

Q5

BIBLE STORYLINE

# Why Did God Use Judges?

K -  
1st

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## 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](http://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). Work as a class to get each item in the correct order on the plate and then have them glue each item onto the plate. (You may want to have an example of the order taped up on the whiteboard so they can see).
  - 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, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Glue, Crayons

## OPTION 2: GET THE JUDGES IN THE RIGHT ORDER

### **Instructions:**

- Before playing, cut out and tape each judge (page 6) up on the wall or whiteboard. Then, work as a class to get them in the right order.
  - 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 (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 set per class) Tape

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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:** Color the picture.

# GOD SENT JUDGES TO SAVE THE ISRAELITES

## Key Question

Why did the people forget about God?

## Memory Verse

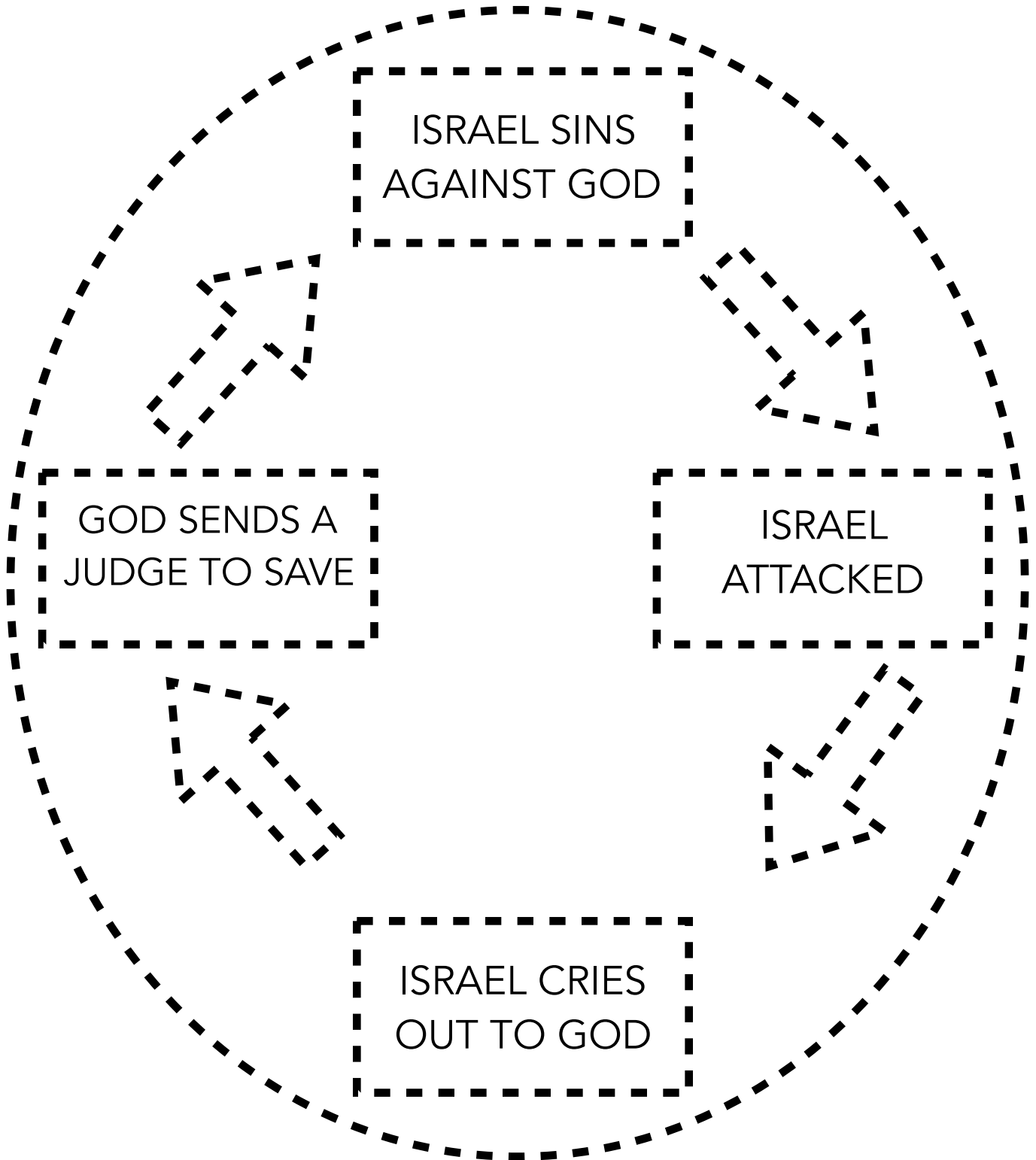
Judges 2:16 "Then the Lord raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers."



Here's 6 of the 12 judges who led the Israelites back to God when they started to worship other gods.

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OTHNIEL

JAIR

EHUD

JEPHTHAH

SHAMGAR

IBZAN

DEBORAH

ELON

GIDEON

ABDON

TOLA

SAMSON