

Lesson 11

God Helping His People



Theme: Obedience – Keeping a promise even when it's hard

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Reproduce a worksheet, such as the sample on page 63 of this Guide, providing one for each student. Have the students complete the worksheet, trying first without using a Bible. If necessary, allow students to use the Bible to finish or correct the worksheet. Remind students that next Sunday will be the day for each one to recite the Memory Verse in class.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Judges 10:10-16. Have reading students find and mark Judges 10:10 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible Story Bunker.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show the regions of Philistia, Ammon, and Canaan on a map.
5. Introduce *Lesson Graphics* using the Lord's Army Ammo Box.
6. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Israel began serving other gods again. God had delivered them many times, but they kept turning to other gods.
 - God told His people to let the other gods deliver them. The people of Israel said they had sinned and asked God to deliver them, and He did.
 - Retell the story of Jephthah as Israel's judge and the vow he made.

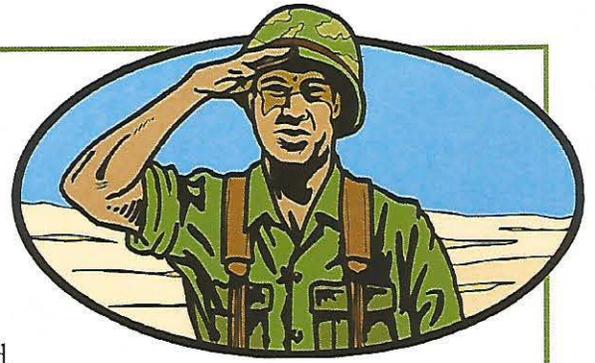
7. Give the students a “Judges Quiz.” Use matching or fill-in-the-blank tailored to your age group. For matching, list the judges on one side of the page and a picture or description on the other side corresponding with each judge.
8. Read Judges 10:10-16. Talk about making promises. Talk to the students about Jephthah’s foolish promise and what lessons we can learn from his mistake.
9. Add the names of the judges covered in this lesson to the display begun during Lesson 9, as detailed on page 44 — Tola, Jair, and Jephthah. Remove all cards from the display and have the students choose and attach the judges studied thus far.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 11

God Helping His People



Theme: Obedience – Keeping a promise even when it's hard

Wednesday Evening Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Reproduce a worksheet, such as the sample on page 64 of this Guide, providing one for each student. Have the students complete the worksheet, trying first without using a Bible. If necessary, allow students to use the Bible to finish or correct the worksheet. Remind students that next Sunday will be the day for everyone to recite the Memory Verse in class. Work with struggling students as time allows.

Prayer

Starter

Sonya is successful at most everything she tries, and almost everyone likes her. Sherrie is smart, but she has to work hard to be successful. Sherrie has friends, but she is not nearly as popular as Sonya. Sherrie looks at Sonya and secretly wants to be like her. In order to have what Sonya has, Sherrie starts dressing, talking, and acting like Sonya. Sherrie thinks these actions will get her the same results as they do Sonya. She will learn, in time, the value of just being herself.

You can imagine the people of Israel feeling much the same way. Baal, Ashtaroth, and Chemosh were the gods of the Canaanites — people who lived around Israel. The Israelites looked at the fertile fields and good crops of the Canaanites. They began thinking that if they worshiped the Canaanites' gods, they would also have fertile fields and good crops.

The Israelites must learn and believe that only God is God. He will help His people, but they must decide to worship and serve only Him.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Judges 10:10-16. Have students tell you the story of Jephthah.

Illustrations and Applications



1. **Objective:** *Help students understand the need to be careful about making promises.*

Write a potential promise on each of several 3 x 5 cards, one for each student. For example:

- I will give my little brother any toy of mine he wants.
- If you will buy them for me, I will wear these new shoes every Sunday for a year.
- If I don't have to eat this spinach tonight, I will eat green beans every time you fix them.

Have a student draw a card and read the promise on it. Ask the entire class to discuss the possible price he might have to pay if he makes this promise. Continue around the room, allowing each student to draw a card. Talk about how we must be careful about making promises. We can make promises in a moment that may be difficult to keep over time.

2. **Objective:** *Learning the seriousness of making promises.*

Bob's son was seriously sick. Bob was afraid his boy might die. As his son lay in the hospital bed, Bob prayed to God. He asked God to help his son get well. In his prayer he said, "God, if you will help my son get better, I will sell everything I have and give the money to the church."

A few weeks later, Bob's son was feeling better. He went home from the hospital, and Bob was happy. He remembered the promise he made to God. But he thought, "How can I do this? If I keep my promise and sell everything I have, where will my family live? How will we survive if we give all our money away?" Bob did not keep his promise to God.

Review the episode about Jephthah in Judges 11, pointing out especially his vow. Talk with the students about the seriousness of making promises. We have two important lessons to learn:

- *Be careful about making promises.* Sometimes when we want to make a point, we use words such as, "I swear to you ..." or "Cross my heart, hope to die" Why do we use such words? We use them to get people to believe what we say. We must be careful about making such promises or vows. Jesus teaches us to say what we mean and mean what we say (Matthew 5:37).
- *Be careful about keeping promises.* When we make promises, we must be serious about keeping them. See Ecclesiastes 5:4-5.

3. Using the judges' display, review the judges study thus far. Ask students to tell one thing about each judge and one lesson they learned.

Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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