

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH

STUDY GUIDE

God Sends Help: A Study from Judges

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Adult Bible Study in Simplified English Study Guide

God Sends Help: A Study from Judges

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God Sends Help: A Study from Judges

Introduction

When children fall, they cry for help. When hard times happen, people cry for help. A cry for help always comes *after* an accident or a problem. The question is: What caused the accident or problem?

In the days after the Israelites came into the Promised Land, they often cried to God for help. We must ask: What caused their problems? As we will see in this study of the book of Judges, their problems were caused by their sinful actions. Their sin brought them many troubles as the nations around Israel would overpower them and rule them harshly.

The book of Judges in the Old Testament is named for the 12 men and one woman who served as leaders in Israel. Their job as judge was not to decide court cases like judges today. In this time, “judge” meant “leader.” When the people cried to God for help, He would send a judge to lead them to victory over the nations that ruled them. They would know freedom again—and the land would be at peace. But in time, they would begin to sin again and forget about God.

In this time period, Israel did not have a king. They were supposed to look to God as their king. As we will learn each week of this

study, the people often forgot God completely.

We can learn lessons for today from the stories in Judges. When we cry to God for help, let us remember to stay faithful after God sends help!

This Bible study unit
has 13 lessons from the
Old Testament book of Judges.

About the Writers

Janet Roberts wrote lessons 1-2. She has taught ESL since 1976. She trains teachers in Plano, Texas, and enjoys traveling to teach English overseas.

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Emily Martin wrote Lessons 12-13. She is a librarian at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas and is a freelance writer and Bible teacher.

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Lesson Overview

Lesson 1	Caleb Was Used by God	Judges 1:1-2, 8-13, 19-20
Lesson 2	God Sends Othniel	Judges 2:11-12, 15-16, 18-19; 3:5-7, 9-11
Lesson 3	Turning to God	Judges 3:12, 14-23, 26-30
Lesson 4	Shamgar Saves Israel	Judges 3:31
Lesson 5	Deborah, a Woman of Faith	Judges 4:1-9, 17-22
Lesson 6	God Chooses Gideon	Judges 6:1-6, 11-16
Lesson 7	God Is Gideon's Peace	Judges 6:22-31, 33-34
Lesson 8	Gideon Questions God	Judges 6:36-40
Lesson 9	God's Plan for Gideon	Judges 7:1-11
Lesson 10	Gideon's Courage to Fight	Judges 7:12-22
Lesson 11	Gideon Is a Strong Leader	Judges 7:23-25; 8:1-4
Lesson 12	Gideon Falls	Judges 8:18-34
Lesson 13	Lessons from Judges and God Calls Samuel	Judges 2:18-19; 1 Samuel 3:1-11

God Sends Help: A Study from Judges

Word List

Lesson 1

conquer: to work hard to take control over something, some place, or someone

success: to reach a goal you have set for yourself

weapon: something that is used to fight someone or to keep yourself or others safe while fighting

Lesson 2

culture: a group of people's beliefs and ways of doing things

patterns: the repeated way in which something is done or happens

Lesson 3

escape: to get out of something or to get away from someone

handicap: a physical condition that may limit what a person can do

ordinary: normal or usual, not different or special

Lesson 4

Canaanite: a person born in the land of Canaan who lived on the land that God gave to Israel before Israel captured it after the Exodus

equip: to give someone the skills or tools needed for a task

oxgoad: a pointed stick used to get cattle to move; a farmer's tool

Lesson 5

chariot: a carriage with two wheels that was pulled by horses and raced or used in battle in ancient times

devote: to decide something is to be used for a special purpose

Lesson 6

idol: something made by man that is worshiped and praised instead of God

scorched-earth plan: a fighting plan in which all the houses, crops, etc., in an area are destroyed so that the enemy cannot use them

God Sends Help: A Study from Judges

Word List

Lesson 7

in a nutshell: to state very briefly, to make a long story short

Lesson 8

flawed: having a mistake, fault, or a weakness

gourd: any one of several types of fruits that have a hard shell and that are used for decoration and not for eating

sign: something (such as an action or event) which shows that God exists, is true, or will do what He says He will do

Lesson 9

casket: a box used to bury a dead person

revolve: to move around a center point in a circle; rotate

Lesson 10

example: a person or way of behaving that is seen as a model that should be followed

repentance: showing you are sorry for something you did wrong and that you are willing to do right

Lesson 11

criticized: expressed disapproval; talked about someone's faults or problems

influence: the power to change or affect someone or something

perseverance: the quality that allows a person to keep going when things are hard

Lesson 12

effort: work done by the mind or body; energy used to do something

vengeful: feeling or showing a desire to harm someone who has harmed you

warrior: a person who fights in battles and is known for having courage and skill

Lesson 13

avoid: to stay away from someone or something

empower: to give power to someone

select: to choose someone or something from a group

God Sends Help: A Study from Judges

Word List in Alphabetical Order

These vocabulary words can found in the lesson listed in each definition; “L8” is Lesson 8.

avoid: to stay away from someone or something (L13)

Canaanite: a person born in the land of Canaan who lived on the land that God gave to Israel before Israel captured it after the Exodus (L4)

casket: a box used to bury a dead person (L9)

chariot: a carriage with two wheels that was pulled by horses and raced or used in battle in ancient times (L5)

conquer: to work hard to take control over something, some place, or someone (L1)

criticized: expressed disapproval; talked about someone’s faults or problems (L11)

culture: a group of people’s beliefs and ways of doing things (L2)

devote: to decide something is to be used for a special purpose (L5)

effort: work done by the mind or body; energy used to do something (L12)

empower: to give power to someone (L13)

equip: to give someone the skills or tools needed for a task (L4)

escape: to get out of something or to get away from someone (L3)

example: a person or way of behaving that is seen as a model that should be followed (L10)

flawed: having a mistake, fault, or a weakness (L8)

gourd: any one of several types of fruits that have a hard shell and that are used for decoration and not for eating (L8)

handicap: a physical condition that may

limit what a person can do (L3)

idol: something made by man that is worshiped and praised instead of God (L6)

in a nutshell: to state very briefly, to make a long story short (L7)

influence: the power to change or affect someone or something (L11)

ordinary: normal or usual, not different or special (L3)

oxgoad: a pointed stick used to get cattle to move; a farmer’s tool (L4)

patterns: the repeated way in which something is done or happens (L2)

perseverance: the quality that allows a person to keep going when things are hard

repentance: showing you are sorry for something you did wrong and that you are willing to do right (L10)

revolve: to move around a center point in a circle; rotate (L9)

scorched-earth plan: a fighting plan in which all the houses, crops, etc., in an area are destroyed so that the enemy cannot use them (L6)

select: to choose someone or something from a group (L13)

sign: something (such as an action or event) which shows that God exists, is true, or will do what He says He will do (L8)

success: to reach a goal you have set for yourself (L1)

vengeful: feeling or showing a desire to harm someone who has harmed you (L12)

warrior: a person who fights in battles and is known for having courage and skill (L12)

weapon: something that is used to fight someone or to keep yourself or others safe while fighting (L1)

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Memory Verses

Lesson 1

“Be strong and have strength of heart. For you will bring the people in to take this land which I promised to their fathers to give them.” (Joshua 1:6)

Lesson 2

“Have no gods other than me.” (Exodus 20:3)

Lesson 3

“[God] answered me, ‘I am all you need. I give you My loving-favor. My power works best in weak people.’ I am happy to be weak and have troubles so I can have Christ’s power in me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Lesson 4

“Those who know Your name will put their trust in You. For You, O Lord, have never left alone those who look for You.” (Psalm 9:10)

Lesson 5

“The One who called you is faithful, and He will do what He promised.” (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Lesson 6

“Be strong and take heart, and have no fear of them: for it is the Lord your God who is going with you; He will not take away His help from you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Lesson 7

“The Lord said to him, ‘Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. You will not die.’” (Judges 6:23)

Lesson 8

“I will show you and teach you in the way you should go. I will tell you what to do with My eye upon you.” (Psalm 32:8)

Lesson 9

“The Lord says to you, ‘Do not be afraid or troubled because of these many men. For the battle is not yours but God’s.’” (2 Chronicles 20:15)

Lesson 10

“Have I not told you? Be strong and have strength of heart! Do not be afraid or lose faith. For the Lord your God is with you anywhere you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Lesson 11

“A gentle answer turns away anger, but a sharp word causes anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)

Lesson 12

“The Lord said, ‘These people show respect to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.’” (Isaiah 29:13a)

Lesson 13

Then the Lord came and stood and called as He did the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:10)