

# Adventures with GOD!

## A NATION LOYAL TO GOD (C.1.FALL.1)

Biblical Reference	Judges 3:1-7
Key Verse	The people groaned because of what their enemies did to them. The enemies beat them down. They treated them badly. The LORD gave them a leader. The LORD was with that leader. The LORD saved the people from the power of their enemies. The LORD did this as long as the leader lived. – Judges 2:18
Key Concept	As king of my life, God places special people to help me choose the right path.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name some of the judges of Israel</li> <li>2. Recognize that God is king over all.</li> <li>3. Make a list of people that have been guides in their lives just like the judges helped guide the people of Israel</li> </ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

God was the king of Israel and he put chosen people in place to help them follow the correct path. God has always wanted a people who would want to follow and serve God. Today, God continues to look for people who will recognize him as King. As Christians we recognize and obey God as King. Just like God gave the Israelites people to help guide them, God gives us people who help us follow in God's ways. Through this lesson the children will be able to identify people who are used by God, the king, as guides and give thanks for them.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity: News Station	2 medium boxes, poster board, pipe cleaners	15 minutes
Bible Story	Judges Name and Info cards	20 minutes
Activity: Spiritual Guides	Post-it notes and votive candles	10 minutes
Prayer		5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** (Judges 3:7-11) Before reading explain that after Moses lead the people out of Egypt he died before entering the promised land. It was Joshua who led the people into the land God had promised them. After Joshua died the people began to forget about God, and did bad things. This is the story of the first Judge who God raises up to help the people.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Activity:** During the entire trimester, the classroom will be converted into a news station. The children will learn fascinating things (typical food, clothes, how people reacted to certain events, etc.) through their own investigations, as well as information you will share. Each Sunday they will make a news program, as if they were newscasters. In order to do this, this week you will "construct" the set, the cameras, microphones, etc. (See instructions on the following pages)

**Bible Story:** This week you will be the news reporter and you will give a report. The way you tell the story will set the pattern for how the children will do it later. Be optimistic! In a "news report" way, tell the situation of Israel (it will be helpful to watch a few news broadcasts to get the feel for how they do it). Use the microphone and tell them something like, "I'm John Gomez, reporting from the small town of Bethlehem in Israel. We have observed many changes in the people of this region. A few years ago, when Joshua, the famous leader who helped bring down the walls of Jericho, died the people began to turn away from God. Off and on over many years there were 13 strong leaders known as Judges, including Othniel, Deborah, Gideon, and Samson. Make sure you cover the information from the bible stories below as it will be needed to play the "Judges" review game.

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## **Othniel: Judges 3:7-11**

### **Information needed for the game**

The LORD's spirit was in this first Judge 3:10

Defeated Aram's king whom Israel was forced to serve 8 years 3:8-10

## **Deborah: Judges 4:1-16**

### **Information needed for the game**

A prophet of the LORD who would sit under a palm tree and settle arguments 4:4-5

Defeated the Canaanites 4:6-7 and 4:14-16

## **Gideon: Judges 6:1, 12, 14-16; 7:2-7; 7:17-21**

### **Information needed for the game**

Was called by God to defeat the Midianites 6:14

Defeated the entire Midianite army with 300 soldiers 7:7-22

## **Samson: Judges 14:5-6; 16:4-21**

### **Information needed for the game**

Killed a lion with his bare hands 14:6

Was betrayed by Delilah 16:4-21

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**Judges Game Show:** ASK one of the students to help by being the camera person. another to serve as the “judges” game show host and everyone else the contestants. Have the host place the Judges name cards on a table, or attached them to the wall or board. ***The object of the game is to match the “information cards” with the name of the correct judge.*** (You will need to cut the ***Information Cards*** or strips, out ahead of time). Have the class work together instead of compete. Give them 10,000 points for each correct answer. Minus 5000 for each incorrect answer or have them race against the clock. At the end ask: Were these leaders perfect? (NO) Who gave them strength to lead and guide? (God)

**Activity:** Set out enough votive candles on a table to match the number of children in your class. Have children consider the people who have been their “spiritual guides.” (Let them mention people like their parents, teachers, pastors, grandparents, aunts/uncles, neighbors). Help them to think about the guides who have helped them and encouraged them to grow in their relationship with God. Have them write the name of a person on a post-it-note and set the post-it-note next to one of the votive candles. Have each child light their candle and make time for some of them to share about their experience. Pray thanking God for these spiritual leaders. Ask the children if it’s possible that they themselves have served as spiritual guides for other people.

**Prayer:** Encourage them to verbalize their gratitude to God for the people that He has put in their lives. One way to help children who are shy is for you to begin the prayer of thanksgiving and leave space for them to say the names of people for whom they are thankful.

**Activity:** If there is time, they can continue to make the necessary props for the news programs that they will do over the next couple of weeks. They can select what roles they want to take as anchor persons, directors, camera people, witnesses, etc.

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It’s good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

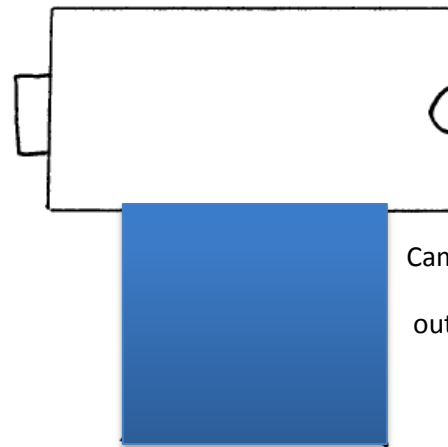
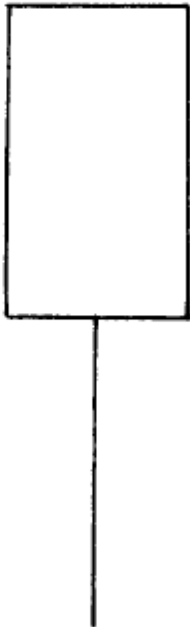
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## THE SET

“Channel 7”

Using cardboard, poster board and boxes you can make cameras, microphones, etc. The children should use their imagination to construct the things they will need. If it's possible to find a refrigerator box, you can use that for the booth that the anchor people sit in (see below). If you can't find a big box, make the set with big sheets of poster board. The set can be simple or very elaborate, depending on your class and your preferences.

Microphone made out of poster board



Camera made  
out of 2 boxes

Ear phones for director made out of poster board and pipe cleaners



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Judges Name Cards

**Othniel**

**Deborah**

**Gideon**

**Samson**

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## Information Card

The LORD's spirit was in this first Judge 3:10

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Defeated Aram's king whom Israel was forced to serve 8 years 3:8-10

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A prophet of the Lord who would sit under a palm tree and settle arguments 4:4-5

## Information Card

Defeated the Canaanites 4:6-7 and 4:14-16

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Was betrayed by Delilah 16:4-21