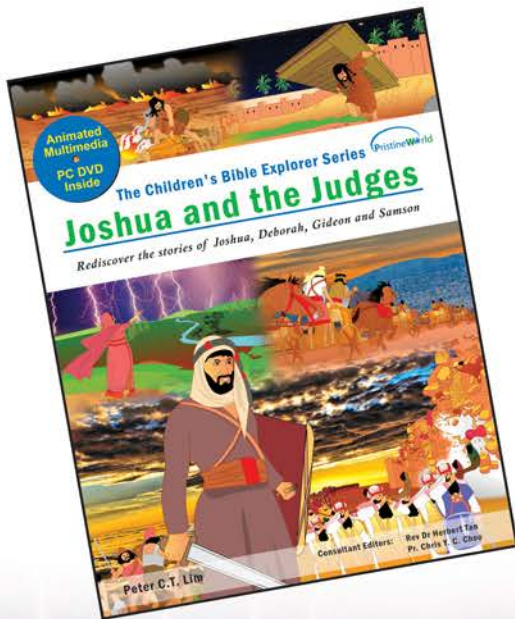
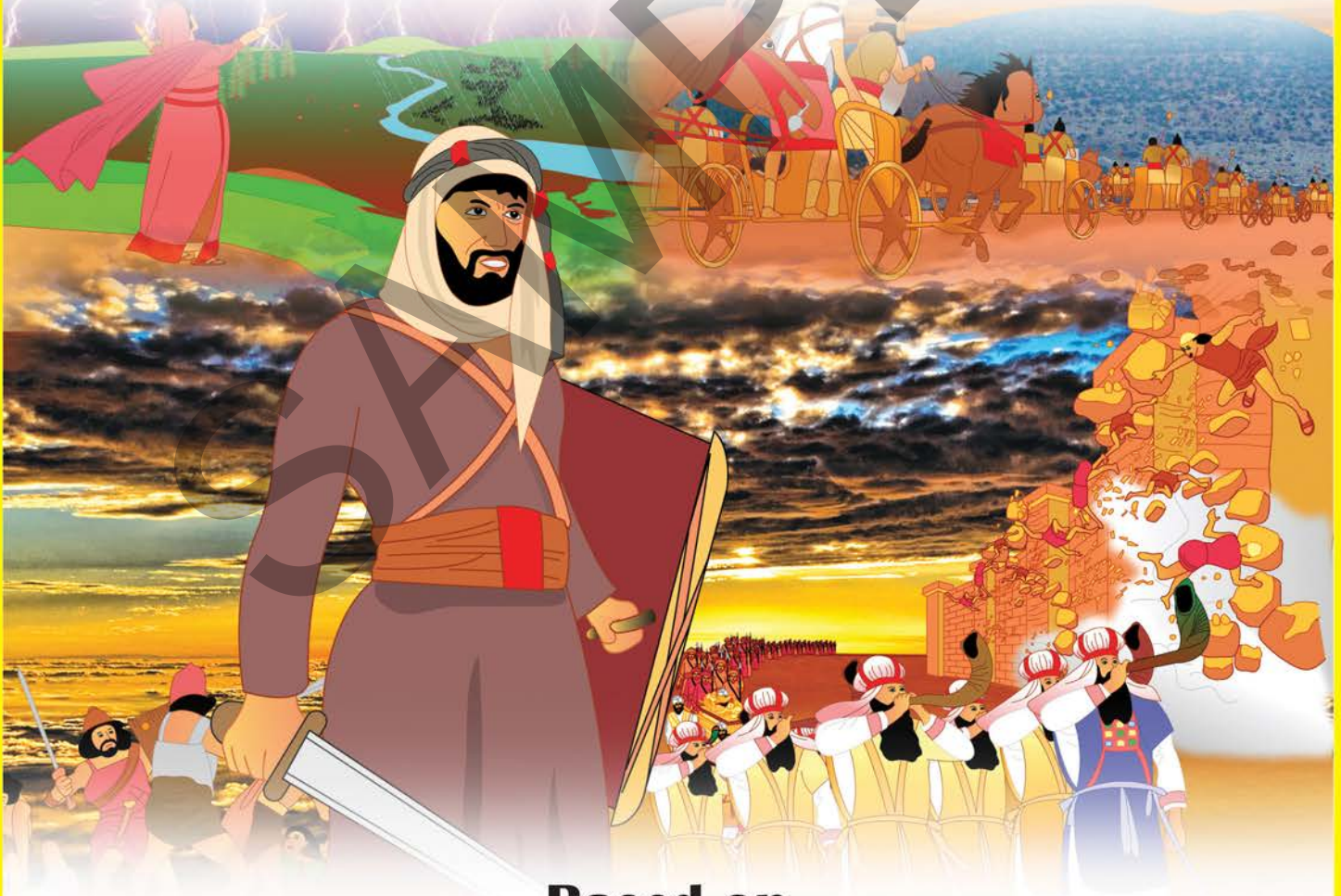


Student Workbook for



TEACHER'S GUIDE



Based on
The Children's Bible Explorer Series
Joshua and the Judges

SAMPLE



Teacher's Guide For All Ages Based on The Children's Bible Explorer Series Joshua and the Judges

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Debbie Loh

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 1: Joshua and the Spies of Jericho

Theme / Overview of Story:

Joshua is the new leader of Israel. God commissions him to lead Israel into Canaan after Moses' death. God instructs Joshua to be strong and courageous, and to obey all the instructions given by Moses. The first town the Israelites must conquer is Jericho. Joshua sends spies to scout the place. They meet Rahab, who although is one of the enemy people, decides to trust in God because of the miracles God did for Israel.

Bible Passage

Joshua 1:1-10 & 2:1-24

Multimedia

Play Story 1 on Joshua and the Spies of Jericho. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn that God is with us wherever we go. He gives us strength and we do not have to be afraid.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 1 of the textbook on Introduction to the Book of Joshua and Chapter 2 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 1 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. God reminds Joshua why it is important to obey His commandments, which He gave through Moses. Only by doing so, can Israel receive blessing and protection from God.
2. Rahab is wise for choosing to side with God's people by helping the spies. She would rather obey God even if it meant getting into trouble.

Bible Truth and Application

1. God calls us to be obedient. But He also gives us strength and courage to obey His will. Both Joshua and Rahab had dangerous tasks to do, but they trusted and obeyed God.
2. The red cord that the spies told Rahab to tie in the window if she wanted to be spared in the attack can be an illustration of the blood of Jesus that saves us from sin.

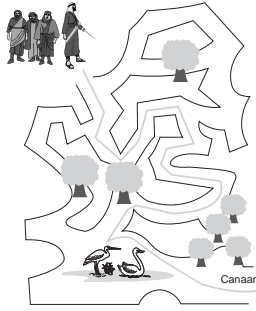
Response and Prayer

Help the children acknowledge God's strength and presence with them in everything they do and to learn to trust and obey Him because He is always with them.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

Activity 1:



The promise: Children must draw in the rope and two spies climbing down the rope

Ages 7-8

Word Search:

E	B	L	E	G	L	E	E
D	F	R	S	L	L	O	V
S	M	T	A	U	H	P	A
P	S	W	R	C	M	P	R
O	P	R	I	U	O	I	B
K	I	R	A	H	A	B	R
V	E	T	B	E	Y	T	A
J	S	T	E	V	G	U	G

Ages 9-10

Know the story:

- Wrong word: Jericho City
- Wrong word: Three
- Wrong word: not
- Wrong word: blue

Correct word: Israelites
Correct word: two
Correct word: -
Correct word: red

Find the window: Rahab's window is B6

Think about it:

Tying the red cord to her window meant that Rahab and those with her will be saved.

Rahab made an agreement/promise/deal with the spies.

I know the blood of Jesus saves me.

To be saved by the blood of Jesus I must enter into an agreement/promise/deal with God.

Ages 11-12

Know the story:

- Wrong word: Jericho City
- Wrong word: Three
- Wrong word: not
- Wrong word: blue

Correct word: Israelites
Correct word: two
Correct word: -
Correct word: red

Refer to Numbers 2:3-34 and fill in the blanks in the picture below- name the tribes:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Asher | 11. Reuben |
| 2. Benjamin | 12. Naphthali |
| 3. Ephraim | 16. Simeon |
| 4. Manasseh | |
| 5. Gad | |
| 6. Dan | |

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1. B | 4. E | 7. E |
| 2. D | 5. C | |
| 3. A | 6. B | |

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

- How do you think Joshua felt when he took over the leadership from Moses? Point out to the children the number of times in Joshua 1 that God commands Joshua to be strong and courageous.

Joshua was very likely feeling anxious, afraid and worried about whether he would be a good leader. He was probably also afraid of the task ahead – to enter a new land and take over the cities there through battle. He probably had a lot of worries – would the Israelites listen to him? Would they compare him to Moses? Would the people fight well? What if they lost after having come all the way here?

- What was God's command for Joshua and why?

To be strong and courageous. God knew what Joshua was feeling and so gave him the assurance, at least three times.

- How do you think the spies felt when Rahab told them what her people had heard about the Israelites?

Most likely, the spies would have been very pleased to hear Rahab say that the Canaanite people were afraid of them. The spies' mission, after all, was to find out if Jericho was ready to be conquered. Rahab's testimony would have given them the confirmation they needed.

- What can we learn from this story about Rahab's faith?

Possible answers: a) Rahab was decisive in her faith. She 'heard' what Israel's God had done and 'knew' that Jericho would be given to the Israelites. She acted swiftly and firmly upon hearing information about Israel's God by choosing to believe in Him. b) Rahab was courageous. Choosing to believe in Israel's God and hiding the spies meant putting her life at risk, because by helping the spies, she was helping Jericho's enemy. Yet she had faith to strike a deal with the spies to save her family. From Rahab, we can learn that our faith in God should be decisive (no turning back, no wavering) and courageous despite possible danger and our own fears.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 2: The Israelites Cross the Jordan

Theme / Overview of Story:

To get to Jericho, the Israelites must first cross the River Jordan. The Ark of the Covenant goes first, leading the people. God stops the flow of the water so all Israel can cross safely. God then tells Joshua to build a memorial with stones taken from the river to remember that miraculous day.

Bible Passage

Joshua 3 & 4

Multimedia

Play Story 2 on Joshua and the Battle of Jericho up to the end of Joshua 4 of the narration.

Objective

To learn about the importance of reflecting and remembering what God has done in our lives so that we will walk closely with Him.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 3 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 2 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

This is how you will know that the living God is among you. Joshua 3: 10a (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. God performs an amazing miracle by parting the waters of the Jordan River to assure the Israelites that He is leading them.
2. The people build a memorial to remind them about God's miracle. Memorials are good reminders for us to thank and praise God for what He has done in our lives.

Bible Truth and Application

1. God goes before us and will lead us.
2. Remembering the things God has done in our lives can help to build our trust and faith in Him.

Response and Prayer

Encourage the children to reflect on their experiences at home with the family or in school to identify things that God has done. Teach them about thanking and praising God for these things.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

-No objective question/answers in this lesson

Ages 7-8

Discover: 1. priests 2. nation 3. memorial; crossed

Ages 9-10

Put the story in order: 3, 2, 4, 1

Game: Cross the river! Solution: only 2 children can cross at a time. Together they step on one newspaper at a time and move ahead by putting the third newspaper in front of them. This continues until both have reached the other side. The teacher can gather up the newspapers and bring them back to the other side of the river where the next pair of children are waiting to cross.

Ages 11-12

Put the story in order: 3, 2, 4, 1

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 3. E |
| 2. C | 4. E |

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. Why do you think the Lord planned for Israel to cross the Jordan River when it was overflowing?
The conditions for the crossing would be more difficult. Then the people would see all the more how amazing God's miracle to stop the flow of water upstream was. It was one way God assured the people that He was with them, leading and guiding them.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 3: Joshua and the Battle of Jericho

Theme / Overview of Story:

After crossing the Jordan River safely and building the memorial, God renews His covenant promise with Joshua by having all the males circumcised and celebrating the Passover. Then, through an angel, God gives Joshua instructions on how to conquer Jericho. The battle is a success because Joshua obeys God. Rahab and her family are also saved because they trust God.

Bible Passage

Joshua 5 & 6

Multimedia

Continue with Story 2 from Joshua 5 in the narration till the end. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn about trusting God and obeying His commands.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 3 of the textbook. Continue with Multimedia Story 2 and go through the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Joshua leads the Israelites, but he takes orders from the Lord. The battle is a success because Joshua obeys the Lord's instructions.
2. Rahab the Canaanite and her family are spared. This shows God's grace and mercy to those who turn to Him. Rahab's family is saved because of Rahab's trust in God.

Bible Truth and Application

1. God's instructions to us may sometimes not seem humanly logical, but He knows best.
2. When we obey and trust God, we can bring blessings to others, like Joshua did for the Israelites, and like Rahab did for her family.

Response and Prayer

Ask God for obedience and faith to follow His ways.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

The March: Answers: 7, 7

Draw the order of the march:

The priests and the Ark of the Covenant must be drawn at the front of the marching line, eg: J (Joshua) / AG (Armed Guards) → AC (Ark of the Covenant) → P (Priests)

Ages 7-8

The March: army → rear guard → Ark of the Covenant

→ priests with trumpets → armed guards

Why do you think the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of the army?

To show that God is leading them.

Ages 9-10

Fill in the blanks: 1. once, seven 2. shout 3. talk
4. helped 5. Obeyed

Game: This game is a variation of "Simon says". For example, the leader says "Raise your right arm", but will do a different action instead. Slowly build up the challenge by thinking of more complex actions, such as "Stick out your tongue, touch your right knee and do a thumbs up".

Ages 11-12

Activity 1: 1. once, seven 2. shout 3. talk
4. helped 5. Obeyed

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

5. B

6. E

7. A

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

2. Why do you think the Lord gave Joshua this strange strategy to attack Jericho?

Again, God wanted to show the Israelites that it was better to rely on His ways than on their own strategies or strength. The unusual strategy God gave to attack Jericho also highlighted to the people that God was fighting their battles with them, since they had to bring along the Ark of the Covenant as they marched round the city walls. The Ark's position at the head of the marching convoy was a symbol of God's leading in battle.

3. Why were Rahab and her family rescued?

Rahab had kept her end of the deal with the spies by tying the red cord at her window. It is a lesson that when we choose to believe in Jesus and keep our end of God's Covenant with us, He remembers us (through the blood of Jesus) and fulfils His promise to save us.

4. What can we learn from Joshua in this story?

Joshua may be the leader of the Israelites, but he was obedient to God and allowed God to lead the people. Because of this, Israel was successful in crossing the Jordan and conquering Jericho. In our lives, we may be given responsibilities in our home or class, but we should still be obedient to God even if we are made leaders.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 4: The Battle of Ai

Theme / Overview of Story:

Achan's disobedience causes defeat for the entire Israel. The punishment and death of Achan is a reminder that we cannot hide our sins from God. Israel goes to face Ai in battle a second time and conquers the town. Then Joshua builds an altar and reminds Israel of God's commandments given through Moses. Joshua also divides the land among the tribes of Israel. He carries out everything he was instructed to do before he dies.

Bible Passage

Joshua 7 & 8

Multimedia

Play Story 3 on The Battle of Ai. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn that there are consequences when we sin and try to hide it. We don't have to be afraid to confess our sins because God forgives us.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 4 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 3 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins... 1 John 1: 9 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Achan's sin, which leads to punishment for the entire Israel, is just like Adam's sin which brings God's judgement to all of humanity.
2. Joshua is a faithful servant of God and fulfills all that Moses had instructed him to do.

Bible Truth and Application

1. Our sin affects not just ourselves, but others, too. It also cuts off our relationship with God and He cannot bless us.
2. However, we don't need to be afraid to confess our sin because of Jesus who died to take our place in the punishment for sin. Because of Jesus' death, God will forgive us if we confess our sin.

Response and Prayer

Encourage confession of sins, thanksgiving for Jesus' death to substitute our punishment, thanksgiving for God's forgiveness as a result, and ask for help for continued obedience.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

Activity: What's hiding?: There are 5 cats

True or False:

1. False (he kept silver, gold, a beautiful robe)
2. False (he hid them in the ground)
3. False

Ages 7-8

What did Achan hide?:

Circle picture of silver coins. Write: Silver

Circle picture of gold bar. Write: Gold

Circle picture of a robe. Write: Robe

Telling the truth:

1. Wrong word: Joshua, correct: Achan
2. Wrong word: trumpet, correct: spear/ javelin
3. Wrong word: trees, correct: stones
4. Wrong word: Caleb, correct: Moses

Ages 9-10

What did Achan steal?:

1. Robe
2. silver shekels
3. gold wedge

Ages 11-12

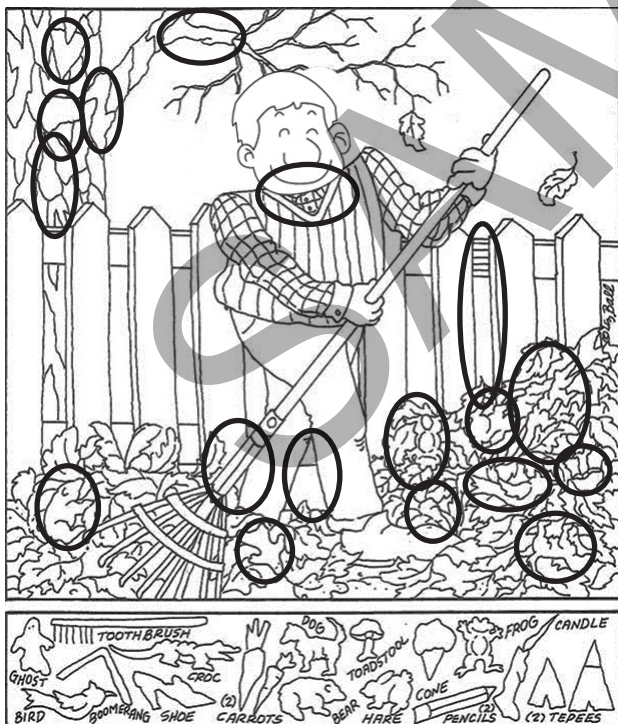
Activity 1: 1. Robe

2. silver shekels

3. Gold

Find the hidden objects:

The hidden objects are circled in the following picture



Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. B

4. E

7. B

2. D

5. B

3. C

6. E

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. What do you think the Israelites had learned from their experience and how did they show it after they defeated Ai?

After Achan's sin and punishment, the Israelites saw and experienced the wrath and holiness of God. They would have come to know that God is a God who keeps to His word and who cannot tolerate sin. After the second battle against Ai which they won, the Israelites gathered to renew their Covenant with God by offering sacrifices and to receive again God's laws as given through Moses. This is in contrast with the first time they gathered after they lost against Ai when they were defeated and in fear.

2. How would you feel if you were one of the Israelites standing in front of one of the two mountains and watched all that had happened? What would impress you?

Firstly, the entire nation of Israel, was gathered there following the events of the answer to Question 1. Using the Question 1 answer as background and context, ask the children to imagine and compare the different situation and feelings between the first and second gatherings – the crowd's mood (defeated vs jubilant), the speeches by God and Joshua (anger vs fellowship with God), the activities (punishment and wrath vs listening to Joshua reading the law).

3. What can we learn from the character of Joshua?

Joshua did not only care that the people were successful in battle, but that they were also in fellowship with God through knowing and obeying His laws.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 5: Judges – Deborah Leads Israel

Theme / Overview of Story:

Joshua has died and the people of Israel have settled in Canaan. They become disobedient repeatedly and God punishes them by sending different oppressors. However, God always sends a judge to lead the people and free them from their oppressors. Deborah is one judge who was brave because she trusted in God. In contrast, Barak, whom she asked to lead the Israelites in battle, was fearful.

Bible Passage

Judges 4: 1-8
(for background, read also Judges 2: 10-19)

Multimedia

Play Story 4 on Prophetess Deborah vs. Commander Sisera up to Judges 4 : 8 in the narration.

Objective

Learn not to take God's grace for granted and to obey Him faithfully.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 5 on Introduction to the Book of Judges for background and Chapter 6 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 4 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Options (see the Workbook)

Some trust in chariots or horses. But we trust in the Lord our God. Psalm 20:7

or

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. Psalm 145: 8 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. The Israelites' repeated rejection of God leads them to suffer at the hands of their enemies.
2. Each time, God rescues them by raising up leaders or judges to rescue the Israelites from their oppressors.
3. Deborah plays an important role in the deliverance of the Israelites because of her courage and faith in the Lord.

Bible Truth and Application

Even though we sin repeatedly, God is patient, just and merciful. This is shown in how he raises judge after judge to care for and lead Israel.

Response and Prayer

Help the children see the connection between Israel's repeated sin and rescue through the judges with our own lives of repeated disobedience and forgiveness from God. Explain what taking for granted means and encourage the children to pray for God's help to be consistent in their walk with Him.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

Discover!:

E	Y	L	E	G	T	E	U
D	F	P	S	J	L	S	D
S	M	T	I	U	H	P	T
P	H	D	R	J	M	P	F
O	S	R	Y	U	O	I	V
K	X	F	W	Q	S	U	R
V	A	O	B	E	Y	T	A
C	B	T	E	V	G	T	G

How can we be more like Deborah?:

Circle 'Brave', 'Has faith' and 'Trusted God'

Ages 7-8

Verse Puzzle: Full verse is Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you

Ages 9-10

Tell your teacher: The teacher must be prepared to explain and discuss the phrase "take for granted". Start by getting the children to think where the food they eat comes from and talk about the farmers who work hard to plant and grow vegetables, or rear chickens, for example. Then talk about how someone still has to cook the food to make it edible and tasty. A rough explanation of taking things for granted could be like how we don't think about or appreciate the work and the people required in order to enjoy something. Elicit more examples from the children to make sure they understand before they draw it in their workbooks.

Respond: The God I worship is (some acceptable answers or others along the same lines: patient, loving, caring, kind, merciful, forgiving... etc)

Ages 11-12

Activity 2: Down 1. Thankful
Across 1. Grace 2. Merciful 3. Accountable

Frustrated!: Let children write their own sentences. Possible words: stubborn, disobedient, sinful, selfish.

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. C
2. A
3. C

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. Why did Barak insist that Deborah accompany him to the battle? What would you have done?

Why Barak did so is not clearly stated, but it is believable that he was simply afraid and lacked trust in the Lord. Explain that it is normal to feel fear, but obedience is principally about trust and faith in God despite our fears. God had specifically called Barak and had already promised him victory ('I will lure Sisera . . . and give him into your hands' Judges 1: 7). Barak's reluctance had more to do with his lack of trust in God than whether he was afraid or not.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 6: Prophetess Deborah vs. Commander Sisera

Theme / Overview of Story:

This time, the Israelites' oppressor is Sisera, the commander of enemy King Jabin's army. Barak, who was asked to lead the battle against him is afraid and will only go if Deborah follows him. Israel won with God's help by throwing Sisera's army into a panic. However, it was not Barak who defeated Sisera, just as Deborah had prophesied.

Bible Passage

Judges 4: 8 - 23

Multimedia

Continue with Story 4 from Judges 4: 8 in the narration till the end. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

Learn to be a part of God's plans by stepping out boldly in trust and obedience to follow Him.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 6 of the textbook. Continue with Multimedia Story 4 and go through the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Options (see the Workbook)

Arise! God has given Sisera to you! Judges 4: 14b

or

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him. Psalm 32:10

(the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Barak was fearful and did not trust God fully.
2. In contrast, Deborah was brave because she trusted God.
3. Even though Barak was weak, God still accomplished His plan to save Israel. However, Barak could not share in the glory of success because he didn't trust God.

Bible Truth and Application

God wants us to be a part of His plans. He can still use us even though we are weak and fearful. We only need to trust in Him.

Response and Prayer

Ask God for the wisdom to know His plan for our lives and the courage to be part of it.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

-No objective questions/answers in this lesson-

Ages 7-8

Confusion!: Sisera Chariots
 Barak Deborah
 Jael

Ages 9-10

Match: Faith in God, Courage

Ages 11-12

Circle: Faith in God, Courage

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1. C | 4. E | 7. D |
| 2. A | 5. D | |
| 3. C | 6. B | |

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

- If you were a soldier on Israel's side, describe your experience and how you would feel after the battle?*

Point out the strength of Sisera's army and the Lord's intervention in the battle. Get the children to respond with their feelings based on these highlights. A range of answers is acceptable, such as amazed, jubilant, victorious, overwhelmed, in awe, excited, etc.
- What can we learn from Deborah and Barak from this story?*

See answer to Question 1. Deborah was courageous and brave; she drew her confidence and strength from God's promise of victory. In contrast, Barak listened more to his own fears instead of God's promise to give Sisera to him.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 7: The Calling of Gideon

Theme / Overview of Story:

Gideon was the son of a poor farmer who had abandoned God. Yet, God chose him for the task to lead Israel against their enemies, the Midianites. Gideon is unsure that God really wants him for the job, so he asks God for signs.

Bible Passage

Judges 6

Multimedia

Play Story 5 on Gideon and the Midianites until the end of Judges 6 in the narration.

Objective

To learn that God loves an obedient heart.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 7 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 5 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Options (see the Workbook)

Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" Judges 6: 14

or

"But Lord, " Gideon asked. "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

The Lord answered, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man." Judges 6: 15-16 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Sometimes, God chooses unlikely people to be His agents of change. Gideon was poor and thought he was weak and unsuitable for the task. Yet, because he is obedient, he proves himself faithful and worthy of the role he was chosen for.
2. God gives Gideon the assurance that he is the one chosen for the task.

Bible Truth and Application

We may think we are weak and unsuitable, but if we are obedient, God gives us strength and success.

Response and Prayer

Encourage the children to pray for themselves to develop obedient hearts.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

What's the story?:

Correct order of numbers (top to bottom) – 2, 1, 4, 3

Ages 7-8

-No objective questions/answers in this lesson-

Ages 9-10

Activity: 4, 1, 3, 2 (clockwise)

Break the code: Mighty hero

Ages 11-12

Break the code: Mighty hero

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. C
2. E
3. D

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. Why did Gideon feel he was unworthy of great deeds?
He was from a small, weak clan and he had no great position within his family.
2. How would you feel if you were Gideon and the angel approached you with the mission?
Help the children think further – would they have given an excuse? Would they compare themselves with others? Would they look at their own faults or weaknesses? Or would they trust that God had a reason for calling them?

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 8: Gideon and the Midianites

Theme / Overview of Story:

Earlier, Gideon had asked God for signs of confirmation. Now, God tests Gideon's faith by asking him to reduce the number of his soldiers. Gideon obeys without hesitation. Under God's guidance and protection, Gideon leads Israel to victory against the Midianites even though they are far outnumbered

Bible Passage

Judges 7

Multimedia

Continue Story 5 until the end. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn that trusting God is a journey and personal experience. God wants us to know and experience Him ourselves.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 7 of the textbook. Continue with Multimedia Story 5 and go through the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Psalm 34: 8 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Gideon learns to trust God more and more. Unlike before, he now obeys without hesitation when God asks him to reduce the size of his army.
2. Following God's instructions, Gideon and his men defeat the Midianites without using swords and even though they were fewer in number.

Bible Truth and Application

1. God can be experienced personally. He will sometimes test us, like He tested Gideon, in order that we will learn to trust Him fully.
2. We need to have our own personal relationship with God. It is not enough if we follow our parents to church or go to Sunday School.

Response and Prayer

Encourage the children to ask God to deepen their relationship with Him, to know Him more and to have the same kind of trust in God Gideon had during difficult times.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

Circle the correct word:

1. 10,000 2. hands 3. Trumpets

Ages 7-8

Draw the answers: 1. A river

2. A trumpet, an empty jar and a torch

3. Swords

Ages 9-10

Know the story:

1. The way the men drank water from the river / asked those who were afraid to leave
2. 22,000 (twenty-two thousand); 10,000 (ten thousand) (Judges 7:3)
3. Jars
4. All the answers are possible in some way as Gideon likely felt a mix of emotions. Let children pick their answers and discuss with them if there is time.

Ages 11-12

Know the story: Same activity and answers as for Ages 9-10

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

4. C 7. A
5. E
6. D

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

3. Why did the Lord choose such an unusual strategy to defeat the enemies of Israel?
To show His might and power, just like He did when leading Joshua and the Israelites across the River Jordan and to attack Jericho. To show the other nations that He, as Israel's God, was different and a living God compared to the gods of other nations.
4. What can you learn and apply from the story of Gideon?
God calls weak, lowly and ordinary people to do His work. In our world today, this may mean people who are not as wealthy, as beautiful or as attractive as people the world looks up to. This question is a good starting point to address self-esteem issues especially for older (pre-teen) age groups. Ultimately, God looks for those whose hearts are obedient to Him.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 9: Samson – An Unusual Birth and Wedding Story

Theme / Overview of Story:

Samson was a Nazirite, someone who is someone set apart for God through making a vow (promise). His unusual birth was foretold by an angel and his mother was old and barren. God gives Samson great strength, and he was able to kill a lion with his bare hands. But Samson disobeyed God's laws and broke his Nazirite vow by touching and taking food from a dead animal, and by marrying a pagan Philistine woman. His wedding ends in disaster.

Bible Passage

Judges 13 & 14

Multimedia

Play Story 6 on Samson - An Unusual Birth & Wedding Story. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn about God's holiness and that we are set apart (consecrated) for Him to do good works when we believe in Jesus.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 8 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 6 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
1 Peter 2: 9 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Samson was set apart for God by being made a Nazirite at birth. He was prepared from young to live for God. God gives him great strength but under certain conditions of his Nazirite vow.
2. Samson chose his own way instead of God's way. He breaks God's law and his Nazirite vow by taking and eating honey from a dead lion, and by marrying a woman from the Philistine enemy.

Bible Truth and Application

1. When we believe in Jesus, we are set apart for God. There are some things we cannot do because our God is a holy God.
2. Being set apart also means that our lives are to fulfil God's plans through our good works.

Response and Prayer

Help the children to see that they have been chosen by God and that each of them have a purpose in life. Teach them about praying for God's help to be obedient so that they can fulfil His purpose for their lives.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

The right picture?:



Ages 7-8

Making promises:

1. Hair
2. Wine/ alcohol
3. Forbidden/ unclean food

Ages 9-10

Which isn't true?: 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. C

Think and write:

Acceptable answers: Lie, cheat, steal, be jealous, disobey parents, be rude, etc.

Respond:

As God's child - Acceptable answers: special / part of God's family / forgiven / loved, etc.

To live like God's child – encourage children to think about one thing they can do.

Ages 11-12

Which isn't true?: 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. C

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1. B | 4. E | 7. B |
| 2. E | 5. E | |
| 3. D | 6. A | |

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. How do you think Manoah and his wife felt when they heard what the angel had told them?

Judges 13: 16 and 20-22 indicate that Manoah and his wife had no idea that the angel was actually a messenger from God until after the angel went up in the flames of the offering. Manoah reacted with more excitement and concern that they would now die after seeing God, but his wife appeared to be more rational (v 23). From the wife's reaction, it appeared that she was quite confident in God's promise of a son even though she was barren.

2. Why do you think Samson was disobedient to his parents?

The same question can be asked of ourselves – why are we disobedient to our parents, to God, etc, even though we love them and even though we know what is right and wrong? This is an opportunity to discuss Adam's original sin with the children and how as a result of that, the whole human race is sinful in nature and in need of Jesus to reconcile us with God.

3. What can we learn from this story about Samson?

a) we are set apart for God when we believe in Jesus. Samson was set apart as a Nazirite from birth.

b) our sinful human nature leads us to disobey God even though we His children. We need to keep fellowship with God and His people who can help remind us about being faithful to God. In contrast, Samson went his own way among the Philistine enemies and was tempted by one of their women.

c) we are set apart for God for a reason – God has work for us to do in His Kingdom. Samson was dedicated to God as part of God's plan for him to save the Israelites from their oppressors.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 10: Samson vs. the Philistines

Theme / Overview of Story:

Samson looks for the woman who was supposed to be his wife. Finding that she has been given to someone else and later killed, he takes revenge on the Philistines, destroying their crops and killing many men. Samson hides in a cave but the Philistines soon catch him. Using his great strength, Samson breaks free and kills 1,000 Philistines with a donkey's jawbone.

Bible Passage

Judges 15: 1-20

Multimedia

Play Story 7 on Samson vs the Philistines. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn that our gifts and talents come from God. We should use them wisely for His glory.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 9 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 7 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
1 Chronicles 16:11 (the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Samson's gift of strength came from God. As long as Samson kept his Nazirite vow, God would give him this strength.
2. Samson used his strength for his own purposes, in this case to take revenge for what the Philistines did to his wife. However, God uses this to begin the process of freeing the Israelites from the Philistines.

Bible Truth and Application

1. God gives us gifts and talents for His glory and to achieve His purposes.
2. We are disobedient sometimes and misuse our gifts, but God can still work to achieve His purpose through us.

Response and Prayer

Encourage the children to identify their gifts and talents and to see them as blessings from God. Help them learn about praying for guidance and wisdom to know how to use their talents for God.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

Samson vs. the Philistines: Circle picture 1, 2 and 5

Ages 7-8

Samson vs. the Philistines: 1. 300; foxes 2. tails; fire
3. Jawbone; 1000

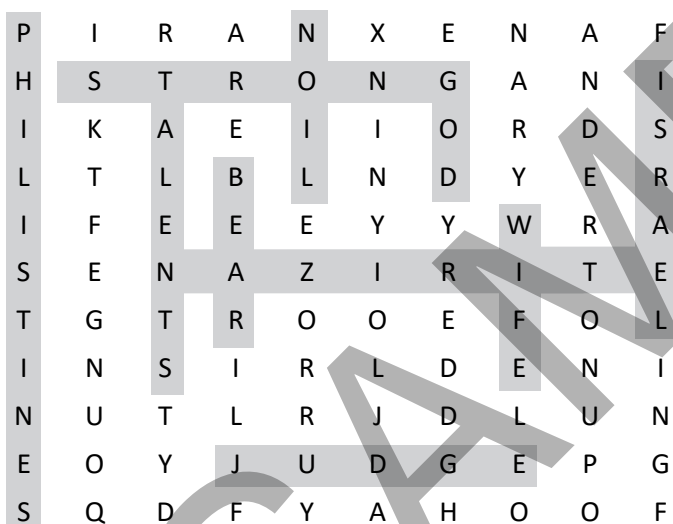
Ages 9-10

Scrambled letters: 1. Timnah 2. Vineyards 3. Cave
4. Judah 5. Jawbone

Discuss: Answer along the lines of – Samson used his strength for himself / to take revenge. God is still going to use Samson to punish the Philistines, even if Samson doesn't know he is being used by God. However, do you think Samson could have done even greater things if he had used his gift for God's glory? Was he missing his full potential?

Ages 11-12

Word search:



Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. C
2. A
3. E
4. B
5. D
6. B

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. *If you were an Israelite following the exploits of Samson what would you think about Samson? What would you think God is doing through Samson?*

The Israelites wanted someone to deliver them from the Philistines. They probably looked at Samson as their deliverer. At the same time, some Israelites may have wondered why Samson, if he was to fight their Philistine enemies, had gone to take a wife from among the enemy people. God was working through Samson to deliver the Israelites, though they may not have realised that it was actually God behind Samson's exploits.

2. *If you were a Philistine watching Samson's exploits, what would you think about Samson and about his God?*

The Philistines would certainly have found Samson a menace; he would have been on their 'most wanted' list. It is hard to say if Samson's actions made the Philistines think anything about Israel's God since the Israelites were themselves doing evil (Judges 13:1) which implies that they were not living in ways that testified about their God. Samson himself was disobeying God by not keeping his Nazirite vow.

3. *What can we learn from this story?*

Despite Israel's and Samson's disobedience to God, God still remembers His Covenant promise made to Joshua and his forefathers that Israel would be a great nation. God prevented Israel from being wiped out by her enemies through leaders like Samson, even if he wasn't perfect. God is a God who keeps His promises. He is also merciful and patient to forgive us our sins when we return to Him – Samson remembered God towards the end of His life before he pushed the temple pillars and killed 3,000 Philistines.

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 11: Samson and Delilah

Theme / Overview of Story:

Samson allows himself to be tempted by another enemy woman, Delilah. She cuts his hair, and he breaks his Nazirite vow. Samson is captured, but no longer has the strength from God. While tortured by the Philistines, his hair grows again and he turns back to God. God hears Samson's cry and helps him defeat the Philistines.

Bible Passage

Judges 16: 4-31

Multimedia

Play Story 8 on Samson and Delilah. Try the multiple choice questions. If there is time, older classes can attempt the Discussion Questions.

Objective

To learn about dealing with temptation.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 10 of the textbook. Go through Multimedia Story 8 and the Workbook activities.

Memory Verse

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26: 41
(the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story

1. Samson uses his strength for personal gain and pleasure. He allows himself to be tempted by the enemy Delilah. Whereas, the Bible teaches us to flee from temptation.
2. When he disobeyed God, Samson broke his Nazirite vow. God took away his strength and Samson was captured and punished by the Philistines.
3. Samson turns back to God and calls on the name of God. The Lord shows him grace and gives him final victory over the Philistines.

Bible Truth and Application

1. Being tempted is not a sin, but giving in to temptation is.
2. God is gracious and hears our cries for help and forgiveness. Despite Samson's disobedience, when he calls upon God, God hears and shows His faithfulness and grace to Samson by giving him victory over the Philistines.

Response and Prayer

Help the children see the relevance of knowing the Bible well and of a faithful relationship with God to the issue of dealing with temptation. Encourage them to pray for a deeper understanding of God to know and obey His ways.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

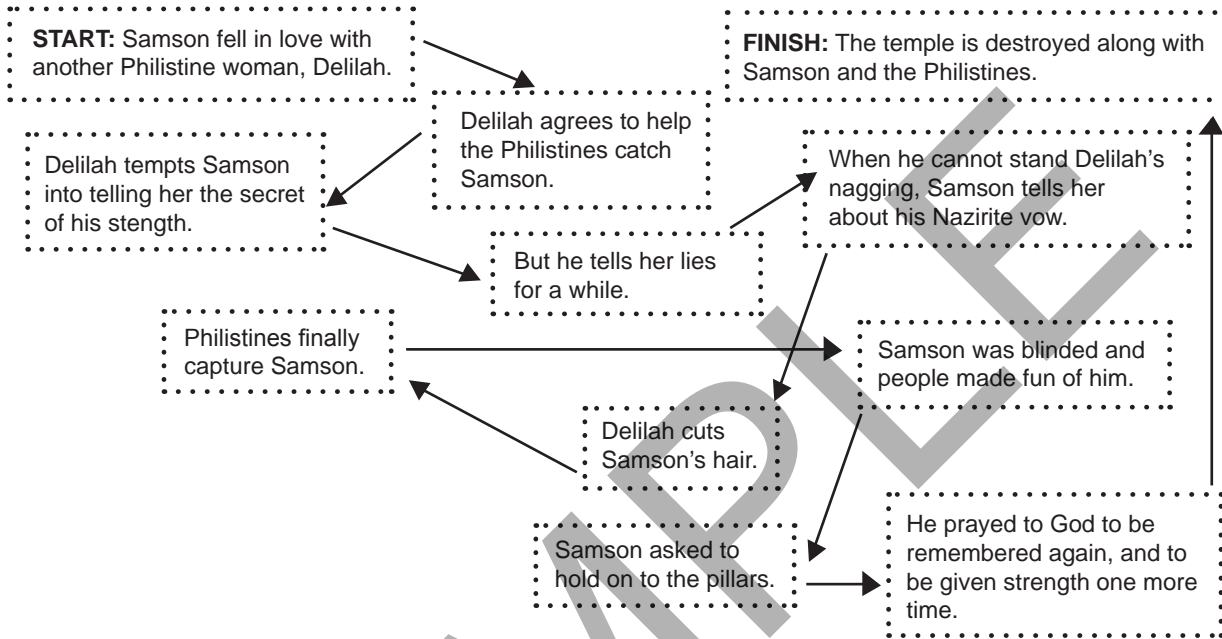
-No objective questions/answers in this lesson -

Ages 7-8

What is temptation?: 1. women 2. wasn't allowed

Ages 9-10

Make the connection:



Ages 11-12

Game – Throw away your sins! Teacher to explain that even though we are Christians, it does not mean we are complete is free of sin. There will be temptations and pride in ourselves that can make us turn away from God. In this game, it tiring to continuously be throwing away the paper balls. But in life, when we walk closely with God, He gives us the strength to reject sin.

Discuss and answer:

1. Examples: quiet time reading the Bible, regular prayer, reading other books about the Bible.
2. Sharing problems, fellowship, worshipping and studying the Bible together, praying for one another.

Answers to Multimedia Quiz

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1. E | 4. B | 7. D |
| 2. B | 5. A | |
| 3. E | 6. C | |

Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. Ask the children to imagine they are sitting in the crowd and watching Samson being made fun of. Then Samson tries to push the two strongest pillars in the temple. Everyone is laughing until the pillars actually begin to move.
What would they be thinking in such a situation? What would they think about Samson's God?
2. The second question does not appear in the multimedia but only in the book.
What do you think the Lord was showing Israel through the life of Samson?
Ask them if they thought Samson's life was perfect. Was he given a powerful gift?
How could Samson have better used his gifts?

Joshua and the Judges

Lesson 12: Epilogue to Joshua and the Judges

Theme / Overview of Story:

Revision of the key themes and characters in Joshua and the Judges, and connecting them to faith in Jesus as the Perfect Saviour and King.

Objective

To use the stories and characters in Joshua and the Judges as a basis or framework to introduce Jesus as the Perfect Saviour and King.

Preparation

Pray for wisdom. Read Chapter 11 of the textbook on Epilogue to Joshua and the Judges.

Memory Verse

But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57
(the Memory Verse may be shortened in younger age Workbooks)

Lessons from the Story: Key themes

1. God gives deliverance and victory if we are faithful and obedient.
2. God gives grace and forgiveness even though we are sinners if we have faith in Him.
3. God guides and gives instructions so that we can obey Him.
4. God calls unlikely people to do His work.
5. Beware of pride and disobedience.
6. The stories in Judges show us the need for a Perfect Saviour and King. This person is Jesus, who is God Himself who died on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus delivers us from sin and reconciles us with God; He also becomes the King of our lives.

Response and Prayer

Having learned about Joshua and the Judges, encourage the children to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Perfect Saviour and King. Encourage them to pray about deepening their knowledge about Jesus' teachings and their faith in Him. Teachers can also assess whether some children might be ready to say the sinner's prayer with understanding of what it means and how it will apply to them.

Answers to Workbook

Ages 4-6

We can learn from ...:

1. Joshua and the Israelites – match to picture 2
2. Deborah – match to picture 4
3. Gideon – match to picture 1
4. Samson – match to picture 3

Ages 7-8

We can learn from ...:

1. Joshua and the Israelites (draw Joshua and a camp of tents/people)
2. Rahab (draw Rahab by a window with two men -spies- climbing out)
3. Gideon (draw Gideon with trumpet/torch/empty jar)
4. Samson (draw Samson with long hair/standing between two pillars)

Ages 9-10

Who am I?:

1. Rahab	2. Achan	3. Joshua
4. Deborah	5. Gideon	6. Samson

Respond: Jesus Christ

Ages 11-12

Game – Test your understanding:

- a. Prepare the pieces of paper with actions written on them, place in a bag or box.
- b. Prepare a list of questions only the Teacher can see. Sample questions:
 1. Who helped Joshua's spies by hiding them?
 2. What is the name of the man who stole some things from the enemy and caused the Israelites to lose the battle?
 3. What is the name of the person who became Israel's leader after Moses died?
 4. Who was a brave woman who went into battle with Barak?
 5. Who was afraid to be a leader and asked God for signs?
 6. Who was disobedient to God by breaking his Nazirite vow, but was in the end used by God to punish Israel's oppressors?

Yes or No game:

Prepare the names of characters in Joshua and Judges on pieces of paper or sticky notes. Due to time, you might want to limit the number of questions each child can ask about the character's name stuck behind their backs.

Joshua and the Judges

Notes

SAMPLE