

Overview of November Segment 3 lessons



UNIT THEME: Bible History

This month the lessons are about Bible history, in particular the period of the Judges. This is a continuation of the history of the Children of Israel beginning at Abraham and the promise which God made with Abraham and his descendants:

Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:3-5

A notable description of the period of the Judges was that everyone did that which was right in his own eyes.

The Book of Judges is a tragic account of how Yahweh [God] was taken for granted by His children year after year, century after century. Judges is a sad contrast to the book of Joshua which chronicles the blessings God bestowed on the Israelites for their obedience in conquering the land. In Judges, they were disobedient and idolatrous, leading to their many defeats. Yet God has never failed to open His arms in love to His people whenever they repented from their wicked ways and called upon His name (Judges 2:18). Through the judges of Israel, God honored His promise to Abraham to protect and bless his offspring (Genesis 12:2-3).

It is hoped that these lessons will stir and strengthen your own faith in God and will inspire your students to develop a relationship with a God who is faithful to his promises.

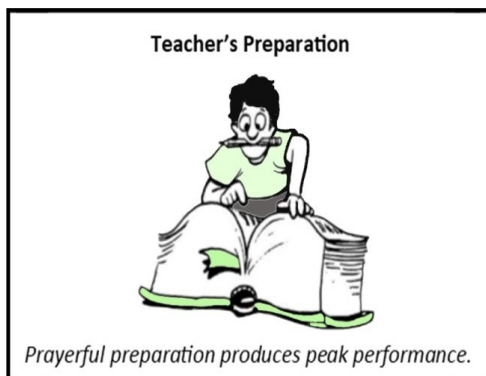
November Segment 3 Lessons

- 1st Sunday The Period of the Judges
- 2nd Sunday Gideon
- 3rd Sunday Samson (His feats and his fall)
- 4th Sunday Deborah and Barak

LESSON

Teens

November –1st Sunday



November 1st Sunday.... When the Judges Ruled

Topic: When the Judges Ruled

Main Text: Judges 3-16

Central focus: God is faithful and forgiving, He punishes but yet He forgives our transgressions

Golden Text: Isaiah 55:7—Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Specific Objective/Learning Outcome

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge (What will students know?)

- The Golden Text
- Background to the Judges
- Let's meet the Judges

Psychomotor Domain - Skills (What will students do?)

Learn the Golden Text

Affective Domain- Attitudes (What will students feel /experience?)

Today we should feel determined to break the sinful cycles in our lives.

Materials:

Teacher's Inspiration

As you prepare to teach your students, may you be inspired by the following information;

Everyone Did What Was Right In His Own Eyes



In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25. Frank Sinatra used to sing "I did it my way." If anything sums up our generation, it's that song. What happens when we do things our own way? The book of Judges is a witness to what happens when we choose to follow our own path. The Proverbs have a lot to say about this as well.

- ⇒ Our way is full of bloodshed, greed, and self-destruction (Prov 1:17-19).
- ⇒ It is described as dark, evil, crooked, and devious (Prov 2:13-15).
- ⇒ It is full of anger and wrath (Prov 22:24-25).
- ⇒ It is a hard way that is like a hedge of thorns (Prov 15:10, 19).
- ⇒ It is an abomination to God (Prov 15:9),
- ⇒ Our way will inevitably leads to death (Prov 5:5-6).

Does this feel like the way you're travelling on right now? Are finding your way level and smooth or are you reaping the consequences of your own foolish choices? Jesus calls us to follow Him: "I am the way, the truth, the life..." (John 14:6). Father, teach us your ways that we may walk in your paths.

Ref: <http://northwoodchurchofchrist.org/sermons/articles/2016/03/25/everyone-did-what-was-right-in-his-own-eyes>



OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Welcome** Greet each child
- Devotion:** Foster the Holy Spirit's Presence: Song –Prayer
- Topic:** When the Judges Ruled
- Main Text:** Judges 3-16
- Central focus:** God is faithful and forgiving, He punishes but yet He forgives our transgressions
- Golden Text:** Isaiah 55:7—Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Learn present Golden Text:

Memorization activity:

Read it	Record/write it	Recite it
Register/hear it	Rehearse it	Relate/share it

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

The Imaginative Learner

Why do I need to know this lesson?



This month we continue the history of the children of Israel. We will focus on the period of the Judges. This was a dark sad era in Israel's history. The major characteristic of this period was that everyone did what was considered right in his or her own eyes.

In a previous lesson we imagined what it could be like living in a society where there was no rule. [Engage students in a discussion of what it would be like to have a “*No rule day*”]. Certainly, the result of persons just seeking to please themselves only is chaos.

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes because they thought this was the way to happiness. The Children of Israel were enslaved as they believed that to shun sin is to embrace living with less happiness or more misery. This is why persons will find themselves in a cycle of habitual sinning. But whatever happiness is experienced when living in sin is momentary and then one is faced with the negative consequences of that ungodly behaviour.

A simple example from everyday living is that many teenagers believe that eating junk food might be “bad” for them, but that life is more happy eating “junk” food than eating healthy food. Such a mindset causes them to have a challenge in doing the right thing and eating a balanced diet. But as they mature and see the negative consequences of consuming junk food a change in their belief can result and they experience the joy eating healthy, as a result of this, the power of junk food begins to lose its hold on them.

Regrettably throughout the period of the Judges the Israelites would fall into sinful practices, then when they started to experience the terrible consequences of their sins they would cry out to God. It was a vicious cycle.

This lesson is very important for you to know as even though it paints a dark picture of this period in Israel's history it highlights a God who remains faithful to his promise to Abraham in spite of their unfaithfulness. We are encouraged that as Abraham seed which is established in Jesus Christ we too are heirs of this promise. God is faithful and forgiving, He punishes but yet He forgives our transgressions. Let's not take His mercies for granted but break the sinful cycles in our lives.

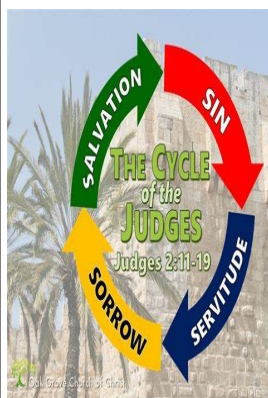
Topics to be covered are:

- Background to the Judges
- Let's meet the Judges

BODY

The Analytic Learner

What do I need to know?



- **The background to the Judges**

After the successful leading of Moses then came his successor Joshua. Joshua and the Israelites were to take the Promised Land by entering over the Jordan River, conquering the cities and dividing the land so the people could settle. Before he died, Joshua gave the nation a farewell address. He told the people to finish conquering the Canaanites and to remember everything that they had seen the Lord do for them. He encouraged them to be strong and to obey the Lord. Then he warned the people to get rid of the idols in the land. In conclusion, Joshua challenged the people to choose: and the people chose to remain obedient.

What was significant about Joshua's rule is that the people remained committed to the commandment of the Lord. This faithfulness was so significant that the scripture recorded that the people saw the Lord long after Joshua's death and even the elders who outlived him.

Once Joshua died, and the last of the elders from that generation had died, there was no leadership, no king, and no real government. God was to be the leader. However, each tribe did its own thing instead. They did not conquer the rest of the Canaanites as they were told to even though God sent messages to them to be obedient. An entire generation grew up not knowing anything about God.

Therefore God had the Canaanites stay in the land to test the faith of His people. And they failed miserably. The people fell into gross idolatry and gross immorality to the point that *"everyone did what was right in their own eyes."* The Israelites found themselves in a cycle of sin as seen below (*Please see diagram depicting the cycle on pg. 13*):

- 1) The people sinned against God by worshiping idols and living unholy lives.
- 2) God sent an oppressor/army/disaster to trouble Israel..
- 3) The people cried out to God for help and repented.
- 4) God showed pity and brought about deliverance through a judge.
- 5) The judge leads the people until he died and then the people sin again... etc.

Time after time they would turn their backs on God and return to their lives of wickedness. However, keeping His part of the covenant with Abraham, God would save His people from their oppressors throughout the 480-year span of the Book of Judges.

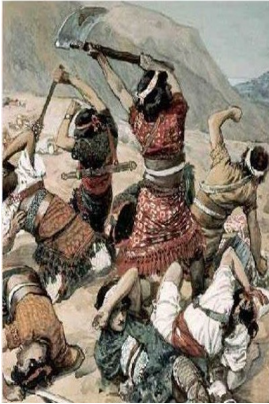
The Book of Judges mentions twelve leaders who were said to "judge" Israel: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. Some references also include Barak who served with Deborah as a judge, and Abimelech. The First Book of Samuel mentions Eli and Samuel, as well as Joel and Abiah (two sons of Samuel) as judges.

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_judges

BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?



- **Let's meet the Judges (Judges 3-16)**

Except for Eli, Samuel, Joel and Abijah the following judges are mentioned in the book of Judges chapters 3 to 16.

Othniel: God allowed Israel, after they began to indulge in evil, to be oppressed by Moab's king and his allies for eight years (Judges 3). Othniel is then raised up to defeat the enemy after the people cry out for help (3:7 - 11).

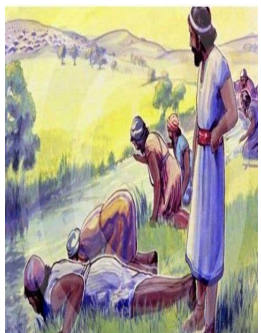
Ehud: After the people begin to indulge in evil they are allowed to be oppressed by Moab's king and his allies for eighteen years (Judges 3). God then raises up Ehud, a rare left-handed warrior, to free his people after they cry out to him.

Shamgar: The third judge of Israel whose heroic actions led to peace in Israel for an unspecified period of time. One verse of the Bible summarizes his period of leadership. Judges 3:31 says, "After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel." An oxgoad was usually a strong stick about eight feet long used to prod oxen pulling a plow. Using what was perhaps a crude, ancient version of a staff, Shamgar destroyed the enemies of Israel. Judges 3:31



Deborah and Barak: As soon as Ehud was dead the Israelites, yet again, begin to indulge in sins that stir up God's wrath. He allows his people to come under the harsh treatment of Jabin, the king of Canaan, for twenty years. He then inspires Deborah, a prophetess who would become the only female Judge, to encourage Barak to attack the enemy. His successful attack leads to forty years of peace (Judges 4 - 5).

Gideon: The people's indulgence in sin, once again, leads to oppression by an enemy. The Midianites, for seven long years, are allowed to rule over and impoverish the people. God then raises up Gideon who, along with his 300-man army, surprises the enemy and wins a great victory (Judges 6 - 8)!



Abimelech: One of Gideon's sons, arranges for the city of Shechem to make him their king. He then has all his sixty-nine brothers, save one, murdered. He assumed the responsibility of both king and Judge over northern Israel, a claim which most of the people seem to accept. He is finally killed when a woman drops a millstone on his head (Judges 9)!

BODY

The Common Sense Learner

How does it work?



• Let's meet the Judges (Judges 3-16) cont'd

Tola: Tola was from the tribe of Issachar and lived in a city within Ephraim's territory. He is called to take on the responsibility of Judge, for the northern part of the Promised Land, after the death of Abimelech. Nothing more is known about him other than he was buried in his hometown of Shamir (Judges 10:1 - 2).

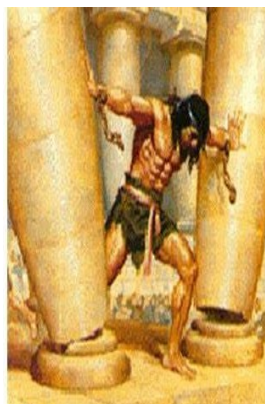
Jair: Jair, who was wealthy, had thirty sons (Judges 10:3 - 5). He was an inhabitant of Gilead who governed the northern part of the land for 22 years.

Jephthah: Israel's indulgence in sin earns them more oppression, this time from the Ammonites for eighteen years (Judges 11 - 12). God then raises up Jephthah, the son of a harlot, to free his people. He ultimately serves in the eastern portion of the land (east of the Jordan River) for six years.

Ibzan: Ibzan served the eastern section of Israel's territory. Not much is recorded about him other than he grew up in Bethlehem (Judges 12:8 - 10).

Elon: Elon was of the tribe of Zebulun (Joshua 12:11 - 12). Nothing more is known about him except that he served the eastern part of the Promised Land for ten years

Abdon: Abdon had forty sons and thirty nephews (Judges 12:14). He served, in the eastern section of the country, for eight years.



Samson: Due to their many sins, the southern and western sections of the land are allowed to be dominated by the Philistines for forty years. The Lord then raises up Samson, a Nazarite from birth, to deliver his people. His unique superhuman strength destroys many Philistine leaders and weakens their nation for several years.

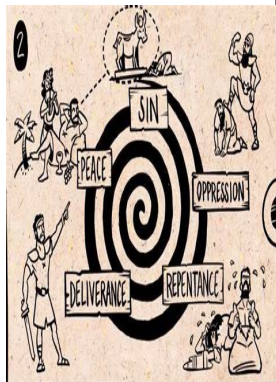
Eli & Samuel: Eli had judged Israel for 40 years. Samuel, who grew up under Eli's care, was called by God at an early age, becomes a priest, a prophet and well-respected Judge. He anointed both Saul and David as kings over Israel (1Samuel, 2 Samuel).

Joel and Abijah: Joel and Abijah were Samuel's two sons who served as the last Judges over Israel. Samuel's advanced age, as well as the corruption of his two sons, leads the people to request a human king be placed over them. God reluctantly approves of this request and has Samuel anoint Saul as king in 1050 B.C.

BODY

The Dynamic Learner

What can I do with what I have learnt?
(Application)



Disobedience always brings judgment. The Israelites are a perfect example of what we are not to do. Instead of learning from experience that God will always punish rebellion against Him, they continued to disobey and suffer God's displeasure and discipline. If we continue in disobedience, we invite God's discipline, not because He enjoys our suffering, but "because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Are you experiencing a kind of cycle of sin and forgiveness as the Israelites? Then determine to break the cycle of habitual sins. Purpose in your heart this time as you cry out to the Lord that you will not backslide again.

Break free of Satan's lie that the sin will make you happy and living God's way is too hard or not worth it.

You might not have experienced the severity of God's punishment for your sins as the Israelites have but if you don't put a stop today, sin will reign in your life and the end result is the punishment of hell. Jesus Christ came so that we can live and live more abundantly. So repent today

CONCLUSION

Our lesson is about the period of the Judges. After the death of Joshua and his contemporaries, the Israelites returned to serving false gods.

The Book of Judges mentions twelve leaders who were said to "judge" Israel: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. Some references also include Barak who served with Deborah as a judge, and Abimelech. The First Book of Samuel mentions Eli and Samuel, as well as Joel and Abiah (two sons of Samuel) as judges.

God allowed the Israelites to suffer the consequences of worshiping false gods. It was then that the people of God would cry out to Yahweh for help. God sent His children judges to lead them in righteous living. But time after time they would turn their backs on God and return to their lives of wickedness. However, keeping His part of the covenant with Abraham, God would save His people from their oppressors throughout the 480-year span of the Book of Judges. The cycle was as follows:

- 1) The people sinned against God by worshiping idols and living unholy lives.
- 2) God sent an oppressor/army/disaster to trouble Israel..
- 3) The people cried out to God for help and repented.
- 4) God showed pity and brought about deliverance through a judge.
- 5) The judge leads the people until he died and then the people sin again...etc. etc.

The Book of Judges is a testament to God's faithfulness. Even "if we are faithless, He will remain faithful." Though we may be unfaithful to Him, as the Israelites were, still He is faithful to save us and preserve us and forgive us when we seek forgiveness. God is faithful and forgiving, He punishes but yet He forgives our transgressions.

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Cognitive Domain– Knowledge...

1. Name any six judges [Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli, Joel, Abiah]
2. Give a brief outline of the cycle of sin that occurred during the period of the judges [The people sinned against God by worshipping idols and living unholy lives; God sent an oppressor/army/disaster to trouble Israel; The people cried out to God for help and repented; God showed pity and brought about deliverance through a judge; The judge leads the people until he died and then the people sin again...etc. etc.]

Psychomotor Domain – Skills... (What the students should do to reinforce what they have learnt.)

Recite Golden Text _____

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Affective Domain- Attitudes - (What the students should feel /experience.)

How does today's lesson make you feel?

What attitude or behavior does it make you want to change?

Today we should feel determined to break the sinful cycles in our lives.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to experience this feeling and to change any attitude or behavior that this lesson features as being displeasing to Him.

Prayer

Activity1 : Puzzle—Word Search

Find the Judge.

Judges of Israel

I	B	O	I	H	W	W	V	E	X	X	O	L	S	W	B	W
J	Y	K	C	U	Q	O	V	L	R	A	G	M	A	H	S	E
Q	K	I	M	Z	N	M	P	I	F	E	X	L	F	F	M	L
S	X	F	V	W	Q	Y	Z	H	W	I	L	E	U	M	A	S
P	C	M	P	O	U	U	O	I	B	Z	A	N	N	O	Z	Z
F	N	I	C	R	V	B	C	F	L	D	V	G	H	F	K	K
E	O	N	O	D	G	W	V	K	T	T	U	O	J	W	S	G
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N	Q	A	F	E	N	C	Z	S	C	Z	H	H	M	I	W	D
I	O	H	T	U	D	R	J	G	M	P	M	K	M	Y	L	U
E	T	K	O	X	U	I	A	F	O	A	C	S	V	C	G	H
L	O	I	L	N	T	K	G	E	T	I	S	A	J	U	T	E
P	P	H	A	H	T	H	P	E	J	B	K	P	Y	X	H	Y
K	Y	S	A	X	Q	L	K	F	J	Y	Q	U	A	P	D	X

Samuel

Eli

Samson

Abdon

Elon

Ibzan

Jephthah

Jair

Tola

Gideon

Deborah

Shamgar

Ehud

Othniel

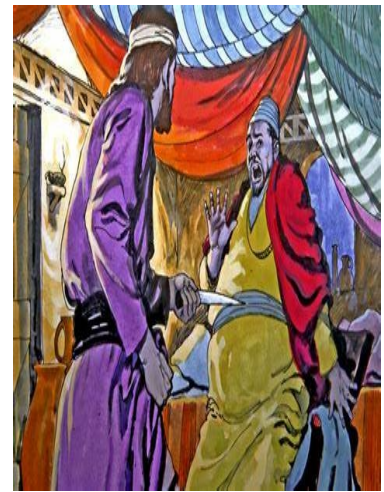
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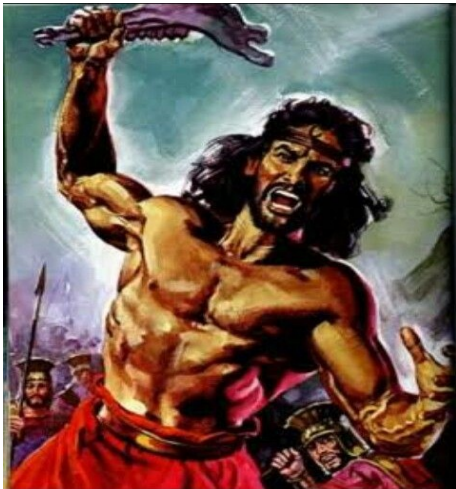
Activity 2 : Spot the Judge

Below are illustrations of 6 prominent Judges . Use the text below if necessary to identify each

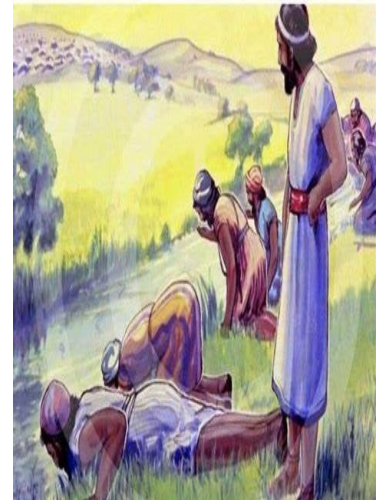












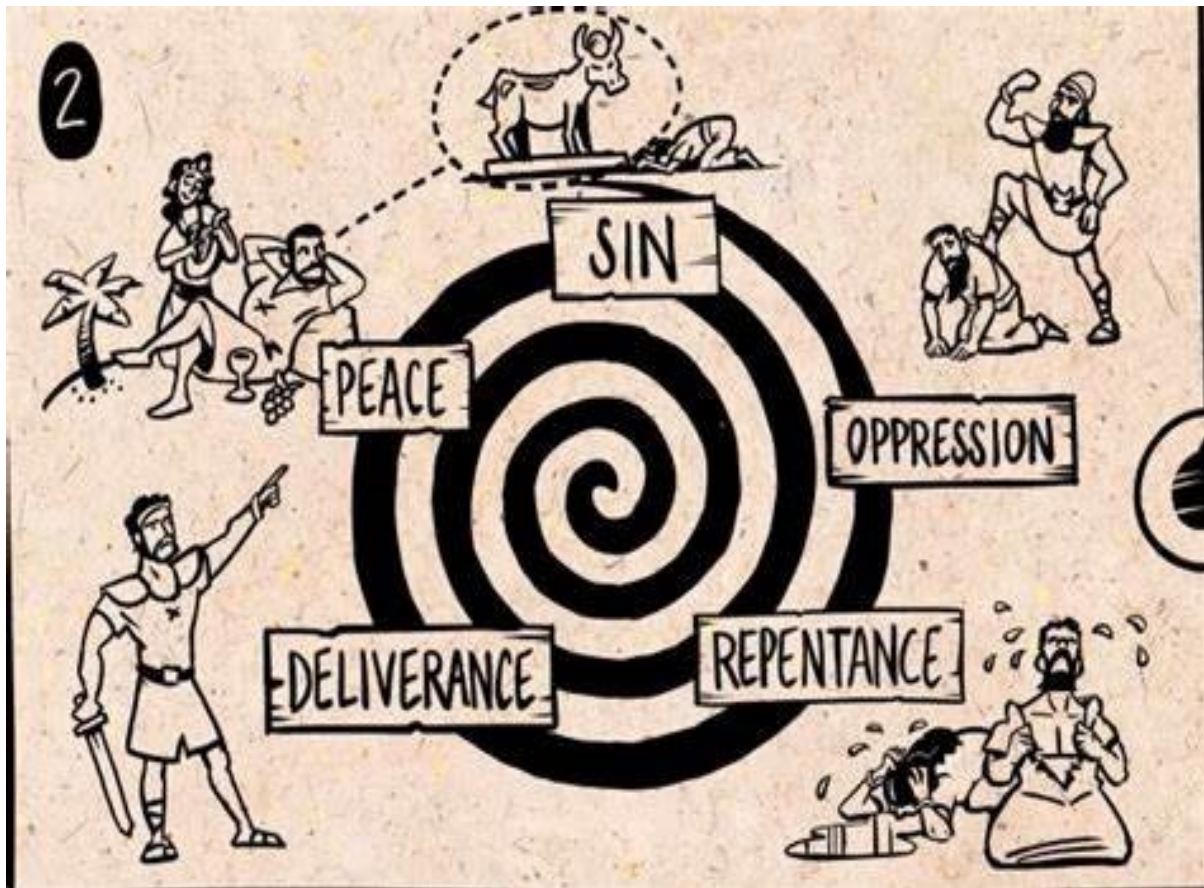
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1. **Othniel** (Judges 3:10)
2. **Ehud** (Judges 3:15-30)
3. **Shamgar** (Judges 3:31)
4. **Deborah** (Judges 4)
5. **Barak** (Judges 4)
6. **Gideon** (Judges 6-8)
7. **Abimelech** (Judges 8:30-9:5)
8. **Tola** (Judges 10:1-2)
9. **Jair** (Judges 10:3)

10. **Jephthah** (Judges 11 and 12:1-7)
11. **Ibzan** (Judges 12:8-9)
12. **Elon** (Judges 12:11)
13. **Abdon** (Judges 12:14)
14. **Samson** (Judges 13-16)
15. **Eli** (1 Samuel 7:15-17)
16. **Joel** (1 Samuel 8:1-2)
17. **Abiah** (1 Samuel 8:1-2)

Activity : Teaching Aid

The Israelites' cycle of sin in the time of the Judges



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