



Israel Disobeys God

Judges 1–3



LESSON GOAL

Students will obey God and fear the devastating consequences of compromise.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Tell how Israel disobeyed God after Joshua died.
- Retell what the angel of the Lord had said would happen if Israel disobeyed.
- Describe the cycle of Israel's disobedience and God's response.
- Explain the role of the judges in Israel.

KEY VERSE

“And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger” (Judges 2:12).

APPLICATION

- Meditate on God's Word and seek to obey it.
- Pray that God will show you any idols in your heart.
- Be wise in how you interact with people who hate God.

NEXT WEEK

God Uses Gideon to Deliver Israel
Read Judges 6–8.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help students review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The title of the book of Judges may be slightly misleading. While it is true that the largest section of the book (Judg. 3:7–16:31) records God’s sending judges or deliverers to lead and rescue Israel, the book is about more than just the exploits of the judges. It records a dark time in Israel’s history—a time when the people turned from God’s plan for them to be a holy nation and instead became like the Canaanite nations that remained in the Promised Land. The fact that the judges were needed even when God already had promised Israel victory over their enemies (Deut. 28:7) raises a question: What went wrong? Judges 1:1–3:6 reveals how Israel came to be in such a desperate situation that their only hope for relief was that God might pity them and send deliverance. Judges 1:1–3:6 shows the devastating consequences of compromise and disobedience.

Israel’s Failure to Remove the Canaanites (Judges 1)

The book of Joshua ends with Joshua reminding the Israelites of God’s promise to drive the Canaanites from the land (Josh. 23:5, 9–10). In Joshua 24, Joshua called on the people to commit to obey and serve the Lord. The people swore, “The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!” (24:24). Although their obedience was not perfect, God’s evaluation of Israel was that they “served the LORD all the days of Joshua” (24:31). When Joshua died at the age of 110, Israel was faced with deciding whether they would continue to obey the Lord.

Judges 1:1 continues the history of Israel after Joshua’s death. It begins hopefully, with the Israelite tribes asking the Lord which tribe should attack the Canaanites first. The Lord’s answer that Judah should be the first to go and that He had delivered the land into their hands (Judg. 1:2) shows God’s pleasure with Israel’s willingness to obey. Israel appears eager to obey God in conquering the rest of the Canaanites.

Judges 1:3–26 records the exploits of the tribes of Judah and Simeon (who helped each other), Benjamin, and Joseph. For the most part, the tribes were highly successful in their eradication of the Canaanites. But even among these successful southern tribes, there were alarming hints of disobedience. In Judges 1:6, the tribe of Judah tortured a Canaanite king. Although the wicked king admitted he deserved the punishment (Judg. 1:7), Judah disobeyed God’s command to destroy all the inhabitants of the land (Deut. 7:2). Judah also was unable to drive out the “inhabitants of the lowland” (Judg. 1:19) although God had promised Israel certain victory. Similarly, the tribe of Benjamin failed to drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem (1:21). Contrary to God’s command (Deut. 7:1–5), the tribe of Joseph offered to let a man live if he would betray his city. Despite these early indications of disobedience, the southern tribes were mostly obedient in following God’s commands to destroy the Canaanites.

In sharp contrast, Judges 1:27 begins, “However, Manasseh did not drive out the

Additional Reference Materials

Judges, Ruth; New American Commentary by Daniel I. Block

Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges by Dale Ralph Davis

Ruth. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by F. B. Huey Jr.

Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds.

Judges. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by Herbert Wolf

inhabitants.” Instead of telling of the success of the tribes of Manasseh, Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan, the text records only their failures (Judg. 1:27–36). While in some of these tribes, the Canaanites dwelt among the Israelites (1:27–30), in others, the tribes dwelt among the Canaanites (1:32–33). The tribe of Dan was even driven out of their own territory (1:34–35)! Even when these tribes had enough strength to conquer the Canaanites, they chose to subdue them rather than destroy them as God had commanded (1:28, 30).

God’s Rebuke and Warning (Judges 2:1–5)

Although the first chapter of Judges gives the Lord credit for Israel’s success (Judg. 1:4, 19), it is neutral in its presentation of the conquest. The chapter refrains from offering a spiritual evaluation of Israel’s failure to drive out the Canaanites. The spiritual evaluation begins in chapter 2, when the angel of the Lord comes to Israel to warn and rebuke them for their disobedience. The Lord reminds Israel of His past goodness in rescuing them from slavery in Egypt and bringing them to the Promised Land (Judg. 2:1). He also reminds Israel of their responsibility not to make treaties with the Canaanites and His command to tear down the altars of the Canaanite gods (2:2). These commands summarized how Israel should have been intolerant of the influence and presence of the wicked Canaanites. In verse 2, the angel of the Lord calls Israel to account for their disobedience.

The Lord concluded by reminding the Israelites of the promised punishment if they did not repent: He would not remove the Canaanites from the Promised Land. Instead, the Lord said to the Israelites, “They shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you” (2:3). God had promised similar punishment in Exodus 23:33 and Joshua 23:13. If Israel did not remove the Canaanite influence, God would allow the Canaanites to remain and Israel to continue in their idolatry until they would “perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you” (Josh. 23:13). Israel’s choice to disobey God ultimately would lead to their devastation and exile.

God’s warning initially was favorable to Israel, and they “lifted up their voices and wept” (Judg. 2:4). They appeared to repent for their disobedience, no doubt glimpsing how disastrous it would be for them if they continued to let the Canaanites live in their presence. But the next section reveals that Israel’s weeping was sorrow that did not lead to repentance.

Israel’s Apostasy and God’s Response (Judges 2:6–3:6)

In Judges 2:2–5, the author reviews Israel’s failure to conquer the land and God’s warning. In Judges 2:6, the author continues to explain how Israel came to be dominated by the Canaanites. In establishing a larger pattern of disobedience, the author loops back to the dismissal of the tribes after Joshua’s speech in Joshua 24. Judges 2:6–10 repeats much information from Joshua 24:28–31. Although the people obeyed God while Joshua and the rest of the elders of his generation were still alive, verse 10 reveals the disturbing problem that resulted in Israel’s future failure: “Another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.” The Israelites did not know God. Whether their parents had failed to train them in the ways of the Lord by telling them what God had done, or whether they simply refused to listen and respond to the truth, this generation did not know God.

The Israelites’ failure to know God resulted in their apostasy: “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals” (Judg. 2:11; also in 3:7; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1). Judges 2:11–13 reveals how Israel abandoned God and followed other gods. Since the exodus, Israel had flirted with idolatry, and now they completely rejected God for pagan monstrosities.

Israel's rejection of God infuriated Him. The "anger of the LORD was hot against Israel" (Judg. 2:14). Joshua warned the people that God is jealous and that if Israel were to forsake Him, He would do harm to them and consume them (Josh. 24:20). In righteous response to the rejection of His love, the Lord delivered Israel to "plunderers who despoiled them" and "sold them into the hands of their enemies, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies" (Judg. 2:14). As the Lord had sworn to them, Israel was defeated in battle and oppressed by the nations (2:15).

Although God responded in holy fury to their rejection, He also responded in divine mercy to the people's suffering (Judg. 2:18). The Lord, who had sovereignly declared their punishment, "was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them" (2:18). The Lord raised up judges as the instruments of His deliverance. The judges were not like today's judges, who interpret the law and preside over court cases. They primarily were military leaders who governed the area they had delivered. The Lord was with each judge and delivered the people from their enemies as long as the judge lived (2:18). But when the judge died, the people became even more wicked and again worshiped other gods. The people "did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way" (2:19). The people repented neither before nor after the Lord had mercy on them. In fact, after deliverance and the death of a judge, Israel "reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers" (2:19). The same cycle of apostasy, foreign oppression, suffering, and deliverance continued throughout the period of the judges.

Because Israel ignored God's covenant and His commandments (Judg. 2:20), the Lord punished them just as He had warned in Judges 2:3. God promised that He would not drive out the nations, "so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD" (2:22). Although God delivered the people through the judges, the land was not cleansed of the Canaanites as God had desired and commanded (Deut. 7:1–5). Without the Lord's help, the Israelites would not be able to destroy the Canaanites. Each generation of Israel would face anew the choice of whether they would obey God. God already knew the outcome of the test. The rest of the book of Judges reveals that the presence of the Canaanites would be a snare to the Israelites, who would not serve God while the Canaanites remained. Judges 3:5–6 summarizes well the results of the test: "The children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites....And they took their daughters to be their wives...and they served their gods."

POINT TO THE TRUTH

“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

What book of the Bible comes after Joshua?

Judges.

What is the name of the Promised Land?

Canaan.

Who led Israel to conquer the Promised Land?

Joshua.

What is the name of the people who were living in the Promised Land?

The Canaanites.

Can you name one or more of the tribes of Israel?

The tribes of Israel are Judah, Simeon, Reuben, Dan, Gad, Ephraim, Asher, Zebulun, Naphtali, Manasseh, Benjamin, and Issachar.

Why was it important for Israel not to let the people remain in the land?

God had commanded Israel to completely destroy the Canaanites. If the Canaanites were to remain in the land, Israel would be tempted to worship their false gods. God told Israel that the Canaanites would be like “thorns in [Israel’s] side, and their gods shall be a snare to you” (Judges 2:3).

Who promised to help Israel drive the people out of the land?

God promised that He would help Israel to drive the Canaanites from the land.

Can you name one or more of the judges of Israel?

The judges of Israel were Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson.

What did the judges do?

The judges helped to deliver Israel from the Canaanites’ oppression.

Why did God have to raise up judges for Israel?

God raised up judges for Israel because they were being oppressed by the Canaanites. He was merciful to do this in spite of Israel’s rebellion and disobedience.



The “Judges” in Judges

The book of Judges regularly refers to the “judges” whom God raised up to deliver Israel. Tell the students that these judges were quite different from modern judges. They were local civil or military leaders. They also often functioned as local tribal leaders or governors. There were 14 judges, six of whom were military leaders (Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson). It might be helpful to compare the judges’ function to that of a school principle or a team captain who

leads his team to win the game. Ask the students whether they ever have had someone help them out of a difficult situation at just the right time. (For example, maybe someone helped you find your parents when you were lost, grabbed you when you tripped, or reminded you of schoolwork that you forgot to do.) The judges helped deliver Israel from the oppression of their enemies.



Destroy the Idols

Judges 2:11–13 reveals that a sin Israel repeated was idolatry. Explain to the students what an idol is, literally and figuratively. Literally, an idol is a wooden or metal statue that people bow down to. Figuratively, it is anything we choose to worship above God (giving it time, money, energy, thought and devotion). What are some modern idols people worship? Find some pictures or make copies of some ancient and modern idols, and hide them around the classroom. Have the students search out, tear up, and throw away whatever idols they can find. Discuss with them some of the idols that they found.



Mixing Israel and the Canaanites

Materials: sugar, iron filings, magnet, small plastic bag, large plastic container

Directions: Explain that God called Israel to be separate and holy. He had warned them not to dwell with the people who lived in the Promised Land. He warned them that the Canaanites would be like thorns in their side and irritants in their eyes (Num. 33:55). The Canaanites eventually would cause Israel's downfall and captivity. But although God warned them repeatedly, Israel became comfortable with the other nations and dwelt with them. (Illustrate Israel by placing white sugar inside a large plastic container.) Israel was to worship only God and destroy the people who worshiped false gods. Instead, Israel was disobedient to God and became comfortable with the other peoples of the land. They began to worship other gods. They began to practice traditions that the pagan nations practiced. (Mix iron filings into the sugar so that the sugar looks polluted.) God sent men and women called judges to lead Israel and bring them back to being set apart by worshiping only God. (Place the magnet inside a small plastic bag, and then place the bag in the large plastic container filled with the sugar and iron filings. Move the bag through the mixture. The iron filings should cling to the magnet, leaving behind the pure sugar.)



Joshua Gives Instructions

Have one teacher dress up as Joshua and come into the room giving the Israelites (students) instructions. These were instructions for Israel to follow as they began to build their houses in the Promised Land. The Israelites were to get rid of all the idols and complete the job fully. When Joshua leaves the room, explain to the students that Joshua died soon after he gave those instructions. God gave the leadership of the Israelites to elders of the 12 Israelite family groups. They did not have a king to rule them. They had elders to help them do what was right.



Thorns and Snares

God told the Israelites that because they disobeyed His instructions and did not destroy all the Canaanites, the Canaanites would be like "thorns in [the Israelites'] side," and the Canaanite gods would be "a snare" to them (Judges 2:3). Explain to the students that a snare is kind of trap that is used to catch and entangle animals. Direct the students to collect blocks that are scattered around the room. They should move the blocks to a specified place and build a city. But, while doing this, they must be very careful not to get caught in any "snares." The snares can be

anything from chairs to pieces of paper scattered around the room. You could also have some students sit on chairs scattered around the room and try to grab the other students as they collect the blocks. In addition, the students must pretend that they have a thorn in their side, holding one arm clenched to their body. They cannot use that arm to carry the blocks. Talk about what types of things can be thorns and snares in the believer's life today. Also discuss the importance of obedience both for Israel and for believers today.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Judges 1–3.

Introduction

Have you ever had a friend who was a bad influence on you? Maybe he encouraged you to do or say things that would displease God. In this lesson on the book of Judges, we will learn that Israel began to be disobedient to God after Joshua died. They did not obey God, but began to be influenced by the people of the land. Because of their disobedience God gave the people men called judges, whom God used to rescue Israel.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: At the end of the book of Joshua, what did the people tell Joshua that they would do?

Answer: The people said, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!" (Josh. 24:24). They swore that they would serve God.

LOQ: Did they do this?

Answer: Yes; they "served the LORD all the days of Joshua" (Josh. 24:31). But after Joshua's death, the people began to disobey the Lord.

LOQ: What happened after Joshua died?

Answer: After Joshua's death, Israel began to do evil in the sight of the Lord and served other gods. They began to be influenced by the people around them (Judg. 2:11–15).

LOQ: How did God feel about this, and what did He do?

Answer: Judges 2:14 says, “The anger of the LORD was hot against Israel.” God delivered the people into the hands of plunderers. The people were sold into the hands of their enemies. God allowed them to be weakened so that they could not stand against their enemies.

LOQ: How did Israel respond?

Answer: Israel was greatly distressed.

LOQ: What did God do about their distress?

Answer: God was merciful, and He sent judges to rule over the people and deliver them from the hands of their enemies.

LOQ: Did the people obey the judges?

Answer: No; the people did not obey the judges, but they went right back to worshipping other gods and rejecting the one true God.

LOQ: What did God do because of their not heeding His voice and continually rejecting His covenant?

Answer: God said that He would “no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not” (Judg. 2:20–22).

Summary

The children of Israel were obedient to the Lord all the days of Joshua. But after Joshua died, they again began to follow the gods of the land. They rejected the covenant that God had made with their fathers and no longer were obeying the voice of the Lord. Their rejection and disobedience displeased God greatly, and He decided to no longer remove the people from the land. Those in the land would be a test to see if Israel would remain faithful even with the influence of other nations around them. They failed the test and were taken captive and oppressed by their enemies. They called on God to help them in their distress. God sent people to be judges in the land. These judges were sent to deliver Israel from their enemies. The people again became wicked and stubborn, and the cycle continued.

Application

We need to remember that God desires obedience from His people. Israel was rebellious and desired to do their own thing even though God had given them the Promised Land. God has been merciful to us by sending His Son to die for the sins of the world. Many people choose to reject God’s gracious gift and worship false gods. Today, take a look at your own life. Ask yourself if there are idols in your heart—things that you are worshipping other than God. Seek to obey God with all your strength and stay away from people who tempt you to reject God and His Word.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Rescue Me

Materials: a life vest or lifesaving device from a pool

Directions: Show the students the life vest, and ask them whether they know why people use lifesavers. Explain that when someone is in danger in the water, the lifesaver is used to rescue him. Explain that over the next few weeks the Bible lessons will be learning about the book of Judges where God rescued Israel over and over. (If using a life vest, you could wear it to introduce all three lessons in Judges.)



Thorns and Snares

God told the Israelites that because they disobeyed His instructions and did not destroy all the Canaanites, the Canaanites would be like “thorns in [their] side,” and the Canaanite gods would be “a snare” to them (Judges 2:3). Illustrate this during the lesson by showing the class a large thorn and a snare.



Reproof of a Father

Talk to the students about punishment. Why are they punished? What is the reason for being punished? Is punishment good for them? Ask them to look at how God punished Israel. Have them talk about how even though God reproved them, they would still turn back to their sinful ways. Ask them if there are any parallels between themselves and Israel. Do they take the discipline of their fathers or mothers and then the next time the opportunity presents itself, sin again? When they are punished do they remember that it is meant as a physical reminder for them to obey? Talk to them about how God desires children to obey Him fully by obeying their parents.



A Judges Carol

Ask an adult volunteer to dress up as the angel of the Lord. He should teach the class in a manner reminiscent of Charles Dickens’ famous work *A Christmas Carol*, leading the Israelites to see pictures of their past, present, and future (from Judges 2:1–3). Use visual aids, including pictures of Egypt, slaves, scroll, false gods, a marriage ceremony, cities in ruin, etc. The following major points should be emphasized:

Past (Judges 2:1)

- God rescued Israel from bondage in Egypt and led them to the Promised Land.
- Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry land.
- God provided Israel manna, quail, and water in the wilderness.
- Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry land.
- Israel conquered Jericho.
- God promised never to break His covenant with Israel.

Present (Judges 2:2)

- Israel neglects to destroy everyone and everything as God has commanded (Judges 1:6–7).
- They neglect to conquer all the land God has given them (Judges 1:19–20, 27–28).
- They dwell with Canaanites (Judges 1:21).
- They make treaties with Canaanites (Judges 2:2).
- They neglect to tear down altars of false gods (Judges 2:2).
- They leave the Lord to serve other gods (Judges 2:13).
- They marry the ungodly (Judges 3:6).

Future (Judges 2:3)

- The ungodly will live among Israel as thorns in their sides (Judges 2:3, 20–23; also see Exodus 23:33; Joshua 23:13).
- The next generation of Israelites will not know the Lord (Judges 2:10).
- The children of Israel will continually do evil in God’s sight (Judges 2:11).
- They will worship idols (Judges 2:11, 19).
- God will become very angry with Israel (Judges 2:14, 20).
- Israel will be defeated in battle and oppressed by foreign nations (Judges 2:15).
- God will raise up judges to rescue Israel from their oppression (Judges 2:16).



Talking about Tombstones

Draw two tombstones on the board, and write Judges 2:7 on one and Judges 2:11 on the other. Lead the students in a discussion of tombstones. Have any students been to a cemetery and read the tombstones? What did the tombstones say? Explain that the two descriptions of Israel in Judges 2:7 and 2:11 show the drastic change that took place in their hearts after Joshua’s leadership ended. Ask students which verse they would want to have written on their tombstone when they die. Use this discussion to transition the class from the death of Joshua into the time of the judges.



Wipe out the Canaanites

In a short-timed race, draw stick figures (Canaanites) all over a dry-erase board while a student tries to erase them all. (Start with some already on there for a good lead.) After several students have tried, discuss their efforts to accomplish this task. In today’s lesson, they will learn about Israel’s lack of diligence to remove the Canaanites from the Promised Land.

Praise and Worship

Change My Heart, Oh God

Cleanse Me

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Grace Greater than Our Sin

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I Will Delight

The B-I-B-L-E

Trust and Obey

Undivided Heart

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



“The Vicious Cycle”

Materials: blank sheets of 8.5x11-inch paper, copies of “The Vicious Cycle” craft page, brads, tape, crayons

Directions: Have the students color the circle and rectangular shapes from “The Vicious Cycle” craft page and cut the circle out. Next, instruct them to fold up the bottom of the base sheet up along the solid line, forming a 3.5-inch pocket. The circle should be inserted into the pocket and a hole punched through the center of the circle and the base sheet at the dot. A brad can be used to connect the circle with the base sheet. Place tape over the brad ends on the back of the page. Spin the circle around as a reminder of the pattern of Israel’s sin and God’s faithful deliverance.



Cycle Mobile

Materials: copies of the “Spiral Craft” page, scissors, crayons, hole puncher, yarn

Directions: Have students color the front and back of the spiral and then cut it out. Punch a hole in the top of the spiral where indicated. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole and make a knot for hanging. Talk to the students about Israel’s downward spiral of sin.



Thank-You Card

Materials: half-sheets of cardstock, thank-you stickers or stamps, pencils, glue, envelopes

Directions: In response to this lesson, students should be thankful that God has pity on sinners who trust Him as Savior. Using the materials above, students can make a thank-you card to God. Choose a Bible verse for them to write out, such as 1 John 1:9 or James 1:17. Seal the cards in envelopes. Students can save the cards and open them on a day when they are feeling unloved, bitter, ungrateful, or prideful.



Save My Life

This craft can be used over three weeks.

Materials: paper grocery bags, markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, yellow construction paper, aluminum foil or metallic paper

Directions:

Week 1: Cut each grocery bag into a vest. Write each student’s name on the left front.

Week 2: On the back of the vest, students can write “God is my Rescuer” in large letters. (For younger students, this could be photocopied on a sheet of paper and then glued or taped to the back of the vest.) Cut strips of yellow construction paper to glue onto the bag as decorative stripes.

Week 3: Cut strips of foil or metallic paper to glue to the vests as reflectors.



“Israel Disobeys God”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: “Pass or Fail”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger” (Judges 2:12).

The Vicious Cycle

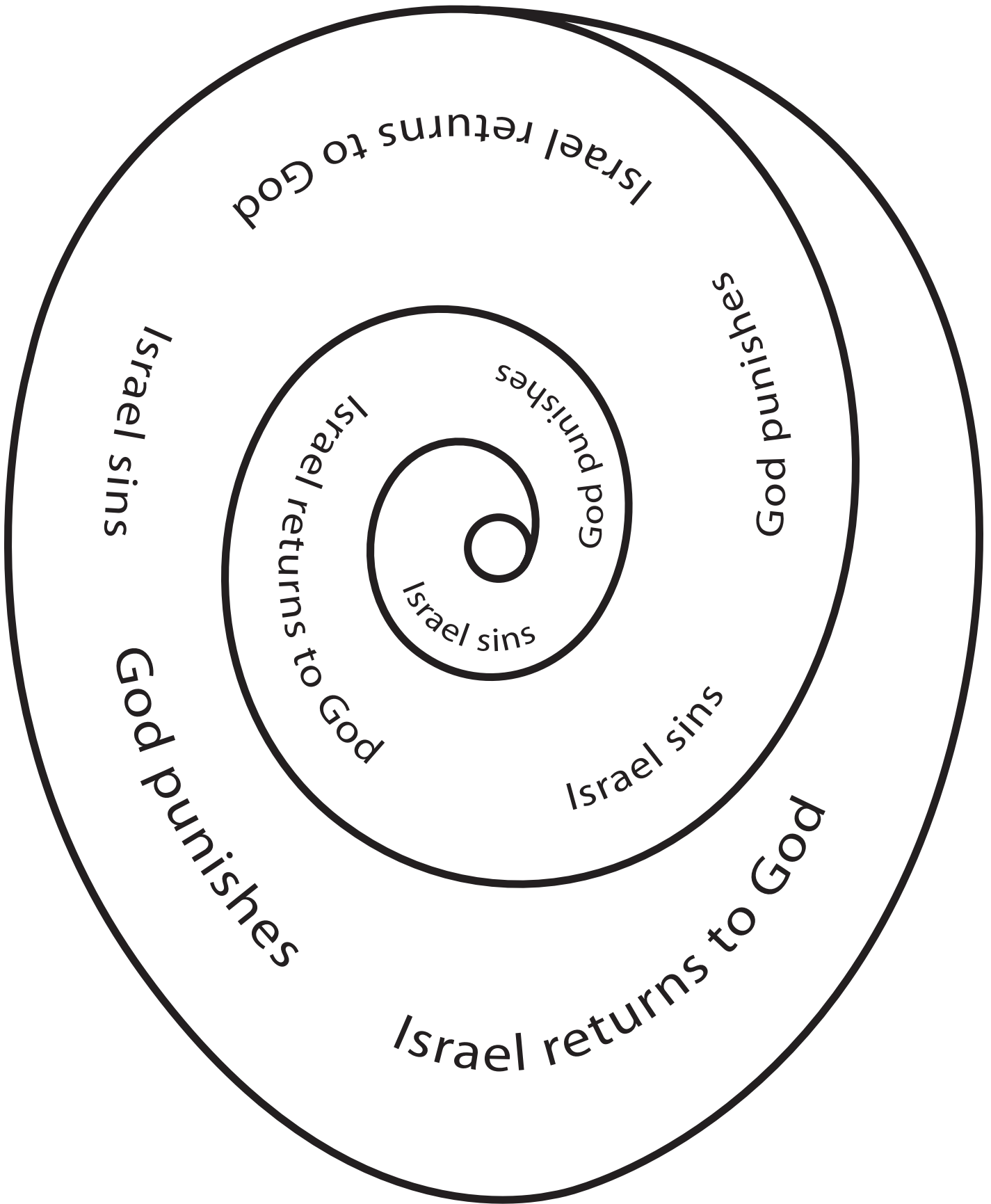


The Vicious Cycle

Israel's Disobedience and God's Response

Judges 2:11–19

Spiral Craft



Israel *Disobeys* God



Judges 1–3

Name _____

1. Judges 1:28 says the people of Israel did not completely _____ out the Canaanites.
2. In Judges 2:2, God warned the people not to make _____ with the Canaanites.
3. God told Israel that the Canaanites would be _____.
a blessing to them thorns in their side
their servants corn on the side
4. Judges 2:11 says that the people of Israel did _____ in the sight of the Lord.
5. Judges 2:13 says that Israel forsook the Lord and worshiped _____.
6. Was God happy with the people? (See Judges 2:14.) _____
7. God raised up _____ to deliver Israel (Judg. 2:16).

Pass or Fail

“Namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses” (Judges 3:3–4).

When you hear the word “discipline,” what comes to mind? An image of a paddle, the idea of having a privilege taken away, or the thought of time out? Parents use different methods to discipline their children. God has various ways of disciplining His children, too. For example, He used wicked people to discipline the Israelites: the Philistines, Canaanites, Sidonians, and Hivites.

Before God disciplined the Israelites, He tested them to show them what was in their hearts. By placing the Israelites in the midst of an unbelieving nation, God tested them. Would they live to His honor and glory? Would they choose to trust Him? Or would they follow the ways of the ungodly nations? Below are some tests that God gave the Israelites. Read the tests and Israel’s responses. Write a **P** in the blank if the Israelites passed the test, and an **F** if they failed.

COMMANDS/TESTS

- 1) Remove all the Canaanites from the land.
- 2) Do not serve other gods.
- 3) Do not marry the ungodly.

ISRAEL’S RESPONSES

- 1) Israel did not drive the nations out of the land (Judg. 2:28).
- 2) Israel left the Lord to serve other gods (Judg. 2:13).
- 3) The Israelites married the ungodly (Judg. 3:6).

DID THE ISRAELITES PASS OR FAIL?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Pass or Fail

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God tests Christians, too (1 Pet. 1:7). When problems come, you are being tested. Will you trust and obey Him? Or will you be unbelieving? Christ tests you not because He wants to punish you, but to show you what is in your heart. He wants you to pass the test with a believing heart, but if you fail, He wants you to confess your sin and receive His forgiveness.

The troubles that I am tested with are: _____

I have responded by _____

My response shows that there is _____ in my heart.

PRAYER

David asked the Lord to search his heart to see if there were wicked ways in it. If you want to keep your heart pure, David's prayer is a very good prayer for you to pray! Christ wants you to have a pure heart to be holy as He is holy.

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“Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said,...”“You shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.” But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?” (Judges 2:1a–2).



“They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies” (Judges 2:13–14).

