



Unit 9, Session 1

Israel's Unfaithfulness

Judges 1–3

Story Point: God's people repeatedly turned from Him.

Joshua had died. Without a strong leader, the Israelites disobeyed God and worshiped false gods. They ignored and forgot about the one true God. God let an enemy king take over the Israelites. Then the Israelites remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out to Him, “Save us!” God raised up Othniel to rule over them as the first judge. Othniel led the Israelites and the land was peaceful for 40 years. Then Othniel died.

Again, Israel ignored God and forgot Him. God gave the king of Moab power to attack the Israelites and defeat them. The Israelites remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out to Him, “Save us!” So God raised up Ehud. The Israelites sent Ehud to the king of Moab. Ehud had a double-edged sword under his clothes.

When the king stood up, Ehud pulled out his sword. He pushed it into the king's belly. Ehud escaped down the porch, locking the doors of the room behind him.

When Ehud escaped, he blew a ram's horn and he became the Israelites' leader. “There was peace in the land for 80 years. When Ehud died, the Israelites ignored and forgot God again. They turned away from Him. When they remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God, they cried out to Him, “Save us!” God sent a third judge, Shamgar, to save them.

Christ Connection: The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God's plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Fill in the missing letters for the cycle of judges. Then unscramble those letters to fill in the blanks for the definition below.
 - A ___ OS ___ ASY: The Israelites ignored God and forgot about Him.
 - BO ___ D ___ GE: God allowed Israel's enemies to defeat them.
 - ___ ___ Y OUT: The Israelites remember how good they had it when they loved and obey God. They cried out to Him, "Save us!"
 - D ___ LIV ___ RER: God raised up a judge to rule over and rescue His people.
 - ___ ASE: The Israelites experienced a time of peace.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ N ___ ___ : turning away from sin and turning to Jesus

- What does this story teach us about God?

- Who were the first judges of Israel?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God's plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever.



APPLY the Story

- What cycle of behavior were the Israelites in?
- What did the Israelites need to be rescued from their enemies?
- How does Jesus deliver sinners?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God's plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever.



APPLY the Story

- Find 1 John 1:9 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, thanking Him for sending a true Deliverer who can take away our sin.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 50:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 13:5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 7:20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 71:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 7:24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:6 |