

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Samson Judges 10 - 21

### Opening

Gathering: How have you recognized God's open arms when you returned to Him after straying?

Today's Focus: God wants us to call upon Him - in good time and bad. He receives us when we repent.

Key Verses: *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.* Romans 10:13

*"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.* Zechariah 4:6

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

A Separate People (*Joshua 23*)

What did God command of Israel before they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land?

Numbers 33:50-53

Why was it important for Israel to *drive out all the inhabitants of the land*?

Numbers 33:55-56

Were the Israelites able to conquer the entire territory under Joshua's leadership?

Joshua 13:1

Did they finish their job soon after Joshua died?

Judges 1:29 (27-36)

How did God respond to Israel's neglect and rejection of His command?

Judges 2:1-3

Faithfulness (*Judges 2:7-13*)

What were Joshua's last words to the Israelites before sending them home?

Joshua 24:14-15

How did the Israelites respond to Joshua's call?

Joshua 24:24

How faithful did the Israelites remain?

Judges 2:7, 10-13

Why did the Israelites continue to fall from God?

Judges 3:5-6

Judges (*Judges 2:14-23*)

How did God handle this?

Judges 2:14-15

How did God respond to Israel's cries of distress?

Judges 2:16, 18

Did the judges have a lasting effect on Israel's faithfulness?

Judges 2:19

What did God decide as a result of this response?

Judges 2:20-22

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### Judges One and Two (*Judges 3*)

Who was the first judge called by God?  
Judges 3:7-11

Who was the second judge given by God to deliver the Israelites?  
Judges 3:12, 15

How did Ehud deliver Israel from Moab?  
Judges 3:20-22

How did Ehud then conquer 10,000 Moabites?  
Judges 3:27-29

### A Woman's Stake (*Judges 4-5*)

What female judge did God use to deliver Israel from Canaanites?  
Judges 4:1-2, 4, 6

How did Deborah get involved beyond just issuing a call to Barak?  
Judges 4:8-9

Who receive credit for the victory over Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army?  
Judges 4:22

### Tooting God's Horn (*Judges 6-9*)

What oppressor led to God's next judge?  
Judges 6:1-2

Who did God call as judge and how did He confirm His call?  
Judges 6:14, 17, 21

Did God's sign satisfy Gideon that God would give him victory?  
Judges 6:36-40

Why did God reduce Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300?  
Judges 7:2

How did Gideon's 300 men defeat Midian's massive army?  
Judges 7:20-22

How did the Israelites respond to this victory and how did Gideon show his faithfulness?  
Judges 8:22-23

### Minor Judges (*Judges 3:31; 10:1-5; 12:8-15*)

What judge during Ehud's time do we hear about with only limited information?  
Judges 3:31

What "minor" judge did God raise after Gideon and his son Abimelech?  
Judges 10:1-2

What judge came next?  
Judges 10:3-4

Jephthah came next. Who followed Jephthah?  
Judges 12:8 (8-10)

Who followed him?  
Judges 12:11 (11-12)

Who is the last "minor" judge we learn about?  
Judges 12:13 (13-15)

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### Jephthah (*Judges 10-11:11*)

Who did God use to punish the Israelites in Jephthah's day?

Judges 10:6-7 (6-9)

How did God respond when the Israelites cried out under the oppression?

Judges 10:13-16 (10-18)

Who was Jephthah and how did he become an Israelite leader?

Judges 11:1, 3-6 (1-11)

### Be Careful What You Say (*Judges 11:12-12*)

What foolish thing did Jephthah do before fighting the Ammonites?

Judges 11:30-31 (12-33)

What did he have to sacrifice after God gave victory?

Judges 11:34-35 (34-40)

Who was jealous that they had not been a part of this victory?

Judges 12:1

What happened when the Ephraimites fought the Gileadites despite Jephthah's claim that he had asked?

Judges 12:5-6 (2-7)

### Miracle Baby (*Judges 13*)

Who oppressed Israel in Samson's day?

Judges 13:1

How was Samson set apart by God even before birth?

Judges 13:3-5 (2-5)

How did Samson's parents know that this message came from God?

Judges 13:19-20 (6-25)

### The Lion King (*Judges 14:1-9*)

Why was Samson attracted to a Philistine woman when he got older?

Judges 14:3-4 (1-4)

How did Samson learn about his gift of strength on the way to see the girl?

Judges 14:6 (5-7)

What did Samson later find in the lion's carcass?

Judges 14:8-9

### The Lion King (*Judges 14:10-20*)

What kind of wager did Samson make with 30 Philistines during his wedding feast?

Judges 14:12-14 (10-14)

What happened when the 30 Philistines threatened the girl for the answer?

Judges 14:17-18 (15-18)

How did Samson get the 30 sets of clothes to pay the bet?

Judges 14:19

What happened when Samson went back home without his wife?

Judges 14:20

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#### Is This Your Jawbone? (*Judges 15*)

- What did Samson do when he learned his wife had been given to another man?  
Judges 15:3-5 (1-5)
- How did the Philistines respond and then what did Samson do?  
Judges 15:6, 8 (6-8)
- What did Samson do with a jawbone after he was tied & turned over?  
Judges 15:14-15 (9-20)

#### And Tom Jones is Jealous? (*Judges 16*)

- Who did Samson fall in love with that led to his demise?  
Judges 16:4-5 (1-5)
- How did Samson answer when asked of his secret?  
Judges 16:6-7 (6-9)
- What were his second and third answers?  
Judges 16:10-11, 13 (10-14)
- What was his fourth answer?  
Judges 16:16-17 (15-18)
- What happened after Delilah had Samson's head shaved?  
Judges 16:19-22
- How did the Philistines celebrate their capture of Samson?  
Judges 16:23, 25 (23-25)
- How was Samson victorious even at death?  
Judges 16:26, 29-30 (26-31)

#### Related Stories

- Abimelech - Judges 9  
CARGO - Leadership is chosen by God, not by man or heredity
- Micah's Idols & the Danites - Judges 17-18  
CARGO - Israelites were so misled, they thought God came with a Levite & his idols
- The Levite, His Concubine & the Benjamites - Judges 19-21  
CARGO - Remove the cancer from the body; Body must be whole, but well

#### Closing Prayer

#### **Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I failed to finish a task that I felt God had given to me?  
(*Judges 1:27-2:5; Luke 14:25-33; Acts 20:24; Colossians 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:5-7*)
2. What does it mean to me that God offers His grace even though I only deserve His judgment?  
(*Judges 2:10-19; Ezra 9:13; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 6:23; James 2:12-13*)
3. When have I felt like a major servant of God? When have I felt like a minor servant?  
(*Judges 6:11-16; 10:1-5; 11:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26*)
4. What rash vows have I made foolishly? Have I followed through with my end of the deal?  
(*Judges 11:30-40; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Matthew 5:33-37*)
5. When have I felt God's strength in my life? How did it feel?  
(*Judges 14:6; 15:13-15; 16:3, 15-22; Haggai 2:4-5; Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 6:10; 1 Cor 1:25*)

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### Major Judges

<u>Judge</u>	<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Sin</u>	<u>Punish-ment</u>	<u>Cry Out</u>	<u>Judge Sent</u>	<u>Foe Defeat</u>	<u>Peace</u>
Othniel	Judah	Mesopotamia	40	3:7	3:8	3:9a	3:9b	3:10	3:11
Ehud	Benjamin	Moab	80	3:12	3:12-14	3:15a	3:15b	3:16-29	3:30
Deborah	Ephraim	Canaan	40	4:1	4:2	4:3	4:4-5	4:6-5:31a	5:31b
Gideon	Manasseh	Midian	40	6:1a	6:1b-5	6:6	6:7-40	7:1-8:27	8:28
Jephthah	Gad	Ammon	6	10:6	10:7-9	10:10-16	10:17-11:11	11:12-12:6	12:7
Samson	Dan	Philistia	20	13:1a	13:1b		13:2-25	14:1-16:31	

### Minor Judges

<u>Judge</u>	<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Sin</u>
Shamgar		Philistia		3:31
Tola	Issachar		23	10:1-2
Jair	Gad		22	10:3
Ibzan	Judah		7	12:8-10
Elon	Zebulun		10	12:11-12
Abdon	Ephraim		8	12:13-15

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### THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

**GIDEON** Major judges

**TOLA** Other judges

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak

