

SEPTEMBER 21
8:30am & 11:15am
Three and Four Year Olds
THE FIRST JUDGES
(JUDGES 3)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God provided judges to rescue His people from their enemies. God provided Jesus to rescue us from our sin. When we choose to trust in Jesus and follow Him, we are forever saved from our sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: If my people pray and turn from sin, I will forgive them. 2 Chronicles 7:14

STORY POINT: God provided His people with judges.

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Explain to preschoolers the job of a judge. Help them understand that a judge is someone who helps people know what is right and wrong.

SAY Today, we will learn about judges in the Bible. Judges in Bible times were a little bit different than what judges are like today. Judges then were leaders whom God sent to help the Israelites. Today, we are going to learn about the first three judges in Israel..

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the following review questions:

1. *What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)*
2. *What were some things in the Bible story that made the Israelites happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)*
3. *Who was the first judge God sent? (Othniel)*
4. *Why did God send judges? (to help His people when they forgot about Him)*
5. *Who does God want us to worship? (only Him)*
6. **What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.**

SAY God sent judges to save His people from their enemies. God provided Jesus to save us from sin. Sin is breaking God's rules. We sin when we choose to disobey our parents or hit a friend when we are mad. When we repent, or turn away from sins and turn to Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

4. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY Our new big picture question asks, *What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to God. In our story today, God's people sinned. They forgot God and did not obey Him. They needed to repent. When the Israelites turned from sin and turned to God, God helped them! God provided His people with judges to lead them and rescue them from their enemies. When we repent, God helps us! He gave us Jesus to rescue us from our sin.*

5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY Our key passage tells us that, when we pray and turn from our sin, God hears us and forgives us. Today in our story, when the Israelites turned from their sin, God forgave them! God provided His people with judges to help rescue them from their enemies.

6. PRAY

SAY Dear God, thank You for hearing us when we pray, and thank You for providing the way for us to be forgiven. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Help us remember and obey You always. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

(PLEASE DO BOTH OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

MAKE GROUPS OF THREE

Gather an assortment of three similar items from around the classroom such as three blocks, three crayons, three markers, and so forth. Mix up the items and lead children to sort the items into groups of three by type. Talk about the Bible story as children work.

SAY The Bible story today names the first three judges. The first judge was Othniel. The second judge was Ehud, and the third was Shamgar. Let's count to three with each item and name the three judges together. God provided His people with judges. God used the judges to free the people from the king of Moab and other enemies. These enemies would make trouble for the people whenever they stopped listening to God and worshiped made-up gods.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

As children color, **SAY** *Like God sent judges to help His people, He also sent Jesus to help us. Jesus saves us from our sins when we trust in Him.*

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

SEPTEMBER 21
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Two Year Olds
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