



THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. UNIT 9.1 The First Judges

Date: Sunday January 11, 2026 Teachers: Vicky W, (lead) Denzil H (co-lead)

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

Props: from home: **flashlight/phone **star from home or cut out of paper at centre: pics in the folder for intro and activity/ poke holes in paper for stars (construction paper in bin)

Review Rules:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Three Chances to Obey (1st. warning 2nd. remove from activity 3. call parent)

ACROSTIC OF GOD: "EVERLASTING"

Susan

INTRO TO LESSON JR&SR COMBINED: materials: (drawings of promised land on the whiteboard)

Susan

We are back into our story in the O.T. Do you remember where we left off, what had just happened to God's people -the Israelites? We are at the point in the story where they have just reached the promised land. What is the promised land like? (fruitful, valleys and hills, wheat and barley, fig-trees and vines, olive oil and honey with no scarcity or lack). God wanted his people to dwell in the land and He wanted to **be with** them as their God, for them to worship Him alone, and for them to give thanks for all of his good gifts. Do you remember what God warned His people of when they entered the promised land?

Deuteronomy 8:16-13 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you, be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise when you abound and eat and are satisfied and have multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

What do you think God's people did, remembered God and gave him thanks and worshipped? No. They were proud and forgot God turned away from him....

THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO: The First Judges

DISCUSSION VIDEO:

Before Joshua died, he warned the Israelites that if they forgot God, they would bring destruction upon themselves. But they didn't remember Joshua's warning, and they forgot God.

DISMISS JR. KIDS-GR.1

KEY PASSAGE VERSE:

Vicky

"*For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.* Isaiah 33:22

Write the key passage on white board, but leave blanks for the words **Judge, lawgiver, King, and Save**. Cut cards into thirds and write each letter from the omitted words on separate cards. Guide kids to form the four missing words and then tape them into the proper blank.

The Israelites did not have a human king to rule over them. The people were supposed to remember and obey God's laws and let God lead them as their King. Unfortunately, the Israelites did not remember that God was their Judge, lawgiver, and King. We can remember that God sent Jesus to be our King forever, and we obey Jesus and allow Him to lead us because of what He did to rescue us from sin.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW:**Vicky**

What happened for the Israelites to be in such a bad spot? God's people turned from Him to worship idols. When God's people worshiped idols instead of the one true God, He allowed their enemies to attack them. Then the people remembered how God had always taken care of them. They cried out to God for help. What did God do when His people asked for help? Did God say, "You are on your own now"? No! God raised up judges and used them to rescue the Israelites and help them serve God again. After the judge rescued them, everything was fine and the people always obeyed God ... right? Wrong! When the judge died, they fell back into the cycle of sin. 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.

Divide into two teams and each team sends a volunteer to compete against the other.

1. Who were the leaders God gave Israel? (judges)
2. What happened when a judge led Israel? (The people obeyed God.)
3. What happened after a judge died? (The Israelites forgot about the one true God.)
4. Who did God use to defeat the King of Moab? (Ehud)
5. What happened after the Israelites defeated Moab? (peace in the land)

ACTIVITY: "Review Card relay"**Denzil**

materials: (cut out the cards in file ?'s in one pile and the answers taped on the wall on the other side)

Divide into two teams (each team picks a question from the top of the pile), then run to pick the answer posted on the wall on the other side of the room. Run back and repeat.

ACTIVITY: "Find the swords" materials: (sword cards printed)**Denzil**

Before the session, hide the sword cards around the classroom. Invite kids to find the cards and bring them to you. Guide them to place the cards in alphabetical order.

Our Bible stories for the next few weeks are going to be about the judges. God used judges to rescue His people from their enemies. One of the first judges used a hidden sword to deliver God's people. Use the cards to explain the pattern of the judges:

Away from God: God's people sinned against God.

Bondage: God's people were captured by a nation.

Cried to God: God's people cried to God for help.

Deliverer: God sent a deliverer—a judge.

Ease: God's people enjoyed peace.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: "Sampson Says"

Play a game of Simon says substituting Sampson for Simon.

FREE PLAY/SNACK