

## **7-9 YEAR OLD CLASS**

### **Lesson 1 - Death of Joshua, Intro to Judges**

#### **Introduction**

WELCOME everyone! We are excited to be teaching you this year. We are going to look at the end of Joshua's life and the time of the Judges. Does anyone know a name of one of the judges?

Just a few classroom "rules" to start ...

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

#### **Background**

- Israel delivered from Egypt, spent FORTY LONG years in the wilderness, and now they finally in the Promised Land! Imagine being in a hot, dry dessert for 40 years? Has anyone been to a dessert?
- Would have been excited to finally be in Promised Land ... and not just eat manna, quails and drink water!
- BUT ... there was a problem. People already living in land weren't friends of God – they were wicked.
- God told Israel to destroy the wicked people, so they wouldn't turn them away to serving idols.
- But ... some of them were giants who lived in strong cities with high walls. Scary?? It would have been scary IF God was not with them, but God was on their side and promised to help them!
- Who remembers the first city they came to after they crossed Jordan into the Promised Land? Jericho. They didn't even need to fight!! That's how powerful and mighty God was! God did other miracles after that too ... sun stood still so the Israelites could keep fighting an army ... God sent hail another time.
- So Israel never did destroy some of the wicked people living in the Promised Land.
- Joshua grew old and was soon going to die. He was worried that after he died, the children of Israel would stop worshipping God ... they wouldn't have a leader to guide them.
- Joshua called Israel together ... reminded them how God plagued the Egyptians and saved them from Egypt, how He provided for them EVERY day in the wilderness, how He was with them and fought for them to drive out the wicked nations who worshipped idols. No idol could do all this for them!
- Joshua told them they had to choose WHO they would serve ... God or idols? They needed to make a choice! People all said, "Yahweh our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!"
- **Complete "Ways we can serve the Lord now" in workbook.**
- Joshua took a large stone and put it under an oak tree ... whenever they saw the stone, they would remember their promise to serve God and not idols.
- And they did ... all the days that Joshua lived. But things changed after Joshua died.
- What did we say about the nations in the land? Some of them were not destroyed – they would test Israel to see if they would remain faithful to God.

- At first they did!! When they trusted and had faith in God they were able to drive the nations out. But over time their faith in God began to decrease, and they didn't obey Him completely.
- They slowly became like the nations around them and started worshipping THEIR idols instead of God.
- When they stopped worshipping and obeying God, God stopped protecting them and helping them. So the nations of the land started to attack them. Some of them killed the children of Israel, some of them stole their food, and stole their money. The children of Israel suffered.
- This is what Judges is all about. Over and over again in the book of Judges, the children of Israel would stop serving God, and worship the idols of the land. Then the wicked people of the land would attack the children of Israel and the children of Israel would suffer at their hand. So they would cry out to God and God would send a Judge to deliver and save them. For a while they would keep serving God, but after a while they would turn and serve idols again and the cycle would start over. Over and over and over again this happened and the book of Judges tells us about all the different times that it happened.
- The ABCD cycle ... **A**bandoned God, **B**ondage, **C**ried to God, **D**elivered
- **Fill in the meaning of Judges in workbook** ... Judges = "to put right and then to rule".
- **Fill in sin cycle in workbook** ... Abandoned God, Bondage, Cried to God, Delivered
- There were 13 different Judges that God sent to save Israel after they cried out to Him from the oppression of the people of the land. We're going to talk about FOUR this week.

### **Main Lessons for Us**

- How can we be like the children of Israel? Do we have people around us who serve idols that we need to fight against with swords? No, we are different kind of soldiers. We need weapons and armor from God. We need a shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit. Who knows what the sword of the Spirit is? It's the word of God.
- The children of Israel had a hard time fighting against the people of the land. Sometimes it is hard to fight against sin ... hard to do the right thing. That's why it's called a war. Eg. Dads and Mums have told us not to do something, but inside we really, really want to do it. You have a conscience that tells you that you should obey, but it's so very hard, right?!!! That's called warring against the flesh, and fighting against sin! When you listen to your conscience and do the right thing you have used the sword of the Spirit against the flesh, just like the children of Israel fought against the nations of the land that were wicked!!!
- Idols ... people of land served idols of wood, stone, metal ... and soon Israel started worshipping them. Imagine doing that ... bowing down in front of a piece of wood! Seems silly doesn't it. Can we have different idols today? Things that take us away from God? Anything that we have that takes our time away from God can be an idol. And this is just as silly to let those things take us away from God, as it was for the children of Israel to worship idols made of wood and stone. NOTHING is more important than worshipping God!
- **Do crossword on page 1 on their own.**
- **Do cube side for the day.**

## 7-9 YEAR OLD CLASS

### Lesson 2 - Ehud and Eglon

#### **Judges 3:12-31**

Ehud – “he that praises”

Eglon – “place of the bullock”

#### **Sin Cycle:**

**Sin:** v12 “again did evil in the sight of the LORD”

**Suffer:** v12 “the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD”

**Seek:** v15 “when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them”

**Salvation:** v21-22

#### **Israel Serves Eglon – King of Moab**

- Israel had been at peace and rest for 40 years, many of them would not have known what it felt like to suffer because of a cruel ruler.
- God strengthened Eglon, king of Moab and with Ammon and Amalak they defeated Israel and captured the City of Palms (Jericho – 2 Chronicles 28:15).
- Israel served Eglon for 18 years.
- What does it mean to serve Eglon?
- How do we serve God? Ex. 23:25
- Israel really struggled and suffered because of Eglon for 18 years! Finally they turned to God, God raises up a deliverer.

#### **Ehud – the Deliverer**

- Put your hand up if you are left handed. Ehud was left handed, the bible specifically tells us this for a reason.
- His job was to bring the taxes and gifts that the children of Israel had to pay to Eglon (animals, money, harvest etc.)
- Ehud would have been escorted in to the palace by guards of King Eglon and before he would be allowed to enter the palace and come close to the King they would have done a security check to make sure he had nothing to harm the King with.
- Ehud knew that the guards would have done a security check on him, so he knew that if he was going to bring a weapon in to kill the king and save Israel that it would have to be hidden in a spot that they wouldn't expect to look.
- Ehud made himself a special dagger, it was double edged. What does it mean to be double edged?
- *Have a left handed volunteer and a right handed volunteer*
- Ehud hide his dagger under his long clothes, on this right thigh.
- *Tie a dagger on both volunteers and show how they would have pulled the dagger out with their dominate hand.*

- Most people were right handed, so if they hid a weapon it would be on the left side of their body.
- Ehud was left handed so he hid the dagger on the side that the guards wouldn't have expected and that they didn't look at before he entered to the king.
- Ehud had a lot of trust in God to take care of him, if the guards had found the dagger then they probably would have killed him with it.
- Even though we aren't told that Ehud prayed before doing this, do you think that he probably asked God to take care of him?
- When would we ask God to take care of us?

### **A Secret Message for King Eglon**

- Ehud was responsible to bringing the gifts to the king. When the gifts had been dropped off, and as he left he turned around and he saw the stone images that had been set up to worship instead of God.
- Seeing those images probably made Ehud very angry and he had the courage to do something about it.
- He turned around and said to King Eglon: "I have a secret message for you, O King".
- The king was very interested in this secret message and so he said "keep silence!!" and all of his servants left him alone with Ehud.
- Now it was just King Eglon and Ehud alone in the room.
- Ehud said "I have a message from GOD for you!" and with that he stood up and reached with his left hand, grabbed his dagger and stabbed King Eglon with it.
- Ehud was an EXTREMELY FAT man. So fat that when Ehud stabbed him with the dagger not only the blade but the handle went into Ehud's stomach and his guts started to pour out of him.
- Ehud's secret message that he had for King Eglon was that God was through with him, and that the children of Israel were saved by the ONE TRUE GOD.

### **Ehud Escapes**

- Now that King Eglon was dead Ehud still had to escape without getting caught. He snuck out through the window.
- Meanwhile, King Eglon's servants were starting to wonder what was taking so long, so they went and tried the door handle and it was locked. So they thought maybe he is using the washroom?
- And they waited even longer... and went back again to check on him, they unlocked the door and found their fat king dead, with his guts on the floor.
- Eglon had enough time to get away, and rally Israel together to fight against Moab and they won their battle because God was on their side.

### **Main Lessons for Us**

- Sometimes when we don't have challenges to keep us on our toes we can become lazy and trust our own strength, not in God. The children of Israel had peace for 40 years and they became lazy and stopped trusting in God.
- To do brave things we have to be able to trust God ... He will protect us if we are doing things that are right and pleasing to Him.
- Things that God hates should motivate us to do the right thing.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7-9 YEAR OLD CLASS</b> <b>Lesson 3 - Deborah and Barak</b></p>
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### **Introduction and Review of Day 2**

- What judge did we talk about yesterday? What can you tell me about Eglon?
- Today we are going to talk about Deborah and Barak ... two people who worked together.

### **The Cycle Starts Over Again**

- Judges 4v1 ... “The children of Israel AGAIN did evil in the sight of the LORD when Ehud was dead.
- The cycle starts over again! God sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan (v2), children of Israel cried unto God (v3), God sent Deborah (v4) and Barak (v6).

### **Deborah and Barak**

- We don’t know a lot about Deborah, but we do know that she was a woman who cared for her people and her God and believed they could do what God said they could do.
- She dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah ... Israel came to her to have their arguments settled. She must have been a wise lady!
- Bible says she was a “prophetess” ... a woman who receives God’s messages for his people and shares it.
- She sent a message to Barak ... he was to prepare for battle and Israel was going to win this battle!
- Barak only wanted to go if Deborah came with him!
- Deborah agreed to go with Barak, but she said that the honour wouldn’t go to him – Sisera would be killed by a woman!

### **The Battle**

- Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh ... 10,000 men with him.
- Sisera was the captain of Jabin’s army. When he heard that Barak and his army had gone up to Mt Tabor, he gathered his army together and went to the Kishon River.
- Sisera had 900 chariots of iron and all his people. Would you be scared?
- Israel won the battle though – God was on their side and had helped them.
- Sisera ran away by foot. Came to the tent of Jael – though he was safe!
- Jael invited him in ... gave him milk to drink and covered him up to sleep.
- Sisera told Jael that if anyone came to the tent, tell them there was no one there.
- While he slept, she took a tent peg and hammer and nailed it through his temple – killed him!
- Jabin, king of Canaan was also destroyed.
- When Barak came, Jael told him to come and see the man he was looking for ... there lay Sisera dead!
- Jael was the woman who Deborah had prophesied that the LORD would use to kill Sisera.
- Deborah and Barak sing a song in Judges 5 to honour and praise God for the victory.

### **Main Lessons for Us**

- Heb 11v32 ... Barak mentioned in the chapter of faith.
- Don't be afraid of what God has called us to do.
- Deborah was willing to go and do what God had said, and to help Barak as well.
- Do the two workbook pages

### **Meaning of names:**

Deborah – “bee”

Barak – “Lightning”

Jael - “a wild or mountain goat”

Sisera – field of battle

## 7-9 YEAR OLD CLASS

### Lesson 4 - Gideon

#### **Judges 7**

Gideon – “Hewer”

#### **Sin Cycle**

**Sin:** “Did evil in the sight of the LORD” Judges 6:1

**Suffer:** “Delivered them into the hands of Midian for 7 years” Judges 6:1

**Seek:** “Go in this might of ours and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites” Judges 6:14

**Salvation:** “the sword of the Lord and of Gideon!” Judges 7:20

#### **Signs for Gideon**

- The story of Gideon spreads over a few chapters and we are really going to look at the last chapter.
- Gideon was not the kind of man that was a natural leader nor was he very brave. When God’s angel came to him to tell him that he’d be the one that would deliver Israel from the hand of the Midianites, he asked God... “ How can I save Israel? I’m the weakest in my tribe and the smallest in my family!” He did not think he was the man for the job.
- Can you think of anyone else in the bible that wasn’t very brave but ended up being a great and powerful leader with God’s help? Gen 4:10
- Gideon asked for signs from God that he would be with him.
- God gave him Purah to help and encourage him.
- Gideon had been given signs from God to prove to him that He would protect him and help him if he trusted in God.

#### **Gideon’s Army Reduced in Size**

- Gideon gathered a large army and moved them toward the Midianites’ camp and prepared to attack them.
- God stopped Gideon and told him that he had TOO MANY people in his army. God wanted to prove to the children of Israel that HE was the one that would provide salvation, not because they had a huge army with many strong men to fight.
- God told Gideon to tell the people that if any of them were afraid to go into battle that they could leave and go home. 22,000 people left. Obviously the Midianites were very scary if that many people left!!
- 10, 000 people were left.
- God told Gideon it was STILL too many people to take into battle against the Midianites.
- Gideon had to take the remaining 10,000 people in the army to the water and God would test them to see who would stay and fight and who would go home.
- Gideon had to separate the people by HOW they drank the water. Some put their faces right down into the water and drank like a dog and some scooped water up and drank it from their hands.
- Gideon’s army was made up of the people who scooped the water with their hands ... just 300 people. The army went from 32,000 people to 300!! Now they were ready to fight the HUGE Midianite army... with 300 people AND GOD!

## **The Huge Midianite Army**

- The people took the food and water that they'd need and their trumpets. They didn't take any weapons.
- If you were in the army of Israel and you were going to fight the Midianites, do you think that you'd want a sword at least to protect yourself??
- Gideon took the army to the edge of the valley so they could look over and see the Midianite camp.
- As Gideon looked out over the massive camp of the Midianites he probably started to wonder what exactly God had planned for his little army with NO WEAPONS!
- God knew Gideon was still questioning His ability to save the children of Israel so he told Gideon he would give him ANOTHER sign... He wanted Gideon to go down into the valley during the night and spy on the Midianites. God said that he would hear someone say something that would make him VERY confident that they could defeat them.
- Gideon took Purah and went down into the camp.
- When they got down into the valley the Midianite and Amalekite army looked EVEN BIGGER than they realized! They looked like locust and they could never count the amount of camels... more than how much sand is on the sea shore!!
- Does anyone remember another time that sand by the sea shore is talked about in the Bible?
- Clue – it was a positive thing, not a scary thing like the size of the Midianite army.
- Clue – it was a promise that God made with someone... Abraham.
- Gen. 22:16-18 ... a contrast but BOTH involved faith. And it includes US!! We can be part of that if we Trust and OBEY God.
- Gideon and Purah snuck up behind one of the tents of the Midianites and this is what they heard... there was a soldier telling his friend a dream...
- "I had a dream that seemed very odd, it was a loaf of barley bread tumbling down the valley and into our camp, and it rolled onto a tent and the tent collapsed"
- The soldier's friend answered him and said... "this is nothing else but the sword of Gideon and the MEN OF ISRAEL! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the WHOLE CAMP!"
- Gideon heard this dream and was so excited and encouraged, he worshiped God and quickly climbed back up to the 300 person army of Israel to tell them to get up because God was going to deliver the Midianites into their hand.
- This was a different Gideon than we first met! He no longer was timid, scared or shy... he was strong, excited and encouraged because he knew he had God with him!

## **Gideon's Army Fights the Midianites**

- They still didn't have any weapons to fight with ... instead Gideon gave them some pretty interesting items:
  - a clay pitcher in one hand
  - a trumpet in the other hand
  - a torch inside the pitcher
- What were they going to do with those things?! They couldn't fight a HUGE army with a clay pot and a trumpet!!
- Gideon told them to do exactly what he did.



- “watch... when I come to the edge of the camp you do the same thing, when I blow my trumpet everyone will blow their trumpets on every side of the camp and yell... the SWORD OF THE LORD AND OF GIDEON!”
- HUH? How was that going to kill the Midianites??
- The army trusted Gideon, and Gideon trusted God. He split the army into 3 groups so they could encircle the camp of the Midianites on every side.
- Gideon and his 100 men moved toward the camp and waited until the guards changed at the middle watch... the middle of the night... when they were all sleeping! Just as the guard changed they blew their trumpets and smashed the pitchers in their hands... and the other 2 groups did the same thing all around the camp... torches in their left hand and their trumpets in their right hand... and they YELLED... THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND OF GIDEON!!
- The children of Israel held their ground and the whole Midianite army ran around screaming and scared. They thought a massive army was against them, they were confused and started to kill each other and run away!!!

### **The Sword of the Lord - Lessons for Us**

- Let’s think about what they yelled... the sword of the Lord and of Gideon. They didn’t even have a sword! They had a light and a trumpet... maybe this gives us a clue as to what the sword of the Lord is?
- Does anyone remember a verse in the bible that talks about a sword?
  - the armour of God?
  - Ephesians 6:14:17
  - gird your waist with TRUTH
  - Breastplate of righteousness
  - feed shod with the gospel of peace
  - shield of faith
  - helmet of salvation
- SWORD OF THE SPIRIT—which is the word of God
- What is our battle these days? We don’t have the Midianites or the Amalekites to worry about, and we don’t fight or go to war ... why does God want us to have all of these things?
- This is how we might think we are prepared to fight.
- God wants us to be put on HIS armour, that will prepare us to be faithful servants of HIS!

## 7-9 YEAR OLD CLASS

### Lesson 5 - Samson

#### Introduction and Review of Day 4

- What judge did we talk about yesterday? Was Gideon brave or scared at first?
- Today we are going to talk about Samson! What do you know about Samson? We probably could have spent the whole week on Samson, but we are going to focus on some highlights of his life.

#### Samson is Born

- Judges 13v1 ... And the children of Israel did evil **AGAIN** in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD **delivered** them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. Here goes the cycle again!
- There lived a faithful man ... Manoah ... and his wife, who also pleased God. They had no children.
- One day, an angel appear to Manoah's wife and said she would have a son ... who would save Israel from their enemies. Samson was his name.
- Samson was to be a Nazarite (one who promises God he would always serve Him). To show that he was going to keep his promise, he was to never cut his hair.
- Samson was VERY strong! He did amazing things because of the strength God gave him. Does anyone know of any things he did? Carried the gates of a city, killed a lion with his bare hands, knocked down the temple of the Philistines.
- Samson became a hero in Israel – but the Philistines hated him and kept trying to trap him.
- Samson made some bad choices in his life ... he made friends with people who didn't love God, he loved women and married someone who didn't love God. Do you think this was helpful?
- He would go along and serve God for a bit, then he would turn away and do something that didn't please God.

#### Samson and Delilah

- Samson loved Delilah ... a woman that didn't care about God and liked to love lots of men at once.
- Samson didn't realise that the Philistines had made a plan with Delilah to find out why Samson was so strong.
- The Philistines said they would give her a large amount of money to find out where Samson's strength came from. They want to catch him and afflict him. Delilah was happy to be part of this plan. Do you think she really loved Samson? No!
- Good lesson to remember ... who loves us? Who wants us to be in the Kingdom? (God, our parents, friends at the meeting, aunts, uncles). It might feel like "friends" in the world may love us, but do they want to help us to the Kingdom, or are they leading us in the wrong path? Samson should have stayed in Israel. We need to stay with those who are going to HELP us, not take us away! And we also need to be the kind of person who HELPS our friends to the Kingdom.
- Back to our story ... Delilah asks Samson where his great strength lay. Samson tells her a lie ... "If they tie me up with seven bowstrings then I will be as weak as any other man." **(DEMONSTRATE)**
- So Delilah tells the Philistines, and they bring her the seven bowstrings. The Philistines hide in the room and wait! Delilah ties up Samson with the bowstrings, and shouts, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But..... Samson snapped the bowstrings as if it were yarn.

- Again, Delilah asks Samson where his strength lay ... this time he said if he was tied with new ropes that hadn't been used, he would become weak. What do you think Delilah did? Of course, called the Philistines. **(DEMONSTRATE)**
- Samson should have run away at this point ... he knew that whatever he told Delilah, she would then go and tell the Philistines. Once we start doing something wrong, it can be harder to stop and leave!
- Again, Delilah begs Samson ... and the 3<sup>rd</sup> time he tells her another lie ... if the 7 locks of his hair were weaved together, then he would become weak. **(DEMONSTRATE)** Delilah calls the Philistines again – but Samson still strong!
- We are up to the 4<sup>th</sup> time now! Delilah BEGS Samson to tell her the truth and stop making fun of her! She said that if he really loved her, she would tell him the truth. Day after day, she kept nagging him!
- Finally Samson told her the truth ... his hair had never been cut since he was born because he was a Nazarite to God ... if his hair was cut, his strength would be gone.
- Delilah knew Samson was telling the truth this time, so when Samson had fallen asleep on his lap, he called for the Philistines to come and cut off his hair. Samson's strength from God was no gone ☹️
- Delilah called out, "The Philistines are upon you Samson" ... but Samson was weak and couldn't fight them.
- Philistines captured Samson ... put out his eyes, bound him in chains and made him grind in prison.
- **Complete "Samson's 3 Punishments" in workbook.**
- Poor Samson. His eyes had gotten him into trouble in his life – looking at lots of women. What do you think he might have thought about in prison? Now his eyes were gone, he could actually "SEE" what was important ... God, and not women. His strength came from God.
- What do you think happened to his hair in prison? Began to grow again!
- One day, 3000 Philistines were gathered together to celebrate how their god, Dagon, had delivered them from the hand of Samson! They sent a little boy to lead Samson out – they all laughed at him!
- Samson asked the boy to put his hands on the pillars of the temple and he prayed, "Remember me, O God, and strengthen me just this once". He pushed against the pillars with all his might and the temple crashed!!
- Samson killed more Philistines at his death, than he did in his life. Samson also died too.
- Samson did some terrible things in his life and disobeyed God many times ... but God does remember him in the chapter of faithful people ... Hebrews 11. So Samson must have been sorry for the bad things he did and turned to God. We have a loving and merciful God – who will forgive us if we are sorry and change.

### Lessons for Us

- Choose our friends carefully ... stick with our friends in the Truth.
- Be a good friend to others too and help them to the Kingdom ... don't encourage them to do bad things.
- If we get involved in doing bad things, it's harder to stop once we have started. Here's a good little thing to remember when we might think about doing something wrong:
  1. STOP                      2. PRAY                      3. RUN AWAY                      4. DON'T DO IT AGAIN
- **Do the rest of the workbook pages**

### **Things needed for demonstrations during lesson:**

- Bowstrings, rope, weave?, wig?