

# JUDGES

## “Ehud”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- How God used Judges to rescue God’s people
- That God’s people would turn away from God and come under oppression
- That God uses unlikely people to fulfill God’s plan
- God’s plan might not make sense, but it is always the right way

Series Theme Verse: “Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.” –Judges 2:16 (ESV)

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God is the one who rescues us, and that God used Judges to rescue the people of God.

Lesson Passage: Judges 3:12-30

Materials Needed: Bibles, masking tape, pool noodle, rope or string, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

- After Joshua, God used people called judges to lead the people of Israel. A judge was someone who God raised up to rescue Israel. Who rescued the Israelites in our story today? Who was the judge? (Ehud)
- Why did Israel need rescuing? (They had done evil in the sight of the Lord. God allowed Eglon, King of Moab, to conquer and enslave the Israelites. vs12)
- How long were the Israelites slaves for King Eglon? (18 years vs14)
- What did the Israelites do after they were slaves for 18 years? (They cried out to God for help. vs15)
- Why do you think it took them 18 years to cry out to God for help?
- How did God respond? (He sent Ehud to deliver them from Eglon vs15)
- God hears the Israelites cries and has mercy on them.
- How is Ehud described? (left-handed, son of Gera, from the tribe of Benjamin vs15)
- How is King Eglon described? (fat vs16)
- What do the Israelites send Ehud to do? (give the King a tribute vs15)
- What is Ehud hiding? (a double-edged sword, 1 ½ feet long vs16)
- Where was Ehud hiding the sword? (under his clothes, on his right thigh vs16 This would make it easily accessible since he was left-handed.)

- Ehud told the King he had a secret to tell him. King Eglon sent all of his servants and attendants away so he could hear the secret. Once Ehud was alone with King Eglon what happened? (He told the King he had a message from God for him, and then plunged the sword into Eglon's belly. vs20-21)
- What happened to the sword? (It was "swallowed up" by the King's fat belly. Ehud did not get it back. vs22)
- Ehud got away and locked the door behind him. Later King Eglon's servants went to see the King and found the locked doors. What did they think the King was doing? (going to the bathroom vs24)
- After they waited a long time, they unlocked the door, and what did they find? (dead King Eglon vs25)
- What did Ehud do after he escaped the King's palace? (blew a trumpet, to get the Israelites attention, and they followed him vs27)
- What did Ehud tell the Israelites? (Follow me, the Lord has given your enemies, the people of Moab, into your hands. vs28)
- What did Ehud and the Israelites do next? (Took control of the Jordan river, wouldn't let any Moabites cross, struck down about 10,000 Moabites. vs28-29)
- What was the result of what Ehud did? (Moab became subject to Israel. Israel was free and had peace for 80 years. vs30)

#### The Story Retold:

- Explain Israel made some bad choices over and over again. "Once again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord..." vs1. They chose to worship things other than the one true God.
- Even though the Israelites sinned, when they cried out to God, God listened and rescued them from their enemies.
- We're going to play a game to act out this idea of being rescued.
- Using masking tape make two areas on either side of the room. They can be circles, squares, rectangles. It doesn't matter. The area between the two shapes should be clear of any tables or chairs because it might get knocked over.
- One student stands inside one of the masking tape areas, while all the rest of the students are in the second masking tape area.
- Tell the students to imagine the scene with you. The group of students is trapped in quick sand. You have to have help to get out.
- The student on the other side of the room is safe on solid ground. (I will call this student A.)
- Student A must use the noodle attached to a rope to rescue a student stuck in quick sand. He/she throws the noodle, holding on to the rope, and another student must catch it. Once the noodle is caught, then Student A must pull the rope until the other student makes it across the room into the area that is safe. If the noodle is not caught, Student A must still pull on the rope until the noodle is back and try again.
- If a student is successfully rescued from the quicksand, then he/she throws the noodle trying to rescue another student.
- This continues until every student has been rescued!

The Story and Me:

- Have the memory verse for the unit written on a piece of poster board.
- Have the students sit in a big circle on the floor.
- Read the memory verse to the students.
- Explain to students that the memory verse tells us that God used judges to save God's people, but ultimately, God is the one who rescues us.
- Now have the group say the memory verse together.
- Have the boys say the verse together.
- Have the girls say the verse together.
- Go around the circle and have each individual child say the memory verse.