

Adventures with GOD!

THE ROAD TO DESTRUCTION (C.2.WINTER.1)

Biblical Reference	Judges 2:10-25
Key Verse	Psalms 81:7
Key Concept	I can go to the Lord in times of trouble and despair because he always listens to me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the four components of the cycle of sin. 2. Learn how to break the cycle of sin. 3. Describe the love God has for his people.

Life Application

Joshua and his generation lived many years ago. The new generation did not know God and worshiped Baal and other gods. How quickly they forgot God and God's blessings! Sometimes it is easy to fall under the bad influences of those around us. Children will learn that God has compassion on his people and sends judges to deliver them from their disobedience and punishment. We will see in the book of Judges that God always responds to the cries of his people and sends salvation through a judge. Fortunately, today God gives his persistent love to his people when they seek it.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	(see instructions)	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Illustrations, bible	10 minutes
Game	blackboard, chalk, cards with questions	10 minutes
Activity	(see instructions)	5 minutes
Conclusions	Schedule	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

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: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Judges 2:10-25 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? 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?

Introduction: Decorate the classroom and prepare everything so that the children see a change in the environment that catches their eye. It would be fun to get illustrations related to the subject to be studied in the quarter. For example, illustrations of kings, prophets and judges that the books of 1 & 2 Kings, Judges, and 1 & 2 Chronicles speak about. Perhaps one large or several small crowns put around the classroom. You could also make posters with names of the characters in each of the lessons. Anything that comes out of your own creativity and imagination will be excellent. When the children have arrived and when you are all sitting down, start telling the following story to help the kids think about what sin is and the consequences that it brings. Say: "Juan was an ordinary kid, just like you. Do you know anyone by that name? Well, one day Juan 's mother left her purse open on the kitchen table and went to her bedroom to take a nap. Juan entered the kitchen and saw the open bag. Hmmm, he

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thought to himself, "My mom will not notice if I take a few coins (quarters). I want to buy some candy at the store that she doesn't like to buy. But I really want some." A week later, he did the same thing, but this time he took more money. Every time he did it, it got easier to do. What do you think? Was what Juan did right? Why not? How do you know it's "sin"? Why do you think it was easier each time he did? Many years ago, similar things happened in Israel, which is why this quarter we will be learning about the people of God and the judges and kings of Israel. It is an exciting time in the history of God's people, but also very sad time. The Israelites learned to do evil in God's sight and gradually they began to do more evil instead of good. Let's see what the Bible tells us.

Bible Exploration: Ask the children to open their Bibles to find the passage of Judges 2:10-25. It is important that they see with their own eyes that the stories are written in the Bible so they can believe them. Encourage them every week to bring their Bibles so they can verify everything that you are sharing with them. When everyone has found the passage begin telling the story by saying:

After Joshua died, God's people did not follow the example of their ancestors Moses and Joshua; they did not obey the Lord's commandments. Forsaking the Lord and his laws they became idolatrous and unfaithful people provoking the anger of the Lord. (Infidelity means "lacking in fidelity, not professing the true faith").

The Israelites began to worship gods that the people living around them worshipped. Every time the people of Israel disobeyed, God allowed their enemies to conquer them as punishment for their misconduct. However, when the Israelites were in trouble and called out to the Lord in repentance, God also provided judges to deliver them from their enemies. Out of love for his people, God raised up judges (righteous men who did justice with the help of God) to deliver them. But even so, the Israelites did not listen to the words of the judges and kept following their own ways that led to destruction.

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But whenever things became intolerable, the people remembered God and sought his help. But God did not want his people to seek him only in time of need; God wanted to see the Israelites follow the just and righteous path before them in all circumstances and to repent. Unfortunately the people of God were foolish. They did not do what God wanted and had to suffer the consequences of their own mistakes.

Game: Use the blackboard to draw the lines for the game of "Tic-tac-toe". Divide the class into two groups (Xs and Os). Each group will have their turn to answer "True" or "False" to the statement. For each correct answer, the group will decide where to place their letter. The first group to have three Xs or Os in a row wins. Write the questions on cards or read them from the following page. There are enough statements for several games.

Activity: "Real Life Stories." There are always people who have influence on our lives, right? Sometimes we do something we do not want to do because of the pressure we feel from others. God's people learned to live with their neighbors but found that it got really hard to choose between good and evil and they were tempted to follow their neighbor's bad habits instead of following God's principles. Today examine two scenarios and try to find ways to change the situation. Read the following situations or the on write on cards:

Situation # 1: Someone is making fun of a boy who comes from a family that doesn't have a lot of money and who doesn't dress very well. You start to do the same. The next day you make fun of a girl who dresses differently. Each time you make fun of someone it gets easier.

Situation # 2: One day after school, your friend invites you to go somewhere that your mom told you that you should not go. You decide to go with him. And you decided to keep going there with your friend. Each time you do it, it gets easier.

What should we do in these situations? According to the answers keep asking questions and allow the conversation to evolve. It is important that everyone is given the chance to share his or her opinion. Finish by learning the Bible verse (Psalm 81:7) together.

Conclusion: God wants us to seek Him wholeheartedly and to obey his commands. This week we will all have opportunities to decide to seek God and obey him.

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(Give each child a calendar of the week (worksheet). Instruct them to write each negative influence they encountered during the week and how they decided to seek God and obey instead of giving into the temptation).

Lead a time of prayer. Ask if there is anyone who wants to pray and ask God for forgiveness. Remind them of God's infinite love and desire to forgive. Then, pray: "God our Father, we thank you for your persistent love. When we make mistakes and sin, you desire for us to come to you with our pain and regret. You promise to forgive us and save us. Thank your love that sets us free. Help us to always obey. In Jesus' name, Amen. "

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

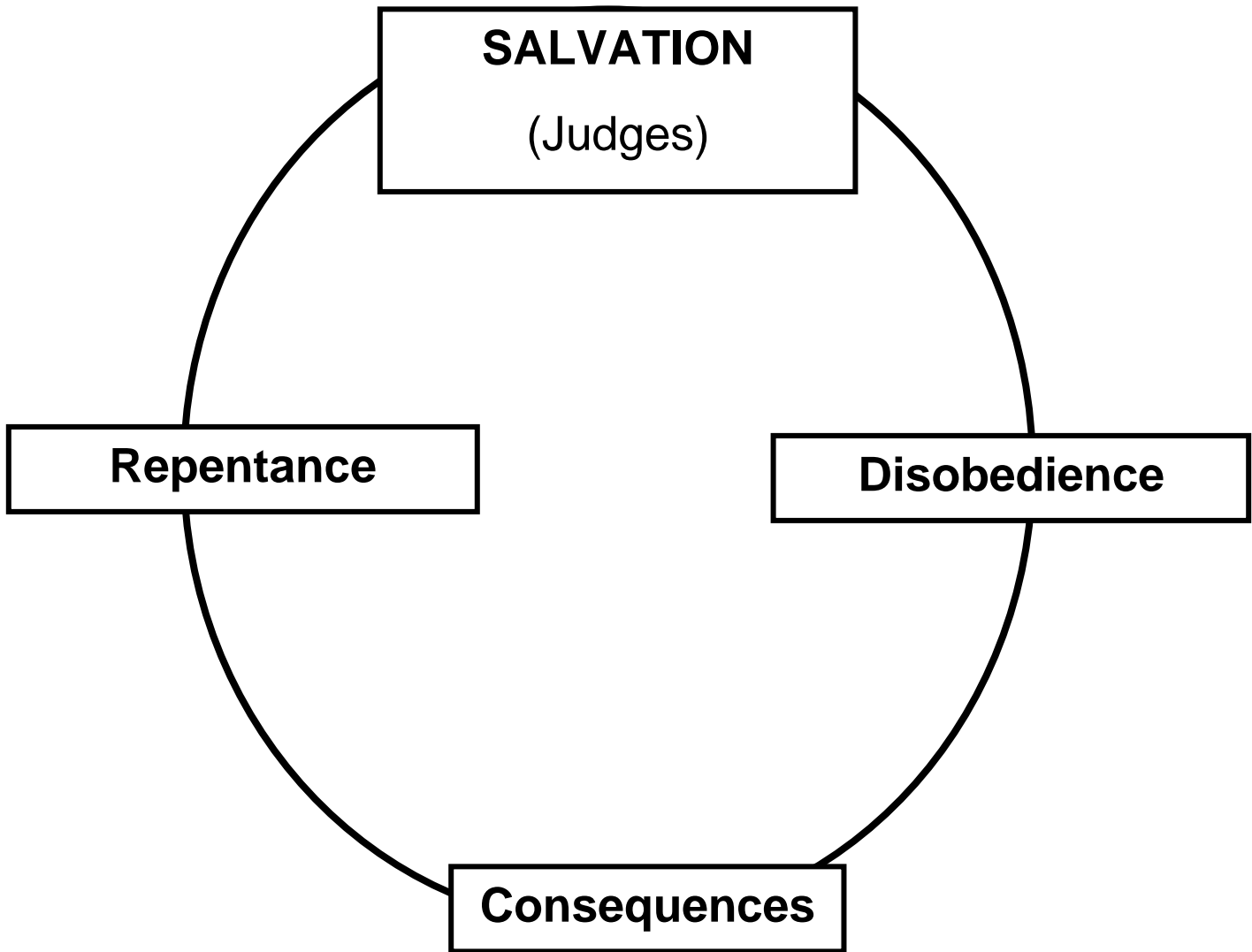
Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded,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

CYCLE OF SIN AND RESTORATION



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Game

True or False

1. All of the generation that was with Joshua had passed away. (True)
2. Those born after Joshua knew much about the Lord and the Lord's deeds on behalf of Israel . (False: They did not know much).
3. The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. (True)
4. The Israelites began to worship the idol named Baal. (True)
5. The Israelites worshipped the other gods of the people who lived around them. (True)
6. The Lord did not get angry with them for leaving the one true God for other gods. (False: Yes the Lord got angry).
7. God allowed thieves to strip the Israelites of what they had. (True)
8. God's people could not stand against their enemies and were defeated. (True)
9. The LORD was against the enemies of His people as they marched into battle. (False: The hand of the Lord was against the people of Israel which is why they lost) .
10. God raised up judges who saved the people of Israel from their enemies. (True)
11. The Israelites made their case to the judges. (False: They didn't pay attention to the judges).
12. The Israelites were unfaithful to the Lord and worshiped other gods even after God helped them. (True)
13. The Israelites followed the example of their ancestors in keeping the commandments of God. (False: No they didn't follow the example of their ancestors) .
14. God had compassion on the Israelites as they groaned under oppression they suffered . (True)
15. When the leader died, they became corrupt and acted worse than their parents. (True)

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16. Because of the stubborn behavior and disobedience of the Israelites, God said that he would drive out the nations that Joshua did not evacuate before dying . The Israelites would stay in the promised land. (False: He said he would not drive out the nations, but they would remain and would be used to test Israel) .

17. God wanted to see if people would follow the Lord's path instead of the path to destruction. (True)

18. The love of God is persistent. (True)

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Worksheet 2

SCHEDULE: SEEK GOD AND OBEY

During the week, take time every night to reflect on things that have happened during the day. List the negative influences you saw and how you decided to react to them.

Remember: "In your distress you called and I saved ..." (Psalms 81:7)

DAY	INFLUENCES	REACTIONS
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		