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
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


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)
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
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?  

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?  

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?  

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
# Major Judges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judge</th>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Enemy</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Sin</th>
<th>Punishment</th>
<th>Cry Out</th>
<th>Judge Sent</th>
<th>Foe Defeat</th>
<th>Peace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Othniel</td>
<td>Judah</td>
<td>Mesopotamia</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3:7</td>
<td>3:8</td>
<td>3:9a</td>
<td>3:9b</td>
<td>3:10</td>
<td>3:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehud</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Moab</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3:12</td>
<td>3:12-14</td>
<td>3:15a</td>
<td>3:15b</td>
<td>3:16-29</td>
<td>3:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah</td>
<td>Ephraim</td>
<td>Canaan</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4:1</td>
<td>4:2</td>
<td>4:3</td>
<td>4:4-5</td>
<td>4:6-5:31a</td>
<td>5:31b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Minor Judges

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

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com