

Q5

BIBLE STORYLINE

Why Did God Use Judges?

2nd-3rd

PursueGODkids.org

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're talking about a sad time in Israel's history. In previous lessons, we've learned how God rescued the Israelites from slavery and performed many miracles to get them safely to the Promised Land. Well, they finally got to the Promised Land, and all was great, until the people forgot about God. Even though God had given them land, other people were living there, too. These people didn't know God and they did terrible things. Over time, this way of life started to rub off on the Israelites! God's people started doing terrible things, too, and they stopped listening to God. So, to get their attention, God would send nations to conquer the Israelites. The Israelites would cry out to God for help and then God would send a judge to save them. Now, a judge at this time wasn't a judge like we know today. A judge was like a political or military leader who God would raise up to defeat the enemy. With every victory, the people would remember God. But, then they would go back to their bad choices, get attacked, cry out to God and God would send a judge to save them. Here's the point. Even though we mess up, God still loves us and he will save us.

Big Idea

God sent judges to save the Israelites.

Key Question

Why did the people forget about God?

Memory Verse

Judges 2:16 "Then the Lord raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Who is your favorite superhero and why? Who does your superhero save in the story?** (Tip: A super hero is strong and brave and saves the good guys from the bad guys. God sent judges to help save the Israelites.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **They focused on the wrong things.** (God had proven his love to the Israelites time and again. But, over time, the Israelites forgot about all that God had done and started hanging around with people who didn't know or care about God. They ignored God's rules and started living for themselves.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Where did the Israelites put their focus over time? What happens when we ignore God's way and go our own way? **4-5th** Why is it so tempting to ignore God and do what everyone else is doing?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Romans 12:2. What are some of the worldly behaviors we should avoid? How does God make us new?** (Answer: We shouldn't lie, steal, gossip, or be greedy or lustful. When we trust in Jesus, he changes our hearts and gives us the strength to say "Yes" to him and "No" to sin.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: THE JUDGES CYCLE CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a paper plate and a Cycle template (page 5). Have the kids cut out and glue each item in the correct order around the plate.
 - Israel sins, arrow pointing toward Israel attacked, arrow pointing toward Israel cries out to God, arrow pointing to God sends a judge to save, arrow pointing back to Israel sins.
- If you have time, have the kids color and decorate the plate and remind them that God was willing to save the Israelites every time they messed up and he'll save us when we mess up, too.

Supplies needed: Paper plates (1 per kid), Cycle template (pg.5, 1 set per kid), Scissors, Glue, Crayons

OPTION 2: GET THE JUDGES IN THE RIGHT ORDER

Instructions:

- Divide the class into groups of 4. Give each group a Judges template (page 6). Have the kids cut out each judge and place on the table or floor. Give each group a Bible.
- Have the kids open to the book of Judges. When you say, "Go!", have the kids race to get the judges in the correct order based on how they're introduced throughout the book of Judges. First team to do it correctly, wins.
 - Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson
- Remind the kids that God used the judges to save the Israelites when they messed up. God will save us when we mess up, too.

Supplies needed: Judges template (pg. 6, 1 set per group) Scissors, Bibles

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God used judges to get the Israelites back on track.

Key Points:

- While Joshua was alive the Israelites _____ God.
- After Joshua died the Israelites _____ how God helped them.
- God sent _____ to save the Israelites.
- Even when we mess up God is always willing to _____ us.

Memory Verse:

Judges 2:16 Then the Lord raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *Who is your favorite superhero and why? Who does your superhero save in the story?*
3. *After Joshua died, why did the people start to forget about God?*
4. *Why did God send judges? What was their job?*
5. *Read Romans 12:2. What are some of the worldly behaviors we should avoid? How does God make us new?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

Judges in the Bible

H L S H A M G A R C
 A E R A A B D O N V
 H I Q V M U W T G S
 T N Q D H S N T I A
 H H N E E O O R D M
 P T Q A L B T N E U
 E O W E Z B O T O E
 J Q K K L B O R N L
 R I A J Q L I R A Z
 Y D X D A C H Y W H

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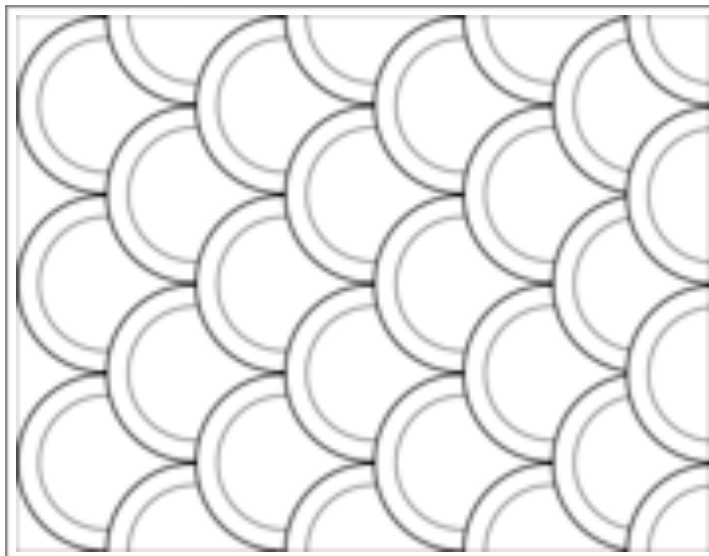
ABDON	SHAMGAR
DEBORAH	JAIR
GIDEON	TOLA

Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

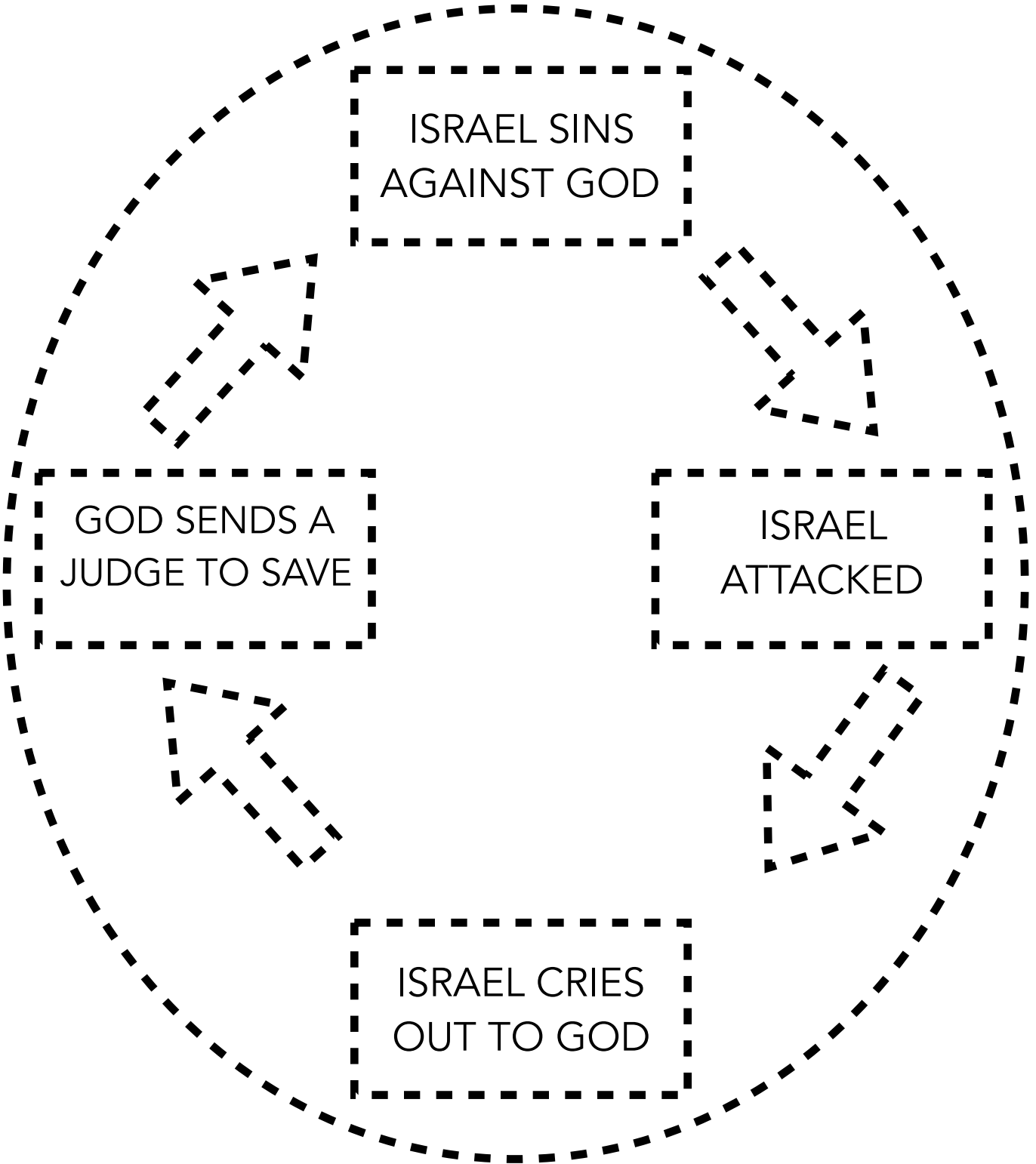
*Judges 2:___ "Then the _____
 raised up _____ to rescue
 the Israelites from their
 _____."*





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OTHNIEL

JAIR

EHUD

JEPHTHAH

SHAMGAR

IBZAN

DEBORAH

ELON

GIDEON

ABDON

TOLA

SAMSON