



Day 1:

This week we learned about the overarching theme in the Judges era and how that cycle of sin still impacts us today. Ask your kids if they can help complete the ABCD cycle that the Israelites went through and how we can relate to it. (We have included that chart on the next page for you to review together.) Our sin can cause the same cycle in our lives, but praise Him who gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us to make better decisions.

Today we are going to lift up one of the judges that God called out-Gideon.

Read Judges 6:11-16.

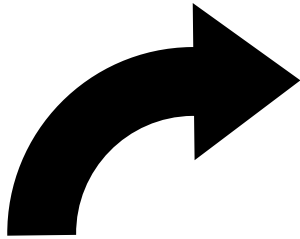
- Gideon is threshing wheat in a winepress not on a threshing floor. Why? (Gideon was scared of the Midianites so he was hiding!)
- What does God call Gideon? Is he acting like a mighty man of valor (or bravery?)
- What does verse 14 tell us about God's promise to Gideon? Who is sending Gideon?
- This tells us that God doesn't call the biggest, strongest, most talented people. He just promises that if we follow him, he will be with us.

Use the link to get to the video about Gideon.

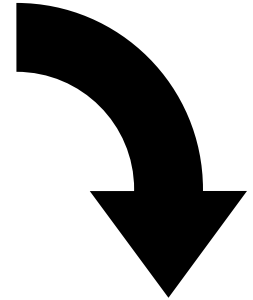


- God asks Gideon to dwindle his army down to how many men total? Why do you think he does this? (Because God fights impossible battles for us!)
- Did Gideon win the battle because of the strength he had to offer or his obedience?

As you go through your week, be like Gideon. Trust in God to fight your battles for you and not your own power. God doesn't need someone with all the talents, he just needs you and your obedience. When we obey, God blesses us. So when we don't understand something, remember Judges 6:23 and John 20:19... Peace be to you. DO NOT FEAR!



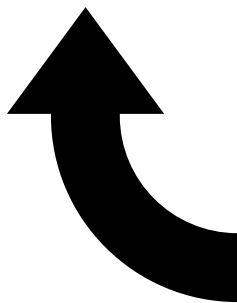
A:
Abandon
God



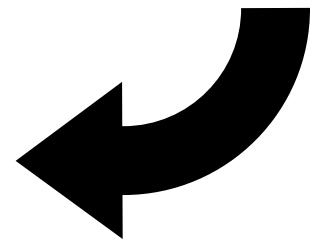
D:
Delivered
by God

The
Cycle of
Sin

B:
Bondage to
their sin
and others



C:
Cry out for
help





Day 2:

The next stop on our journey through the judges that God raised up is a man named Samson.

Watch the video about Samson and his wife Delilah and discuss the questions together.



- Who was Samson? Who was he married to?
- What was special about Samson?
- What made him so strong? What was he commanded never to do regarding his hair?
- How did he lose his power?

Read Judges 17:22. What does this simple verse tell us about God and his desire to use us even after our mistakes and disobedience?

Continue reading Judges 17:23-31. The end of Samson's life looks very different than the beginning. He used to be a bully and now he is on the receiving end of people being mean. And he gets mad! He knows he blew it big time by telling the secret of his hair but he calls out to God for one last chance to beat the Philistines.

- The Lord used the place where Samson was (in jail) to rescue the people. Have you even gotten yourself in a situation where you thought there was no way out? Or maybe that the Lord couldn't redeem it?
- What was Samson's last and final act?

Samson knew that to defeat the Philistines, he had to die also. He was willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of others. While not every part of Samson's life reminds us of Jesus, the sacrificial death does. He knew that to defeat sin on our behalf, he would have to die for us.



Day 3:

At this point, God is pretty tired of watching his children in this sin cycle that they seem to be stuck in. So he is going to raise up a young boy to bring them back to the Word of God. Samuel is actually going to anoint the kings Saul and David. Lets take a look at the life of Samuel with the video below.



- Who was Samuel?
- Do you think Samuel understood who was calling him when he heard his name?
- How did he respond when God called him?

Read 1 Samuel 3:19-21.

- After Samuel has an encounter with God, what happens in verse 19?

This tells us that an encounter with God is a serious and life changing thing. We can't meet with God and then be the same person after. The bible says that Samuel "let none of his words fall to the ground." This means that he treasured what God had to say.

- Does God speak to us like this today?
- Where do we find the words that God has to say to us?

We can learn from Samuel that to grow and become who God wants us to be, we have to read his word. At the end of verse 21 it says that the Lord revealed himself...by the word of the Lord. Let's learn to be like Samuel and treasure God's word. Read it. Memorize it. And know that it is his love letter to you!