when God makes a promise, he keeps his promise. He should not have tested God. But God was able to do a miracle to show Gideon that He meant what He had said.

Lessons to learn: God always keeps His promises.

When God says to do something, we should do it without doubting, asking questions, or waiting.

God can do miracles. He has the power to change the way the world works.

God had chosen Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites.

We must not doubt God.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Gideon called men from other tribes to help him fight their enemies.
- _____ 2. Gideon totally trusted God to help him fight the enemies.
- _____ 3. Gideon knew that God always keeps His promises/ does what He says He will do.
- _____ 4. Wool or fleece comes from a sheep.
- _____ 5. Dew is the water drops that develop on the plants and ground when the night cools off.

Short Answer:

6. Fill in the blanks. Judges 6: 36

“ _____ You will save _____ by my hand
as You have _____...”

7. Where did Gideon ask for the dew to be the first time?

8. How much dew did Gideon get from wringing the fleece out?

9. Where was the dew the second time?

10. Did Gideon know that God might be angry with him for asking for the two miracles? How do you know? Judges 6: 39

Remember this:

11. How many of the God's promises in the Bible will come true?

12. When is it O.K. to question God about what He has told us?

13. What do miracles show people?

14. When do we obey God? Circle the right answers.

After we check to see if He means what He said.

When we want to

When we are old

Always

Only when other people are obeying

Even when we are young

When it is easy

If other people think it is right, but not if they don't think so.

If the government says it is O.K.

6

God Wins a Battle for Gideon

Judges 6: 34-8:23

Memory verse: “I will deliver you with the 300 men...and will give the Midianites into your hands.” Judges 7: 7

Overview: When Gideon blew a trumpet to call Israel to fight the enemy, God said that too many men had come. He said that if the men of Israel won the battle, they would brag that they saved themselves with their own strength. Then God said that all the men who were afraid could go home. Most of the men went home, but there were still ten thousand men ready to fight.

God said that there were still too many men. He told Gideon to take them down to the river to drink. The men who bent down were sent home, and only 300 men who lifted their hands to their mouths and lapped like dogs were left to fight against the many Midianites.

During that night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” So Gideon and Purah his servant went down to the edge of the camp. The Midianites and all the other people were camped in the valley, thick as locusts.

Gideon heard a man in the camp tell about a dream he had. In the dream, he saw a round loaf of bread roll into their camp and hit a tent so hard that it collapsed. His friend replied, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” Then Gideon knew that God would help him win against the Midianites

Gideon divided the 300 men into three groups. Each man was given a pitcher, a lamp and a trumpet. They were supposed to do whatever Gideon did. At the right time, they blew their trumpets, broke the pitchers, and shouted “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!” The Midianites were scared and ran away. God saved his people with a small army, and then the land had forty years of peace.

Lessons to learn: We should not be afraid when God is with us. God wants us to remember that he is the one who helps his people. When we obey God, he will be with us.

True or False:

- _____ 1. If too many men went to battle, they would want to say that they won the battle by their own strength.
- _____ 2. Only a few men were afraid of going to battle, so God said that there were still too many men to go to battle.
- _____ 3. God said that 10, 000 men were still too many to go to battle.
- _____ 4. Gideon felt better after hearing about his enemy's dream.
- _____ 5. Gideon and his men killed the enemies with swords.

Short Answer:

6. When Gideon took the 10, 000 men to the water to drink, which ones were sent home?

7. How did the other men drink?

8. What did God tell Gideon that he could do if he was afraid about going into battle?

9. What was the dream that Gideon heard?

10. Many Midianites and other Canaanites were camped in the valley. They were thick as

11. How many men did Gideon have to go into battle with him?

12. What did the men carry into battle?

13. How did Gideon's men scare their enemies? They

the trumpets, _____ the pitchers, and shouted "The sword of the _____ and of _____!"

Remember this:

14. We should give God the glory for all the things he does, and not brag or feel like we do things all by ourselves. What are some things you should remember that God does for you?

15. Gideon was a little afraid, but he still obeyed God. What can help you when you are afraid?

16. Review the cycle of the times of the judges from lesson 1 and be ready to discuss it.

17. Review all the judges to be sure you can name them all. You can sing the song to help you learn them.

1. Othniel
2. Ehud
3. Shamgar
4. Deborah
5. Gideon

6. Abimelech
7. Tola
8. Jair
9. Jephthah
10. Ibzan

11. Elon
12. Abdon
13. Samson
14. Eli
15. Samuel

7

Samson

Judges 13

Memory verse: “The child grew, and the Lord blessed him.” Judges 13: 24

Overview: There was a man named Manoah and his wife who could not have children. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, “Behold now, ...you shall ...bear a son.” The angel told her that she should be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing because her son would be a Nazarite unto God and his hair would not be cut. He would begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Then the woman went and told her husband that a man of God with a terrible face had come to her, but he would not tell her his name or where he was from. She told her husband what the angel had said about their son who would be born. Then Manoah prayed and asked God to send the man of God to them again to and teach them what they shall do to the child that would be born.

God listened to Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. The woman ran, and told her husband, “Behold, the man has appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day.” So Manoah went with his wife, and asked the man if he was the one who had appeared to his wife before. And the angel said, “I am.” They thought he was just a man.

Manoah said, “How shall we bring up the child, what work shall he do?”

The angel of the Lord said that his wife must be careful to do what he told her. She could not eat of any thing off a vine, drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing.

Then Manoah asked the angel of the Lord to stay while he made a meal of a baby goat. But the angel said he would not eat. If Manoah made a burnt offering, he must offer it unto the Lord. Manoah didn't know that the man was an angel of the Lord.

So Manoah offered the kid to God; and when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, the angel went up in the flame of the altar. Manoah and his wife watched, and fell on their faces to the ground.

Later the woman had a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

Lessons to learn: God sent an angel to Manoah, but now he talks to us through the Bible.

Manoah wanted to be sure that they taught the son the right things. God wants mothers and fathers to teach children His word.

Samson was to do the things God asked of Him and help Israel against their enemies, the Philistines.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Manoah and his wife could not have any children before the angel came to them.
- _____ 2. There were three things that the woman had to be careful not to do while she was pregnant.
- _____ 3. When the woman told Manoah about the “man of God” she knew that he was an angel.
- _____ 4. The angel with a beautiful face told Manoah and his wife what to do with the son they would have.
- _____ 5. The angel would not eat the meal that Manoah made.

Short answer:

6. List the three things that the wife had to be careful not to do. _____

7. Because the son would be a Nazarite to God, what would he have that most Israelite men did not have?

8. After his wife told him about the man of God who came to her, what did Manoah pray to God about?

9. What did the angel tell Manoah to do with the meal that Manoah fixed?

10. How did the angel leave Manoah and his wife?

11. What was the son of Manoah named?

Remember this:

12. Can you name something wise that Manoah did in this lesson?

13. How do parents find out what God wants them to do today?

14. What was very important about Samson's hair?

15. Read I Corinthians 11: 14 and fill in the blanks.

“Does not nature itself teach you that if a _____

has _____ hair it is a _____ for
him...”

16. So, should a man have long hair today, according to God? _____

17. Review the Judges in order.

1. Othniel

6. Abimelech

11. Elon

2. Ehud

7. Tola

12. Abdon

3. Shamgar

8. Jair

13. Samson

4. Deborah

9. Jephthah

14. Eli

5. Gideon

10. Ibzan

15. Samuel

8

Samson Looks for a Wife

Judges 14

Memory Verse: An excellent wife, who can find? Prov. 31: 10

Overview: When Samson grew up, he saw a Philistine woman whom he thought he liked. So he went back home and told his father and mother that he had seen a woman that he wanted for a wife. Then his father and his mother said to him, “Isn’t there a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you could take for a wife?” They did not want Samson to marry a woman from their enemies who did not worship God. But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.” But God was going to use Samson’s bad decision for the good of his people.

Then Samson went down to Timnah, where the woman lived, with his father and mother. On the way, a young lion came roaring toward him. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson mightily, so that he tore the lion with his hands; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson. When he returned later to get her, he turned aside to look at the dead body of the lion; and a swarm of bees and honey were in the body. So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some honey to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion. Lions were unclean to God’s people. They were not to touch them or eat them.

Samson made a feast when he was going to get married, and thirty men came. Then Samson said to them, “Let me now tell you a riddle and if you can answer it within seven days, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes. But if you can’t tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.” The riddle was: “Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.” But they could not tell the riddle in three days. On the fourth day they asked Samson’s wife to get Samson to tell her the riddle. She was to tell them or they said they would burn her father’s house with fire. So, Samson’s wife cried to him and said, “You hate me, and you do not love me.” She said this because he didn’t tell her the riddle. Samson said that he

hadn't told his mother or father either. But she cried for the rest of the seven days until he told her the answer. Then she told the Philistine men the answer, so they could answer Samson.

They said, "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" Samson was angry because the woman had told the men the answer. She and the men had tricked him.

Lessons to learn: We need to be very careful to pick a husband or wife from God's people. Samson made a bad choice. We should marry people who are good Christians, not people who just look good. Husbands and wives should not trick each other.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Samson found a nice godly woman that he wanted to marry.
- _____ 2. Samson killed a lion with his bare hands.
- _____ 3. Samson got the idea for his riddle from the lion that he killed.
- _____ 4. The Philistine people were friends of the Israelites.
- _____ 5. Samson did not act wisely in any part of this story.

Short Answer:

6. How did Samson decide that he "loved" the Philistine woman?

7. When his parents told Samson that they didn't want him to marry a Philistine woman, what did he say to his father?

"Get her for _____, for she looks _____ to me."

8. What was wrong about Samson touching the lion?

9. Did Samson tell his parents or anyone else where he got the honey?

10. What did Samson say he would give the Philistines if they could answer the riddle?

11. How did the Philistines figure out the answer to the riddle?

Remember this:

12. Getting married is very important. Should a person marry someone just because of how he or she looks?

13. Circle the things that a person should think about before marrying someone. Put a star next to the most important one.

Will the person make a good husband or wife?

Is the person beautiful or handsome?

Will the person be a good father or mother?

Is the person a Christian?

14. Think about how Samson talked to his father. Was it a good way to talk to his father? _____ Did he listen to the wisdom of his

father and mother? _____ Was he thinking about what God

had told the Israelites about not marrying other nations? _____

continued

15. Samson made his parents do something wrong. Read Matt 18: 6-7 below:

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!”

Was Samson wrong for making his parents sin? _____

16. Do we need to be careful not to cause other people to do wrong things (sin)—especially children?

17. Should we ever act like the woman who cried and said, “You hate me, and you do not love me,” because we want something? _____

18. Were the Philistine men really friends to Samson? Why? _____

9

Samson and Delilah

Judges 16

Memory verse: “He did not know that the Lord had departed from him.
Judges 16: 20

Overview: Samson had special strength from the Lord. One time he killed a lion with his bare hands. Another time he killed a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. Later he picked up the city gates and carried them up the mountain on his shoulders.

But, Samson loved a bad woman named Delilah. The Philistines asked her to find out how they could overpower him. They promised to pay her lots of money, so she kept begging Samson to tell her the secret of how he was so strong. Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh cords that have not been dried, then I will become weak and be like any other man.” Then the Philistines brought her seven fresh cords that had not been dried, and she tied Samson up with them. And she said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he snapped the cords, so they still had not taken away his strength.

Then Delilah said that Samson had told her lies and asked him again how he could be tied up. He said, “If they tie me tightly with new ropes which haven’t been used, then I will become weak.” So Delilah took new ropes and tied him up with them and said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” for the men were hiding in the inner room. But he snapped the ropes from his arms like a thread.

Then Delilah said that Samson had been lying to her again. And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my hair with a pin, then I will become weak and be like any other man.” So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his hair and wove them into the web and fastened it with a pin and said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he woke up pulled out the pin and the web.

So Delilah said, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you lied to me these three times. Every day she nagged him to tell her the truth until he was annoyed to death. So he told her that he was a Nazarite to God from his birth and if anyone shaved his hair, then his strength would leave him. When Delilah saw that he had told her the truth she called the Philistines to come up again. So, the Philistines came up to her and brought the money with them.

Delilah made Samson sleep on her knees, and called a man to shave off his hair. When she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” he thought “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. Then the Philistines seized him and made him blind and put him in the prison. However, the hair of his head began to grow again.

After some time, the Philistines had a great celebration and brought Samson out to make fun of him. Samson asked God to remember him one more time and make him strong. He pushed against the two pillars that supported the Philistines’ temple with all his might. The temple fell and killed all the people inside.

Lessons to learn:

Be careful not to be around bad people or bad things may happen. Even when people we like or love nag at us to do bad things, we must not do them. Samson should not have lied. He should have told Delilah that the things she asked were none of her business. When a person does not obey God, God is not with him.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Samson changed his ways and learned from the problems he had had with the first woman and the Philistines.
- _____ 2. Delilah was very different from the first woman in how she behaved with Samson.
- _____ 3. Samson lied to Delilah three times.
- _____ 4. Delilah was really Samson’s enemy.
- _____ 5. Because Samson was a Nazarite, his hair could not be cut or he would lose his strength.

Short Answer:

- 6. Give some examples of Samson’s great strength. _____

7. Did Delilah really love Samson? How can you tell? _____

8. God expects us to be wise. Was Samson wise with Delilah? Give a reason for your answer.

9. List the three lies that Samson told Delilah about how to take his strength away.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

10. How was it that Samson got his strength back enough to push the pillars and crash the temple down on the Philistines? There are a least two reasons.

Remember this:

11. What had God told the Israelites about the evil people around them? If Samson had obeyed, he would have kept out of some trouble.

continued

12. Sometimes people will bother us over and over to try to get us to do something wrong. What are some things you can do so they don't cause you to do anything wrong?

13. Like Samson, we can pray when we are in trouble and ask for God's help. Will God do a miracle today? How will God help us?

14. God expects us to pick our friends wisely. Read the verses and be ready to discuss good friends.

Proverbs 12: 26 – “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

Proverbs 13: 20 – “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.”

Proverbs 17: 17 – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (difficulties)”

Proverbs 18:24 – “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Proverbs 22:24-25 - Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful (extremely angry) man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare (trap).”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – “Two are better than one because ... if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion.”

Luke 6: 31 – “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

John 15: 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

I Cor. 15: 33 – “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”

James 4: 4 – “...do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

10

Ruth and Naomi

Book of Ruth.

Memory verse: “Where you go, I will go... Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.” Ruth 1: 16

Overview: Now it came about in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there. Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women. The name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years. Then both of Naomi’s sons also died, and the woman had lost her two children and her husband.

When Naomi heard that God had sent food to the Israelites, she decided to go back to the land of Judah. Ruth went back to Israel with her mother-in-law Naomi. Naomi tried to get Ruth to stay in the land of Moab; but Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. (live or stay) Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.” When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said no more to Ruth. Even though it was a long trip, Ruth would not leave Naomi because she loved her and she loved God.

When they got to Judah, Ruth went to glean (gather grain) in the field of a man named Boaz. He was a relative of Naomi's family. God had commanded his people to leave the grain that fell during harvesting for the poor people to gather (glean). While she was gathering grain, she met her relative named Boaz. He noticed how hard she worked. Boaz was kind to her, invited her to eat with him, and made sure that extra grain was left for Ruth to pick up.

Boaz saw that Ruth was a good, loving woman and married her. God blessed them with a son named Obed. He would become the grandfather of the great King David. Ruth was such a good woman that she is listed in the family of Jesus in Matt. 1.

Lessons to learn:

Ruth wanted to stay with her mother-in-law whom she loved.

Apparently, Ruth had learned to love God from Naomi and her family.

Ruth trusted in God, but she also worked hard.

We should be willing to help those who need our help, especially the people who are older and have no family.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Ruth was a righteous Israelite woman.
- _____ 2. “Famine” means a time when there is little food.
- _____ 3. Ruth sacrificed a lot to leave her people, go on a long trip, and help Naomi.
- _____ 4. Naomi gathered grain so that she and Ruth would have food.
- _____ 5. Boaz noticed what kind of woman Ruth was, and she was rewarded for her good works.

Short Answer:

6. Who must Ruth have loved first and the most in order to decide to go back to Judah with Naomi? Hint: It is not a person.

7. What does “glean” mean? _____

8. How had God provided food for the poor? _____

9. Read Ruth 2: 15 -16 below and tell what Boaz did to give extra help to Ruth.

“When she rose to glean, Boaz commanded his servants, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her. Also you shall purposely pull out for her some grain from the bundles and leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke (speak angrily or criticize) her.”

10. Boaz saw Ruth working hard to get food for herself and Naomi. He also knew how she left her family and had done much good for Naomi. All these things showed the love she had for

_____ and for _____.

11. Do you think Boaz made a wise decision to marry Ruth? Why?

12. What great kings would be born in Ruth's family? _____

Remember this:

13. Boaz had heard of Ruth's good works. Do people see the things we do and learn what kind of people we are?

14. Think about Samson and the kind of woman he wanted to marry. Then think about Ruth and Boaz. From which story should we learn the right reason for wanting to marry someone?

15. Only two women who were not Israelites are listed in the family of Jesus in Matt. 1:5. Read the verse and tell who they are.

16. Did both of the women in Matthew 1: 5 have faith? Did they love God? How do you know?

11

Hannah's Prayer

I Samuel 1: 2 - 2: 21

Memory Verse: “If You...remember me...I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life.” I Samuel 1: 11

Overview: Hannah did not have any children, and she wanted children very much. She prayed to God and asked Him for a son. She promised that if God gave her a son, she would give him back to the Lord to work in His house.

Hannah was very sad because she had no children. When she went to the Tabernacle to worship God, she cried and prayed. Her lips were moving but no sound was coming out. Eli the priest saw Hannah and thought she was drunk, so he told her to stop getting drunk. But Hannah told him that she was just sad and she was praying to God to help her. Eli told her to go in peace, and said, “May God... grant (give) you what you have asked of Him.”

God did bless Hannah with a son, and she named him Samuel because she asked the Lord for him. When he was old enough to leave his mother, Hannah brought Samuel to Eli the priest. Hannah kept her promise to give Samuel to the Lord for his whole life.

Samuel served the Lord with Eli the priest, and his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him each year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Eli blessed Hannah and her husband Elkanah and asked God to give them more children to take the place of Samuel. God heard his request and blessed Hannah with three more sons and two daughters.

Lessons to learn:

When we are sad, we can pray and ask for God's help.

Praying for someone else can help them, too.

We must keep our promises.

Children are blessings from God.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Hannah wanted to have children, but she didn't know what to do about it.
- _____ 2. Hannah was angry with God because she couldn't have children.
- _____ 3. When Eli was watching Hannah praying and crying, he thought she was drunk.
- _____ 4. Hannah was sorry that she had made the promise to give her son to God.
- _____ 5. Hannah was blessed with more children after she kept her promise about Samson.

Short Answer:

6. When Hannah was sad, who did she ask to help her?

7. Why did Eli think that Hannah was drunk when he saw her praying?

8. Why did Hannah name her son Samuel?

9. What did Hannah promise God that she would do with a son if He gave her one?

10. What did God do for Hannah? Circle the right answer.

He gave her 1 son.

He heard her prayer but answered, "No."

He gave her six children.

11. Hannah brought Samuel a new _____ each year when she and Elkanah came to

Remember This:

12. We see that when Hannah could not have a child, she did not just give up; and she did not get angry with God. What did she do?

13. Name some important things for which you can pray.

14. You can also pray at times when you are feeling different feelings. You can pray when you are sad (like Hannah) or when you are

15. As a young boy, Samuel went to work for God in the Tabernacle. Can you do work for God? List three things you know you can do.

12

God talks with Samuel

I Samuel 2: 12- 3: 18

Memory verse: “If He calls you,...you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” I Samuel 3: 10

Overview: The child Samuel ministered before the Lord wearing a linen robe, and each year his mother made him a robe, and brought it to him when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

But Eli the priest was getting old and his sons were very evil. They would come while people were sacrificing to God and take a forkful of meat for themselves. God said their sin was very great because they despised (deeply hated, scorned) His sacrifice. They did other horrible things, too. Eli asked his sons why they made the Israelites sin. But they would not listen to him. Eli did not make them stop, so God said Eli honored his sons more than God. God also told Eli that both of his sons would die on the same day, and God would raise up a faithful priest.

One night Samuel heard a voice calling his name. He ran to Eli, but Eli said that he hadn't called Samuel, and Samuel should go back to sleep. Two more times the same thing happened, and finally Eli realized that God must have been calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go lie down, and if God called again he should say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

God did talk to Samuel, and He told him what was going to happen to Eli's wicked sons. He said that judgment would come on Eli's house because Eli knew the sin of his sons, but he did not rebuke (warn strongly, or stop) them. Samuel warned Eli and didn't hide anything from him. Eli said, “It is the Lord: let Him do what seems good to Him.”

God continued to be with Samuel as he grew up, and Samuel was a prophet of God.

Lessons to learn:

God will punish people who go wrong things and who will not change and obey God.

We should want to know what God says. Today He speaks to us through the Bible.

When parents do not teach their children to do what is right, they are wrong, too.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Even though Eli was a judge and priest of Israel, his sons were evil.
- _____ 2. When Eli heard of the evil things his sons were doing, he made them stop those things and punished them.
- _____ 3. God warned Eli about what would happen to his sons for their sins.
- _____ 4. When Eli called Samuel in the night, Samuel ran right to him to see what he wanted.
- _____ 5. Eli accepted what God told Samuel.

Short Answer:

6. How many times did God call Samuel?

7. What did Samuel do the first two times that he heard his name called?

8. What did God want to tell Samuel about?

9. Did Samuel tell Eli what God had said about Eli's sons?

10. Read I Samuel 2: 35 and fill in the blanks.

“But I will raise up for Myself a _____ priest who will do according to what is in My _____ and in My _____; and I will build him an enduring _____, and he will walk before My anointed _____.”

continued

Remember This:

11. I Samuel 2: 35 says, “Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the Lord and with men.” Read Luke 2: 40 where about the same words are used, and tell who the child was that Luke was talking about. (See whom the chapter is about or ask an older person to help you.)

12. Since Eli did not stop his sons from sinning or doing evil things, was he responsible for sin too?

13. If we see someone doing wrong and do not warn them about what God says, will we be wrong, too?

14. Samuel had to tell Eli that Eli and his sons would be punished by God. Did he do it even though it must have been hard to do?

15. Eli heard a report from other people about the evil his sons were doing. Eli’s sons made the Israelites do wrong things, too. So, many people had sinned. Would that sin help God’s people or hurt God’s people in the eyes of the other nations around them?

16. List some ways you can be a good influence to other people—children or adults.

13

Trouble for Eli, His Sons, and Israel

I Samuel 4 -6

Memory verse: “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been taken.” I Samuel 4: 22

Overview:

Israel went to battle against the Philistines, and the Philistines won; so the Israelites decided to take the Ark of the Covenant into battle. And Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. The Israelites thought The Ark of the Covenant would help them to win, but they did not ask God.

The Philistines were afraid when they heard the Israelites shout because the Ark of God was in their camp. So, the Philistines fought hard. They captured the ark and killed many men including Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. This was because God was not with the Israelites.

When the news of the battle and his sons’ deaths came to Eli, he fell backwards off his chair and broke his neck and died. What God had told Samuel would happen to Eli’s family had happened.

God has told us what will happen when we are good and obey Him, and He has told us what will happen if we are bad and disobey Him. We need to read the Bible, so we know what God wants us to do. Then we need to be sure to do it. We do not want to be punished by God.

The Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant to the house of their idol god. Early in the morning, they came and found that the idol had fallen on its face in front of the Ark, so they set the idol up again. The next day, the idol had fallen in front of the Ark again, and its head and hands were cut off.

God also made tumors (swellings on the body) come upon the Philistines who lived around the place where the Ark of the Covenant was. So, those people moved the Ark to another town. Then, God made tumors come upon the people in that town, and some people died.

The Philistines called their priests and asked them how they should send the Ark back to the Israelites. They said to send the Ark of the Covenant on a cart pulled by two milk cows. They also sent a guilt offering of gold for God. They sent the cart off by itself. The priests said that if the cows stayed on the road and went straight back to Israel, then God had caused the tumors. The Philistines watched, and the cows went back on the road without turning to the right or the left.

Lessons to learn:

God was not with Israel when they were sinful.

God kept his promise to punish Eli and his sons because his sons were wicked and Eli had not tried to make them be good.

We must not do what seems good to us if it is not what God wants us to do.

God punished the Philistines for taking the Ark of God, too.

True or False:

- _____ 1. God was not with the Israelites because of their sin.
- _____ 2. The Israelites took the Ark of the Covenant into battle because they thought it would help them.
- _____ 3. God was with the Israelites when they had the Ark with them.
- _____ 4. God caused the Philistines to have boils because they took the Ark of the Covenant.
- _____ 5. Two people in Eli's family died on the day of the battle.

Short Answer:

6. What mistake did the Israelites make when they decided to take the Ark of the Covenant into the battle against the Philistines?

7. The sins of Eli's sons had a lot of consequences. What consequences are shown in this lesson? There are a least four.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

8. How much of God's warning to Eli had come to pass?

9. Tell what happened when the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant into the house of their idol god.

10. What did God do to the Philistines wherever they moved the Ark of the Covenant?

11. How did the Philistines send the Ark back to the Israelites?

12. How did the Philistines know for sure that God had sent the tumors upon them?

Remember This:

13. What should we do if we do something wrong (sin) and need to make it better? Think about what real repentance is.

14. What does God say about people doing more or less than what He has told us to do?

15. Why is it so important for us to read the Bible and study it, do our Bible lessons, and pay attention to preaching?

14

Israel Asks for a King

I Samuel 7: 15, 8 -10

Memory verse: “They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. I Samuel 8: 7

Overview: Samuel was a good judge, but his sons were evil. Samuel had told the Israelites to give their hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only. Then God would deliver them from the Philistines. The Israelites repented (turned away from their sins) and worshipped God again. The Israelites went to battle with the Philistines and won because God was with them.

When Samuel grew old, the Israelites asked him to appoint a king over them so that they would be like the nations around them. That didn't make Samuel happy, but he prayed to God, and God said that the people had rejected Him (God).

God told Samuel to tell the people about all the bad things that would happen if they had a king. The king would make lots of people work as his servants, he would take the best of their fields and vineyards, he would take their daughters to serve him, and he would take taxes of all they had. God said, “You shall cry out because of your king which you shall have chosen; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.” But, the people would not listen because they wanted to be like the other nations. God was not pleased, but he told Samuel to give them a king.

God told Samuel about Saul, the man God had chosen to be king. He was traveling and looking for his father's lost donkeys. Samuel invited Saul to eat with him and gave Saul the message that God had picked him to be the king. He also told Saul that the donkeys had been found.

God told Samuel to call all the tribes together. He told his people, “You have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities. And you have said, ‘No, appoint a king over us.’” Later, Samuel showed Saul to the Israelites. He was a head taller than all the other people. Samuel said that Saul was the man whom God had chosen to be their king. They shouted, “Long live the king!” This was the end of the time of judges.

Lessons to learn: God knows what is best for us.

God should be our king. We should not want to be like the people in the world. What man thinks is good often turns out to be bad.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Samuel was a good judge.
- _____ 2. The Israelites wanted a king just because Samuel was old, and he was the last of the judges.
- _____ 3. Samuel chose a man to be king after God said it was O.K.
- _____ 4. Having a king would change some things in a way that the Israelites would not like.
- _____ 5. Saul was traveling around looking for his father's lost donkeys.

Short Answer:

6. When Samuel prayed to God, God said that the Israelites had not rejected Samuel. They had rejected

7. List some of the things that Samuel warned the Israelites that a king would do.

8. When Samuel told Saul that God had chosen him as king, what else did he tell Saul?

9. Why did the Israelites want a king?

10. What was different about Saul than the other Israelites?

11. Who was supposed to be the Israelites' King and is supposed to be our King?

Remember This:

12. Is it good to want to be like other people around us? Why?

13. How can we find out what God wants us to do today since He doesn't send us prophets to tell us?

14. Why does God know what is best for us?

15. When the people asked for a king, Samuel did the right thing. What did he do first?

16. You should know all the judges by now. Practice to be sure that you do.

1. Othniel
2. Ehud
3. Shamgar
4. Deborah
5. Gideon

6. Abimelech
7. Tola
8. Jair
9. Jephthah
10. Ibzan

11. Elon
12. Abdon
13. Samson
14. Eli
15. Samuel