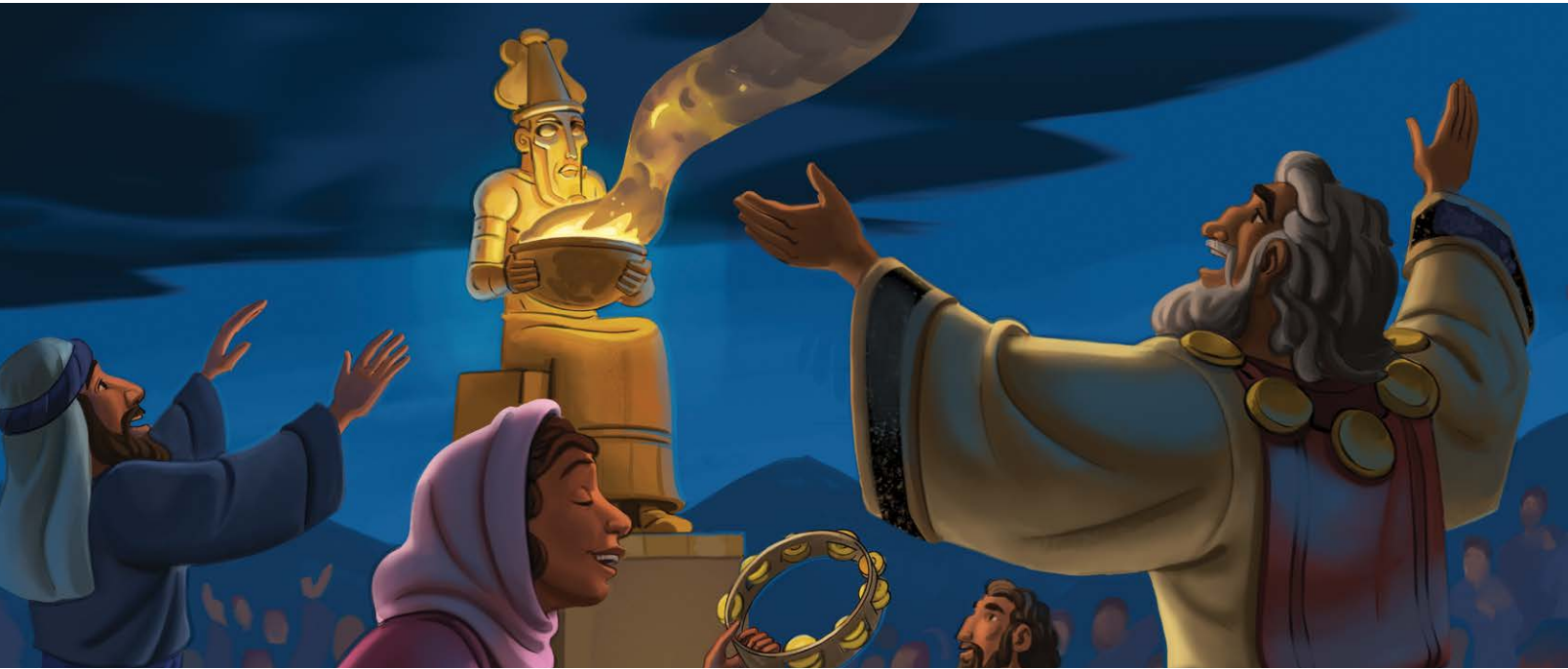


# THE FIRST JUDGES

## Judges 3



The Israelites began to do what was evil in the Lord's sight. They worshiped the gods of the people who lived near them, and God was angry with their sin. So, God sent a foreign king to capture the people as a consequence.

The Israelites cried out to the Lord to save them. God raised up Othniel (AHTH nih el) to save them. Othniel defeated this foreign king in battle. God's people turned away from sin and had peace for 40 years.

After Othniel's death, the people went back to worshipping other gods and doing evil in the Lord's sight. So, God sent King Eglon to defeat His people as a consequence for their sin. Then the Israelites cried out for God to save them from slavery. So, God raised up another judge—Ehud—who would save the people.

Ehud used his sword to defeat the king, and then Ehud secretly escaped. After Ehud escaped, he sounded the ram's horn

and all of Israel met him. Ehud said, "The Lord has handed over your enemies, the Moabites."

Later, God raised up a third judge named Shamgar. He delivered Israel from their enemies, the Philistines.

*Christ Connection:* God brought consequences to His people for their sins, but He also raised up judges to save them from their enemies. We also have consequences for our sins, but God sent Jesus to save us from our sins once and for all.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Match the Bible reference to its correct description to learn more about the people's cycle of rebellion against God.

Judges 2:11-12

ISRAEL WAS CONQUERED.

Judges 2:14-15

ISRAEL WAS DELIVERED.

Judges 3:9

ISRAEL CRIED OUT TO GOD.

Judges 2:16

ISRAEL SINNED.

Judges 2:18

GOD SENT A JUDGE.

» What does this story teach us about God?

» How does today's story point us to our need to be rescued?

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### GOSPEL DISCUSSION

God displayed His grace each time the Israelites cried out to Him, and He sent a judge to save them. The people had done nothing to earn God's love, favor, or forgiveness. In a similar way, when we turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus, we experience God's grace. The free gift of salvation is available to anyone who trusts in Jesus! Have you accepted this free gift?



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

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» The Israelites turned to false gods. What might we turn to instead of God?

» How can we turn away from a cycle of rebellion?

» Why is Jesus a greater Rescuer than the judges from our story?

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### **CHRIST CONNECTION**

God brought consequences to His people for their sins, but He also raised up judges to save them from their enemies. We also have consequences for our sins, but God sent Jesus to save us from our sins once and for all.



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

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» Find 2 Chronicles 7:14 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, praising Him for His great rescue plan through His Son, Jesus.

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### READ THE WORD

Think about God's love and how He rescues those who trust in Jesus. Read one of the following passages each day this week:

Hebrews 4:12-13

Ephesians 6:10-13

Hebrews 7:25

John 3:16

Ephesians 2:1-5

John 3:36