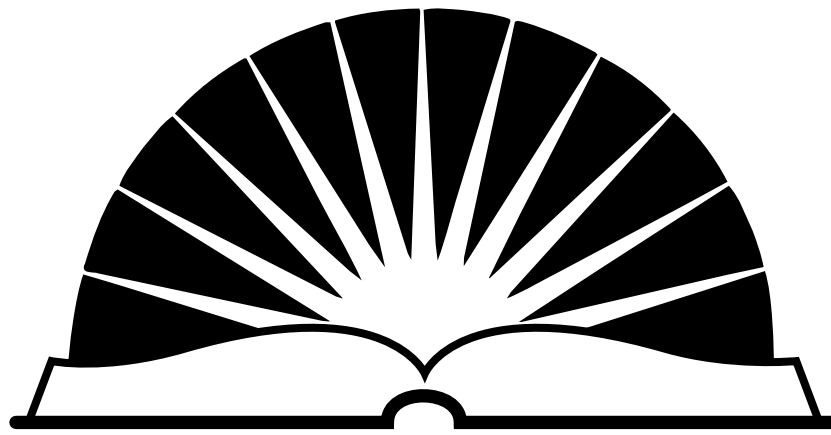


JUDGEL



JOY OF LIVING
BIBLE STUDIES

JUDGES

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

**Sample
Lesson**

JUDGES — WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BARNYARD

Divide into two teams, A and B. Each player is given the name of a farm animal, such as chicken, rooster, pig, cow, horse, etc. Use the same farm animals for each team, so there will be a player on each team with the same animal.

The teams stand on opposite ends of the play area. The leader holds the game ball and chooses which team (A) will be first to toss it. A player from Team A must toss the ball into Team B's area while calling a farm animal.

A team member from Team B must catch the ball before it bounces a second time. If it is not caught, the Team B player with the farm animal called is eliminated from play, but sits on Team A's side. If the ball is caught before the second bounce, the Team B player who caught it calls a farm animal while tossing the ball back to Team A's play area. The game continues in this way until time is called, or one team is out of players.

15 - 20 minutes discuss class rules

to end of class CRAFT: FOOD DAY

MATERIALS:

white bread, 1 slice per child	toaster
graham crackers	toaster oven
small marshmallows	microwave oven
HERSHEY'S Chocolate Bars	measuring cups
shredded wheat biscuits	spoons
1/4 cup coconut	measuring spoons
1 tbls. brown sugar	muffin tin
jelly beans	foil
margarine	mixing bowl
milk	food coloring
new, unused paint brushes	small bowls
paper towels	

(continued on next page)

PAINTED TOAST: Pour about 2 tablespoons milk into bowl. Add a drop or two of food coloring. With clean, unused paint brush, paint a design onto white bread. Toast, spread with margarine, and eat. Repeat for each serving.

S'MORES:

Place 1 graham cracker half on paper towel; top with half a chocolate bar and 4 small marshmallows. Microwave at HIGH 10 - 15 seconds or just until marshmallow begins puff. Immediately top with second graham cracker half; gently press together. Repeat for each serving.

BIRD'S NEST:

Crumble 2 shredded wheat biscuits into a mixing bowl. Stir in 1/4 cup coconut, and 1 tablespoon brown sugar. Pour 1/2 cup melted margarine into bowl and stir. Line 6 muffin cups with foil. Press shredded wheat mixture onto the bottoms and up sides of cups. Bake 10 minutes in 350 degree oven, or until slightly brown. Cool nests in cups. Remove nests from cups by lifting up on the foil; then peel off foil. Fill with jelly beans. Save or eat. Cups may also be filled with canned fruit, yogurt, or pudding if desired. Makes 6 servings. Repeat as needed for class size.

JUDGES — LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

Read Judges chapter 1, verses 1, 2, 19-22, 28-31 and chapter 2, verses 8-23.

1. What do you learn about Joshua from these verses?

Numbers 13:1,2,8,16

Deuteronomy 31:7,8

Joshua 1:1; 24:29

2. **HARD:** Read Deuteronomy 7:1-6. It is important for us to know why Israel fought so many battles. Through God's power they were able to conquer the nations living in the Promised Land.
 - a. What were the Israelites to do to the nations God had helped them to conquer?

b. Why were the Israelites to break down, destroy, and burn the heathen altars, obelisks, images and idols?

3. What do these verses say will happen to the Israelites if they disobey God?

Numbers 33:55,56

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

4. These verses sound as if God is being unfair to the nation of Israel. But He truly loves them and wants what is best for them. What does Lamentations 3:31-33 say that tells of God's everlasting love?

5. **RISKY:** Did the Israelites obey God? See Judges 1:28-31 for your answer.

6. What does Judges 2:10,11 say about the generation who were living after Joshua's death?

7. God's love for His people is stronger than the love parents have for their children. When you disobey your parents, you have to suffer the punishment. That doesn't mean they no longer love you, or even that they love you less. God punishes His children too, but that doesn't mean He no longer loves them. What does Judges 2:16 say is the way God helped His people, His children, to get back on track with Him?

Read Judges chapter 3, verses 6,7 and Judges chapter 4, verses 1-10.

Othniel was Israel's first judge. God's spirit came upon him. With God's help Israel had peace for 40 years. Othniel died and Israel did evil in God's eyes. For 18 years they were slaves to the king of Moab. Ehud was the next judge. He ruled 80 years. Israel sinned against God and were slaves again for 20 years. Then came Deborah.

1. Using the years listed above, how many years had passed from the time Othniel became judge until the time Deborah became judge?
2. What do you learn about Deborah from Judges 4:4,5?
3. Barak knew God gave the command to capture Sisera, but his faith for winning the battle was weak. Sometimes we think God's commands are too hard for us to do. Our faith is weak. What does Philippians 4:13 say to help us remember where we get our strength?

Read Judges chapter 5, verse 31b, and chapter 6, verses 1-10.

1. Where did the Israelites go to hide from the cruel Midianites?

2. **CHALLENGE:** Why were the Israelites afraid?

3. What does Judges 6:10 say that is a possible reminder to the Israelites as to why these bandits are robbing them?

Read Judges chapter 6, verses 11 - 23.

The place where Gideon meets the Angel of the Lord is very important. A winepress is a large vat in which grapes are crushed and the juice is used to make wine. It is usually located at the foot of a hill, below the vineyard, because it is easier to carry a heavy load down hill than it is to carry it up hill. The thrashing floor is located on the top of the hill so that the wind catches the chaff, the part of the wheat that can't be used, and carries it away from the grain that can be used. Gideon is found threshing wheat on the floor of the winepress, at the bottom of the hill, hoping the bandits won't see him. This is very hard work because it is likely the wind doesn't blow down there as hard as it does on the top of the hill.

1. What does Gideon say about his family and himself?

2. **PERSONAL:** Is there something you think is too hard for you to do? Do you just say "I can't"? Where does strength come from according to Zechariah 4:6b?

3. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you chose to memorize this week? Did you chose one that helped you to trust the Lord in a new way?

JUDGES — WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION — LESSON ONE

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: HOT SEAT

Double the number of players, then subtract one. Place this number of chairs around the room. Place a book on the seat of half the chairs (same number as the number of players). These are the “HOT SEATS”.

Choose IT; remaining players sit on a “COOL SEAT” (one without a book). IT stands in front of the room. When IT calls “Change!” all players must exchange seats and IT tries to get a seat. Sitting on a “HOT SEAT” is not allowed. The player not finding a “COOL SEAT” becomes IT, and game is repeated.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: CRAYON SUN CATCHER

MATERIALS:

waxed paper, 6” x 6”, 2 per student	iron
crayon shavings	grater or peeler
florist wire, yarn, or string	ironing board
cloth	paper plates
glitter	tissue paper

Cut tissue paper into confetti pieces. Shave crayons onto paper plates. Place a sheet of waxed paper on the ironing board. Sprinkle shavings, glitter, and tissue paper onto it. Cover with another sheet of waxed paper. Lay the cloth over this. Press with a warm iron until the crayon is melted. Remove carefully. When cool, cut into shapes if desired, or leave whole. Punch a hole at either end, or two holes in the middle, and attach the florist wire, yarn, or string to hang.

JUDGES — LESSON 1 ANSWERS

Read Judges chapter 1, verses 1, 2, 19-22, 28-31 and chapter 2, verses 8-23.

1. What do you learn about Joshua from these verses?

Numbers 13:1,2,8 “The Lord now told Moses, ‘Send **spies** into the land of Canaan. This is the land I am giving to Israel. Send one leader from each tribe.’ **Hoshea, son of Nun, from the half-tribe of Ephraim.**” [We learn in Numbers 13:16 that Hoshea’s name was changed to Joshua, one of the 12 who went to spy on the people living in the Promised Land.]

Deuteronomy 31:7,8 “Then Moses called for **Joshua**. He spoke to him as all Israel watched. He said, ‘Be strong! Be brave! For you **shall lead these people into the land promised by the Lord** to their ancestors. See to it that they conquer it. Don’t be afraid. For the **Lord will go before you and will be with you. He will not fail or forsake you.**”

Joshua 1:1; 24:29 “So Moses, the Lord’s servant, died. After that **God spoke to Moses’ helper**. His name was **Joshua**. He was the son of Nun. Soon after this [the things recorded in the book of Joshua] he **died at the age of 110.**”

2. **HARD:** Read Deuteronomy 7:1-6. It is important for us to know why Israel fought so many battles. Through God’s power they were able to conquer the nations living in the Promised Land.

a. What were the Israelites to do to the nations God had helped them to conquer? Verses 2,3: “The Lord your God will turn them over to you **to be destroyed**. When he does, do a complete job of it. **Do not make any treaties or show them mercy. Wipe them out completely. Do not let your sons and daughters marry their sons and daughters.**”

b. Why were the Israelites to break down, destroy, and burn the heathen altars, obelisks, images and idols? Verses 4,6: “That would surely **cause your young people to start worshiping their gods**. Then the anger of the Lord would be hot against you. He would surely destroy you. For you are a holy people. You have been dedicated to the Lord your God. He has chosen you from all the people on the face of the whole earth. You are his own chosen ones.”

3. What do these verses say will happen to the Israelites if they disobey God?

Numbers 33:55,56 “But you might refuse to drive out the people living there. **If you refuse, those who are still there will be like hot coals in your eyes**. They will be like **thorns in your sides**. And **I will destroy you** as I had planned for you to destroy them.”

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 “I am giving you the choice today between God’s blessing or God’s curse! There will be blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today. But there will be a curse if you refuse to do them. You will be cursed if you worship the gods of these other nations.”

4. These verses sound as if God is being unfair to the nation of Israel. But He truly loves them and wants what is best for them. What does Lamentations 3:31-33 say that tells them of God’s everlasting love? “For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men” (NIV).
5. **RISKY:** Did the Israelites obey God? See Judges 1:28-31 for your answer. No, verse 28: “But they never did force them to leave the country.” Verse 30: “And the tribe of Zebulun did not kill all the people of Kitron or Nahalol.” Verse 31: “The tribe of Asher did not drive out the people of Acco, Sidon, Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob.”
6. What does Judges 2:10,11 say about the generation who were living after Joshua’s death? “But finally all that generation died. And the next generation did not worship the Lord as their God. They did not care about the mighty miracles he had done for Israel. They did many things that the Lord had told them not to do. This included worshipping heathen gods.”
7. God’s love for His people is stronger than the love parents have for their children. When you disobey your parents, you have to suffer the punishment. That doesn’t mean they no longer love you, or even that they love you less. God punishes His children too, but that doesn’t mean He no longer loves them. What does Judges 2:16 say is the way God helped His people, His children, to get back on track with Him? “The Lord raised up judges. They were chosen to save the Israelites from their enemies.”

Read Judges chapter 3, verses 6,7 and Judges chapter 4, verses 1-10.

Othniel was Israel’s first judge. God’s spirit came upon him. With God’s help Israel had peace for 40 years. Othniel died and Israel did evil in God’s eyes. For 18 years they were slaves to the king of Moab. Ehud was the next judge. He ruled 80 years. Israel sinned against God and were slaves again for 20 years. Then came Deborah.

1. Using the years listed above, how many years had passed from the time Othniel became judge until the time Deborah became judge? 158
2. What do you learn about Deborah from Judges 4:4,5? “Israel’s leader at that time was Deborah. She was a prophetess. She was the one who brought

the people back to God. She was the wife of Lappidoth. She held court at a place now called ‘Deborah’s Palm Tree.’ It was between Ramah and Bethel, in the hill country of Ephraim. The Israelites came to her to solve their problems.”

3. Barak knew God gave the command to capture Sisera, but his faith for winning the battle was weak. Sometimes we think God’s commands are too hard for us to do. Our faith is weak. What does Philippians 4:13 say to help us remember where we get our strength? “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.”

Read Judges chapter 5, verse 31b, and chapter 6, verses 1-10.

1. Where did the Israelites go to hide from the cruel Midianites? Verse 2: “The Midianites were very cruel. They were so cruel that the Israelites fled to the mountains. They lived in **caves and dens.**”
2. **CHALLENGE:** Why were the Israelites afraid? Verses 3,4: “Every year, the Israelites planted their seed. But bands of **thieves** from Midian, Amalek, and other nations came. They **destroyed their crops and plundered** [looted, raided, robbed] **their land.** They did this as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites nothing to eat. **They even took away all their sheep, oxen, and donkeys.**”
3. What does Judges 6:10 say that is a possible reminder to the Israelites as to why these bandits were robbing them? “He told you that he is the Lord your God. He warned you not to worship the gods of the Amorites who live around you on every side. But **you have not listened to him.**”

Read Judges chapter 6, verses 11 - 23.

The place where Gideon meets the Angel of the Lord is very important. A winepress is a large vat in which grapes are crushed and the juice is used to make wine. It is usually located at the foot of a hill, below the vineyard, because it is easier to carry a heavy load down hill than it is to carry it up hill. The threshing floor is located on the top of the hill so that the wind catches the chaff, the part of the wheat that can’t be used, and carries it away from the grain that can be used. Gideon is found threshing wheat on the floor of the winepress, at the bottom of the hill, hoping the bandits won’t see him. This is very hard work because it is likely the wind doesn’t blow down there as hard as it does on the top of the hill.

1. What does Gideon say about his family and himself? Verse 15: “But Gideon replied, ‘Sir, how can I save Israel? My family is **the poorest** in the whole tribe of Manasseh. And **I am the least** thought of in the whole family!’”
2. **PERSONAL:** Is there something you think is too hard for you to do? Do you just say “I can’t”? Where does strength come from according to Zechariah 4:6b? “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.”
3. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you chose to memorize this week? Did you chose one that helped you to trust the Lord in a new way?