



UNIT 9 | SESSION 1

## THE PEOPLE KEPT SINNING

JUDGES 2

### KEY PASSAGE:

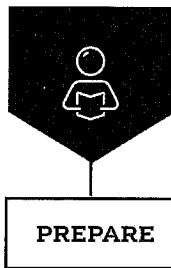
Romans 6:23

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God's plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



**PREPARE**

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



**WELCOME**

GREET KIDS and OPEN THE SESSION



**LEARN**

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



**LOVE**

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



**LIVE**

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

## LEADER Bible Study

In the Book of Judges, we see a cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, rescue, obedience, and then back to sin. The condition of man's heart when left to himself will "do what is right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Our own hearts lead us to sinful behavior that leads to enslavement to sin. Judges reveals who we are apart from God's grace.

The Book of Judges also uncovers what God is like. He is rich in love and quick to restore those who turn to Him. He is gracious; every time the people of Israel repented and turned from their sins, He sent deliverance. He restored Israel from the edge of destruction. God also revealed Himself as able to save no matter how difficult or deep the captivity. In fact, we see God's mercy clearly when He sent the judge Samson when the people didn't even ask for deliverance. In these warrior-deliver stories, God showed that what His people really needed was a king— not just any king but a perfect king who would rule His people with perfect justice and mercy.

It is easy for us as modern readers to judge the people of Israel harshly. How could they turn away from a God who delivered them from their enemies over and over again? But how easy is it for us to be tempted away from love for God and love

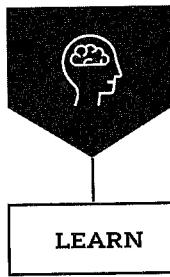
created things more than the Creator?

What gives us hope and comfort is that in a world where it feels like there is chaos all around us, we know that God in His mercy is a God who rescues. He didn't send a flawed warrior to deliver us from the effects of our sin temporarily. He sent His only Son to defeat sin and death and restore the relationship that sinners could never fix on their own.

Today as you prepare to teach, rest in the knowledge that God has gone before you. Prepare your heart to point kids to Jesus over and over as the true Deliverer and the true peace for which their hearts desperately long.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Judges:** different leaders God gave the Israelites between Joshua's death and Samuel's anointing Saul as Israel's first king



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### INTRODUCE the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** 🗣️ Wow, it sure is great to see you! Each week, we gather to study God's Word together. Did any of you bring a Bible today? [Allow responses and distribute Bibles to any kids who need one.] We study the Bible because it is God's holy Word. We can trust the Bible completely to tell us what is true about God and ourselves. Reading God's Word is a great habit to build.

Can you think of any other good habits? What about bad habits? Have you ever eaten too much candy and then felt sick to your stomach? I definitely have! And you know the funny thing? Even though I know I won't feel good, I do it again and again. I eat too many sweets again and get sick again! Today, we're going to read in the Book of Judges how the Israelites were in a cycle of sin. Sin is worse than a bad habit; it keeps us from God. 🗣️

#### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

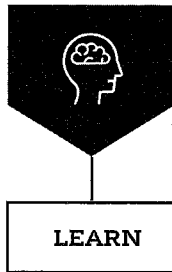
**SAY** 🗣️ Are you ready to learn a new big picture question and answer? Our big picture question is, **What is the fair payment for sin?** Let's think about that for a moment. A fair payment would be like the money an employer owes you for the work you do. The Bible teaches us that sin earns death. That's our big picture answer: **The fair payment for sin is death.**

We are all born in sin. Sin is thinking, speaking, or behaving in any way that goes against God and His commands. Because we sin, we deserve death. To help us understand the big picture question and answer, let's look at what sin did to the Israelites after their leader Joshua died. 🗣️

#### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** 🗣️ Let's look at our timeline. Since Adam and Eve sinned, we've learned that all people have disobeyed God. God chose Abraham and made his family into a special nation—the Israelites—but even they sinned again and again. God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, gave them His law, provided for them in the desert, and conquered the promised land for them. Still, they still could not obey Him. That's where our story today picks up. 🗣️



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Judges 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The People Kept Sinning.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### THE PEOPLE KEPT SINNING

“God had led the Israelites out of Egypt, and He was with them as Joshua led them into the promised land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). There, the Israelites lived in family tribes—12 tribes in all. **God made a covenant with them, saying, “I will keep My promises, but this is what you must agree to: Never make a covenant with the people living in this land. Tear down their altars to their false gods.”**

The Israelites had agreed, and they were supposed to take over the land. **But that’s not what happened. After Joshua and the older generation of Israelites died, the Israelite children grew up and did not remember God or everything He had done for them. They did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.**

**The Israelites fell into a cycle of sin that went like this: First, the Israelites would disobey God and worship the false gods of the people living around them. They’d forget about the one true God. God would grow angry. He would let an enemy king take over the Israelites, and the people would have to serve the king. They would suffer greatly.**

**Then the Israelites would remember how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They would cry out to Him, “Save us!” God wanted the people to love and obey Him, so He would raise up a leader from the Israelites to deliver them from their enemies and rule as a judge. The people would obey God as long as the judge was alive.**

**But when the judge died, the Israelites would turn away from God and the cycle would begin again: Sin, oppression, repentance, rescue, obedience, and then back to sin. This is the story of the Book of Judges.**

Christ Connection: The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God’s plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Form tribes:** Form 12 groups of kids. Spread the groups around the room. Travel from group to group as you teach.

**Use facial expressions:** Invite the kids to use facial expressions. When you teach about sin, they will look sad. When you teach about obedience, they will look happy.