

# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why did the Israelites disobey God? (See Judges 2:10.)
- Will we ever stop sinning? (See Romans 7:20-25.)
- How can your family remember God?

## Israel's Unfaithfulness

Judges 1-3

### STORY POINT: GOD'S PEOPLE REPEATEDLY TURNED FROM HIM.

Joshua had died. Without a strong leader, the Israelites disobeyed God and worshiped false gods. They ignored and forgot about the one true God. God let an enemy king take over the Israelites.

Then the Israelites remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out, "Save us!" God raised up Othniel to rule over them as the first judge. Othniel led the Israelites, and the land was peaceful for 40 years. Then Othniel died.

Again, Israel ignored God and forgot Him. God let the king of Moab attack the Israelites and defeat them. The Israelites remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out, "Save us!" So God raised up Ehud.

The Israelites sent Ehud to the king of Moab. Ehud hid a double-edged sword under his clothes. When the king stood up, Ehud pulled out his sword. He pushed it into the king's belly.

Ehud escaped down the porch, locking the doors of the room behind him. Ehud blew a ram's horn and became the Israelites' leader. There was peace in the land for 80 years.

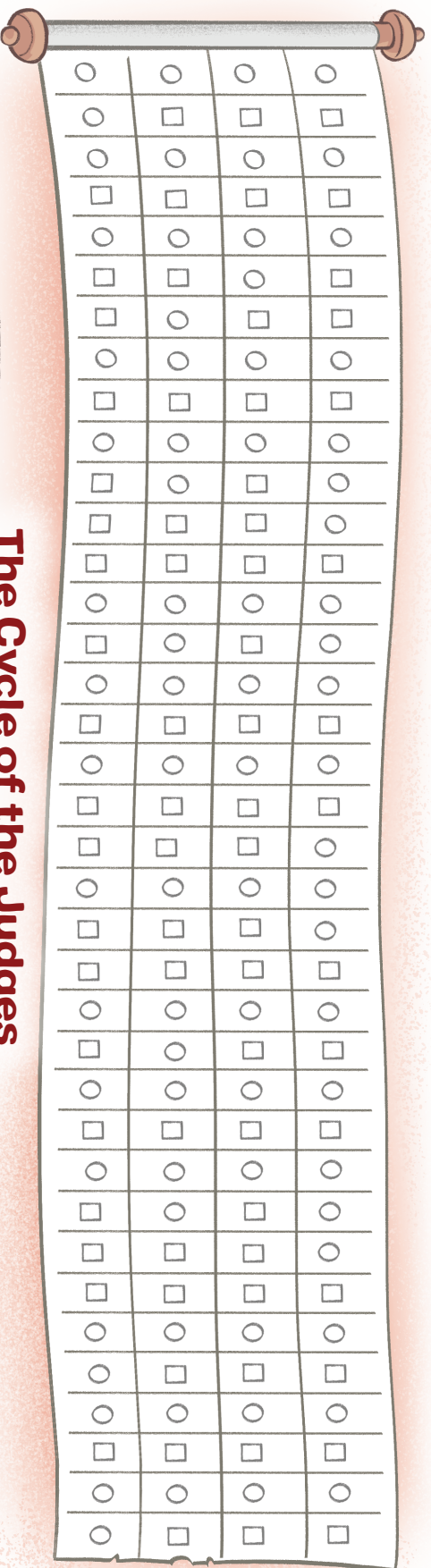
When Ehud died, the Israelites ignored and forgot God again. They turned away from Him. When they remembered how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God, they cried out to Him, "Save us!" God sent a third judge, Shamgar, to save them.

*Christ Connection: The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God's plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever.*



# Word Reveal

Color in the squares that contain a circle to discover the word that means “not keeping your promises or remaining loyal.”



## The Cycle of the Judges

Fill in the missing letters for the cycle of judges.

Unscramble those letters to fill in the blanks for the definition below.

**A \_ \_ O S \_ \_ A S Y** : The Israelites ignored God and forgot about Him.

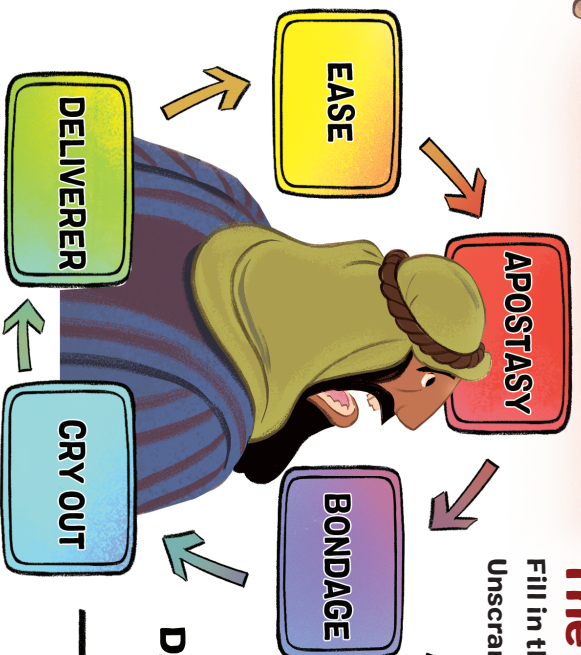
**B O \_ \_ D \_ \_ G E** : God allowed Israel's enemies to defeat them.

**\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Y O U T** : The Israelites remember how good they had it when they loved and obey God. They cried out to Him, “Save us!”

**D \_ \_ L I V \_ \_ R E R** : God raised up a judge to rule over and rescue His people.

**\_ \_ \_ A S E** : The Israelites experienced a time of peace.

**\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** : turning away from sin and turning to Jesus



# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What does it mean to give glory to God? (*to acknowledge His greatness and to honor Him*)
- What happens when people reject God and live however they want?
- How can people work together to honor God?

## Deborah and Barak

Judges 4–5

**STORY POINT: GOD USED DEBORAH, BARAK, AND Jael TO RESCUE HIS PEOPLE.**

Ehud and Shamgar had been judges over Israel. After they died, the Israelites ignored God and forgot about Him. So God allowed the king of Canaan to overtake them. The commander of the king's army was named Sisera. God's people remembered how good life was when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out to God, "Save us!"

Deborah was the judge over Israel. Deborah gave Barak a message. God said to gather an army. God would help Barak defeat Sisera.

Deborah, Barak, and the army went to Mount Tabor. Sisera took his chariots and his army to fight against Israel. Barak and his army moved down the mountain toward Sisera and his army. None of them survived except Sisera. He had escaped!

Sisera ran to the tent of Jael. Jael gave Sisera some milk to drink and covered him with a rug. Jael took a tent peg and a hammer, and used them to kill Sisera while he slept.

Barak came, looking for Sisera. Barak went into Jael's tent and saw Sisera lying dead.

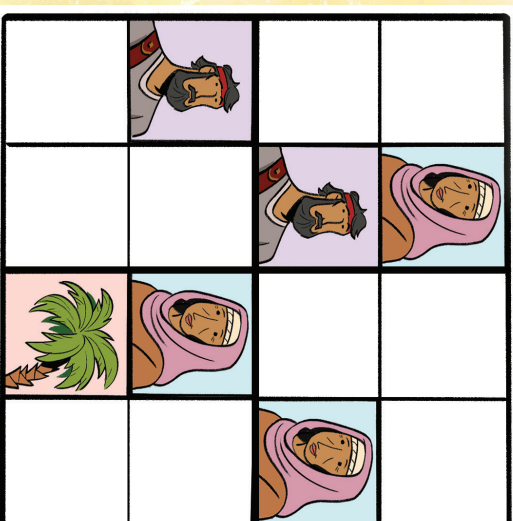
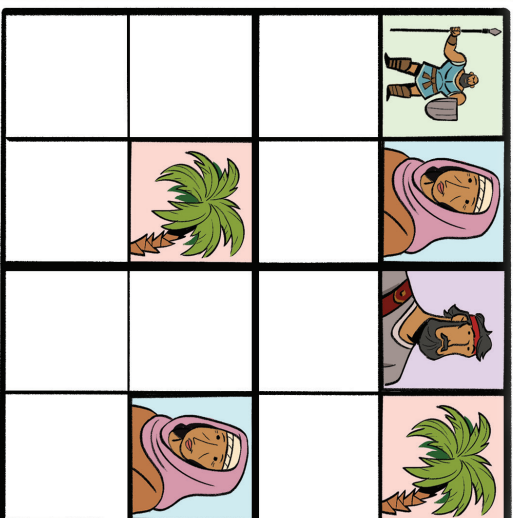
That day, God allowed the Israelites to defeat the Canaanites. Deborah and Barak sang a victory song. The land was peaceful for 40 more years.

*Christ Connection: God does what is for His glory and our good. (Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:28) God fought for the Israelites and used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to defeat Canaan. In a similar way, God uses people and events to not only save us from our enemies, but to teach us about our ultimate good: salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.*



# Deborah & Barak Puzzle

Fill in the empty squares so that each picture appears exactly once in each row, column, and 2-by-2 box.



## ACROSS

1. the king who overtook Israel
3. a woman who spoke for God
7. place the Israelite army met
8. Jabin was king of this land
9. Deborah and Barak sang \_\_\_\_\_ to God after the battle.

## Confusion Crossword

Use the clues to complete the crossword. If you need help, look at Judges 4-5.

Words: Barak, Canaan, Deborah, Jabin, Jael, Judge, Mount Tabor, praises, prophetess, Sisera

## DOWN

1. defeated Sisera
2. judged Israel while sitting under a palm tree
4. the leader of Jabin's army
5. a leader of Israel who helped deliver God's people
6. leader of Israelite army



# Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



## Gideon

Judges 6-8

### STORY POINT: GOD SHOWED GIDEON THAT VICTORY COMES FROM HIM.

The Israelites once again did not obey God, so God allowed them to be ruled by their enemies. They remembered how good life was when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out, "Save us!"

The angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" The Lord had chosen Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the power of their enemy.

When the time came to go to battle, an army of men gathered behind Gideon, ready to fight.

God told Gideon that he had too many people with him. Gideon sent home everyone who was afraid to fight. Ten thousand men remained. "That's still too many," God said. God made a rest for the people. All of them were to go to the river to drink the water. Anyone who knelt to drink water was sent home, but whoever lapped the water with his hand to his mouth stayed. Three hundred men remained.

That night, Israel's army ran toward the camp of Midianites. Gideon and his army chased the Midianites, and they ran away. God gave Israel the victory.

*Christ Connection: The Israelites cried out to God because they knew they could not save themselves. Even Gideon was not enough to save them; God used Gideon to help His people, but God fought the battle for them. The people needed someone who was mighty to save. Jesus Christ came to save us from sin because we cannot save ourselves. Only God, through Christ, can save us.*

FOLD



### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What excuses might you make about why you are unable to follow God's plan for your life?
- What does the Bible say about God's plan for us? (Phil. 2:13; Acts 1:8)
- How might God use your family for His glory?

# Gideon Grab

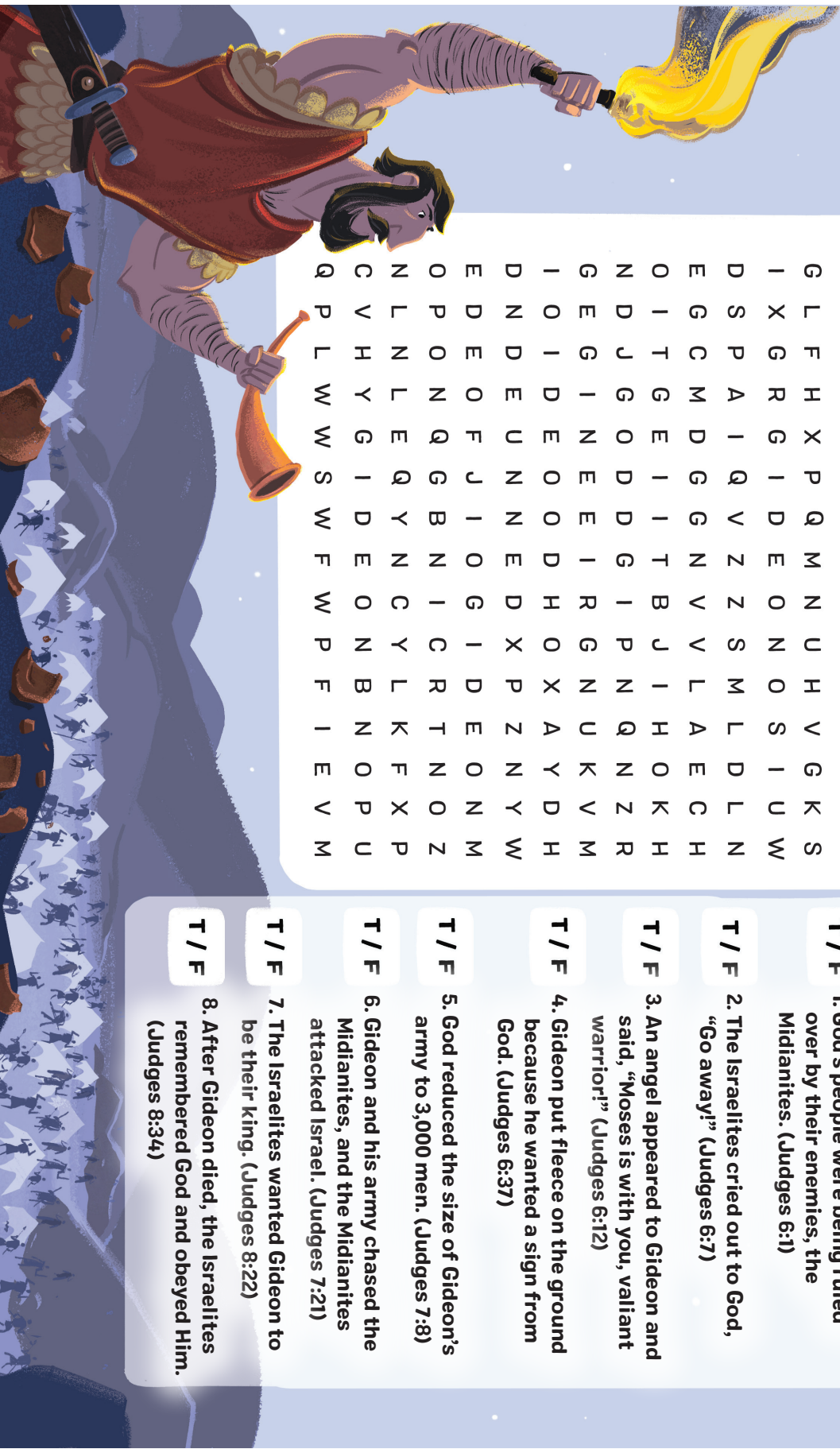
The name GIDEON is hidden in the word search 14 times.  
Can you find them all?

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

# What's Right?

Mark whether each statement is true or false.  
Compare answers with a partner. Then look up  
each reference in the Bible to check your answers.

- T /  F 1. God's people were being ruled over by their enemies, the Midianites. (Judges 6:1)
- T /  F 2. The Israelites cried out to God, "Go away!" (Judges 6:7)
- T /  F 3. An angel appeared to Gideon and said, "Moses is with you, valiant warrior!" (Judges 6:12)
- T /  F 4. Gideon put fleece on the ground because he wanted a sign from God. (Judges 6:37)
- T /  F 5. God reduced the size of Gideon's army to 3,000 men. (Judges 7:8)
- T /  F 6. Gideon and his army chased the Midianites, and the Midianites attacked Israel. (Judges 7:21)
- T /  F 7. The Israelites wanted Gideon to be their king. (Judges 8:22)
- T /  F 8. After Gideon died, the Israelites remembered God and obeyed Him. (Judges 8:34)



# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Share an area in which you are weak and need to depend on God to help you. Ask other family members to share too.
- Tell about a time your actions impacted others for good or bad.
- Talk about a time you disobeyed. What were the consequences?

## Samson

Judges 13-16

### STORY POINT: GOD GAVE SAMSON STRENGTH TO DEFEAT THE PHILISTINES.

The Israelites disobeyed God, so God let the Philistines rule over them. God chose Samson to save the Israelites from the Philistines. God made Samson strong.

When Samson grew up, Samson killed a lion. Later, some bees had made honey in the lion's body. Philistine men came to Samson's wedding. Samson told them a riddle:

"Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet."

The riddle was about the lion and the honey, but the men could not figure it out. They asked Samson's bride for help. She told the men the answer. Samson was angry and he left.

Later, Samson fell in love with Delilah. The Philistines gave her money to find out why Samson was so strong. Samson told Delilah the truth: "If you cut my hair, I will not have my strength."

So when Samson was sleeping, a Philistine man cut his hair. Delilah shouted, "Samson! Wake up! The Philistines are here to kill you!"

Samson wasn't strong anymore. The Philistines took him away in chains.

One day, the Philistines made Samson stand between two pillars in their temple. Samson cried out to God, "Lord, strengthen me once more." So God strengthened Samson. Samson pushed on the pillars and collapsed the temple. Samson and everyone in the temple died, but Samson had saved the Israelites from the Philistines.

*Christ Connection: Samson's sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson's story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life.*



# Who's Who? Maze

Look up each Bible reference. Connect the description with matching name.

Tip: Use a different colored pencil for each path.

## Riddle Time

Can you answer these riddles?

Write the answers in the spaces provided.

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What has a thumb and four fingers but is not alive?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What has to be broken before you can use it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

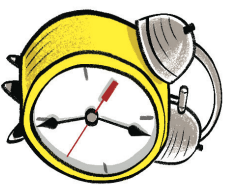
What has a neck but no head?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What gets wetter the more it dries?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What goes up and doesn't come back down?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What belongs to you but is used more by others?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Everyone has it and no one can lose it. What is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_



Manoah

killed a lion with his bare hands (Judges 14:5-6)

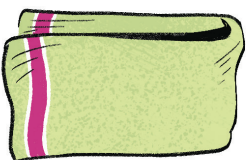
the father of Samson (Judges 16:31)

ruled over the Israelites for 40 years (Judges 13:1)



gave Samson strength (Judges 16:28)

Israelites



Delilah



Philistines

a woman Samson fell in love with (Judges 16:4)



God

did evil in the Lord's sight (Judges 13:1)

Samson

