

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of November 5, 2017

Timeless Truth: Spiritual compromise can be overcome by turning back to God.

Bible Basis: Judges 2:7-8, 6-8, and 16

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 8 A Few Good Men...and Women

Memory Verse: [Samson] said, "LORD and King, show me that you still have concern for me. God, please make me strong just one more time." Judges 16:26



TABLE TALK

NOTE: Judges 3-16 describes how the Israelites' enemies made life hard for them. When the Israelites prayed for help, God showed them mercy. He sent strong leaders (judges) to help and guide them. But as soon as a judge died, the people disobeyed God again. This happened seven times. You may recognize some of these judges by name: Deborah, Gideon, and Samson. Our book only tells the story of Samson. You may read the accounts of the other judges in the scripture references below. These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- **When God allowed the Midianites to rule over his people and treat them badly, he raised up Gideon to get the Israelites back on track (Judges 6-8). What type of man was Gideon?** (Gideon wasn't popular, strong or a natural leader – he didn't even trust God at first and made God prove himself. He was the least important person in his weak family.)
- **Why did God have to raise up judges such as Deborah (Judges 4-5), Gideon (Judges 6-8), and Samson (Judges 13-16)?** (Because the Israelites weren't following God.)
- **How does this show God's great love for His people?** (God gave Israel a second chance—actually plenty of chances—to return and follow Him. He never gave up on the Israelites.)
- **How does God show His love to us today?** (He sent His Son to die and conquer death for our sins; He forgives our sins; He allows us to have a relationship with Him.)
- **God gave Samson great strength. What are some gifts He has given you?**
- **How can you use these gifts to share the love of Jesus?**

EXTRA MILE

Create two teams. Gather masking tape, a package of 100 straws, and several eggs (plastic Easter eggs filled with small items will also work and be less messy). Work in teams to create a casing that will protect an egg when it is dropped. Each team may only use tape and straws. When you've finished your designs, proceed outside and see which egg protector works the best. You may need a ladder to stand on, as the eggs will all be dropped onto a hard surface from the same height. What was the purpose of this game? Explain that the Israelites followed God as long as Joshua and the elders lived (Judges 2:7). God's people were like the egg surrounded by the protective casing of God's commands. The casing protects the egg. Without protection, the egg breaks. The book of Judges shows what happened to the Israelites after they strayed from God's commands by worshipping idols and following the world's customs instead of God's. God loved His people and cared for them even though they strayed, but they still had to suffer consequences for their actions. Ask these questions: Could the egg survive the fall without the protection of the straw casing? What are some ways that God's Word gives us protection? Why is it important to know and follow God's commands?

PRAYER TIME

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the commands that you have given us as rules for our lives. Help us keep our eyes on you so we won't be tempted by the values of the world that go against your Law. Thank you for your Son who kept the law perfectly on our behalf, so that, believing in Him, we might have everlasting life with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *Who Will You Listen To?*, pg 56 through *italics* on pg 57 (blue–pg 69 through *italics* on pg 70) (2 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Judges 2-4

Summary: God's people listened to others rather than obey him.

Do together: Using hand puppets, dolls or other figurines to represent two children, act out a scene where one pretend child asks the other pretend child to do something wrong (shoplift candy, tease a playmate, help cheat on a test, etc.).

After Mom and Dad put on the play, have everyone take a turn improvising how they would respond in the situation.

Think about: Would you do something if you knew it was wrong? What if all your friends were doing it and they said it was okay? That's what happened to the Israelites after they had arrived in their new neighborhood (Canaan). There were sinful people living all around them who worshipped idols and did really bad things. At first the Israelites remembered everything God had told them, but before long they became accustomed to the things the other people were doing and started doing those things, too. What is the name of the book that tells us how God wants us to live? Why do you think it is important that you read and study God's word? What should you do when others want you to do things you know your parents and God wouldn't want you to do? Also read: Colossians 3:20; 1 John 2:5-6

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to always obey you and do what is right. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *Samson's Secret*, break on page 57 – pg 59 "...LORD had left him." (blue- break on pg 71 – "...LORD had left him." pg 73) (5 mins)

This reading covers: Judges 13-16

Summary: Samson tells a secret and it is used against him.

Do together: Play "I Have a Secret" charades. Take turns acting out a certain kind of animal, but don't use words. Remember, it's a secret. Everyone has to guess what kind of animal you are.

Think about: What was the secret Samson had that kept him strong? Why did Delilah want Samson to tell her his secret? Did Samson get into trouble after he told his secret? Which do you think was most on Samson's mind while he was with Delilah: what he wanted to do or what God wanted him to do? Are there times when you behave the way you want to instead of the way God wants you to? That's our "sinful nature" showing, and it happens to everyone. But do you want to know a secret? Our sinful nature will shrink and our goodness will shine through when we do things like pray, read the bible and try to imitate Jesus in everything we do. Also read: Psalm 119:105; Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 4:8.

Prayer: Father God, I'm sorry when I don't pay attention to what you want me to do and instead follow my sinful nature. Help me think about you every day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *Making Things Right* –pg 59 2nd para from bottom - end (blue- pg 73, 3rd para from top – end) (1 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Judges 17

Summary: Though Samson made a mistake, God gave him strength to make things right.

Do together: Draw a picture of Samson. (Remember he was strong and had long hair!)

Think about: How do you think Samson felt when he was taken out of prison and placed in the middle of the temple so everybody could laugh at him? Do you think he felt alone and afraid? He finally realized he needed God's help. What did he do that tells us he remembered God loved him and could help him do something good for the Israelites? When you feel afraid or alone or sad because you've done something bad, who can you turn to in prayer?

Prayer: Jesus, sometimes I'm afraid or sad, but I know you are always listening and ready to help me and comfort me when I pray. Thanks for loving me like you do. Amen.