

Student Make Up Work
October 28 - Lesson “Judges and Ruth”

Parents this make-up work should be done together with you and your student. This was a Game, Art, and Service Night. Please complete the project and turn it in to Pr. Kathy

Main Idea: Heroes Come and Go, But God is Always There

Make-Up

Please read the “*Why Should I Care?*”.

Then choose one of the following story that you’re interested in!

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Do you have any heroes? We're going to guess yes, because we all need someone to look up to. But here's an uncomfortable question to consider: What happens if that hero goes bye-bye?

You may have already had this experience: Sometimes, heroes die. Or, they just go away—maybe for a while, maybe forever. When that happens, it often forces us to change the way we think about not just the hero, but about ourselves. After all, that hero was, in essence, our goal: We wanted to be him or her when we grew up. Now what?

Throughout Judges, Israel finds itself in that same situation. In the beginning, they're reeling from the loss of Joshua, who's been their fearless leader for decades. Without a prophet or a judge or a king, Israel has a national identity crisis, turns away from their God, and basically falls apart. God, seeing Israel running around in circles through the centuries, periodically sends them new judges they can follow, idolize, and emulate. The only problem is, eventually those judges die just like Joshua, and [Israel's right back where it started](#).

Judges addresses the problem that heroes are mortal, and therefore temporary. Which begs the question: Is it healthy to be so reliant on our heroes? Judges is a story about a people totally dependent on theirs, and these people are a wreck. Do we ever fall into the same vicious cycle as them?

Now, this is all pretty bleak, but don't forget: Idolizing a hero isn't a bad thing in and of itself. The key to doing it right is remembering that we don't want to actually *be* LeBron James, or Meryl Streep. Rather, they're symbols of the qualities that we aspire to embody some day. When our heroes fall, it's sad, but it's not the end for us. We really need to look to God instead of things in the world for constancy in our lives.

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY: The Judges Teaser Trailer

- This chapter (especially 2:14-19) is a sneak peek of the pattern followed throughout Judges, so pay careful attention—basically every other chapter in the book just fills in the juicy details (and trust us—we mean really juicy):
- God says, "Israel, you done me wrong."
- An angel scolds Israel for "making league" with the inhabitants of Canaan—i.e., not running 'em straight outta town (2:2).
- Because of that, God promises, "I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare [trap] unto you" (KJV 2:3).
- As we'll see, [that idol threat is no idle threat](#).
- Israel turned away from God and "forsook the Lord, and served [Baal](#) and [Ashteroth](#)" (KJV 2:13).
- Needless to say, God wasn't pleased.
- But you *know* he can't stay mad at Israel forever, so "the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them" (KJV 2:16).
- Israel just can't resist worshiping other gods, though: "And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them" (KJV 2:17). [Burn](#)...
- This cycle repeats itself seven times in Judges: Israel worships other gods; God is upset and lets Israel's enemies beat up on them for a while; God sends a judge to deliver them; Israel worships God; Israel forgets God; and so it goes around and around and around.
- In Judges, Israel is officially stuck on a spiritual rollercoaster

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY: The Left-Handed Assassination Of A Very Fat King

- The Lord left the five lords of the Philistines, the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites in Canaan to test Israel's devotion to him. Let's hope he grades on a curve, because...
- Israel forgets God, worships Baal, and gets taken over by Mesopotamia, whom they have to serve for 8 years.
- Israel cries unto the Lord, so he raises up the first judge: Othniel, Caleb's nephew.
- Under Othniel, Israel enjoys 40 years of peace. But then he dies, and you know what happens next: Israel forgets God again, this time serving Moab for 18 years.
- As you might have guessed, Israel then cries unto the Lord (again), who raises them up another judge to deliver them: Ehud, son of Gera, who hatches a plan to take out Eglon.
- Israel sends Ehud to give Eglon a present.
- Ehud is left-handed, like many of his fellow Benjamites (20:16), which is important because this allows him to wear his dagger hidden on the right side of his body, where Eglon wouldn't expect it to be.
- When Ehud arrives, he tells the king he has a secret to tell him, so "all that stood by him went out from him" (KJV 3:19).
- Alone with Eglon in his summer parlor, Ehud says, "I have a message from God unto thee" (KJV 3:20). Then he stabs Eglon in the belly. The dagger gets stuck in the king's fat, so Ehud just leaves it, locks the parlor doors, and walks out like he owns the place.
- Eglon's servants don't notice he's dead until Ehud is long gone.
- Ehud rallies Israel to battle against Moab, and they kill 10,000 [lust](#)y men, which ushers in 80 years of peace.

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 4 SUMMARY: Girl Power: Deborah The Prophetess, Meet Jael The Head-Smasher

- Ehud dies and—yep, you guessed it—Israel turns away from God again.
- This time they're conquered by Jabin, the king of Canaan.
- Israel cries unto the Lord. Wait—haven't we seen this episode before?
- Luckily for them, God raises up an awesome judge: Deborah, a prophetess and the only female judge in the book. [Girl power!](#)
- Deborah tells Barak, an Israelite general, that God commands him to take 10,000 soldiers from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun and attack Jabin's army. She promises that God will give them victory.
- Barak says he'll only go to battle if Deborah comes, and she does, but lets him know that it won't be him who kills Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army—it'll be a woman!
- Barak leads his 10,000 men against Sisera's army, including 900 chariots of iron.
- Barak's army kills every last one of Sisera's men—except for Sisera. He's hiding at his friend Heber's tent. Looks like things are about to get [really in-tents](#).
- Heber's wife, Jael, goes out to meet Sisera, "and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not" (KJV 4:18). If your friend's wife ever says these words to you, [run away](#).
- Sisera tells Jael not to tell anyone he's in the tent. "Sure, Siss. No problem," she says, tucking him into bed with some milk.
- After he drifts off to sleep, Jael "took a nail of the tent, and took a [hammer](#) in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground" (KJV 4:21).
- And with that, Jabin was defeated. Ladies for the win!

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 6 SUMMARY: God: "Go Get 'Em, Gideon"

- And then Israel disobeys God again. Shocking.
- This time, the Midianites invade. So who does Israel ask to save them? You got it: God.
- The Lord sends a prophet to have a little chat with Israel. The prophet says, "Look, Israel, the Lord told you not to worship other gods, but you didn't obey. And now you want him to bail you out again?"
- Well of course they do... and of course he does.
- And so God sends an angel to our next judge, Gideon.
- Gideon has a few questions, though. He wants to know why things are so hard for the Israelites if God is with them (God's like *I'm working on it... you're the solution*), and he also wants to make sure God knows that he isn't exactly some rich, strong warrior (God's like *I know, I'm God—that's where I come in, dude*).
- Gideon is convinced, and under God's instruction, he pulls off an Israelite senior prank:
- With the help of 10 of his buddies, he sneaks over to the altar of Baal at night.
- They knock it over, chop down the grove next to it, build a new altar to God in its place, and use the wood to offer a sacrifice to him. Oh, snap!
- The Midianites and the Amalekites aren't having it and gather for war against Israel. God lets Gideon know, though, and he [blows his trumpet](#) to gather Israel for battle.
- Gideon then asks for—and receives—a sign that God will save Israel by Gideon's hand.

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 7 SUMMARY: Gideon's 300-Man Stealth Marching Band Takes Midian By Storm!

- Gideon's huge army gathers for battle, but God tells him he's got too many people. Wouldn't want it to be too easy, would we?
- So Gideon tells everyone who's afraid that they can leave, and 22,000 take him up on the offer, leaving 10,000 soldiers still with Gideon.
- But the Lord says it's still too many, so he tells Gideon to weed them out using a special test:
- They army goes down to a river for a water break. The Lord tells Gideon to watch carefully how each man drinks.
- 9,700 of them drink from it by getting down on their knees and slurping from the river. These guys get sent home. The other 300 drink by cupping their hands to their mouths, and these are the ones Gideon takes with him to deliver Israel. Oh, okay...
- They take their [victuals](#) and their trumpets (Gideon loves trumpets), and march off to battle against "the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east [who were] like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number as the sand by the sea side for multitude" (KJV 7:12). Good thing Gideon's army is officially *not* huge anymore.
- But God is cool as a cucumber about the whole thing.
- Gideon's not convinced, though, so God tells him to take a servant and go spy on the enemy camp to hear what they're saying.
- He does, and overhears some soldiers talking about a dream one of them had about a piece of bread tumbling into their camp and knocking over a tent.
- Another soldier says, "Well, I think that obviously means that Gideon's army is going to destroy us" (see KJV 7:13-14).
- That's apparently good enough for Gideon, because he returns to his 300 men and says, "Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian" (KJV 7:16).
- He hands everyone a trumpet and an empty water pitcher with a lamp inside it, and says, "Just do what I do. C'mon!" (see KJV 7:16-17).
- He tells them to surround the enemy camp, wait for his signal, then blow their trumpets and shout, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon" (KJV 7:18).
- Once in position, Gideon gives the signal and the men break their pitchers, revealing their lamps, and start shouting and tooting their own horns.
- This startles the Midianites. Chaos ensues, with Midianites fleeing and killing each other.
- Israel pursues Midian & Co., and captures two of their princes, chopping off their heads as gifts for Gideon. Gee thanks, guys!

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 13 SUMMARY: Birth Of A Superman

- You know the drill: Israel does evil, so boom—40 years of Philistine captivity.
- "And there was a certain man [...] whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not" (KJV 13:2).
- "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, [...] thou shalt conceive, and bear a son" (KJV 13:3). [Soundfamiliar?](#)
- The angel continues, "[A]nd no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (KJV 13:5). You might want to note this no-haircuts policy. It comes up later on.
- Manoah offers him some food. This isn't just a man of God he's dealing with, though, but a straight-up angel. The angel's like, "Dude, I'm an angel. I can't eat your bread. Why don't you offer the Lord a burnt offering?"
- Manoah's like, "Oh, sorry," and asks him his name, but the angel's like, "Man, why are you asking me to reveal my secret name, bro?"
- Things are getting awkward, so Manoah burnt-offers a baby goat on an altar, and as it burns the angel ascends up in the flame toward heaven.
- Manoah finally realizes what this guy was, and he's really worried that they'll have to die now that they've seen him.
- His wife tells him to settle down, because why would God have sent an angel to tell them about their son if he was just going to kill them?
- She has her baby, and names him Samson.
- "[A]nd the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times" (KJV 13:24-25).

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 14 SUMMARY: Lions And Honey And Riddles, Oh My!

- You know the drill: Israel does evil, so boom—40 years of Philistine captivity.
- "And there was a certain man [...] whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not" (KJV 13:2).
- "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, [...] thou shalt conceive, and bear a son" (KJV 13:3). [Soundfamiliar?](#)
- The angel continues, "[A]nd no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (KJV 13:5). You might want to note this no-haircuts policy. It comes up later on.
- Samson sees a Philistine woman and tells his parents he wants to marry her, which is [a no-no](#) in Israel. Ahh, forbidden love!
- His parents are disappointed that he doesn't want to marry an Israelite, but he insists, so they head toward her house to negotiate the marriage.
- On his way there, a young lion attacks Samson.
- The Spirit of the Lord comes to Samson just in time, though, and he shows that lion who's boss.
- The Spirit of the Lord, we'll see, is to Samson what [anger is to the Incredible Hulk](#). Anytime you see the Spirit of the Lord coming, stay tuned for carnage.
- Samson tells no one about his lion-wrestling, and continues to his future Philistine in-laws' house.
- Samson's parents negotiate with his dream-girl's parents, who agree to the marriage.
- While he's on his way to pick up his new bride, he passes the carcass of the lion he killed. "[A]nd, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcasse of the lion" (KJV 14:8).
- He eats some of the honey, and gives some to his parents without telling them where he got it.
- As was the custom, Samson throws a wedding feast at his Philistine fiancée's house.
- Samson challenges 30 Philistines at the feast to solve a riddle within seven days. If they can guess the answer, he'll give them 30 sheets and 30 changes of garments; if they can't, they each have to give him a sheet and a change of garments.

- They accept the challenge, and Samson riddles them this: "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness" (KJV 14:14).
- They can't figure it out, so they go to Samson's wife with an ultimatum: Tell us the answer to your husband's riddle, or we'll "burn thee and thy father's house with fire" (KJV 14:15). Sheesh!
- So she tries to convince Samson to tell her the riddle, but he refuses until she weeps and harasses him for 7 days.
- She tells the Philistines the answer, and they say to Samson, "What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?" (KJV 14:18)
- "If ye had not plowed with my heifer," Samson says, "ye had not found out my riddle" (KJV 14:18). He seems upset. We're going to suggest he refrain from comparing his wife to a cow anyway, though.
- "And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him [here it comes!] and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house" (KJV 14:19).
- Unbeknownst to him, Samson's new wife is given to a Philistine friend of his. This is going to get ugly...

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 15 SUMMARY: Well, I'll Be A Donkey's Jawbone! Samson Slays A Thousand Philistines Sampson 2

- After his temper's cooled a little bit, Samson returns to see his wife, but her father won't let him in, saying, "I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion" (KJV 15:2). Maybe she told him about the heifer comment?
- At this point it seems like Samson gets that "Spirit of the Lord" look in his eye, because his *ex-wife's* father says, perhaps in panicked desperation, "[I]s not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her" (KJV 15:2). Gee thanks, Pops.
- Samson says thanks-but-no-thanks, and feels justified in exacting vengeance on the Philistines.
- Just picture this: "And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took [firebrands](#), and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the [shocks](#), and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives" (KJV 15:4-5). That's how Samson rolls, Philistines.
- The Philistines blame Samson's erstwhile-wife's family for his shenanigans, and they burn her and her father.
- Samson vows vengeance again, and slaughters tons of Philistines.
- When he returns to the land of Judah, the Philistines follow him with an army.
- This worries the tribe of Judah, and they tell the Philistines that they'll arrest Samson themselves and bring him to them.
- They send 3,000 men up to the top of the rock of Etam, who tell Samson, "Look man, you can't do that to the Philistines. You're going to get us into trouble. We gotta take you in."
- Samson agrees to let them bring him bound to the Philistines, which they do.
- But as soon as they get to a place called Lehi (meaning "jawbone"), the Philistines see him and start shouting at him.
- [And boom goes the dynamite.](#)
- The Spirit of the Lord comes to Samson, he breaks the ropes with which he's bound, and he ferociously pights the Philistines.
- He finds a donkey's jawbone lying around ([gotta use what you've got](#)) and, wielding it like a club, kills 1,000 men.
- Then he utters perhaps [the first ever post-kill one-liner](#): "With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men" (KJV 15:16). It has a certain rhythm to it, don't you think?
- As if he weren't hardcore enough right now, he tells God he's thirsty, so God opens up a spring of water for him right there.
- And Samson judged Israel for 20 years after that.

BOOK OF JUDGES CHAPTER 16 SUMMARY: Boy Meets Girl, Girl Cuts Boy's Hair, Boy Destroys The Temple Of Dagon

- Samson goes to Gaza and the Philistines find out he's there, and hide outside the city gates that night, hoping to attack and kill him when he leaves.
- But Samson wakes up at midnight, tears the gates out of the city wall ([Hulk smash](#)), and carries them on his shoulders like it ain't no thang to the top of a hill outside the city.
- Rather than getting squashed like bugs, the Philistines leave him alone. Good thinking, you guys.
- Afterward, Samson falls in love with a lady named Delilah.
- "And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him [...] and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver" (KJV 16:5). Hmm... Betrayed for silver. Sound [familiar](#)?
- For love of money, or love of country, or both, Delilah agrees to betray her lover.
- She tells him, in her [seductive Philistine accent](#), "Sammy-poo, you're so strong. I love that about you. How did you get that way? If I—hypothetically—wanted to, I dunno, afflict you, or like, y'know, imprison you or something—hypothetically—how would I do that?"
- Well, our guy Sam wasn't born yesterday. He makes up several fake sources of his strength.
- Delilah uncovers Samson's fibs one-by-one until she finally ratchets up the romantic manipulation and gets some results.
- "And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth" (KJV 16:15).
- Well played, Delilah. Her ploy works and Samson reveals to her the true source of his strength: [his flowing locks](#).
- Delilah tells the Philistines everything. They give her the silver, and she has Samson fall asleep on her lap.
- While he sleeps, Delilah has a servant cut his hair.
- Delilah wakes Samson up and, before he knows what's happening, the Philistines take him away. [Love stinks](#).
- They "put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did [grind in the prison house](#)" (KJV 16:21).
- After a while, "the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us" (KJV 16:23-24).
- The Philistines are so excited to have captured Samson that they bring him out of prison to entertain them.
- He does so, but he's not happy about it. Afterward, he rests between two pillars, with thousands of Philistines seated above him after watching his show. Rookie mistake, you guys.
- Samson appeals to God for a final burst of strength to avenge himself of the Philistines.
- "And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life" (KJV 16:30).
- Then his brethren came and brought Samson's body back for a hero's burial near his family.

Project:

After you have read the initial part and picked your story, then your challenge is to capture part of the story in collage, lego build and picture, drawing, modernized story, or your own approved idea.

Contact Cody for more details and other pictures of projects completed.