

Joshua Commissioned by God

Joshua 1-2

Moses had been the leader of the Israelites for a long time. He brought the people close to the promised land and then he died. After Moses died, the people were without a leader, so the Lord spoke to Joshua and told him that he would be the new leader of the Israelites. God told Joshua He would be with him and the Israelites all the way as long as they followed all the law Moses had given them. He told them to be strong and courageous and they would soon enter Canaan and receive all the land God had promised them.

Across the Jordan River, several miles from the Israelites' camp, was Jericho. A high wall had been built around this city to keep enemies out. There was a gate through which the people came and went.

The people of Jericho were afraid because they knew the Israelites were camped near the Jordan River. They had been hearing about the Israelites for a long time. They knew how God helped them fight their enemies. They heard how God had led Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. What if Israel should cross the Jordan and take Jericho? The people were afraid.

Joshua secretly sent two spies into Jericho to look over the land before they went in to capture it. When the spies came to Jericho, they found the gate open. They came to a house on the wall that belonged to a woman named Rahab. Rahab allowed the men to stay with her. While they were there, someone told the King of Jericho that two men from the Israelite camp had come to search out the land. The King sent word to Rahab to bring the men out. Rahab let them hide on her roof in the stalks of flax which covered her roof.

Rahab said the two men had gone out at dark and she didn't know where they went. The men went out after them, thinking they could capture them. Rahab told the two spies she knew the Lord had given them the land, and she said the people were afraid. She asked the men to promise her when the Israelites came back to conquer Jericho, they would save her and her family. The men told her to hang a red cord in her window, and her family would be saved.

Rahab then let the men down by a rope through the window. She told them to hide three days in the hill country so the officers would not find them. The men did as Rahab said and then returned to Joshua, saying the Lord had given Jericho into their hands.

Notes for Parents:

- God not only told Joshua to follow the law given to Moses, He told them to be strong and courageous. It takes courage to go out and do God's work in the face of so many people who are not Christians.
- Rahab did not try to fight God, she helped because she knew of His power. She was commended for her faith in Hebrews 11.
- God was about to deliver the people to the promised land showing that He continues to keep His promises. He will keep all of the promises of heaven when the time comes for all saints to be gathered.

Getting the Main Points:

Cross out the sentences that are not true.

1. Moses was still alive.
2. Joshua was going to be the new leader.
3. Joshua was told to keep the law and be strong and courageous.
4. Joshua sent out 12 spies into Canaan.
5. Rahab would not let the men stay there.
6. The spies agreed to protect Rahab and her family.
7. The spies told Joshua that God had given the land to them.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 1 verses 12-18 and answer the following questions.

1. Who was going to give them this land?
2. Where would the wives, the little ones, and the cattle remain?
3. Who would go to the land first?
4. What was their answer to Joshua?

Memory Work:

Joshua 3:5

"Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

Israel Crosses the Jordan

Joshua 3-5

The children of Israel set out early in the morning and travelled until they came to the edge of the Jordan river. They camped there for about 3 days. The people were ready and waiting to start on their last march to the Promised Land. Joshua, their new leader, was brave. God had given him courage. He knew the time had come to move forward, so he gave the command. He told the people, "*Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.*"

Joshua told the priests to take the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people. The Lord told Joshua He would make him great in the sight of Israel so the people would know God was with him just as He had been with Moses. He also told them that He would help them take the land from all those who were living there at this time.

The waters of the Jordan River were overflowing. The Promised Land was on the other side of the Jordan. The Lord told Joshua to tell the priests, "*When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.*" When the priests did as the Lord had commanded and stepped into the water, the flooded waters stopped flowing and stood up on one side. All the water ran off the river's bed, and all the people crossed on dry land.

God wanted the Israelites to always remember how He helped them cross the Jordan. He told Joshua to choose one man from each tribe and have them take a stone from the middle of the river where the priests stood with the ark. The 12 stones would be laid in a pile at the place where they would stay that evening. God had them do this so that when their children would see these 12 large stones, they would ask "*What do these stones mean? Then the fathers will tell them how God brought them across the Jordan. These stones would be a memorial for the children of Israel forever.*"

So Joshua did as the Lord commanded. Joshua also set up 12 other stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing. As soon as the priests' feet touched the shore, the waters flooded the river as before.

Soon the news of the Israelites crossing the Jordan reached Jericho and all of Canaan. They heard that God had dried up the flooded Jordan River to let the Israelites cross over. All the people of Canaan were afraid because the Israelites served such a mighty God. On the plains near Jericho the Israelites made camp. They called the place Gilgal. Here they gathered grain from the fields around Jericho. For 40 years God had sent the Israelites fresh manna from heaven. They did not need manna any more, for they had come to a good land of grain, fruit and vegetables, so God stopped the manna.

Notes for Parents:

- God was demonstrating His greatness to Israel and to Canaan.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Israelites were camped at the _____.
a. campground b. Jordan river c. wilderness
2. God was going to work _____ among the Israelites.
a. wonders b. hard c. slaves
3. When the priests stepped into the Jordan with the ark, the water
a. killed them b. stopped flowing c. flowed harder
4. God told them to carry 12 _____ from the river.
a. fish b. snakes c. stones
5. The people ate from the land and the _____ stopped.
a. stomach aches b. hunger c. manna

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 5 verses 13-15 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Joshua see when he lifted up his eyes?
2. What question did Joshua ask?
3. Who was the one who stood before Joshua?
4. What was Joshua told to do?

Memory Work:

Joshua 3:5

"Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

Victory at Jericho

Joshua 6

The Israelites came to the city of Jericho. There was a great wall around Jericho to protect the city from enemies. The people of Jericho were hiding because they heard that the Israelites and their God were coming. No one came into the city and no one left the city.

The Lord told Joshua that He had given Jericho into the Israelites' hands and then told him exactly what to do. The Israelite men were to march one time around the city for six days. Seven priests would carry trumpets in front of the Ark of the Covenant. On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times, and the priests were to blow the trumpets. When the Israelites heard the trumpets, all the people would shout with a great shout. The wall of the city would then fall down, and the people could overtake, or conquer Jericho.

God through Joshua told the Israelites to destroy all the people and animals of the city. Only the silver, gold, and articles of bronze and iron were to be kept for the treasury of the house of the Lord. The people were not to keep anything from the city for themselves. Joshua also told the people to spare Rahab and her household because she had protected the 2 spies earlier.

The people marched around the city once the first day just as God had commanded. Joshua told them not to let their voice be heard or to shout. He told them that he would let them know when to shout. The next day, the people arose early and marched around the city again, just as they had been commanded. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times and shouted with a great shout and the priests blew the trumpets and the walls fell down flat. They utterly destroyed everything in the city except for some gold, silver, bronze, and iron. They also saved Rahab and her family.

Once all was destroyed, the city was burned with fire. Joshua made the people promise that Jericho would never again be rebuilt into a walled city again. God showed His power on that day!

Notes for Parents:

- God loves those who obey Him. He rewards them as He rewarded Joshua and the Israelites by giving them Jericho when they obeyed His commands.
- God had the power to give Joshua and the Israelites the walled, fortified city. God has the power to do anything He says He will do.
- The firstfruits, the riches of Jericho, were reserved for the Lord. The Lord should always be given our firstfruits — our best, not the "leftovers".
- The spies' promise to Rahab was kept. We should keep our promises.
- God does things that challenge our logical thinking. We must give up our will and do His will. Baptism is a good example of this.

Getting the Main Points:

Write a "T" for True or an "F" for False.

- ___ 1. The Israelites conquered Jericho without God's help.
- ___ 2. They marched around Jericho 7 times on the day the walls fell.
- ___ 3. The Israelites tore down the walls of Jericho with their tools.
- ___ 4. God gave the city to his people as a place to live.
- ___ 5. Rabab died when Jericho was destroyed.
- ___ 6. The people were allowed to keep many rewards from Jericho.
- ___ 7. God wanted the walled city of Jericho to be rebuilt.

For the More Advanced:

Read verses 17-19 and answer the following questions.

1. The city was under the ban because everything belonged to whom?

2. They were to keep themselves from the things under the ban lest they do what?

3. What would happen to the camp of Israel because of the things under the ban?

4. Where were all of the valuables that were taken to go?

Memory Work:

Joshua 3:5

"Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

Defeat / Victory at Ai

Joshua 7-8

As the Israelites conquered Jericho, one of the men named Achan, took some silver, gold, and a beautiful mantle for himself and buried them in his tent. Remember that God had told them not to take any of these things because they were under the ban. The actions of this one man would prove to be very bad for all of Israel.

Joshua had sent some men to spy out a city named Ai. The men returned to Joshua saying to send only about 2000-3000 men to conquer it because it was so small. So Joshua sent 3000 of his men to Ai, but the men of Ai killed 36 Israelites and chased them all away. The Israelites were afraid and ran. They had lost the battle.

When Joshua heard the news of defeat, he did not understand what had happened. He tore his clothes and fell to the ground. He thought God had brought them to this place to destroy them. He was afraid that the other nations would hear of their defeat and all come against them to destroy them. This was a very serious problem!

God then spoke to Joshua and told him to get up. He told Joshua that He would not be with the Israelites because someone had sinned and taken some of the things they were not supposed to take. When Joshua found out it was Achan, he told him not to hide his sin. Achan told Joshua he had sinned and had hidden the silver, gold, and the beautiful mantle in his tent. Achan and his family died because of their sin.

God then told Joshua to go up to Ai again, and He would give the city into their hand. God told them to put some men behind the city and then attack from the front of the city. When the men of Ai came out after them, they were to run away as if they were being defeated again. Once all of the men of Ai began to chase the men attacking from the front, the men would move in from behind. These men would move in and take the city. They were to burn the city and defeat all of the army. Again, they were told what they could take from the city and what they could not take.

Joshua obeyed all the words of the Lord and they defeated Ai. After Ai was conquered, Joshua read all the words of the book of the law to the people.

Do you think the Israelites understood the importance of obeying God after seeing what happened to Achan and his family? What lessons can we learn from this?

Notes for Parents:

- God would not tolerate sin. He was willing to allow the Israelites to be defeated rather than look the other way at their sins. God will not overlook our sins either, we must do our best to be faithful.
- When one follows God, very good results occur.
- Joshua read the law to the people. It is important to be reminded about the law. If we don't know what God wants us to do, how will we ever be able to obey Him?

Israel Conquers Canaan

Joshua 9-12

When all the kings who were beyond the Jordan heard about Israel and how they were conquering cities, such as Jericho and Ai, they gathered themselves together to fight against Joshua and Israel. The people of Gibeon didn't want to fight against God and Israel so they came up with a plan. They put old, worn out sacks and wineskins on their donkeys and they dressed in worn out clothes with patched sandals on their feet. They took dried up bread that had become crumbled, and traveled to the place where Joshua was camping. They told Joshua they had come from a far country and they wanted him to make a covenant with them. The Gibeonites said they had heard of the power of God and they wanted to come and see for themselves.

The men of Israel said to them, "*Maybe you are really living within our land. Why should we make a covenant with you?*" But they said to Joshua, "*We are your servants.*" Again, Joshua asked who they were and where they had come from? Again they said they were from a very far country. They said they had traveled so far that their clothes were now worn and torn, their bread was crumbling, and their sandals were worn out.

The men of Israel did not ask the Lord what they should do. Instead, Joshua made peace with them and agreed to let them live in safety. After three days had passed, the Israelites learned the people were really their neighbors living in Gibeon. They had lied to the Israelites and tricked them because they didn't want to be destroyed by them. Because of Joshua's covenant with them, they were protected. The Israelites were upset because they had made the covenant based on a lie. Joshua told them that they had given their word and they would not fight against the Gibeonites. However, Joshua did make them slaves for the house of God. (What do you think the Israelites should have done before making the covenant with these people? Read Joshua 9:14).

When the kings of the other cities heard what the Gibeonites had done, they came out against them and attacked them. The men of Gibeon called to Joshua and asked for Israel's protection and help to fight against the kings. God told Israel to go and fight. The Lord caused all the kings' armies to be confused and Israel overtook them. God also caused great hailstones to come down upon the armies and many died. Night was approaching, and the Israelites needed more light to finish their battle. Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still for them, so God caused the sun to stand still for about a whole day until all the enemies were destroyed.

"There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel." With God's help, Israel continued conquering all the land, until finally the land had rest from war. Joshua gave the land as an inheritance to Israel, and in our next lesson we will see how the land was divided.

Notes for Parents:

- Joshua knew the value of keeping his word.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a happy face if true or sad face if false.

- ___ 1. The people of Gibeon were honest people.
- ___ 2. Joshua should have asked the Lord about the Gibeonites.
- ___ 3. Since the Gibeonites lied, Joshua did not keep the covenant.
- ___ 4. Joshua made the sun stand still.
- ___ 5. There was at least one more day that stood still.
- ___ 6. The Israelites won all their battles by themselves.
- ___ 7. God always keeps His promises.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 11 verses 4-8 and answer the following questions.

1. When the combined armies came out against Israel, how many people were in their army?
2. What did this army have that Israel did not have?
3. What did the Israelites do when they saw the huge army?
4. How many of the great combined army survived the battle?

Memory Work:

Joshua 3:5

"Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

Promised Land Divided

Joshua 13-19

The time had come to divide the land of Canaan among the tribes. God's first promise of this land had been given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. Approximately 650 years had passed, and now the Israelites possessed the Promised Land.

Joshua divided the land into twelve portions, according to the twelve tribes. Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were counted as two tribes, and each tribe got a portion of the land. The tribe of Manasseh actually got two separate portions of land, one on the west of the Jordan river and one on the east side. Reuben and Gad also got portions of land on the east side of the Jordan river. Judah and Simeon got portions of land on the south side of Canaan. Dan, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh received their land in the central portion of Canaan. Finally, Asher, Naphtali, Zebulun, and Issachar received their land in the northern portion of Canaan. Thus was the land of Canaan divided among the tribes of Israel.

The tribe of Levi, from which all the priests came, did not receive a portion of the land. Instead, they were given cities in the areas of their brother's tribes to live in, with pasture lands for their livestock. The priests and Levites were supported by gifts given to God from the other tribes. Remember, the tribe of Levi was given the job of service to God.

While the Israelites traveled in the wilderness, the Levites carried the Tabernacle. When Israel settled in Canaan, the Levites continued to care for the Tabernacle (and later, the Temple) and help the priests. The tabernacle was set up at Shiloh where it remained for many years.

Do you recall when the twelve spies were sent into Canaan to look over the land? Ten of them returned and said they couldn't take the land. Only two returned and said they could take the land with God's help. Those two faithful men were Joshua and Caleb. Moses had promised Caleb a portion of the land for his inheritance because of his faith in God. It had been 45 years since the spies had gone into the land, so Caleb reminded Joshua of the promise made by Moses to him. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him the area called Hebron, because "*he followed the Lord God of Israel fully.*" Joshua was also given a city because of his faithfulness to God.

We have the promise of a great "land" also. Our "Promised Land" is heaven. When we "follow the Lord God fully," as Joshua, Caleb and many others, we will inherit the promise given to us by God heaven!

Notes for Parents:

- It had been a long time (650 years) since the promise made to Abraham, yet God kept His promise.
- Joshua kept Moses' promise to give the land east of the Jordan to Reuben, Manasseh, and Gad. They drew lots to determine who would get the different portions of land. This allowed God to decide.

Getting the Main Points:

Match the following items:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. The two tribes from Joseph | heaven |
| 2. Years since first promise to Abraham | Caleb |
| 3. Leader of the Israelites | Levi |
| 4. Tribe that did not receive land | cities & service |
| 5. "Followed the Lord God of Israel fully" | 650 |
| 6. The Levites inheritance | Joshua |
| 7. Our promised land from God | Ephraim & Manasseh |

For the More Advanced:

Draw a map of the area of Canaan and label the lands as they were divided among the 12 tribes of Israel.

Memory Work:

Joshua 24:21

"The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD. '"

Cities of Refuge

Joshua 20:1-21:42

In Numbers 35, the Lord spoke to Moses about the cities the Levites were to receive. Remember that the Levites did not receive a portion of land for themselves, only cities with pasture land. Therefore, each tribe was to give a certain number of cities from their inheritance to the Levites. Pasture lands around the cities were also to be given to the Levites for their livestock. The tribes that had a larger inheritance were to give more to the Levites than the tribes with smaller inheritances. The Levites received 48 cities in all.

There were also to be six cities of refuge. Refuge means "safety." Three of these cities would be east of the Jordan river, the other three would be west of the Jordan river, in the land of Canaan. If a person accidentally killed another person, he could go to one of the cities of refuge and be safe. He would go to the gates of the city of refuge and explain his case to the elders of the city. If they decided that it truly was an accident, they would allow him to stay in the city. A trial would be held at a later time to completely determine the case. If the person was found innocent at the trial, he would be allowed to remain in the city of refuge. The person could not leave the city, he had to stay there until the death of the high priest, and then he could return to his home. If he left the city of refuge before the high priest died, and he was killed by someone, the person who took his life would not be held guilty. The cities of refuge were Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth and Golan.

God was very clear in His laws to the Israelites. He gave these laws to make sure there was order among the people. When God's laws were kept, God blessed the Israelites greatly, and life was good. But when God's laws were not kept, God did not bless them, and there was all sorts of trouble.

Joshua 21:44-45 says, *"And the Lord gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass."*

Remember we serve the same God who wants us to be obedient to Him also. If we are obedient to Him, we will be blessed and life will be good. If we will not obey Him, we will not be blessed by God and our lives will be filled with all sorts of trouble. A lifetime of obedience to God will allow us to go to heaven where there will be never be trouble again.

Notes for Parents:

- When we obey God's law today, our lives will be happier and we will have heaven to look forward to. God will bless us and be with us every step of our way. We can have the abundant life.
- God's promises never fail. That is why He must be our source of happiness. He is the only thing that we know will never change.
- God protects the innocent, just as in the cities of refuge.

Trans-Jordan Tribes Return

Joshua 21:43-22:34

When the children of Israel were about to go take the promised land, they needed the help of all of the Israelites to fight the battles. Since the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh were receiving their portion of land on the east side of the Jordan river, they could have just gone to their lands and let the other tribes fight their own battles. But they promised to help their brothers take the promised land and they went to Canaan and fought and helped them overcome the people of the lands.

Since the land was now taken and they were taking possession of the land of Canaan, the work of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh was done. Joshua blessed them and sent them home to their land east of the Jordan river. He told them to love the Lord, walk in His ways, keep His commandments, hold fast to Him and serve Him with all their hearts.

Before crossing the Jordan river these three tribes built an altar to God. The other tribes did not understand the purpose for the altar. They knew that God had told them to use the altar that was in the tabernacle to offer their sacrifices. The other tribes thought that these three tribes were rebelling against God. They were afraid that God would punish them all for building the altar.

The other tribes gathered together at Shiloh and planned to go to war against their brothers, Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh. Fortunately, they decided to send a group of men to talk to their brothers before they went to war. They sent Phinehas (son of Eleazar, the high priest) and ten leaders of the tribes to talk to their brethren.

These three tribes explained to the other tribes that they did not build the altar to offer sacrifices to God, but they built it to remind everyone (especially the tribes on the west side of the Jordan) that they were also part of God's people. They built it as a "witness" to make sure that their children would be accepted by those living on the west side of Jordan as having a portion in the Lord.

When the other tribes heard why the altar had been built, they realized they were wrong. They were very happy to learn that the altar was built as a reminder to all, not as a place to offer sacrifices. It was good that they talked to their brethren before attacking them or there may have been many people hurt for no reason. They thought they knew why their brethren had done this, but they judged them unfairly.

Phinehas and the sons of Israel were pleased that their brethren had built the altar for a good purpose — even though it meant admitting they were wrong. There was no more talk of war, and the altar was named Witness — *"It is a witness between us that the Lord is God."*

Notes for Parents:

- Be careful not to judge the motives of others.
- Be willing to admit you are wrong when you misjudge others.

Getting the Main Points:

True or False — circle the correct letter.

- T / F 1. God gave Israel only part of the land He had promised.
- T / F 2. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh kept their promise to Moses to help the other tribes conquer the land of Canaan.
- T / F 3. Joshua told these tribes they could go to their lands.
- T / F 4. Joshua told these tribes to love God and obey his commandments.
- T / F 5. These tribes rebelled against God by building an altar.
- T / F 6. These tribes wanted to be thought of as part of God's people.
- T / F 7. The other tribes didn't admit they were wrong and went to war.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 22 verses 17-20 and answer the following questions.

1. What did God send on them because of the iniquity of Peor?
2. If they rebelled against God, who did they think God would be mad at?
3. Was Achan the only one punished when he acted unfaithfully?
4. What did these people call God?

Memory Work:

Joshua 24:21

"The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD.'"

Last Days of Joshua

Joshua 23-24

When Joshua was old, he called God's people together and talked to them about their faith in God. He told them to remember how God had always taken care of his people. He reminded them of all that God had done from the time of Abraham to now. He told them to remember that God had taken them from Egypt and had given them a wonderful land with cities to live in and with good food to eat. God had been very good to them.

Joshua told the people that they had a choice to make — either serve God or not. If they loved and obeyed the one true God, God would fulfill his promises to them. However, if they did not cling to God or if they worshiped other gods, they would perish. He told them not to marry people from the land of Canaan or to associate with them. If they spent too much time with the people of Canaan, they would surely pull them away from God, and then God would destroy them.

Joshua said that he and his family were going to serve God. He told them to choose who they would follow. That day the children of Israel said that they would serve God also. Joshua then took a large stone and set it up under an oak tree in Shechem. He said it would be a witness against the people if they denied God, because it had heard all of the words that had just been spoken, including those things that God had said to them. Israel served God for all the days of the lives of Joshua and the elders who had served with him.

After this, Joshua died and was buried in Timnath-serah. He had lived for 110 years, and his time on earth was over. The bones of Joseph, which had been brought out of Egypt, were buried in Shechem; and Eleazar, the high priest, died and was buried in Gibeah. God had used these great men to do good for His people. Wouldn't it be great to be like one of these men who were so faithful and helpful to God!!

Notes for Parents:

- God cares for us. He has put us on the earth with so many good things to enjoy while we are here. God has always provided for His people and will continue to do so.
- God keeps his promises. Since we have recently studied the life of Christ, use this as an example. God promised his people long, long ago that Jesus would come to earth, and He did.
- God also expects us to obey him, just as He expected his people to do many years ago. Talk to your child about the things that we must do to serve God. Sing "God is so good."
- Joshua was a great man in the sight of God. We can have a similar place with Him if we obey God and are influential in getting others to commit themselves to Him. This is one of the most encouraging passages in the Bible — *"... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"*

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. When Joshua was old he called God's people _____.
a. together b. lazy c. names
2. Joshua talked to them about their _____.
a. possessions b. land c. faith
3. God had been so _____ to them.
a. mean b. good c. quiet
4. Joshua said that he and his house would _____.
a. serve the Lord b. not obey God c. die soon
5. The Israelites said they would _____.
a. serve the Lord b. not obey God c. die soon
6. When Joshua died, he was _____ years old.
a. 85 b. 95 c. 110

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 24 verses 14-16 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Joshua tell them they should serve God?
2. What were they to "put away?"
3. Who did Joshua tell them they could serve if they wanted to?
4. What was Joshua's answer as to who he and his house would serve?

Memory Work:

Joshua 24:21

"The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD.'"

Israel Disobeys God

Judges 1-3:6

Remember at the end of our last lesson, Joshua told the Israelites that they must choose who they would serve. The people promised to serve God. After Joshua died, the people of God did not always keep that promise. Joshua also told them not to marry the people of Canaan and told them not to be around them because they would cause them to fall away from God. They would cause the Israelites to follow their false gods.

The people of Canaan worshiped idols like the Baals and the Ashtaroth. Baal was a false god of the Canaanites. "Baal" was the common word for "master" or "lord". Ashtaroth was the name of a false goddess of the people of Assyria and Canaan.

Also remember that the people had been faithful as long as Joshua and the priests and rulers were alive. Eventually all of these people died and a new generation took over. This generation of God's people had not seen all that God had done to fight for Israel. They began to worship idols like those around them.

God was angry and He reminded them that they were supposed to make no covenants with the people of the land and they were to tear down their altars. God said, "*But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done.*" He was so angry that He allowed them to be taken over by their enemies. The people groaned, and God pitied them; so He called a "judge" to deliver them from their enemies. When the judge died, they went back to their evil ways. In fact, they were even more disobedient to God!

As we study the book of Judges, we will see this happen over and over as fifteen judges served over Israel. Even though God's people turned away from Him time after time, He always loved them and helped them. When they cried out in agony because their enemies were mistreating them, God had compassion. We studied that while Jesus was on earth, He had compassion on the people He saw that were suffering, and He helped them. If God the Father and Jesus His Son could show this much care for others in distress, we should care for them too.

Notes for Parents:

- God gives people the choice to serve or not to serve Him. If people want to stay as close to sin as possible without being part of it, God will allow them to do so, but they will eventually be overtaken by it. This is shown by Him not driving the people from the land quickly so they would not have the temptation.
- God punishes the disobedient.
- God is merciful and forgiving when His people repent.
- God will allow us to be tempted, but not above that which we are able to bear. He allowed the people to live in the land with the idols and sin, and He left it up to them to drive the sin far away. This is part of having the ability to choose and being responsible.

Getting the Main Points:

Number the choices (1-5) to show the order of events that happened over and over during the time of the judges.

- ___ God's people sin.
- ___ God sends a judge to save Israel.
- ___ God's people forget about God.
- ___ The people repent and cry out for help.
- ___ God allows Israel to be oppressed by their enemies.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 2 verses 1-4 and answer the following questions.

1. Who came up from Gilgal to talk to the Israelites?

2. What did God say He would never do?

3. What were the Israelites not supposed to do?

4. What did the Israelites do after these things were spoken?

Memory Work:

Joshua 24:21

"The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD.'"

Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar

Judges 3:7-3:31

When the land of Canaan was divided and the twelve tribes took their portions to live in, there were still other people in the land. They had not been able to drive them all out. God allowed them stay and test Israel, to find out if they would obey His commandments. As we studied last time, Israel failed the test! They married these people and worshiped their false gods.

God was angry with Israel for turning to idols, so He let the King of Mesopotamia, defeat them and oppress them for eight years. When the people finally cried out to the Lord, Othniel, the first judge of Israel, was sent by God to help them. Othniel was the nephew of Caleb, one of the faithful spies. Othniel must have been a good judge, because the land had rest from troubles for forty years.

After Othniel died, Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. God allowed Eglon, king of Moab, defeat Israel to punish them. For eighteen years God's people served Eglon before they cried to God for help. God helped them by giving them their second judge. He was a left-handed man from the tribe of Benjamin named Ehud.

Ehud made a two-edged sword that he hid under his cloak. Ehud and his men went to see Eglon to give him a present. After Ehud had given the king the tribute (present), they left. Ehud immediately went back to see Eglon again. This time they were alone. Ehud said, "*I have a message from God for you.*" Ehud then stretched out his left hand, took the sword, and killed Eglon. He locked the doors of the room on the roof as he left. At first the servants thought Eglon just wanted to be alone. Meanwhile Ehud escaped from the city and went back to the hill country of Ephraim. After some time passed, the king's servants became worried and unlocked the door and went in. They found the king dead.

When Ehud got back to Ephraim, he blew the trumpet and the men of Israel came to him. He told them that God would help them defeat the Moabites. They went into battle and won! For eighty years after that Israel lived in peace.

The next judge was Shamgar, who killed 600 Philistines with an ox-goad and saved Israel.

God was willing to help the people when they called to Him and asked for His help, but not until. He was also willing to allow them to be punished when they did evil in His sight. Remember this is the same God we serve today.

Notes for Parents:

- God keeps his promises to reward and to punish. Since we serve the same God today, we cannot be fooled like the Israelites.
- Israel did not learn from her mistakes. We must!
- Victory comes when God is on your side.
- God wants us to recognize that we need Him. He wants us to come to Him and ask for His help. He gave us prayer so we can do this.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line to the correct answer.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Who Delivered Israel from Mesopotamia | Shamgar |
| 2. They worshipped false gods | to test them |
| 3. Had compassion on the people | sword |
| 4. Why the others were left in the land | Othniel |
| 5. Delivered Israel from the king of Moab | Israelites |
| 6. Used this to kill the king of Moab | Ehud |
| 7. Who delivered with an ox-goad | God |

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 3 verses 7-10 and answer the following questions.

1. Why was the Lord upset with the Israelites?
2. What other gods did they serve?
3. Why did God sell them into the hands of Cushan-rishathaim?
4. When did God finally raise up a deliverer for the sons of Israel?

Memory Work:

Joshua 24:21

"The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD.' "

Deborah and Barak

Judges 4:1-5:31

Israel's fourth judge was a woman named Deborah. She used to sit under a palm tree where the sons of Israel came to her for judgment. At this time, God's people were again doing evil in the sight of the Lord. The Lord had sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, who was oppressing God's people. His army, led by Sisera, had 900 iron chariots. This frightened Israel, and they finally turned to God again for help. He heard them and answered through the hand of Deborah.

Deborah sent for Barak and told him that God wanted him to lead 10,000 men to Mount Tabor against Sisera. God would send Sisera with his army and chariots to fight against Barak and Barak would defeat him. Barak said he would go only if Deborah would go, too. Deborah agreed to go, but said that a woman would have the honor of Sisera's final defeat.

The day of battle came. Deborah told Barak, "*Arise! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hands.*" The Lord helped Barak and his army fight against Sisera. It was difficult for men on foot to fight against those who had chariots - and Sisera had iron chariots. Apparently God sent heavy rains to make it difficult for the chariots and just as promised, the army of Sisera was defeated. Not one soldier was left!

Sisera, however, had escaped and run away on foot to the tent of a woman named Jael. Sisera asked her for a glass of water to drink and she gave him a glass of milk. She then hid him under a rug in her tent. Being very tired, Sisera fell asleep. While he was sleeping, Jael killed him. A woman had defeated mighty Sisera!

Deborah and Barak celebrated the freedom of Israel from Jabin, king of Canaan, by singing a victory song. This victory song told of how God had helped them win the battle. They had great confidence in the power of God to deliver them. Especially when they were going out against a very strong opponent who had the iron chariots.

Israel was delivered from the king of Canaan and they lived in peace for 40 years.

Notes for Parents:

- God uses women as well as men to accomplish his purpose. All people are important in the work of God. Everyone has skills that God needs to complete His work.
- Be courageous! With God on your side, you have nothing to fear. If you are not following God, you cannot win and should be careful. God will always be victorious. If God is for us who can be against us?
- If you don't do God's work, you will not receive honor from him.
- Jael was actually an ally of Jabin the king of Canaan. God used her to accomplish His work even though she was not from Israel.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line from the statement to the correct answer.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. The woman who was a judge. | Israelites |
| 2. The king who oppressed Israel. | chariots |
| 3. The leader of her army. | Deborah |
| 4. The leader of Jabin's army. | God |
| 5. Sisera's army had 900 of these. | Jabin |
| 6. They won the battle. | Barak |
| 7. He helps us today. | Sisera |

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 5 verses 18-21 and answer the following questions.

1. Who came together to fight?
2. What fought from heaven against Sisera?
3. What swept them away?
4. What do you think came from heaven to sweep them away in a torrent?

Memory Work:

Joshua 24:21

"The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD. '"

Gideon

Judges 6-8

In our last lesson, we studied about how God had helped Israel defeat Jabin, the king of Canaan. Even after all God had done for them, Israel eventually forsook God again and served idols. This time, God allowed Midian to oppress them. It was terrible the way the Midianites treated the Israelites! The Midianites came in like locusts (there were many of them) and destroyed their crops and took their animals. Israel was so afraid that the people made dens in the mountains to live in so they could hide. Finally, they looked to God for help, and He gave it.

The angel of the Lord came to Gideon as he was beating out wheat in the winepress. He was hiding from the Midianites, hoping they would not find him or the wheat. The angel told Gideon that God would help him defeat Midian. Gideon was unsure and wanted a sign. He prepared a goat, unleavened bread, and broth and gave them to the angel. The angel caused fire to burn up the sacrifice. Gideon then believed.

That night God told Gideon to take two bulls and pull down the altar of Baal which belonged to his father and cut down the Asherah beside it. Gideon would then build an altar to God and offer a bull as a sacrifice with the wood of the idol. The men of the city were not happy when they found that the altar and the Asherah were gone. They wanted to kill Gideon, but his father told them that Baal could take care of Gideon if he was a god. He then named Gideon "Jerubbaal" which means "Let Baal contend against him." Nothing happened to Gideon since Baal is a false god.

Filled with the Spirit of the Lord, Gideon began gathering an army. He wanted more proof that God would deliver Israel through him. He put a fleece on the threshing floor and asked God to put dew on the fleece only, leaving the ground dry. God did so, and Gideon squeezed a bowl full of water from the fleece. Gideon then asked that God put dew on the ground and not on the fleece. God did, and Gideon was convinced. He continued his work of gathering his army.

Gideon did too good a job gathering an army: 32,000 men showed up! God knew the people would take credit for the victory with that many soldiers, so He told Gideon to send those who were afraid home. Even though 22,000 men left, the army was still too big for God. God then told Gideon to send the men down to the water to drink. Those who got a drink by lapping water out of their hand would be in Gideon's army. After this test, there were only 300 men remaining! Gideon would defeat the mighty army of the Midianites with these brave men (and with the help of the powerful God).

Dividing his army into three groups of 100, Gideon gave them trumpets and pitchers with torches inside. They went down to the camp of Midian during the night when they were asleep. On Gideon's command, they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers. They held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands and cried, "*A sword for the Lord and for Gideon.*" The Midianites were confused and began running, killing one another. Some got away, but Israel went after them. Midian was defeated and the Israelites were freed from them. "*And the land was undisturbed for forty years.*"

Getting the Main Points:

Match to the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. The Midianites were like these. | Altar of Baal |
| 2. This happened to the sacrifice. | 300 warriors |
| 3. Gideon pulled this down with bulls. | Fleece & Dew |
| 4. Gideon's other name. | Locusts |
| 5. Used to prove God was with Gideon. | Trumpets |
| 6. The size of Gideon's army. | Burned Up |
| 7. One thing used to defeat Midian. | Jerubbaal |

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 8 verses 32-35 and answer the following questions.

1. Where was Gideon buried?
2. How soon after Gideon died did they choose a new god?
3. What did they do with God?
4. Even though Gideon did much good, how was his family treated?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Abimelech, Tola, and Jair

Judges 9:1-10:5

Gideon had done so much good for Israel that they wanted him to be their king. Gideon told them that God was their king and he would not take the position. Gideon had 70 sons and one of them was named Abimelech. The family of Gideon was not treated well after the death of their father. Also, Israel was worshipping idols again and forgetting what God and Gideon had done for them.

Abimelech was not like his father, Gideon. He wanted to rule over the people and be the king. To get support, he went to his mother's family in Shechem. They gave him seventy pieces of silver from the treasury of their idol. Abimelech took that money and hired bad men to help him kill his brothers. With his brothers dead, he would become the new king. The bad men killed all of Abimelech's brothers except for one, Jotham, who escaped by hiding. After the brothers were dead, the men of Shechem and all Beth-millo made Abimelech the king by the oak in Shechem.

When Jotham heard that Abimelech was made king, Jotham told the people a story from the top of Mount Gerizim. In the story the trees went out to anoint a king. The olive tree refused to leave its fatness; the fig tree refused to leave its sweetness; and the grape vine refused to leave its juice to reign over them. Only the sharp, prickly bramble would agree to be king. Jotham explained that Abimelech was like a sharp, prickly bramble that would cause much pain. Jotham told all the people that eventually Abimelech would destroy the men of Shechem, and they would destroy Abimelech.

After telling this story, Jotham ran away to a place where he would be safe, and Abimelech ruled Israel for three years.

Trouble then arose between Abimelech and the men of Shechem. Gaal and the city leaders fought against Abimelech, his lieutenant Zebul, and his followers. Many people of Shechem were killed, and so was Abimelech. Just as Jotham had said, God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech and returned the wickedness of the men of Shechem to them. They all paid for their sinful actions.

After Abimelech died, Tola became the seventh judge and served twenty-three years. Eighth to judge Israel was a man named Jair. Very little is said about this man who judged Israel for the next twenty-two years. We do know that he had thirty sons who rode thirty donkeys and had thirty cities in the land of Gilead.

Notes for Parents:

- Gideon had the proper attitude but his son Abimelech did not. Gideon knew that God was the true ruler of Israel.
- God alone has the right to repay wickedness. And God waited until the proper time (3 years later) to carry out the punishment. Be assured that God's word will be carried out in His timeframe.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line from the name of the judge to the number of the judge.

Tola	1
Deborah/Barak	2
Shamgar	3
Othniel	4
Abimelech	5
Gideon	6
Ehud	7
Jair	8

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 9 verses 50-57 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did all the men, women, and leaders of the city flee?
2. What happened to Abimelech as he was about to burn the tower?
3. Why was Abimelech killed?
4. Why were so many people of Shechem killed?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon

Judges 10:6-12:15

After Jair died, Israel again returned to idol worship. God was very angry. He let the Philistines and the Ammonites oppress them for eighteen years. When God's people finally cried to Him for help, He refused. They had to truly repent. Not only did they have to say they were sorry, they had to put away the foreign gods and serve the Lord. When they did this, God helped a valiant warrior deliver them.

Jephthah was living far away from his home in Gilead. His brothers had made him leave because he had a different mother than they did. (They all had the same father.) The elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah because they knew he could help them defeat the Ammonites. Jephthah came back when they promised to make him chief over them.

Before he went out to fight, Jephthah prayed to God and made a vow (a serious promise) to God. He promised that if God would give him victory, he would offer whatever came out of the doors of his house as a sacrifice.

Jephthah went out against the Ammonites and the Lord gave them into his hand. Jephthah struck the Ammonites with a very great slaughter. The people were happy when Jephthah helped them defeat the Ammonites.

After God gave Israel the victory, Jephthah returned home. When he got there, his only child, a daughter, came out to meet him and rejoice with him. Jephthah's joy turned to sorrow when he remembered the vow that he had made to the Lord. Jephthah's daughter told him to keep his promise to the Lord, only give her two months before he carried out the vow. Jephthah kept his vow to God at the end of the two months.

Jephthah, the ninth judge, ruled over Israel for six years. After he died, Ibzan judged for seven years. This man of Bethlehem, judge number ten, had thirty sons with wives and thirty daughters with husbands. What a big family!

Judge number eleven was Elon of Zebulun who judged Israel ten years.

Abdon made the twelfth judge. This man of Ephraim had forty sons and thirty grandsons who rode on seventy donkeys. He judged Israel for eight years.

Notes for Parents:

- The people around them who worshiped idols caused Israel to worship idols, too. We need to be careful that the people we are around do not cause us to disobey God.
- We have to repent and stop sinning for God to forgive us.
- It is important to keep our promises, so we should think of the consequences before we promise something.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line from the name of the judge to the number of the judge.

Ibzan	8
Abdon	9
Elon	10
Jephthah	11
Jair	12

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 12 verses 1-4 and answer the following questions.

1. What were the men of Ephraim mad about?
2. What did they threaten to do to Jephthah?
3. What did Jephthah say happened when he called on the men of Ephraim?
4. Who won the battle between Gilead and Ephraim?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Samson (Part 1)

Judges 13-14

Again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines. God had a plan for their deliverance through the family of Manoah. Manoah and his wife had not been able to have children. One day an angel of the Lord told Manoah's wife that she would have a son. Until the baby was born, she was not to drink wine or eat any unclean thing. When the child was born, he was to be dedicated to the service of the Lord. The Israelites called this kind of person a Nazirite. One of the special rules for a Nazirite was that he could not have his hair cut. The angel also said that this child would grow up and begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines, who had oppressed them for forty years.

When Manoah's wife told him about the visit of the angel, he asked the Lord to let the man of God come again to teach them what to do for the boy. The angel returned, and repeated his instructions. Manoah prepared a goat and a grain offering. When the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, the angel also went up with the smoke. Manoah and his wife fell on their faces to the ground.

In time, Manoah's wife gave birth to a son and named him Samson. As the child grew, God blessed Him. When Samson was old enough to marry, he wanted to marry one of the daughters of the Philistines. His parents were not happy, for they knew that God's people were not to marry the Philistines. God wanted this to happen, though, as part of his plan to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

When Samson was on his way to see the young woman that he wanted as his wife, a young lion came roaring toward him. God made Samson very strong so that he could kill the lion with his bare hands. Later when Samson came by the place where he had killed the lion, some bees had made a hive full of honey in the dead body of the lion. Samson reached down and took the honey and ate it. He even brought some to his parents.

Samson then made a riddle about the lion and the honey for the Philistines. When they could not solve it, they went to Samson's wife. She cried and pleaded with Samson until he told her the answer. She then told the Philistine men the answer. Since they were able to solve the riddle, Samson had to give them thirty changes of clothes. He was so angry that he killed thirty Philistines and used their clothing as payment.

Samson left his wife and returned to his father's house in anger. We will study more about Samson in our next lesson. Soon he would become the thirteenth judge to serve Israel and deliver Israel from the Philistines.

Notes for Parents:

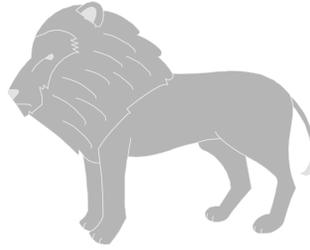
- God gave Samson a special gift of strength, but He gave him certain conditions to obey. We can have the special gift of eternal life in heaven if we meet God's conditions. Review those conditions (the plan of salvation).
- Godly parents want to guide their children in God's ways.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line from the blank to the correct word (from the box below).

Eat	Strong	Sweet	Eater
-----	--------	-------	-------

"Out of the _____ came something to
and out of the _____ came something _____."



For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 14 verses 14-17 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the men threaten to do to Samson's wife on the 4th day?
2. Why did Samson's wife say that he hated her and did not love her?
3. Who else had Samson told the answer to the riddle?
4. Why did Samson finally tell her the answer to the riddle?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Samson (Part 2)

Judges 15-16

Samson was still upset about his wife and the way she had deceived him. Samson's father thought that Samson hated her greatly so he gave her to Samson's companion. Samson was so angry that he decided to punish the Philistines for what they had done. Samson took 300 foxes, put them in pairs and tied their tails together. He put a torch in their tails, lit the torches, and sent the foxes into the fields where the Philistines had food growing. Their food was burned up.

The Philistines wanted to get even with Samson so they went after him. Samson took the jawbone of a donkey and killed 1,000 Philistines. He was very thirsty and called to God for relief. God split the hollow place where he had thrown down the jawbone so that water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned.

Later Samson went to Gaza. The Philistines thought he was going to spend the night. They waited at the gate of the city to kill him in the morning. At midnight, Samson fooled them. He got up and took the doors of the city gate with the posts and bars and put them on his shoulders, and he carried them to the top of a mountain (about 38 miles).

Then Samson made a big mistake. He loved a bad woman named Delilah. The Philistines had told her they would pay her a lot of money if she would find the secret to Samson's strength. Each time she would ask Samson, he would tell a lie. She became angry each time. She kept after him until he finally told her that if his hair was cut, God wouldn't help him to be strong anymore. Delilah called a man in to cut Samson's hair while he was sleeping. When Samson woke up, he wasn't strong anymore because God had left him. The Philistines captured him, put chains on him, and made him work very hard in prison.

While Samson was in prison his hair began to grow out. Once the Philistines were having a big party and they brought Samson out so they could laugh at him. Samson prayed to God, and God helped him pull the building down. Many, many Philistines were killed and so was Samson.

Samson had been a judge over Israel for 20 years.

Notes for Parents:

- The power of God was with Samson and gave him the strength to catch 300 foxes, kill 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, and to pull down the pillars of the house.
- God punished Samson by allowing him to be captured by the Philistines. He had allowed himself to be in a situation where his hair was cut and his vow was broken. We must be careful.
- God forgave Samson when he turned back and called on God. God gave him the strength to pull down the pillars of the house.
- The importance of choosing friends carefully. When we are friends with people who do wrong, we should try to teach them God's ways. We should not allow them influence us to do wrong.

Getting the Main Points:

Underline the correct answer.

1. What animal did Samson use to burn the fields of the Philistines?
a. dogs b. cats c. foxes
2. What did Samson use to kill 1,000 Philistines?
a. jawbone of a donkey b. bow & arrow c. sword
3. Who was the woman Samson loved?
a. Delilah b. Sarah c. Rebekah
4. What did Delilah do to make Samson weak?
a. tied him with 7 fresh cords
b. tied him with new ropes
c. wove his hair
d. had his hair cut
5. How was Samson able to pull down the house?
a. A boy helped him. b. God helped him. c. He took medicine.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 16 verses 25-30 and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Samson need a boy to hold his hand [see verse 21]?
2. How many men and women were watching Samson entertain them?
3. Why did Samson want vengeance on the Philistines?
4. Was Samson concerned about his life when he pushed the pillars?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Danites Seek a Territory **Judges 17-18**

We meet a man named Micah in our lesson today. Micah did a very bad thing. He stole 1,100 pieces of silver from his own mother. When his mother placed a curse on the one who stole the money, he became afraid that the curse would be on him. He decided to tell his mother and give her back the money. When he admitted that he had taken the money, his mother blessed him for telling her. Since she was afraid that her curse would be upon her son, she said she was giving some of the money to the Lord. Actually what she did was give her son some of the money so he could make an idol for himself. This was not pleasing to God since He told the Israelites not to make idols or worship them.

Micah took the image to his house and made his house a place for worshiping idols. He met a young man who was a Levite and he begged him to be his priest. The young Levite agreed and Micah was very pleased with himself. The young Levite wore the ephod of a priest, but he did not serve in the tabernacle as God wanted His priests to do.

At this same time, 5 spies from Dan were looking for a place where the people of Dan could live. The people of Dan were having trouble defeating the people that were still living in their land. They found a place and went home to get the others. When the others were on their way to their new home, they stopped at Micah's house and took all of his idols. The young Levite went with them to be their priest.

When they got to the city they fought against the people and chased them out. They burned the city and then rebuilt it as a place for them to live. They set up for themselves Micah's idols and made themselves a place to worship, even though they were supposed to go to Shiloh to worship at the tabernacle. All this made God very unhappy. These were his special people and they were not obeying him.

Notes for Parents:

- The Bible tells us the bad things people did as well as the good things. This lets us see how easy it is to do wrong if we are not careful.
- Also discuss the 10 Commandments that Micah and the people of Dan broke:
 - You shall have no other gods before me.
 - You shall not make any graven images or serve or worship them.
 - You shall not steal.
 - You shall not covet.
- We do not live under the 10 Commandments anymore, but Jesus does not want us to do these things either.
- God was not pleased with the making of idols by Micah and He was less pleased with the actions of the Danites when they set up their own place to worship. God told them to worship at the tabernacle.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a happy face for true or a sad face for not true.

- ___ 1. Micah took 1100 pieces of silver from his mother.
- ___ 2. When Micah gave back the silver, his mother used it to buy animals to sacrifice to God.
- ___ 3. A young man said he would live with Micah and be a priest in his house.
- ___ 4. The men from Dan never found a place for their people to live.
- ___ 5. Micah's priest took the priestly clothes and idols and went to live with the people of Dan.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 17 verses 4-6 and answer the following questions.

1. Out of the 1100 pieces of silver, how much was given for the idol?

2. What did Micah have set up in his house?

3. Who was Micah hoping would become his priest?

4. What did every man do in those days?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Problem With the Tribe of Benjamin

Judges 19-21

A man went to Bethlehem to bring home the woman that he had married. They were on their way home, but they left a little late from her father's house. They stopped to spend the night at a city named Gibeah. Normally people of a city would offer travelers a place to stay, but nobody in Gibeah offered them a place to stay that night. Then a kind old man going home from working in the fields saw them and asked them to come to his house to spend the night. That night some bad men from the city came to the old man's house and hurt the man's wife so badly that she died.

The man went to his home and told the rest of God's people about the bad thing that happened to the woman. Almost all of God's people wanted the bad men to be punished. Only the people of Benjamin did not want them punished because the men were from the tribe of Benjamin. The Benjamites went to war against the rest of their brothers. Even though the people of Benjamin were wrong in this matter, they were winning the battle. The rest of God's people asked God to help them and He did. On the third day, the people of Benjamin lost the battle and most of them died. They were punished for their evil deeds.

When the battle was over, God's people felt sorry for the men of Benjamin that were left. They helped them to start new families. The nation of Israel had suffered greatly because of their sinful lifestyles. *"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* They did not follow God's word, they did whatever they felt like doing. This was a dark period in the nation of Israel.

Notes for Parents:

- The Levite, his concubine, and servant could not find a place to spend the night until the old man offered them his home. These people were all God's chosen people. They should have been more hospitable to one another. We should be more like the old man in opening our homes to God's people.
- God helped the rest of His people win over Benjamin because Benjamin was defending something that was bad. God is always on the side of people who fight against evil. Sing "I'm in the Lord's Army" with your child.
- The way the man got the attention of Israel is described in chapter 19 verse 29. Sometimes it takes drastic actions to wake people up from their sinful attitudes.
- God wanted His people to persist in fighting against the sinfulness of Benjamin. Even though they lost greatly the first two days, God told them to go out again because He had given them into their hands.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the best answer.

1. When the man and woman were going home from Bethlehem, they could not find a place in Gibeah to *(eat dinner, spend the night)*.
2. Finally, a kind old *(man, woman)* asked them to come to *(his, her)* house.
3. The woman was hurt so badly by the men of Gibeah that she *(never walked again, died)*.
4. The people of Benjamin went to *(eat, war)* with the people who said the evil men should be punished.
5. God made the people of Benjamin *(win, lose)* because they did not want the evil men punished.
6. The Israelites felt so badly for the remaining Benjamites that they helped them start new *(congregations, families)*.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 20 verses 3-9 and answer the following questions.

1. Who did the city of Gibeah belong to?
2. Who rose up against the man and surrounded the house?
3. What did the man do to his concubine?
4. The rest of Israel was so upset at the people of Gibeah that they said not one of them would do what?

Memory Work:

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

Ruth and Naomi

Ruth 1

There is a book in the Bible about a very kind woman named Ruth. Her story happened during the time of the judges, although we do not know which one was ruling during her lifetime.

At some time during the days of the judges, there was a famine in the land of Canaan. There was a husband and wife named Elimelech and Naomi who lived in Bethlehem and were Israelites. They decided to move from Bethlehem to Moab with their two sons so they could escape the famine. Mahlon and Chilion were the names of their two sons. One day Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with only her two sons. Mahlon married Ruth who was a woman from Moab, and Chilion married a woman named Orpah, who was also from Moab. They lived in Moab for about 10 years.

Then a very sad thing happened; both Mahlon and Chilion died. Naomi had come to Moab with a husband and two sons and now she had lost them all. All she had left were her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. Both Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi very much.

Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem to live with the Israelites. She told her daughters-in-law that they could return to their families in Moab. For a while they both refused to go, and they all cried a lot because they loved Naomi so deeply. But finally Orpah kissed Naomi and returned to her people. Ruth clung to her mother-in-law and refused to leave her. She 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. 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."*

Ruth and Naomi went to Bethlehem to live. They arrived at the time of the harvest. Some of the women recognized Naomi and they were happy to see that she had returned.

Ruth asked Naomi if she could go to pick grain from the field of a relative named Boaz. She would follow the field workers and pick up the grain that was left on the ground so that she and Naomi would have food to eat. That was called gleaning. We will see in our next lesson what happens when Boaz and Ruth meet in the field.

Notes for Parents:

- Ruth had an unselfish love for Naomi. She was willing to leave her own homeland and go with her mother-in-law to a new land. She was also willing to work to provide for Naomi. She made a commitment to her new family (her husband's family) and she was going to fulfill it.
- Boaz was willing to share with those less fortunate. God had blessed him, and he shared God's blessings with others. He even protected them.
- Naomi was very lonely because of the loss of her husband and two sons. She even changed her name to Mara, meaning bitter. Ruth would remove this bitterness from her life by being like a daughter to her.

Getting the Main Points:

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

- | | | |
|------------------|----|--|
| ___ 1. Naomi | A. | A very kind woman who would not leave her mother-in-law. |
| ___ 2. Boaz | B. | The daughter-in-law who returned to her mother's house. |
| ___ 3. Glean | C. | The man who owned the field where Ruth gleaned. |
| ___ 4. Orpah | D. | Naomi's husband that died |
| ___ 5. Ruth | E. | What Ruth did to feed herself and Naomi. |
| ___ 6. Elimelech | F. | Ruth's mother-in-law. |

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 1 verses 19-22 and answer the following questions.

1. Why was the city stirred?
2. What did Naomi want to be called?
3. Why did she want this name?
4. At what time of year did they arrive at Bethlehem?

Memory Work:

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

Ruth and Boaz

Ruth 2-4

As Ruth was gleaning in the field, Boaz, the owner of the field, came from Bethlehem. He greeted his workers and then he noticed Ruth. He asked his main servant who she was. The servant said she had been there since morning and was still working. Boaz then went over and talked to Ruth. He told her to glean in his field only and not to go to any other fields. He also told her that she could drink from the servant's water if she got thirsty. Ruth was so overwhelmed by his kindness that she bowed to the ground and asked him why he was being so kind to her.

Boaz told her that he had heard about her. He knew of the kind way she had treated Naomi and how she had left her own family to follow Naomi to the land of Canaan. Boaz said, "*May the Lord reward your work, and your wages be full from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.*" Boaz was so impressed by the way Ruth took care of Naomi and therefore he commanded his servants to leave extra grain for her to pick up and he even allowed her to pick from the sheaves. Boaz showed great kindness to Ruth.

At the end of the day, Ruth had gathered a lot of grain. She took it home to Naomi and told her about her day and about the kindness of Boaz. Naomi was pleased that Ruth was gleaning in the field of their kind relative. Ruth continued to glean from the field of Boaz until the end of the barley season.

Naomi loved Ruth and wanted her to be happy and to have a husband to care for her. Since her husband was dead, the next closest relative was expected to marry Ruth according to the custom of those days. Ruth went to Boaz and offered to be his wife, since he was a very close relative. He told her that there was one relative who was closer than he. He would go to that person on the next day to see if that man wanted to be Ruth's husband. If that man did not want to take her as his wife, Boaz agreed that he would marry her, knowing she was a woman of excellence.

Boaz went to the city gates and met with the closest relative. That man said that Boaz could marry Ruth. He passed his sandal to him as a sign that he was giving up his rights to her. This was witnessed by 10 elders of the city who then gave their blessing to the marriage.

After Ruth and Boaz were married, they had a son who they named Obed. Naomi cared for the child. The women of the city said that Naomi was blessed by God more than a woman who had seven sons because of Ruth and her grandson. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse, who became the father of King David. Much later Jesus was born into this family. What a blessing for Ruth to be the great-grandmother of King David and also in the family tree of Jesus.

Notes for Parents:

- God's plan to send a Savior into the world continues. Ruth is part of the family of Christ. She is repaid for her kindness to Naomi.
- Women have important roles as wives and mothers. (Proverbs 31:10-31)

Getting the Main Points:

Who am I? Draw a line to the correct answer.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. I allowed Ruth to glean in my field | Obed |
| 2. I took care of my new grandson | close relative |
| 3. I agreed to let Boaz marry Ruth | Ruth |
| 4. We witnessed the deal with Boaz | Naomi |
| 5. I am the grandfather of king David | 10 Elders |
| 6. I went back to my people to live | Boaz |
| 7. I was blessed by God for my kindness | Orpah |

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 3 verses 1-5 and answer the following questions.

1. What was Naomi seeking for Ruth?
2. What did Ruth do to prepare to meet Boaz?
3. How would Ruth get Boaz to wake up from his sleep?
4. What was Ruth's response to Naomi's plan?

Memory Work:

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

Hannah Prays for a Child

1 Samuel 1-2:11

There was a woman of God's people named Hannah. Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. Every year when it was time to go to Shiloh to worship God at the tabernacle, she would be made fun of for not having any children. Once such time when she was at God's house, Hannah prayed to God that He would give her a son. She promised that the boy would serve God all of his life. She also promised that his hair would never be cut. Do you remember what this kind of person was called? A person who kept all of these vows was called a Nazarite.

Eli, a priest, saw Hannah pouring her heart out to God in prayer. He could see her lips move but could not hear anything. He thought she had been drinking wine. When Eli asked her about it, she told him that she had not been drinking, but had been pouring out her soul before the Lord. Eli told her to go in peace and that she should not worry. Hannah went away feeling much better.

Soon Hannah and her husband Elkanah had a little boy. She named him Samuel, because she had asked for him of the Lord. When he was old enough, Hannah took Samuel to the house of God. Samuel stayed there and helped Eli the priest. He would begin the work of being dedicated to the Lord throughout his lifetime by serving Eli.

God had given Hannah the son she longed for, so she kept her promise to God and gave Samuel to God and dedicated him to God's work. Hannah was so happy that her life was now filled with the joy of a son and the knowledge that he would be dedicated to the Lord that she prayed again to God and thanked Him. She also declared God's power to all who was listening to her pray.

Notes for Parents:

- God answers prayers. Hannah believed in God and trusted Him. When she had a problem she did not just worry, she went to God and asked for His help. Not only did she do this, but she had confidence in Him and felt better afterwards. God said, "Yes" to Hannah's prayers. Even though it must have been difficult, she kept her promise to God also.
- We need to thank God for answering our prayers. Hannah was grateful to God for giving her Samuel. We need to remember to say, "Thank You" to God, just like Hannah did.
- We need to keep our promises. Hannah kept her promise to God and we should follow her example.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw a line to the phrase that matches the person or place in the left-hand column.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Hannah | Where Hannah took Samuel |
| 2. Elkanah | Priest in the house of God |
| 3. Eli | Where the tabernacle was located |
| 4. Samuel | Prayed for a son |
| 5. House of God | The son that God gave Hannah |
| 6. Shiloh | Husband of Hannah |

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 1 verses 21-25 and answer the following questions.

1. Where did Elkanah go every year?
2. Why didn't Hannah go with him this time?
3. How long would Hannah say she must wait before going again?
4. What did Elkanah and Hannah do before taking the boy to Samuel?

Memory Work:

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

Eli's Sinful Sons

1 Samuel 2:12-3:21

Eli the priest had two sons named Hophni and Phinehas. Hophni and Phinehas were priests, but they did not obey God. God was very unhappy with them because they did not carry out the work of the priesthood correctly. They would steal from the people as they brought sacrifices to be offered and treat everyone badly. They were not stealing from the people – they were stealing from God. God was not happy with Eli either because he did not stop his sons from disobeying God.

One time Eli asked his sons why they were acting so badly and doing these evil things. He told them that if a man sinned against another man, God would step in to settle the matter. But if a man sinned against God, who would step in to settle the matter? Even though he spoke to his sons, they did not stop their sinfulness and Eli did not do anything more to stop them. This was a dark time in the history of Israel.

The people of Israel were acting so badly during this time in history that God did not speak to the people very often. God sent a prophet to Eli to tell him to straighten out this matter or He would destroy the house of the priesthood. Eli would know this was going to happen if both of his sons were killed on the same day. God also said that He would raise up a faithful priest who would do His will.

Samuel had been staying with Eli at the tabernacle. His mother, Hannah would come to see him every year to bring him a little robe that she had made for him. Eli prayed that Elkanah and Hannah would be blessed with more children for giving Samuel for the work of the Lord. God heard Eli's prayer and they had 5 more children — 3 boys and 2 girls. And Samuel continued to grow before the Lord.

One night when Samuel was in bed, God called to him. Samuel ran to Eli to see what he wanted. God had never talked to Samuel before and it was not common in those times for God to talk to anyone. Eli told Samuel that he had not called him. This happened three more times. Finally, Eli told Samuel that God must be calling him. He told Samuel to answer God by saying, "*Speak, for Thy servant is listening.*" When God called to Samuel the fourth time Samuel said, "*Speak, for Thy servant is listening.*" God told Samuel that he was going to punish Eli and his sons. Samuel slept until morning. Samuel did not want to tell Eli what God had said, but he finally did. Eli said that the Lord should do what seemed good to Him.

Samuel continued to grow and all of God's people knew that he was a prophet of God. This meant that God talked to Samuel and Samuel told God's words to the people. Samuel will become an important person in the nation of Israel and in the service of God.

Notes for Parents:

- God wants mothers and fathers to stop their children from doing things that are wrong. Discipline will teach them to follow God properly.
- When God speaks to us through the Bible today, we should listen as Samuel listened to the voice of God.

Capture of the Ark of the Covenant

1 Samuel 4-5

God's people and the Philistines were at war. The Israelites were losing the battles because they were not following God. They called out to God to fight for them, but because they did not repent, God did not fight for them. Then God's people got the idea that they would win if they brought the Ark of the Covenant to the battlefield where they were fighting. They felt like either the Ark would bring power or it would force God to be there with them. Their idea was completely wrong. God wanted the Ark to stay in the tabernacle.

When the Ark of the Covenant arrived at the battlefield, the people of God cheered with a loud cry. When the Philistines heard the cheer, they wanted to know what had just happened. When they found out that the Ark was there, they feared for their lives because they knew they could not win against the God of heaven. They convinced themselves to fight anyway, so they went out against Israel. Even though the Ark was there with them, God's people did not win. The Israelites were beaten very badly and the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant. Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, died in the battle.

When Eli heard about his sons being killed he was very upset. When he heard that the Ark being taken, he was so upset that he fell off of his seat backward, broke his neck and died. The Philistines put the Ark of the Covenant in the temple of their false god named Dagon. The false god fell down two times. The second time it was broken into pieces. God showed his power over idols. The people in the city began to get very sick and died or got tumors. They decided to move the Ark to another city.

The Philistines moved the Ark from one place to another. Wherever the Ark was, the people either died or got tumors. The Philistines decided that they wanted to send the Ark of the Covenant back to God's people.

Notes for Parents:

- "God's word will never fail." In the last lesson, we learned that God said Eli and his sons would be punished. In this lesson we see that they are. Sing "The B-I-B-L-E" with special emphasis on the last verse about God's word not failing.
- God wants us to obey Him exactly. We are to do things His way and not try to decide what might work better. God wanted the Ark in the tabernacle. The Israelites should not have taken matters into their own hands and moved the Ark.
- We cannot treat the items of God superstitiously. God cannot be forced into anything. Taking the Ark to the battlefield did not force God to be with them. In fact, it made Him even more upset with Him for treating the Ark like some sort of idol. We should not wonder why we don't have the Ark, the Tabernacle, and many other religious items today - lest they become idols to the people.

Getting the Main Points:

Draw lines through the wrong answers. Read the final story with the correct words.

God's people and the Philistines were fighting. God's people got the idea that they would win if they brought the Ark of the Covenant to the **(battlefield, tabernacle)**. Their idea was wrong. They did not win. The Philistines won and took the Ark of the Covenant. Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli **(were hurt badly, died)**. When Eli heard about the Ark, he fell off of his seat backward and broke his **(foot, neck)** and died.

The Philistines put the Ark of the Covenant in the temple of their false god. Its name was **(Dagon, Belial)**. The false god fell down two times. The second time it was broken.

The Philistines moved the Ark from one place to another. Wherever the Ark was, the people either died or got **(stung by bees, tumors)**. The Philistines decided that they wanted to send the Ark of the Covenant back to God's people.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 4 verses 12-18 and answer the following questions.

1. Why was Eli's heart trembling?
2. Where had the man who told the story escaped from?
3. What had Israel done before the Philistines?
4. At what instant did Eli fall and break his neck?

Memory Work:

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

Return of the Ark of the Covenant

1 Samuel 6-7

The Philistines had taken the Ark of the Covenant during one of the battles with the Israelites. The Ark was supposed to stay in the tabernacle, but the Israelites disobeyed God and took it to the battlefield. Bad things happened to the Philistines while they had the ark, so they decided to send it back. The Ark had been in the land of the Philistines for 7 months.

The Philistines wanted to know if the deaths and tumors were being brought on by God, so they set up a test to find out. The Philistines put the Ark of the Covenant on a cart that was pulled by two milk cows that had calves. They also put an offering to God on the cart of 5 golden tumors and 5 golden mice. They hoped the offering would stop God from making bad things happen to them.

The Philistines knew the cows would do one of two things. They would go back to the barn to be with their calves or they would go straight to the Israelites. If they went to the barn, they would know that God was not behind the deaths and tumors. If the cows went straight to Israel, they would know that God was causing these problems for them. When they released the cows with the cart, the cows brought the cart straight to Israel without anyone having to show them where to go. The Philistines then knew that God was behind everything.

When the Israelites saw the ark, they were very happy. They offered sacrifices to God that day to God for bringing the Ark back to them. They put the Ark of the Covenant in the house of Abinidab and put it in the care of Eleazer, his son.

Samuel told the people that they should stop worshiping false gods and worship only the one true God. He told them that this was the only way they would be free of the Philistines. They did all that Samuel said. Samuel offered a lamb as a burnt offering and cried to the Lord for the people. God helped them defeat (win the battle against) the Philistines. Samuel named a stone "Ebenezer" to help the people remember that God had helped them win the battle.

Notes for Parents:

- God showed His power to everyone, including the Philistines. God wanted the ark back with his people. It was his power that made the cows know where to go with the cart carrying the ark.
- God is a jealous God. God allows his people to serve Him only. We cannot serve God and false gods.
- God helped his people after they put away the false gods and asked for his help. In Singing and Growing in the Lord sing "God Tells Me" (emphasis on third verse), and "It's Good to Give Thanks" (emphasis on fourth verse).
- The people were punished for looking into the Ark after it arrived in Israel. God expected His Ark to be treated according to the Law of Moses which stated that nobody was allowed to look into it. We must follow God's laws at all times — just as He commands us.

Getting the Main Points:

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Philistines sent the ark back to God's people
 - a. on a cart pulled by two milk cows.
 - b. in a chariot pulled by horses.
 - c. by having two strong men carry it.
2. The Philistines sent _____ with the ark as an offering to God.
 - a. a young lamb.
 - b. a goat.
 - c. 5 golden tumors and 5 golden mice.
3. When the people of God saw the ark, they were so happy that they
 - a. sang a song.
 - b. offered sacrifices to God that day.
 - c. played their harps.
4. God's people were able to defeat the Philistines because
 - a. they quit worshipping false gods.
 - b. Samuel prayed for God to help His people.
 - c. both a and b.
5. Samuel named a stone "Ebenezer" to help the people remember that
 - a. God had helped them.
 - b. they needed a king.
 - c. they were strong enough to beat the Philistines by themselves.

For the More Advanced:

Read chapter 7 verses 3-6 and answer the following questions.

1. What were the conditions given if they wanted to be delivered?
2. What did the Israelites do next [Hint: see v 4].
3. What did the people confess after they poured out the water?

Memory Work:

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."