

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Samson Judges 10 - 21

### Opening

Gathering: How have you recognized God's open arms when you returned to Him after straying?

Today's Focus: God wants us to call upon Him - in good time and bad. He receives us when we repent.

Key Verses: *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.* Romans 10:13

*"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.* Zechariah 4:6

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

A Separate People (*Joshua 23*)

What did God command of Israel before they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land?

Numbers 33:50-53 = Israel commanded to wipe Canaan clean and possess the land

Why was it important for Israel to *drive out all the inhabitants of the land*?

Numbers 33:55-56 = They will be barbs in eyes and thorns in your side

Were the Israelites able to conquer the entire territory under Joshua's leadership?

Joshua 13:1 = No, there were still large areas to be taken

Did they finish their job soon after Joshua died?

Judges 1:29 (27-36) = No, each tribe left foreigners within their territory

How did God respond to Israel's neglect and rejection of His command?

Judges 2:1-3 = God punished Israel by leaving the peoples to be snares

Faithfulness (*Judges 2:7-13*)

What were Joshua's last words to the Israelites before sending them home?

Joshua 24:14-15 = Choose today whom you will serve, me & my house will serve Lord

How did the Israelites respond to Joshua's call?

Joshua 24:24 = *We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him.*

How faithful did the Israelites remain?

Judges 2:7, 10-13 = They forgot God after a generation, served Baal

Why did the Israelites continue to fall from God?

Judges 3:5-6 = Lived among other nations & intermarried & served their gods

Judges (*Judges 2:14-23*)

How did God handle this?

Judges 2:14-15 = He punished with raiders & let enemies defeat them

How did God respond to Israel's cries of distress? = *Shophet* - director, governor, savior, judge

Judges 2:16, 18 = He raised up judges to save them

Did the judges have a lasting effect on Israel's faithfulness?

Judges 2:19 = After the judge died, they returned to evil & became more corrupt

What did God decide as a result of this response?

Judges 2:20-22 = Allow other nations to remain to test Israel

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### Judges One and Two (*Judges 3*)

Who was the first judge called by God?

Judges 3:7-11 = Othniel - defeated Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Aram (Mesopotamia)

Who was the second judge given by God to deliver the Israelites?

Judges 3:12, 15 = Ehud - sent to deliver from Eglon, king of Moab (+ Ammonites & Amalekites)

How did Ehud deliver Israel from Moab?

Judges 3:20-22 = Ehud used a hidden sword to kill the fat king

How did Ehud then conquer 10,000 Moabites?

Judges 3:27-29 = Gathered Ephraimites and killed Moabites trying to cross Jordan

### A Woman's Stake (*Judges 4-5*)

What female judge did God use to deliver Israel from Canaanites?

Judges 4:1-2, 4, 6 = Deborah - She gave God's command to attack to Barak

How did Deborah get involved beyond just issuing a call to Barak?

Judges 4:8-9 = She joined Barak - He relied on Deborah's presence, not God's, so lost the credit

Who receive credit for the victory over Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army?

Judges 4:22 = Jael killed Sisera with tent spike, Barak didn't get to kill Sisera himself

### Tooting God's Horn (*Judges 6-9*)

What oppressor led to God's next judge? = Israelites lived in caves to hide from Midianites

Judges 6:1-2 = Midianites - nomads from the east

Who did God call as judge and how did He confirm His call?

Judges 6:14, 17, 21 = Fire from rock consumed sacrifice of meat & bread

Did God's sign satisfy Gideon that God would give him victory? = No, he asked for and got more signs

Judges 6:36-40 = Fleece wet & ground dry one day, ground wet & fleece dry next day

Why did God reduce Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300?

Judges 7:2 = So Israel would know victory was from God, not by man's powers

How did Gideon's 300 men defeat Midian's massive army?

Judges 7:20-22 = Surrounded Midianites, lit lamps & blew trumpets; confused enemies

How did the Israelites respond to this victory and how did Gideon show his faithfulness?

Judges 8:22-23 = They wanted Gideon to be their king. He said that God is their king.

### Minor Judges (*Judges 3:31; 10:1-5; 12:8-15*)

What judge during Ehud's time do we hear about with only limited information?

Judges 3:31 = Shamgar fought against Philistines - Killed 600 with an oxgoad (long wooden rod)

What "minor" judge did God raise after Gideon and his son Abimelech?

Judges 10:1-2 = Tola - From tribe of Issachar, lived in Ephraim

What judge came next?

Judges 10:3-4 = Jair - From Gad (Gilead)

Jephthah came next. Who followed Jephthah?

Judges 12:8 (8-10) = Ibzan - From Bethlehem in Zebulun

Who followed him?

Judges 12:11 (11-12) = Elon - From Zebulun

Who is the last "minor" judge we learn about?

Judges 12:13 (13-15) = Abdon - From Ephraim

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### Jephthah (*Judges 10-11:11*)

Who did God use to punish the Israelites in Jephthah's day?

Judges 10:6-7 (6-9) = Philistines & Ammonites - both sides, east & west

How did God respond when the Israelites cried out under the oppression?

Judges 10:13-16 (10-18) = You rejected Me, so I reject you. They repented, God forgave them

Who was Jephthah and how did he become an Israelite leader? = Gilead's illegitimate son

Judges 11:1, 3-6 (1-11) = Driven away by brothers, called back when Ammonites attacked

### Be Careful What You Say (*Judges 11:12-12*)

What foolish thing did Jephthah do before fighting the Ammonites? = Vow not needed for God's victory

Judges 11:30-31 (12-33) = Made a rash vow to sacrifice whatever first left his house

What did he have to sacrifice after God gave victory? = Gave her 2 months in the hills, then sacrificed her

Judges 11:34-35 (34-40) = His daughter (only child) was first out of house

Who was jealous that they had not been a part of this victory?

Judges 12:1 = The tribe of Ephraim, Complained they weren't ask to help fight

What happened when the Ephraimites fought the Gileadites despite Jephthah's claim that he had asked?

Judges 12:5-6 (2-7) = Jephthah set roadblocks at Jordan, killed any with Ephraimite "accent"

### Miracle Baby (*Judges 13*)

Who oppressed Israel in Samson's day?

Judges 13:1 = Philistines - 40 years (generation)

How was Samson set apart by God even before birth? = Other Nazirites: Samuel & John the Baptist

Judges 13:3-5 (2-5) = He was to be a Nazirite his entire life (Numbers 6 defines a Nazirite)

How did Samson's parents know that this message came from God?

Judges 13:19-20 (6-25) = Angel ascended in flame of sacrifice

### The Lion King (*Judges 14:1-9*)

Why was Samson attracted to a Philistine woman when he got older?

Judges 14:3-4 (1-4) = God wanted an occasion to confront the Philistines

How did Samson learn about his gift of strength on the way to see the girl?

Judges 14:6 (5-7) = Easily tore a lion apart with his bare hands

What did Samson later find in the lion's carcass?

Judges 14:8-9 = A swarm of bees with honey

### The Lion King (*Judges 14:10-20*)

What kind of wager did Samson make with 30 Philistines during his wedding feast?

Judges 14:12-14 (10-14) = Bet 30 sets of clothes if a riddle could be answered in 7 days

What happened when the 30 Philistines threatened the girl for the answer?

Judges 14:17-18 (15-18) = She got the answer, they won the bet

How did Samson get the 30 sets of clothes to pay the bet?

Judges 14:19 = He killed 30 Philistines and took their clothes

What happened when Samson went back home without his wife?

Judges 14:20 = She was given to a Philistine friend

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#### Is This Your Jawbone? (*Judges 15*)

What did Samson do when he learned his wife had been given to another man? = dry harvest time  
Judges 15:3-5 (1-5) = Sent 300 foxes with torches through Philistine grainfields, vineyards

How did the Philistines respond and then what did Samson do?

Judges 15:6, 8 (6-8) = Philistines killed Samson's wife; Samson slaughtered many Philistines

What did Samson do with a jawbone after he was tied & turned over?

Judges 15:14-15 (9-20) = He killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey

#### And Tom Jones is Jealous? (*Judges 16*)

Who did Samson fall in love with that led to his demise?

Judges 16:4-5 (1-5) = Delilah, Philistines paid her to learn secret of Samson's strength

How did Samson answer when asked of his secret?

Judges 16:6-7 (6-9) = Tie me with 7 fresh thongs (bowstrings), undried

What were his second and third answers?

Judges 16:10-11, 13 (10-14) = Tie me with new ropes; tighten hair braids into the loom

What was his fourth answer?

Judges 16:16-17 (15-18) = Shave my head (I'm a Nazirite)

What happened after Delilah had Samson's head shaved? = grinding grain was women's work

Judges 16:19-22 = Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, imprisoned him

How did the Philistines celebrate their capture of Samson?

Judges 16:23, 25 (23-25) = Held party, brought out Samson to entertain them

How was Samson victorious even at death?

Judges 16:26, 29-30 (26-31) = Knocked down the temple, killed more Philistines than while alive

#### Related Stories

Abimelech - Judges 9

CARGO - Leadership is chosen by God, not by man or heredity

Micah's Idols & the Danites - Judges 17-18

CARGO - Israelites were so misled, they thought God came with a Levite & his idols

The Levite, His Concubine & the Benjamites - Judges 19-21

CARGO - Remove the cancer from the body; Body must be whole, but well

#### Closing Prayer

#### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I failed to finish a task that I felt God had given to me?  
(*Judges 1:27-2:5; Luke 14:25-33; Acts 20:24; Colossians 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:5-7*)
2. What does it mean to me that God offers His grace even though I only deserve His judgment?  
(*Judges 2:10-19; Ezra 9:13; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 6:23; James 2:12-13*)
3. When have I felt like a major servant of God? When have I felt like a minor servant?  
(*Judges 6:11-16; 10:1-5; 11:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26*)
4. What rash vows have I made foolishly? Have I followed through with my end of the deal?  
(*Judges 11:30-40; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Matthew 5:33-37*)
5. When have I felt God's strength in my life? How did it feel?  
(*Judges 14:6; 15:13-15; 16:3, 15-22; Haggai 2:4-5; Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 6:10; 1 Cor 1:25*)

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### Major Judges

| <u>Judge</u> | <u>Tribe</u> | <u>Enemy</u> | <u>Years</u> | <u>Sin</u> | <u>Punish-ment</u> | <u>Cry Out</u> | <u>Judge Sent</u> | <u>Foe Defeat</u> | <u>Peace</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Othniel      | Judah        | Mesopotamia  | 40           | 3:7        | 3:8                | 3:9a           | 3:9b              | 3:10              | 3:11         |
| Ehud         | Benjamin     | Moab         | 80           | 3:12       | 3:12-14            | 3:15a          | 3:15b             | 3:16-29           | 3:30         |
| Deborah      | Ephraim      | Canaan       | 40           | 4:1        | 4:2                | 4:3            | 4:4-5             | 4:6-5:31a         | 5:31b        |
| Gideon       | Manasseh     | Midian       | 40           | 6:1a       | 6:1b-5             | 6:6            | 6:7-40            | 7:1-8:27          | 8:28         |
| Jephthah     | Gad          | Ammon        | 6            | 10:6       | 10:7-9             | 10:10-16       | 10:17-11:11       | 11:12-12:6        | 12:7         |
| Samson       | Dan          | Philistia    | 20           | 13:1a      | 13:1b              |                | 13:2-25           | 14:1-16:31        |              |

### Minor Judges

| <u>Judge</u> | <u>Tribe</u> | <u>Enemy</u> | <u>Years</u> | <u>Sin</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Shamgar      |              | Philistia    |              | 3:31       |
| Tola         | Issachar     |              | 23           | 10:1-2     |
| Jair         | Gad          |              | 22           | 10:3       |
| Ibzan        | Judah        |              | 7            | 12:8-10    |
| Elon         | Zebulun      |              | 10           | 12:11-12   |
| Abdon        | Ephraim      |              | 8            | 12:13-15   |

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### THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

**GIDEON** Major judges

**TOLA** Other judges

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak

