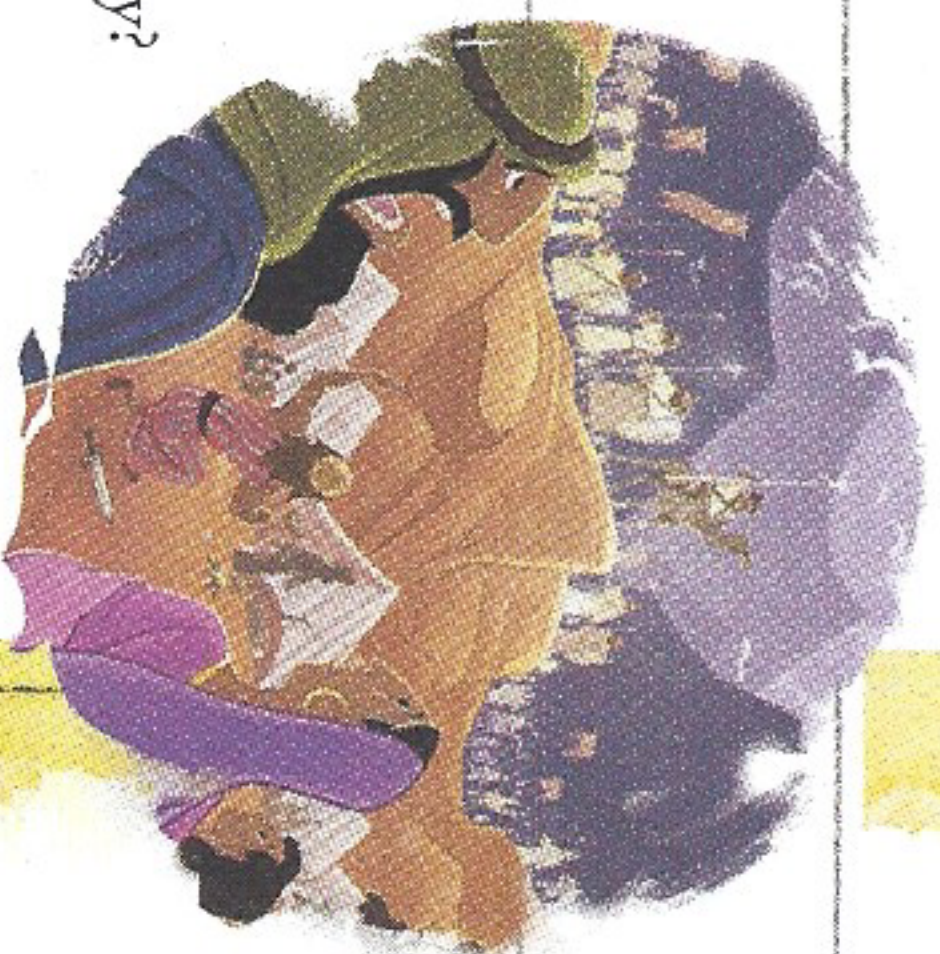


Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why did the Israelites disobey God? (See Judges 2:10.)
- Will we ever stop sinning? (See Romans 7:20-25.)
- How can your family remember God?

Israel's Unfaithfulness

Judges 1-3

STORY POINT: GOD'S PEOPLE REPEATEDLY TURNED FROM HIM.

Joshua had died. Without a strong leader, the Israelites disobeyed God and worshiped false gods. They ignored and forgot about the one true God. God let an enemy king take over the Israelites.

Then the Israelites remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out, "Save us!" God raised up Othniel to rule over them as the first judge. Othniel led the Israelites, and the land was peaceful for 40 years. Then Othniel died.

Again, Israel ignored God and forgot Him. God let the king of Moab attack the Israelites and defeat them. The Israelites remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out, "Save us!" So God raised up Ehud.

The Israelites sent Ehud to the king of Moab. Ehud hid a double-edged sword under his clothes. When the king stood up, Ehud pulled out his sword. He pushed it into the king's belly.

Ehud escaped down the porch, locking the doors of the room behind him. Ehud blew a ram's horn and became the Israelites' leader. There was peace in the land for 80 years.

When Ehud died, the Israelites ignored and forgot God again. They turned away from Him. When they remembered how good they had it when the loved and obeyed God, they cried out to Him, "Save us!" God sent a third judge, Shamgar, to save them.

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.

FOLD



Color in the squares that contain a circle to discover the word that means “not keeping your promises or remaining loyal.”

The Cycle of the Judges

Fill in the missing letters for the cycle of judges.

Unscramble those letters to fill in the blanks for the definition below.

A—O S—A S Y: The Israelites ignored God and forgot about Him.

BOODGE: God allowed Israel's enemies to defeat them.

— Y OUT: The Israelites remember how good they had it when they loved and obey God. They cried out to Him, “Save us!”

D—LIV—RER: God raised up a judge to rule over and rescue His people.

— **ASE:** The Israelites experienced a time of peace.

--- **N** --- : turning away from sin and turning to Jesus

