



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

THE FIRST JUDGES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 3:7-31 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In 1998, five countries worked together to launch the International Space Station. It orbits Earth approximately 15 times per day collecting data for research. It's been flying the same path around the planet for 24 years. If you do the math, this means the International Space Station has circled the planet more than 131,000 times! Talk about going around in circles!

After Joshua died, the next generation of Israelites forgot about the wondrous works God had done. For many years after that, the people followed the same devastating cycle of sin. Over and over again, the Israelites forgot God, turned away from God, and then cried out "God save us!" Each time, God sent a judge to deliver His people and save them from their enemy. But the cycle of sin kept going around and around.

This same cycle is in our lives. We have sinned and turned away from God. When we realize how sin separates us from God, we should cry out "God save us!" Glory to God that He has heard those cries for help! He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin and be the perfect Deliverer. Only Jesus has the power to defeat sin. He is the better rescuer who can deliver us from the cycle of sin.

God brought consequences to His people for their sins, but He also raised up judges to save them from their enemies. We also have consequences for our sins, but God sent Jesus to save us from our sins once and for all.

***Pray:** Jesus, thank You for being the Rescuer we need! Only You can save us from our sins. Help us remember Your works and help us follow You as King. Amen.*



Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



Family Worship Experience

SING SCRIPTURE

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God for His wisdom and strength to confess sin. How can confessing our sin and seeking God's help break the cycle of sin? What is God's reaction when His people repent?

Evenings

Thank God for always hearing our prayers and responding according to His will. How did God respond to the cries of the Israelites? What does this teach us about His patience and love for His people—even when they disobey?



Family Activities

For Fun

Play a game of follow-the-leader. Have the leader walk in a funny way, sing a song, or dance while others follow their motions. Assign one family member to shout 'Repent' at any point during the game, at which point the entire family must turn and begin marching in the opposite direction. The person at the opposite end of the line is now the leader. After playing discuss what repentance means (Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus). Talk with kids about God's desire for people—including your family—to turn away from sin and follow Jesus.

To Serve

Work as a family to pick up trash and litter in a nearby park or along a neighborhood road. Talk with kids about how this area will likely be littered again and will need another cleanup in time. Remind kids that the judges could only bring temporary relief from the consequences of sin, but Jesus has completely defeated sin. Through Him, we can have forgiveness and total deliverance!



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

DEBORAH LED ISRAEL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 4–5 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

After being declared the Emperor of France in 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte was determined to conquer all of Europe. He was known for his military tactics and won many victories, but his success ended at the battle of Waterloo. In this battle, Napoleon found himself fighting against two enemies, the Britain and Prussian armies. Napoleon had made many enemies, and in the end, they proved to be too many and too powerful for him to defeat.

As God's people continued to sin against Him, they found themselves facing many enemies. God was faithful to provide judges like Deborah who reminded the people that their God was bigger and stronger than their enemies. When the people trusted God and cried out to Him, He provided a way for them to be saved from their enemies.

Just as God provided victory over the enemies His people faced, God has defeated sin and provided victory for all who trust in Jesus. By His work on the cross and through His resurrection, Jesus defeated Satan. Because victory is only possible through Jesus, He deserves all the honor and glory. We can rejoice in the name of Jesus because it is the only name by which we all can be saved!

God used Deborah to lead Israel in victory over their enemies, and God received the glory. God sent Jesus to reign victorious over sin and death. Jesus is worthy of all honor, glory, and power (Revelation 4:11).

***Pray:** God, You reign over everything in Your creation. There is no power greater than Yours. Thank You for providing the victory over sin for us through Jesus. We will give Him all the glory and honor for saving those who cry out to Him. Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Praise God for the ways He has provided for your family. Make a list of reasons you can give Him glory today.

Evenings

Thank God for the women He has put in your life to lead you closer to Him. Think of your mother, grandmothers, teachers, or church leaders. Give God glory for using these women like He used Deborah to build His kingdom here on earth.



Family Activities

For Fun

Play a game that involves a battle of wits, like checkers or chess. As you play, talk about how God's people fought battles during the period of the judges. Remind kids that God was always faithful to be with His people and to keep His promises. He provided judges like Deborah to help the people defeat their enemies.

To Serve

Write cards of encouragement and thankfulness to the women who serve in your church. Try to think of as many women as you can, and talk about the ways they serve the church. Pray for them, and give them the cards to praise God for using them in your church and in the life of your family.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

GIDEON LED ISRAEL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 6–8 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

One thing we see repeatedly in the Bible is God displaying His strength by using weak people. Gideon came from a weak, insignificant family. His fear seemed bigger than his faith, but God assured Gideon that His power would work in and through Gideon. Everything Gideon asked God to do to prove His power, God did.

Gideon and the army went to fight the Midianites, but God wasn't finished showing His power. God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 men all the way down to only 300 men. Victory over the Midianites seemed impossible with these odds, but nothing is impossible with God! God confused the Midianites and made them fight with each other! Gideon and his army easily defeated the Midianites because God's power was working through Gideon's army.

When we feel the guilt from our sin, we often try to earn God's love and forgiveness. The problem is that we will never be strong enough or good enough on our own to defeat the power sin has over us. The good news is that God has shown His power through the work of Jesus who died to save us from sin. When we trust in Him, He gives us forgiveness and victory through His power.

Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. Victory came from God alone. We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. .

***Pray:** God, are more powerful than anyone else. When we are afraid or when we face hard times, help us trust that You are powerful and good enough to help us. We can trust in Your power because we see it best through Jesus who came to save us from our sin. Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to give you the strength you need for today. Remember that He knows everything you will face, and He has the power to help you. How does knowing God's goodness and power help you to face hard things?

Evenings

Rejoice in the ways God has helped you in difficult times. Write down the fears or hard situations you've faced, and then write down the ways God was present and powerful for you.



Family Activities

For Fun

Fold paper into a cone shape to make a simple trumpet. Help kids make and decorate their own trumpets. Have a competition to see who can make the loudest trumpet call. Talk about how Gideon blew his trumpet and how God provided power and victory to defeat the Midianites.

To Serve

Go on a prayer walk around your neighborhood. Pray for neighbors (by name if possible), and ask God to make His power and goodness visible to them so they will trust in Him. Remind kids that the work of salvation is only possible through God's power. We want to share the good news with neighbors because we trust that God is good enough and powerful enough to save them.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 13–16 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever been in the kitchen when your mom is icing a cake that smells and looks delicious? You'd give anything just for a bite, and then it happens—she lets you lick the icing off the spatula! As good as licking the icing is, it's still nothing like getting to enjoy the whole cake. The icing is just a taste of something that will be better later!

In the story of Samson, we can clearly see details that remind us of Jesus' story—Samson's birth was announced by an angel, he was betrayed by someone he trusted, he was taken away, mocked, and his death freed people from their captivity. But in the end, Samson wasn't perfect and therefore his death didn't give the people complete salvation. Only Jesus can do that!

The freedom the people found in Samson's death was just a taste of the greater freedom that comes through Jesus! Through Jesus' death, we can have complete forgiveness and salvation. There is no sweeter name than the name of Jesus!

Samson's great strength came from God alone. Samson had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, people are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps them live to please God.

***Pray:** God, thank You for giving us glimpses of Your plan through stories like Samson's. Every story points us to the greatest story of how You sent Jesus to save everyone who believes in Him. Amen*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to keep your mind and heart focused on Jesus as the greatest treasure. Whenever you want food, water, or entertainment today, ask God to use that desire as a reminder that true satisfaction is found only in Jesus! What makes Jesus the greatest hero, greatest friend, and greatest treasure?

Evenings

Thank God for the greatest peace that comes from knowing and trusting in Jesus. Ask God to grow your faith in Jesus. How has Jesus brought ultimate peace for those who believe in Him? Have you trusted in Him for that peace?



Family Activities

For Fun

Work as a family to make a cake. Let your kids choose the icing and decorations that will go on the cake. As you slice and enjoy the cake, talk about how each story you've been learning shows God's love as He saves people from their enemies, but—like slices of a cake—those stories are meant to point us to the bigger story of God's great love and His ultimate act of salvation through the work of Jesus.

To Serve

Volunteer to wash toys or clean furniture for your church's preschool ministry. When finished, thank your kids for helping clean these areas so that ministry can happen on Sundays. Read 1 John 1:9 and discuss how Jesus' work can cleanse us from all unrighteousness.