

Part 4

The Period of The Judges

Sometime during the era when the judges led Israel.

1375 BC

RUTH, NAOMI

BOAZ



OTHNIEL

DEBORAH



1100 BC

GIDEON

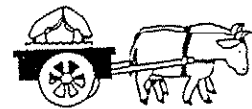
JEPHTHAH

SAMSON



ELI, SAMUEL

SAMUEL

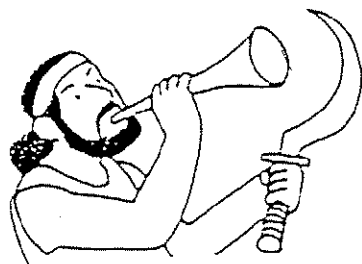


Part 4
The Judges



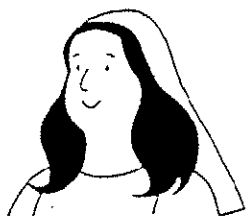
	Lesson Done	Memory Work	Sermon Notes
Lesson 1 - The Canaanites Remain In The Land			
Lesson 2 - God Sends Judges To Help Israel			
Lesson 3 - Deborah Helps The Israelites			
Lesson 4 - Israel Oppressed By The Midianites			
Lesson 5 - Gideon Saves Israel			
Lesson 6 - Israel Ruled By More Judges			
Lesson 7 - Samson And The Philistines			
Lesson 8 - Samson Defeats The Philistines			
Lesson 9 - The Story Of Ruth			
Lesson 10 - Samuel Is Dedicated To God			
Lesson 11 - The Ark Is Captured			
Reviewing The Judges			

Memory Challenge



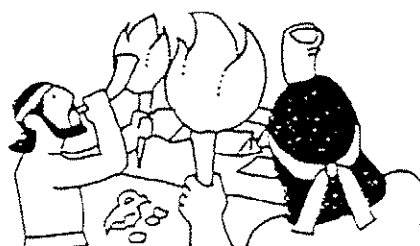
Judges 2:18-19

"Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies....But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers."



Ruth 1:16

"Entreat me not to leave you.
Or to turn back from following
after you;
For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will
lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
And Your God, my God."



The Judges

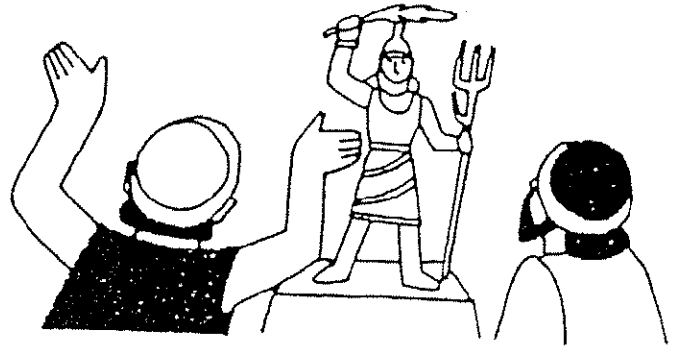
Othniel
Ehud
Shamgar
Deborah
Gideon
Tola
Jair
Jephthah
Ibzan
Elon
Abdon
Samson
Eli
Samuel

"...But his delight is in the law of the Lord
and on His law he meditates day and night."

Lesson 1

The Canaanites Remain in the Land

Judges 1-2



After Joshua's death, the people of Israel needed to finish the job God gave them to do. God had commanded them to drive out of Canaan the wicked people who lived there. The Israelites were to possess the land and destroy the altars where the people of Canaan worshipped idols. The Israelites did not drive out the wicked people of Canaan as God commanded. The Israelites decided to live with their Canaanite neighbors. Then the Israelites started worshipping the Canaanite idols. God was angry. He said, "I will not drive the Canaanites out of the land."



Read Judges 1:1-36

Write YES or NO if each tribe was successful in driving out the Canaanites from its portion of land.

_____ Judah (vs. 19)

_____ Simeon (vs. 17)

_____ Benjamin (vs. 21)

_____ Manasseh (vs. 27)

_____ Ephraim (vs. 29)

_____ Zebulun (vs. 30)

_____ Asher (vs. 31)

_____ Naphtali (vs. 33)

_____ Dan (vs. 34)





Read Judges 2:1-10

1. Was this angel of the Lord happy with the Israelites? Why? _____

2. What two instructions did the angel give the people concerning the Canaanites living in the land? _____

3. What did the angel say that the Lord would not do concerning the Canaanites remaining in the land? _____

4. What warning did the angel give regarding the idols of the Canaanites? _____
5. How did the people react to this message from the Lord? _____

6. Where did the people go after this encounter with the angel? _____

7. Describe the people's obedience to God during the life of Joshua? _____
8. Why do you think they also served God as long as men lived who had seen the wonders God had done for the Israelites? _____

9. How did the next generation serve God? _____

10. Why do you think they forgot about God so quickly? _____

11. How can we make sure that our children don't forget about God? _____



Read Judges 2:11-15

Which verse tells us that . . .

- 1. The Israelites were worshipping an idol called Baal?
- 2. This made the Lord very angry?
- 3. The Israelites were powerless against their enemies?
- 4. The Israelites were very worried?

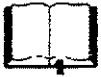


vs. _____

vs. _____

vs. _____

vs. _____



Read Judges 2:16-19

True/False

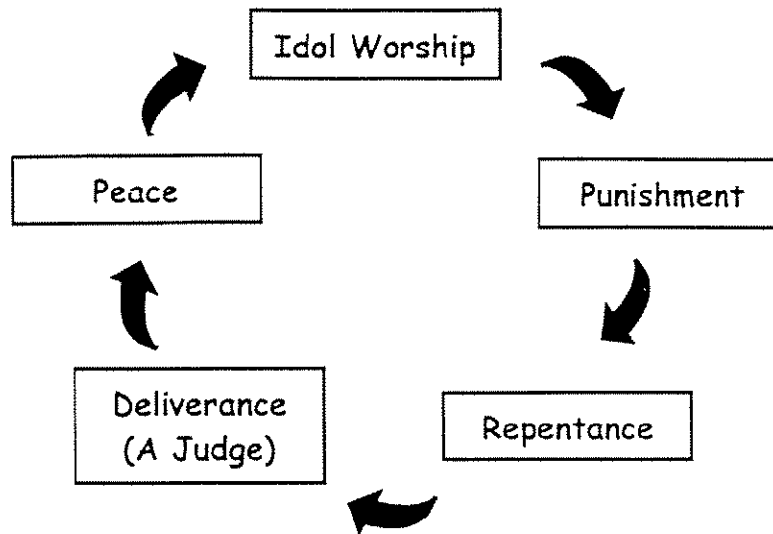
- _____ 1. The Lord sent judges to help the people.
- _____ 2. The people always listened to the judges and did what they told them to do.
- _____ 3. While the judge was living, the Lord helped deliver the people from their enemies.
- _____ 4. After the judge died, the people went back to their wicked ways.

What's The Meaning?

idols _____

Baal _____

Throughout the book of Judges, we will see over and over how the Israelites disobeyed God and he allowed them to be punished. They would cry to Him for help and he would send a judge to help them. No sooner than the judge died, they would again return to their worship of idols. The diagram below shows the pattern they followed throughout this period. As we go through the book, look for examples that fit this cycle.



Reviewing What You've Learned

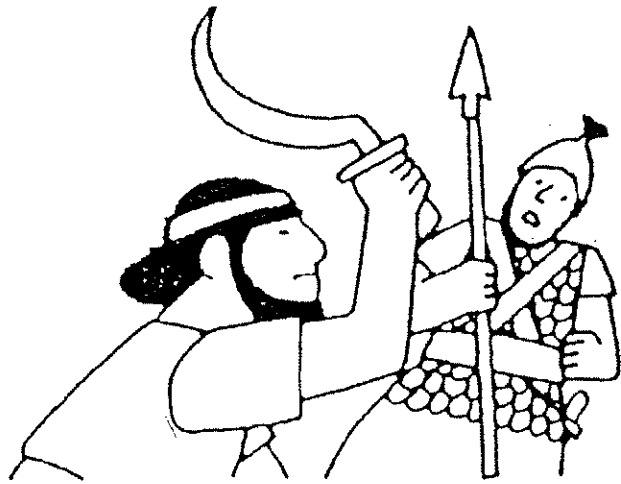
Match the book with the correct description:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Genesis | The second reading of the law |
| Exodus | God sends judges to help the people |
| Leviticus | The people are counted twice |
| Numbers | Tells about the priests and various laws |
| Deuteronomy | The book of beginnings |
| Joshua | The people leave Egypt |
| Judges | Tells about the conquests of Joshua |

Lesson 2

God Sends Judges To Help Israel

Judges 3-4



Read Judges 3:1-6

1. Why do you think this book is called "Judges"? _____

2. What was the reason God gave for allowing these other nations to live in the promised land? _____
3. What kind of test would this be for the Israelites? (vs. 4) _____

4. Name the six groups of people which were left to dwell among the Israelites. _____

5. What two things were the Israelites already doing which had been strictly forbidden? _____

6. Why do you think God did not want the Israelites marrying the people of the other nations? _____

7. Do you think that it is important for us today to marry someone who is a Christian? Why? _____

8. Could someone who is not a Christian tempt you to forget about God just like the Israelites forgot about God? How? _____



Read Judges 3:7-11

The First Judge _____

Fill in the blanks using the words in the box below. Some words may be used more than once.

The _____ began worshipping gods called _____ and _____. This made _____ very angry. God allowed the Israelites to become _____ of _____ - _____, king of _____ for _____ years. When the _____ cried to the Lord, he sent a _____ named _____, the nephew of _____. _____ was the first _____ of Israel and he went out against _____ - _____ and delivered the _____. During his rule, the Israelites had _____ for _____ years.

<i>God</i>	<i>Israelites</i>	<i>rest</i>	<i>Caleb</i>
<i>deliverer</i>	<i>forty</i>	<i>judge</i>	<i>servants</i>
<i>Othniel</i>	<i>Baals</i>	<i>Asherahs</i>	<i>eight</i>
<i>Cushan-Rishathaim</i>		<i>Mesopotamia</i>	



Read Judges 3:12-24

The Second Judge _____

Number these sentences in the correct order:

- _____ Ehud hid a long dagger under his clothes.
- _____ Eglon, king of Moab, ruled over the Israelites for eighteen years.
- _____ Ehud stuck the dagger into Eglon and then escaped out the door.
- _____ The children of Israel again disobeyed God.
- _____ When the people called unto God, he sent Ehud to deliver them.
- _____ Ehud told Eglon he had a secret message from God.



Read Judges 3:24-30

True/False

- _____ 1. Eglon's servants found him fallen dead on the floor.
- _____ 2. They caught Ehud escaping out of the city.
- _____ 3. As they were escaping, the Israelites killed ten thousand Moabite men.
- _____ 4. After this, the land had rest for forty years.



Read Judges 3:31

The Third Judge _____

1. What is the one thing we are told that Shamgar did? _____

What's The Meaning?

tribute _____

Reviewing What You've Learned

Find the answers to the questions in the puzzle below.

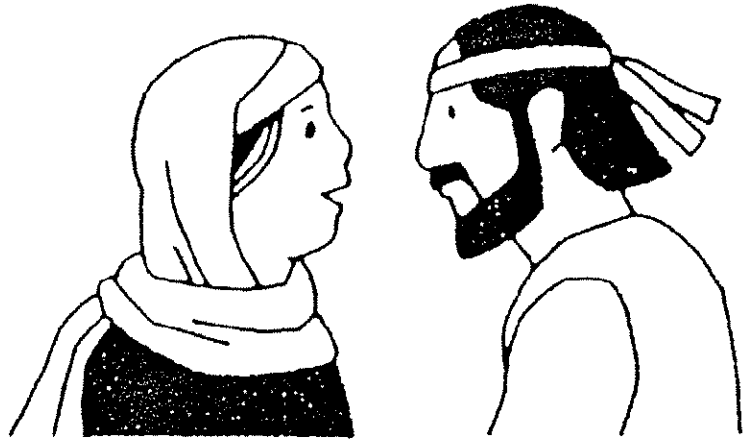
1. The first judge of Israel.
2. The second judge of Israel.
3. The third judge of Israel.
4. Another name for deliverer.
5. What the people began to worship.
6. The promised land.
7. The name of the idol worshipped in Canaan.
8. The king that was very fat.
9. Shamgar killed 600 of them

S	S	H	A	M	G	A	R	X	P	N
C	E	F	V	W	U	K	D	C	O	F
A	Z	N	R	R	Y	S	O	L	G	U
N	M	K	I	F	Y	T	G	E	T	M
A	P	B	Q	T	H	E	V	O	N	P
A	A	O	I	N	S	S	W	A	W	C
N	A	D	I	J	I	I	L	I	V	M
P	K	E	U	A	Q	D	L	A	V	U
A	L	D	F	O	F	V	O	I	A	Z
S	G	R	Q	G	Q	O	S	L	H	B
E	E	H	U	D	B	W	I	K	S	P

Lesson 3

Deborah Helps The Israelites

Judges 4-5



Read Judges 4:1-10

The Fourth Judge _____

Use the names below to answer the questions:

Barak

Deborah

Sisera

Jabin

Ehud

God

- _____ 1. After his death, the Israelites began to disobey God again.
- _____ 2. The King of Canaan.
- _____ 3. Owned 900 iron chariots.
- _____ 4. Treated the Israelites harshly for 20 years.
- _____ 5. A prophetess who was judging Israel at this time.
- _____ 6. Called for Barak, an Israelite army commander.
- _____ 7. The commander of Jabin's army.
- _____ 8. Wanted Deborah to go to battle with him.
- _____ 9. Took 10,000 men to fight Sisera's army.



Read Judges 4:11-24

1. When the Israelites attacked Sisera's army, how did Sisera get away? _____
2. How complete was the victory? _____
3. Whose tent did Sisera enter? _____
4. What did Sisera want Jael to do if anyone asked where he was?

5. What did Jael do while Sisera was asleep? _____
6. Who did Jael show to Barak? _____
7. What was the result of this defeat of the Canaanites? _____

In Judges 5, we can read a song that Deborah and Barak sang after this defeat of Sisera's army.



Read the verses below and answer the questions.

1. Describe life in Israel at this time. (verses 6-9) _____
2. Who does Deborah say fought this battle? (verse 13) _____
3. What part did Jael play in the battle? (verses 24-27) _____
4. What was Sisera's mother expecting after the battle was over? (verses 25-31) _____

What's The Meaning?

judgment _____

chariot _____

God's Plan

All of the characters in this story fit into **God's Plan**. They may not have known much about God and his promises to Abraham, but God used them to accomplish his purposes. Sometimes we don't know or understand how we fit into God's plan, but He can use us to accomplish things today just as He did then. These characters didn't have God's word to guide them, but we do. We need to make sure we use it to help us know how to live our lives.

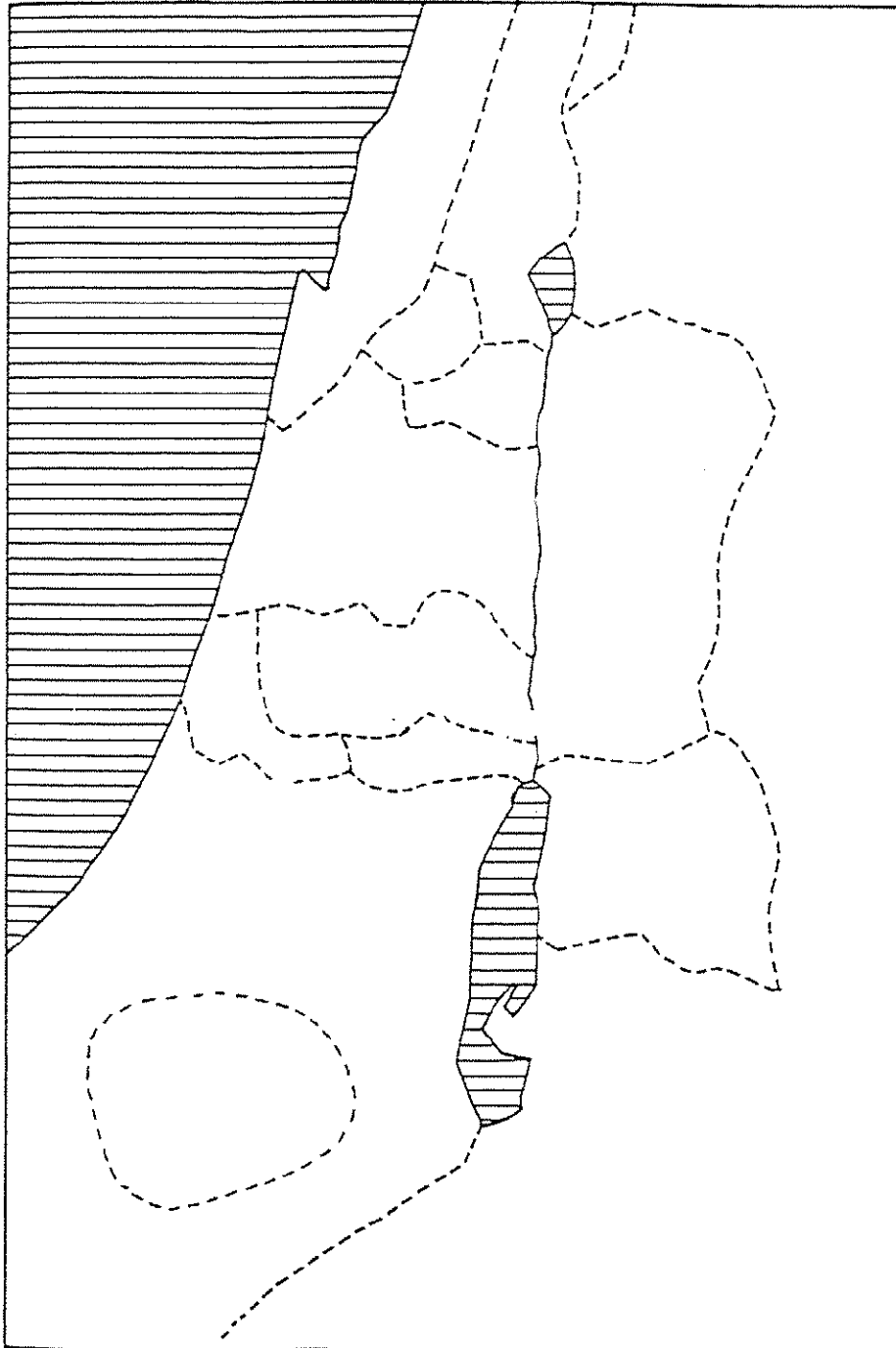
1. How do you think Jael knew Sisera was trying to escape from Barak and the Israelite army? _____
2. Why do you think Sisera trusted Jael? _____
3. If Sisera had been friends with Jael, why do you think she killed him? _____
4. What did Sisera expect Jael to do for him? _____
5. Do our friends want us to lie for them sometimes? _____
6. Do we sometimes have to choose between our friends and what we know is right? Give an example. _____
7. Will we be rewarded eventually for doing what is right even if our friends turn against us? _____
8. What can we do to help us know how to choose the right way?

Map Review

Label the map below with the following names:

Each of the twelve tribes of Israel
Sea of Galilee
Mediterranean Sea

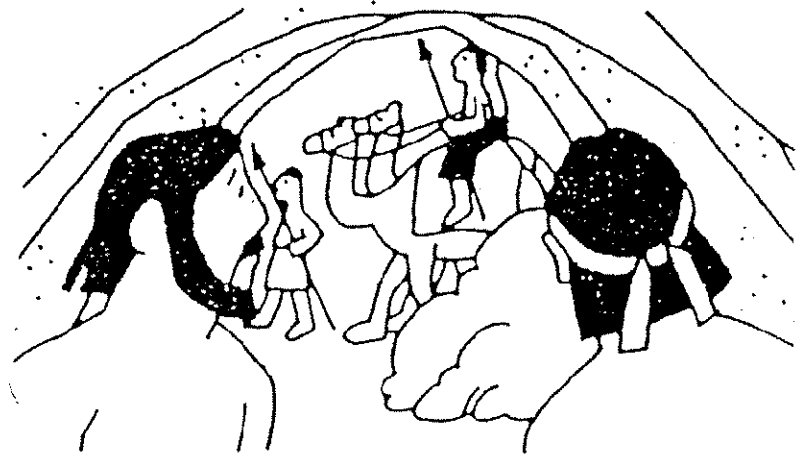
Jordan River
Dead Sea



Lesson 4

Israel Is Oppressed By the Midianites

Judges 6



Read Judges 6:1-10

1. Up until this time, how long had the Israelites had rest from their enemies? (see Judges 5:31) _____
2. What caused the Lord to allow the Midianites to trouble the Israelites? _____
3. How long had the Midianites troubled the Israelites? _____
4. Where had the Israelites resorted to living? _____
5. In what way would the Midianites oppress the Israelites? _____

6. What word in verse 5 describes how many Midianites would come to rob the Israelites of their crops? _____
7. What was the condition of the Israelites because of the destruction caused by the Midianites? _____
8. When the Israelites cried to the Lord for help, what did He say He had done for them? _____

9. What had God asked of the people, in return for what He had done for them? _____
10. Had they obeyed Him? _____



Read Judges 6:11-18

The Fifth Judge _____

True/False

- _____ 1. \ God wanted Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites.
- _____ 2. Gideon said he was from the strongest tribe.
- _____ 3. God told Gideon that He would not protect him.
- _____ 4. Gideon wanted a sign that God would be with Him.
- _____ 5. First, Gideon wanted to bring God an offering.

Reviewing What You've Learned

- 1. Does this story remind you of someone else we have studied?

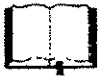
- 2. How is it the same? _____
- 3. How is it different? _____
- 4. What character quality did each of these men lack? Faith in himself? Faith in God? Give reasons to support your answer.

- 5. Do you think Moses realized how important his role would be when God spoke to him from the burning bush? _____
- 6. Can God use us, like He did Moses, even when we don't think we can do very much? Give an example. _____



Read Judges 6:19-24

Draw a picture of the sign that the Angel of the Lord gave to Gideon to show him that it was God calling him.



Read Judges 6:25-27

Check the things which the Angel of the Lord told Gideon:

- Tear down the altar of Baal of your father's.
- Save the wooden image next to the altar.
- Build an altar to God.
- Use the wood from the wooden image to burn a sacrifice.

Why did Gideon do all of this at night? _____



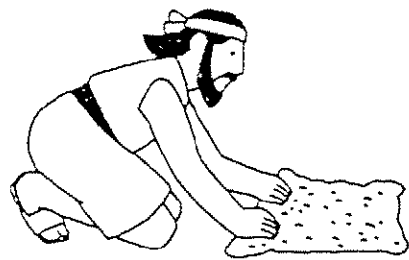
Read Judges 6:28-35

Which verse tells us that . . .

- 1. The men of the city were ready to kill Gideon? vs. _____
- 2. Gideon's father, Joash, said Baal should be able to defend himself? vs. _____
- 3. The Midianites and the Amalekites gathered their armies together? vs. _____
- 4. Gideon summoned the armies of several tribes? vs. _____



Read Judges 6:36-40



Circle the correct words in each sentence:

- 1. Gideon would put a **FLEECE OF WOOL**/**PIECE OF WOOD** on the threshing floor.
- 2. If God was going to be with him, the floor would be dry and the fleece would be **WET**/**DRY**.
- 3. The second time the floor would be **WET**/**DRY** and the fleece would be dry.

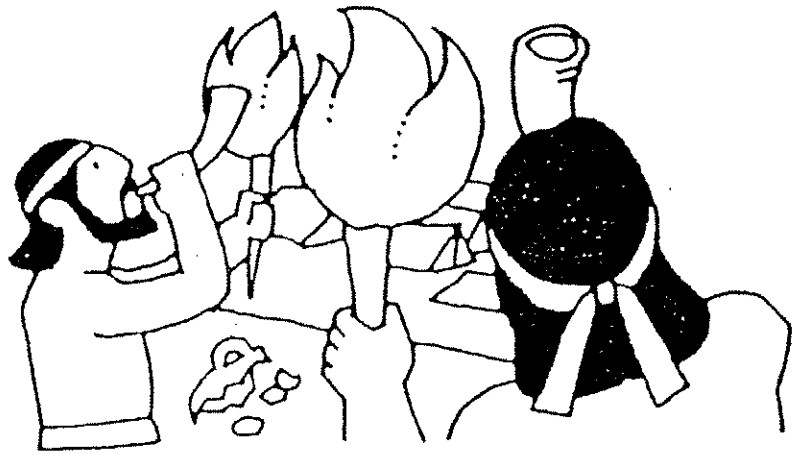
What's The Meaning?

threshing floor _____

Lesson 5

Gideon Saves Israel

Judges 7-8



Read Judges 7:1-8

1. What was Gideon's other name? _____
2. What concerned God about the number in Gideon's army? _____

3. What did Gideon say to the army? _____

4. How many turned back? _____
5. How many remained? _____
6. What was the next test to reduce the size of the army? _____

7. Which ones were chosen to remain in the army? _____

8. Why do you think God chose the ones that drank kneeling on their knees? _____
9. How many men were left in Gideon's army to fight against the Midianites? _____
10. Do you think that any of these men might have been questioning how they could fight against a large army like the Midianites? _____



Read Judges 7:9-15

Check the correct answer:

1. God told Gideon that if he was afraid to go into the battle he could
 get more men for the army.
 go down to the camp and listen to the Midianites.
 quit.

2. When Gideon and his servant went to the camp of the Midianites, they overheard two men talking about
 how easily they would defeat the Israelites.
 a dream about a loaf of bread.
 how great their king was.

3. In the dream, the bread that rolled into the camp represented
 Gideon and his army.
 the Midianite king defeating Gideon's army.
 ten years of famine when there would be no bread.

4. After Gideon had heard the two men discussing the dream he
 worshipped God and felt more confident.
 felt even more afraid.
 refused to go into the battle.



Read Judges 7:16-18

1. How many men were in each company? _____
2. What three things did Gideon give to each man? _____

3. When they blew their trumpets, what were they to say? _____



Read Judges 7:19-25

Number these sentences in the correct order:

- _____ They cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"
- _____ The army of Gideon surrounded the camp of the Midianites at the beginning of the middle watch of the night.
- _____ They broke the pitchers so the torches would shine.
- _____ The Midianite army fled.
- _____ They blew the trumpets.



Read Judges 8:22-28

Fill in the blanks:

1. After the defeat of the Midianites, the Israelites asked _____ to be their _____.
2. Gideon said that _____ was their ruler.
3. Gideon asked the men to give him _____.
4. With the gold that was collected, Gideon made an _____.
5. The _____ worshipped it.
6. This became a _____ to Gideon and his house.
7. The Israelites enjoyed peace for _____ years during the days of Gideon.

Reviewing What You've Learned

Fill in the blanks with the correct judge:

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

1. Helped Barak defeat Sisera.

2. Killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad.

3. First judge who defeated the king of Mesopotamia.

4. Defeated the Midianites with 300 men.

5. Killed Eglon with a dagger hidden in his clothes.

6. Only woman judge.

7. Said he had a message from God to Eglon.

8. Wanted God to give him signs that he could defeat the Midianites.

9. Sang a song with Barak, praising God for the victory over Sisera's army.

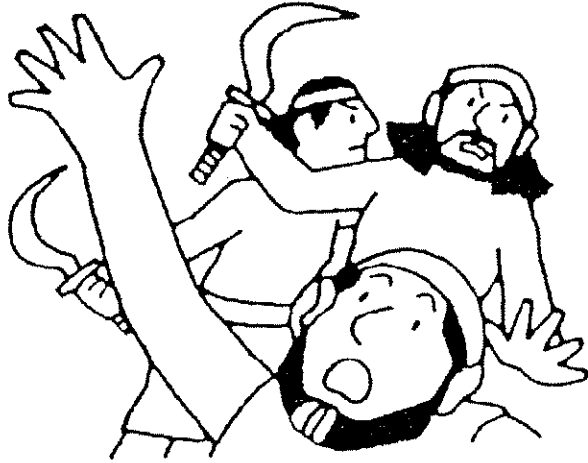
10. Heard about a dream in the Midianite camp.

11. The people wanted to make him their king or ruler.

Lesson 6

Israel Ruled By More Judges

Judges 10-12



The account of the judges is not necessarily a chronological record of everything that happened during this period. There is some overlapping of time periods with one judge possibly ruling in one area of Israel while another one is in a different region. This may account for the lack of information we have concerning several of the judges who are barely mentioned by name. In this lesson we will note the references to these little-known judges. They were not necessarily less important, but we just don't know very much about them.



Read Judges 10:1-5

The Sixth Judge _____

The Seventh Judge _____

Write TOLA or JAIR before each description.

_____ Judged Israel 22 years.

_____ Judged Israel 23 years.

_____ Lived in the mountains.

_____ Had 30 sons who rode 30 donkeys.

_____ Lived in Gilead.



Read Judges 10:6-18

Check the correct answer:

1. Once again, the Israelites sinned against God by worshipping
 many of the gods of the people around them.
 none of the gods of the people around them.

2. God was very angry and
 sold them to the Philistines.
 helped them defeat the Philistines.

3. God reminded the people that
 he had delivered them from the Egyptians and many other enemies.
 they were free to worship any gods they chose.

4. When the people cried unto God, he told them
 to get help from the other gods.
 he would help them.

5. God finally heard their cry when they
 put away the foreign gods.
 defeated the Ammonites.

6. When the Ammonites gathered against Israel, the Israelites asked,
 "Who will be our leader and fight against the Ammonites?"
 "Who will build us another god?"



Read Judges 11:1-11

The Eighth Judge _____

True/False

- _____ 1. Jephthah was a successful warrior.
- _____ 2. When the Ammonites attacked Israel, the men of Gilead wanted Jephthah to be their leader.
- _____ 3. Jephthah spoke all his words before the Lord.



Read Judges 11:29-39

1. What was the vow that Jephthah made to the Lord? _____

2. Was the Lord with Jephthah as he led the army of Israel against the Ammonites? _____
3. How many cities of the Ammonites were captured? _____
4. When Jephthah returned home, who came to meet him? _____

5. Was it foolish for Jephthah to make the vow he made? Why? _____

6. Should you make a promise if you are not sure you will be able to keep it? _____
7. Should you keep the promises you make, even if it causes some unhappiness for you? _____
8. Give an example of a promise you might make which would be hard for you to keep? _____
9. Did Jephthah keep his vow? _____



Read Judges 12:8-15

Fill in the names for the next judges listed:

The Ninth Judge _____

The Tenth Judge _____

The Eleventh Judge _____

Reviewing What You've Learned

Number these groups of sentences in the correct order. (1-2-3)

_____ Gideon asks God for a sign.
_____ Ehud kills Eglon.
_____ Jephthah makes a rash vow.

_____ Shamgar kills 600 Philistines.
_____ Deborah and Barak defeat Sisera's army.
_____ Othniel is chosen as the first judge.

_____ Gideon's army of 300 men defeats the Midianites.
_____ Jael kills Sisera with a tent peg.
_____ Tola and Jair rule as judges.

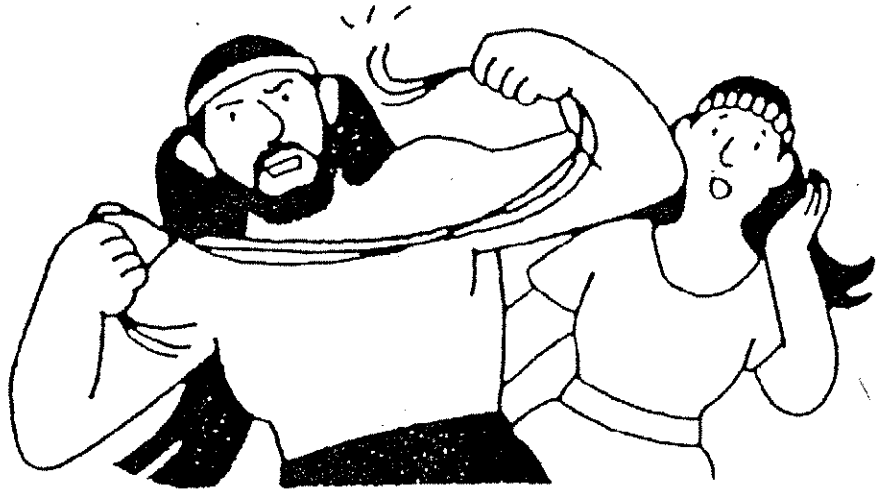
_____ Jephthah defeats the Ammonites.
_____ Ibzan, Elon and Abdon rule as judges.
_____ Gideon tears down the altars in his father's house.

_____ Ehud takes tribute to Eglon.
_____ Deborah sings a song of victory praising God.
_____ Gideon overhears two men discussing a dream in the Midianite camp.

Lesson 7

Samson and The Philistines

Judges 13-14



Read Judges 13:1-7

1. After the people had sinned this time, which enemy ruled over them? _____
2. How long had the Philistines oppressed the Israelites? _____
3. What did the Angel of the Lord tell Manoah's wife? _____
4. What would this child eventually help to do? _____
5. Does this incident remind you of any other women? Give an example. _____
6. What two things were forbidden to someone who had taken a Nazarite vow? (See Numbers 6:1-5) (Verse 3) _____
(Verse 5) _____

What's The Meaning?

Nazarite _____

unclean _____



Read Judges 13:8-25

Fill in the blanks with the missing words:

1. When Manoah heard about the _____ that visited his _____ he wanted to see the _____ for himself.
2. The next time the Angel appeared to the woman, she _____ to get her _____.
3. Manoah asked the angel to tell them what kind of _____ the boy would do.
4. When Manoah offered a _____ to God, the Angel went up into heaven in the _____.
5. Manoah thought that they might _____ because they had seen _____.
6. When the woman had the baby, they called him _____.



Read Judges 14:1-9

Which verse tells us that . . .

1. Samson wanted a woman who was of the daughters of the Philistines? vs. _____
2. His parents did not know that this was part of God's plan? vs. _____
3. On his way down to see the woman, a lion attacked Samson? vs. _____
4. The Lord helped Samson kill the lion? vs. _____
5. When Samson returned again, he saw the lion and there were bees and honey in it? vs. _____
6. Samson kept secret where he got the honey? vs. _____



Read Judges 14:10-19

The Twelfth Judge _____

True/False

- _____1. Samson gave a wedding feast.
- _____2. During the wedding feast, Samson gave the wedding guests a riddle.
- _____3. The guests guessed the riddle right away.
- _____4. The guests told Samson's wife to find out the answer to the riddle.
- _____5. At first, Samson would not tell his wife the answer.
- _____6. When Samson told her the answer, she didn't tell the other guests.
- _____7. The prize for answering the riddle was 30 sheep.
- _____8. Samson killed 30 Philistines and took their clothes and gave them to the guests.
- _____9. Samson took his wife and went home.
- _____10. Samson's wife was given to someone else.

What Do You Think?

From what we've read, circle the words below that you think describe Samson and be ready to explain your answers.

Strong

Small

Hot-Tempered

Gentle

Spoiled

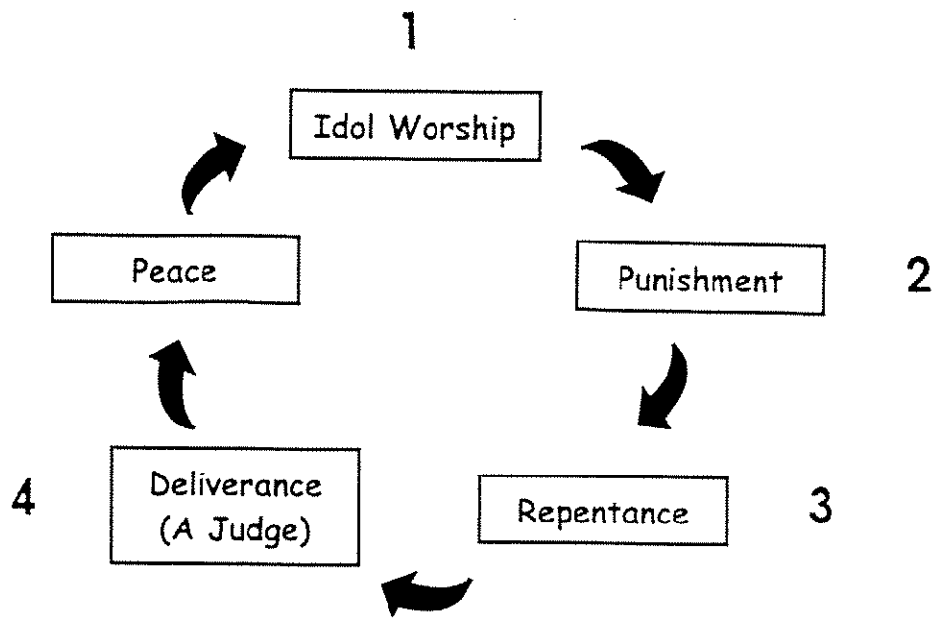
Clever

Kind

Righteous

Wise

Reviewing What You've Learned



Using the chart above, after each statement, write the number which corresponds to the segment in the cycle through which the Israelites were going at that particular time.

- _____ 1. The Israelites forgot the Lord and served the Baals and Asherahs. (Judges 3:7)
- _____ 2. The Israelites served Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia for eight years. (Judges 3:8)
- _____ 3. The Lord raised up Othniel to deliver the Israelites. (Judges 3:9)
- _____ 4. And again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. (Judges 3:12)
- _____ 5. The children of Israel served Eglon, king of Moab, for eighteen years. (Judges 3:14)
- _____ 6. The Lord raised up Ehud to deliver the Israelites.
- _____ 7. After Ehud died, they did evil again. (Judges 4:1)

