

Survey of Joshua, Judges & Ruth

by
Duane L. Anderson

Survey of Joshua, Judges & Ruth

**A study of the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

**American Indian Bible Institute
Box 511
Norwalk, California 90651-0511
www.aibi.org**

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Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Joshua, Judges & Ruth. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 1

Joshua 1:1-2:24

Today we are beginning a study of the books known as the Historical Books. The reason that they are called the historical books is due to the fact that they cover a period of several hundred years in the history of the nation of Israel. They cover the period of time from when Israel entered into the land that God had promised to Israel until the time when Israel was scattered among the nations because of sin. The historical books also include a study of how God brought a small group of those who had been scattered back to the land of Israel. It was during that time that the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther were written and tell how the Lord was working in the history of Israel during that period.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain what it means to meditate on the Word of God.

Explain what happened when Joshua was given the leadership of Israel.

Explain why Rahab protected the spies.

Explain what we learn from the report of the spies.

As we begin our study of the book of Joshua, we see that the people of the nation of Israel were gathered just across the Jordan River from the land that God had promised to give to them. The book of Deuteronomy ends with the death of Moses after he had led the people of Israel through the desert for forty years. Before Moses died, the Lord had told the people of Israel that Joshua was to become the new leader of the people. This book begins with God giving some promises to Joshua as he became the new leader. God promised to give to Israel all of the land through which they would walk. This land included the area from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. God said that no man would be able to stand against Joshua throughout his life.

1. Read Joshua 1:1-9 and write what God said after He said that He would be with Joshua just as He had been with Moses.
2. Explain why it is important that God chose Joshua to be the one to lead the people of Israel into the land that God had promised to them.
3. Explain why you think that God immediately gave Joshua some key promises as he became the leader of the people of Israel.

Joshua did not need to be afraid as he became the new leader of the people of Israel. God promised Joshua that He would never fail Joshua. Even though there were times when Joshua failed, God never failed to keep His promise to be with Joshua. God was always with Joshua. Then God told Joshua to be strong and to be filled with courage. God said that He was going to give the land to Israel just as He had promised it to them. The Lord also encouraged Joshua to do all that was written in the law. He was not to turn from the Word of God even a little bit. God said that he was not to turn to either the right or to the left.

4. Read Joshua 1:1-9 and write how God said Joshua would prosper if he obeyed the Word of God.

5. Explain why it was important for the Lord to encourage Joshua and let him know that the Lord would never fail Joshua.

6. Explain why you think that is important for you to know that you can be strong and full of courage as long as you are yielding your own life to the Lord.

Joshua was promised a good life wherever he went if he would be obedient to the Word of God. Then God told Joshua how to study the Word of God in order to obey it. God told Joshua to

meditate on the Word of God day and night. To meditate means to think about the Word of God continually and then let the thoughts that we learn from the Word of God control and guide us. We can only meditate effectively if we have memorized the Word of God so that it can be in our minds at all times. Just like Joshua, we need to memorize Scripture and then think about the verses that we have memorized throughout the day.

7. Read Joshua 1:1-9 and write what promise was given to Joshua if he would do all that was written in the Word of God.

8. Explain what God meant when he told Joshua to meditate on the Word of God day and night.

9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to meditate on the Word of God throughout the day and when you are awake at night.

Here we see that continuous meditation on the Word of God is the key to a joyful and successful life. Joshua was told that as he meditated on the Word of God, the Lord would give him strength and courage. God promised that He would take away fear and discouragement. God will also do these same things for us because He is with us at all times once we place our trust in Him. If we want to have real strength and boldness as we speak for the Lord, the way to have that strength is to meditate on the Word of God continually.

10. Read Joshua 1:1-9 and write where the Lord promised to go with Joshua.

11. Explain why meditation on the Word of God will produce joy in the lives of those who are meditating on the Word of God.

12. Explain why you are thankful that God says that meditation of the Word of God will take away fear and discouragement in your life.

After the Lord had encouraged Joshua to be filled with strength and courage, Joshua took the leadership of the people. He told the people to prepare food supplies because they would be crossing the Jordan River in three days and begin to possess the land that the Lord had promised to them. Here we see that Joshua was really depending on the Lord for strength and courage. As a result of his dependence on the Lord, Joshua was not afraid to take the leadership of the nation of Israel. He expected the Lord to go with them just as the Lord had promised.

13. Read Joshua 1:10-18 and write the tribes to which Joshua spoke after he told the people to prepare to cross the Jordan River.

14. Explain why depending on the Lord for strength and courage gave Joshua courage to lead the nation of Israel into the land that God had promised to them.

15. Explain why you realize that when you depend on the Lord for strength that the Lord also gives you courage to do what He leads you to do.

Joshua reminded the two and half tribes of the promise that they had made to Moses. They had promised Moses that they would help the other tribes fight for the land of Israel if Moses would allow them to remain on the east side of the Jordan River. Now Joshua reminded these men that they were to leave their families and cattle and cross the river so that they could help the other tribes fight to gain possession of the land across the Jordan River. Joshua said that these tribes could return to their own possession after the other tribes had victory in the land that God had promised to them.

16. Read Joshua 1:10-18 and write what the men of these two and a half tribes told Joshua.

17. Explain why Joshua reminded the men of the two and a half tribes of the promise that they had made to Moses.

18. Explain why you think that it was important for the men of the two and a half tribes to help the other tribes conquer the land that God had promised to them.

The men of these two and a half tribes give us an example of the way that we should follow the leadership of the Lord. These men said that they would do all that Joshua commanded them to do and they would go wherever he sent them. In the same way, we should be glad to do

whatever the Lord tells us to do. We should be thankful for the opportunity to go wherever the Lord tells us to go. The men told Joshua that they would follow him just as they had followed Moses. They said that any of the men that rebelled against the commandments of Joshua should be put to death. Then these men also encouraged Joshua to be strong and to be filled with courage.

19. Read Joshua 1:10-18 and write how the men of the two and a half tribes said they would listen to Joshua.

20. Explain how the men of these two and a half tribes give us an example of the way that we should serve the Lord.

21. Explain why you are thankful in your own life for the opportunity to serve the Lord and be a part of His plan for the world.

There was one more thing that Joshua did before the people crossed the Jordan River. Joshua sent two spies to go and find out what they could about the city of Jericho. These men crossed the river and entered the city of Jericho. Once they were in the city they went to the house of a woman by the name of Rahab. This woman was a prostitute. Here we see that the Lord was working in a very interesting way. God led the two men to go to the house of Rahab because God wanted to show His mercy to Rahab and her family. The king of Jericho heard that the two spies had gone to the house of Rahab. The king wanted to capture these two men and kill them.

22. Read Joshua 2:1-14 and write what Rahab did to protect these two men from the king of Jericho.

23. Explain why it was important for the two spies to visit the city of Jericho before Israel crossed the Jordan River.

24. Explain why you think that God chose a woman that was a prostitute to be the one that would hide the two spies.

Rahab told the king of Jericho a lie in order to protect the two men. She said that the two men had gone out of the city just before the gates were shut for the night. She encouraged the king of Jericho to send soldiers after the two men to capture them. She had actually taken the men up on the roof of her house and had covered them with the flax that she was drying on the roof. After dark she went up on the roof to talk to the two men. She told the men that the people were filled with fear because they had heard how the Lord had brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt and across the Red Sea on dry land.

25. Read Joshua 2:1-14 and write what Rahab said had happened to the hearts of the people when the people heard about the victories of Israel over Sihon and Og.

26. Explain why Rahab told the king of Jericho a lie and said that the two men had left the city just before the gates were closed for the night.

27. Explain why you think that it was important for Rahab to tell the two spies that the people of the land were filled with fear because of what they had heard about Israel.

The people in the land of Canaan had become so fearful when they heard what the Lord had done to Sihon and Og that they had no strength or courage. They realized that God is the Lord over all things. Then Rahab asked the two spies to show mercy to her and her family. She realized that the only hope for her and her family was to put her trust in the Lord. The two spies promised to show kindness to the family of Rahab because she had protected their lives. They promised to keep alive all who were in the house with Rahab when the city of Jericho was destroyed.

28. Read Joshua 2:1-14 and write how the two spies said that they would deal with Rahab when Israel conquered the city.

29. Explain why the Lord chose to show mercy and kindness to Rahab and her entire family.

30. Explain what lessons you learn about the faith of Rahab from these verses.

The Lord rewarded the faith of Rahab in a much greater way that even Rahab had expected. We read in Matthew 1 that Rahab was one of the four women that had the privilege of being included in the list of the names of those who were the ancestors of Christ. We see that God protected her life but also rewarded her faith by doing far more than she had requested. God will always reward true faith with great spiritual blessings. Then Rahab used a rope to let the spies down over the wall of the city of Jericho. She told them to hide in the hills for three days until the men that were hunting for them had returned to Jericho.

31. Read Joshua 2:15-24 and write the color of the rope that was used to let the men down over the wall to the ground.

32. Explain why the Lord led Rahab to develop a true faith in the Lord even though the rest of the people of her city were destroyed.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to include a woman with the background of Rahab to be in the family line of Christ.

This red rope gives us a beautiful picture of the cost of life. The blood of Christ paid the penalty for us so that we could have life. Throughout the Bible we continue to see the fact that the life of the flesh is in the blood. This red rope pictured the fact that blood must be shed in order to pay the penalty for sin. Throughout the Old Testament we read about the blood sacrifices that were a covering for sin until the blood of Christ was shed to take away sin. Now by the death and resurrection of Christ we are given life when we place our trust in Him.

34. Read Joshua 2:15-24 and write what Rahab was told to do with the scarlet rope.

35. Explain why the red rope was an important picture of the fact that the Lord was going to give life to all that were in that house.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to see pictures throughout the Old Testament that pointed forward to the coming of Christ.

Rahab was told to let the red rope hang from the window of her house if she wanted protection for her and her family. The men told her that any others that were in her house when the city was destroyed would also be protected if she left the red rope hanging out of the window. Any of the relatives of Rahab that remained in the streets of the city would be killed and the people of Israel would not be guilty for killing them. However, all those who were in the house of Rahab would be protected.

37. Read Joshua 2:15-24 and write what Rahab did as soon as she had sent the two spies away.

38. Explain the importance of this red rope that hung from the window of the house of Rahab.

39. Explain why you think that God said that only those of the family of Rahab that showed faith in what God said and were in that house were spared.

Rahab immediately hung the red rope from her window and left it hanging there until the day that the city was destroyed. The two spies followed the instructions of Rahab and went and hid in the hills for three days until the soldiers of Jericho had returned from searching for the two spies. We see that the soldiers returned to Jericho when they could not find the spies. Then the two spies returned and gave their report to Joshua. They told Joshua all of the things that had happened while they were gone including the promise that they had made to Rahab.

40. Read Joshua 2:15-24 and write what these two men said that the Lord had already done for Israel.

41. Explain why it is important that Rahab showed her faith by hanging the red rope from her window immediately.

42. Explain how the story of Rahab shows you that God was concerned for people of all nations in the time of the Old Testament.

Now reread Joshua 1:1-2:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 2

Joshua 3:1-5:15

Today we will learn about the people of Israel crossing the Jordan River. The Lord had brought the people of Israel to the river at a time when the river was flooding over its banks. The Lord had purposely chosen this time because the Lord wanted to show His power both to the people of Israel and also to the people that were living in the land of Canaan. This was a visual reminder to the people of Israel that the Lord was leading them. At the same time it increased the fear of the people of the land of Canaan. The Lord showed His power to both Israel and the people of the land by causing the river to stop so that the people of Israel could go across the Jordan River on dry ground. This miracle caused several things to happen.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how Israel crossed the Jordan River.

Explain why God told the people to choose two sets of stones.

Explain how the people of the land felt when they heard that Israel had crossed the river.

Explain what Joshua learned about leadership.

In our last lesson we learned that the two spies had come back and given a report about the city of Jericho. Early the next morning the people of Israel moved from their camp to the edge of the Jordan River. There they remained for three days. At the end of the three days Joshua told the officers what they were to tell the people about the way that the Lord would lead the people. The Lord was going to lead them across the Jordan River. The priests with the Ark of the Covenant were to lead the way. The people were to follow about a half mile behind the ark.

1. Read Joshua 3:1-17 and write why the people were not to come near the ark as they moved forward.
2. Explain why the people were to follow the Ark of the Covenant as they crossed the Jordan River.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord had the people camp at the edge of the Jordan River for three days before crossing the river.

The people did not know the way to go and so they had to depend on the Lord to lead them. Many times the reason that Christians get into trouble is due to the fact that they do not allow the Lord to lead them. Like Israel they are facing new situations and they do not understand what to do or how to trust the Lord to guide them. Joshua told the priests that they were to lead the people. The Lord said that He would cause the people to recognize that He had chosen Joshua to lead the people. All of the people would be able to see that Joshua was depending on the Lord to lead him. Then the Lord told Joshua how He would make it possible for Joshua and the rest of the people to cross the Jordan River.

4. Read Joshua 3:1-17 and write what Joshua was told to tell the priests to do when they came to the edge of the river.
5. Explain why the people of Israel had to trust the Lord to lead them instead of trying to enter the land in their own way.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to let the Lord lead you and show you the things that He wants you to do.

The priests that were carrying the ark actually had to get their feet wet to show that they had faith in the promises and power of God. Joshua also gave the people some other instructions from the Lord. Joshua was to have a man from each of the twelve tribes selected. These men were to have a special responsibility. God also told what would happen as soon as the priests

got their feet wet. God said that all of the water coming down the river would suddenly stop. The water that was coming down the river would all pile up in a great heap.

7. Read Joshua 3:1-17 and write how wide the Jordan River was at the time of the year when Israel crossed the river.

8. Explain why the priests had to get their feet into the water before God said that He would stop the water from coming down the river.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord leads you to take certain steps of faith even when you are not sure how the Lord is going to lead you.

At the time that Israel crossed the Jordan River; the river was very wide because it was during the time when the river was flooded. However, that did not make any difference to God. As soon as the feet of the priests touched the river, God caused the water of the river to begin to back up. By the time the entire nation was across the river, the water had backed up for a great distance. Meanwhile the people of Israel were crossing the river on dry ground. In addition to stopping the river, God also caused the bed of the river to become dry so that the people of Israel could walk across the Jordan River on dry ground.

10. Read Joshua 3:1-17 and write what the priests did while all of the people crossed the river into the land of promise.

11. Explain why God both stopped the water in the river and caused the river bed to become dry so that the people could cross through the river on dry ground.

12. Explain why you think that God chose to have the people of Israel cross the river during the time that the river was flooding.

We mentioned earlier that twelve men had been chosen for a special responsibility. Now we see what those men were to do. The priests were to stand in the middle of the river during the entire time that the rest of the people were crossing the river. Then each of these twelve men was to take a rock from the place where the priests had stood in the river and carry it to the place where the people of Israel were going to camp that night. When all of the people of Israel were across the river, these men went and picked up twelve stones. There was one stone for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

13. Read Joshua 4:1-13 and write the question that the sons would ask their fathers about these stones in the future.

14. Explain why God told the people of Israel to have one man from each tribe bring a stone from the river to the place where Israel camped that night.

15. Explain why you think that the priests were to stand in the middle of the river the entire time that the people were crossing the river.

God had a purpose for telling the people of Israel to take these stones out of the river. God wanted the people of Israel to teach their children about the way that the Lord had made it possible for the people to cross the Jordan River on dry ground. These stones were to be a memorial forever so that the people would continue to remember the greatness and power of the Lord. Today many parents are failing to teach their children about the greatness of God. As a result, many of those children are not learning to love and serve the Lord.

16. Read Joshua 24:1-13 and write what Joshua set up in the middle of the river where the priests had stood.

17. Explain why these twelve stone were to remind the people of Israel to tell their children about the way the Lord brought Israel across the river.

18. Explain why it is important to you to teach your children about the greatness and the power of the Lord.

Here we see that there were actually two sets of twelve stones. One set of stones was placed in the middle of the Jordan River. The other set was placed in the place where the people of Israel camped that night. Both sets of stones were to remind the people of the fact that God had

brought the people of Israel across the Jordan River on dry ground. After all of the people had completely crossed the river, the priests came up out of the river. They had completed their responsibility to stand firmly in one place while the rest of the people crossed the river.

19. Read Joshua 4:1-13 and write how many men from the two and a half tribes passed over the river with the rest of the tribes.

20. Explain why the Lord told the people to take twelve stones out of the river and set them up as a memorial.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord also told Israel to set up twelve stones in the river.

When the people of Israel saw what had happened, they realized that Joshua served the Lord the same way that Moses had served the Lord. Then the people had the same respect for Joshua that they had shown to Moses before his death. We also read that God told Joshua when to have the priests come up out of the river. Then the priests came up out of the dry riverbed. As soon as the priests reached the ground that had not been covered by water, a wonderful thing happened.

22. Read Joshua 4:14-5:1 and write what happened to the waters of the Jordan as soon as the priests set their feet on the ground on the other side of the river.

23. Explain why the Lord used this miracle to develop the respect of the people of Israel for Joshua.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for leaders to serve the Lord so that people will realize that the Lord is with them.

God had completed His plan of taking the people of Israel across the river and so the water returned and became a flood again. Meanwhile the twelve men had taken the stones to Gilgal where the people set up their camp that night. Then the stones were set up as a memorial in the camp at Gilgal. Joshua reminded the people again that they were to teach their children the meaning of these stones. They were to tell their children how God had dried up the waters of the Jordan River just as He had earlier dried up the Red Sea.

25. Read Joshua 4:14-5:1 and write what God wanted all of the people of the earth to know.

26. Explain why Joshua reminded the people again that they were to teach their children in the future the meaning of these twelve stones.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to teach your children what the Lord has done in the past.

God wanted all of the people to realize that the hand of the Lord is mighty. The first people to realize this fact were the people in the land of Canaan. The news spread quickly throughout Canaan about what had happened. All of the people in the land of Canaan quickly heard how the Lord had dried up the water of the Jordan River. They heard that God had made it possible for the people of Israel to enter the land even though there was a great flood at that time. Then the hearts of the people of Canaan were filled with fear. They lost their courage when they heard what God had done for Israel to make it possible for them to cross the river.

28. Read Joshua 4:14-5:1 and write what happened to the hearts and the spirits of the Amorites and Canaanites.

29. Explain how the miracle at the Jordan River affected the people of Israel and the people of the surrounding nations.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord used this particular miracle to produce great fear in the lives of the people of Canaan.

God had told Abraham several hundred years earlier that all of the men of Israel were to be circumcised. When the people had lived in the land of Egypt, they had failed to circumcise their sons. As a result, one of the first things that God had told the people to do after they came out of Egypt was to circumcise their sons. However, they did not continue to circumcise their sons. During the forty years that Israel was in the wilderness, the people again failed to circumcise their sons. Now the Lord told Joshua to circumcise all of the men that had not been

circumcised when the people of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt.

31. Read Joshua 5:2-15 and write which of the men had not been circumcised when Israel came out of Egypt.

32. Explain why God had told the people of Israel that it was necessary for them to circumcise their sons if they wanted to experience the blessing of the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that the people of Israel had failed to circumcise their sons while they were in the wilderness.

God could not bless the people if they were not obedient. This was the reason that God told Joshua to circumcise all of the men before they fought their first battle in the land. In the same way, God cannot bless us either as long as we allow unconfessed sin to remain in our lives. Joshua had all of the males circumcised. Then the people remained in their camp until all of the men were healed. God said that the people had taken away the reproach by circumcising all of the men and boys. This meant that they had taken care of the evil that had been present for much of the time that the people of Israel had lived in the land of Egypt.

34. Read Joshua 5:2-15 and write what the people observed on the fourteenth day.

35. Explain why it was important for the people of Israel to be obedient and circumcise all the men and boys before beginning to fight for the land.

36. Explain why you think that God waited until the people of Israel had crossed the Jordan River before He had them circumcise the new generation.

The Passover was the feast to remember how the Lord had brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. It was fitting that the people should remember the way that the Lord had brought them out of Egypt just as they were entering into the land that God had promised to them. As the people entered a new land, they also began to eat a new kind of food. For forty years the people had eaten manna in the desert. As they entered into the land that God had promised them, they began to eat the food of that land.

37. Read Joshua 5:2-15 and write who appeared to Joshua after the people of Israel had observed the Passover.

38. Explain why it was very important for Israel to celebrate the Passover as one of the first things that they did after they crossed the Jordan River.

39. Explain why you think that God had Israel do several things after they crossed the Jordan River before they started to fight against any of the cities.

Joshua also had one more area of preparation that he needed before he could lead the people effectively. One day Joshua met the Lord. At first Joshua thought that it was a man that might be planning to fight against him. Suddenly Joshua realized that he was talking to the Lord. Then Joshua fell down on his face and worshiped the Lord. Here we see that Joshua had to realize an important lesson before he could be an effective leader for the Lord. Joshua had to realize that God was the master and he was the servant before he could be an effective leader for the Lord. That is the same lesson that we need to realize today if we want to be an effective leader for the Lord.

40. Read Joshua 5:2-15 and write why the Lord told Joshua to take off his shoes from his feet.

41. Explain why it was important for Joshua to meet the Lord and recognize that the Lord was the captain of the host of the Lord.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to recognize that the Lord is the One whom you must make the master of your life if you want to be an effective leader.

Now reread Joshua 3:1-5:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

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Lesson 3

Joshua 6:1-7:26

The people of Israel were now ready to begin to conquer the land that the Lord had promised to the nation of Israel. Today we will be learning about a great victory. However, we will also learn about a real defeat. That defeat was the result of the sin of one man. Today many people think that a little sin is all right because it will not affect anyone but themselves. However, we will see from what happened to Israel that one sin can also affect many other people. The sin of one man caused the army of Israel to suffer defeat at the hands of a very small enemy. As a result, God showed Israel that the sin of that man must be judged.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how God told Israel to fight against Jericho.
- Explain how the Lord defeated the city of Jericho.
- Explain what happened that led to the failure at Ai.
- Explain the results of the sin of Achan.

After the people of Israel crossed the Jordan River, the people of the city of Jericho were so filled with fear that they would not even open the gates of the city to allow anyone to enter the city or to leave the city. They kept the gates closed so that there was no movement into or out of the city. The city of Jericho also had high walls around the city. However, the Lord told Joshua not to be afraid because the Lord would give him victory. Then God told Joshua how that victory would happen. The army of Israel was to march around the city once each day for six days. Then on the seventh day the people were to march around the city seven times.

1. Read Joshua 6:1-16 and write what the people were supposed to do when the priests gave a long blast with their trumpets.
2. Explain what these verses show about the fear of the people of Jericho as they waited to see what Israel would do.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord told the people of Israel to march around the city of Jericho for seven days.

God said that all of the people were to give a great shout and that when the people shouted that the walls of the city would fall down flat. The soldiers would be able to march straight into the city because there would be nothing standing in front of them to block the way. God said that He was going to give Israel a victory in a very unusual way. If we will depend on the Lord to guide and lead us, He will also give us victories in many unusual ways. God said that the Ark of the Covenant was to lead the soldiers as they marched around the city. In the same way, we need to allow the Lord to lead us in our battle against the powers of the devil.

4. Read Joshua 6:1-16 and write what the people were told not to do as they marched around the city.
5. Explain why God chose to remove the walls of the city of Jericho in a very unusual way so that the army of Israel could march right into the city.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord will guide you and lead you and give you victory over all of the powers of the devil.

The people were to march in complete silence as they marched around the city. There was to be no sound except for the sound of the trumpets that the priests were blowing. After Joshua received these instructions from the Lord, he explained them to the people. Early the next morning the people marched around the city once. They did this for six days. Then on the seventh day the people marched around the city seven times. Then at the word of Joshua all of the people gave a great shout. Everything happened exactly as God had said it would.

7. Read Joshua 6:1-16 and write what Joshua told the people that the Lord would give them when they shouted.
8. Explain how you think the way that God destroyed the walls of Jericho caused the people to recognize that the Lord was in control.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to destroy the city of Jericho in such an unusual way.

God had given instructions about what should be done with the possessions and cattle of the city when it was conquered. God said that everything in the city was to be completely destroyed. Nothing was to be allowed to remain except the family of Rahab and all of those who were with her in her house. She and those with her in the house were to be allowed to live because she had hidden the spies. The Lord said that any person that took anything from the city of Jericho would bring a curse upon himself. God said that obedience was very important.

10. Read Joshua 6:17-27 and write what God said would happen to the camp of Israel if anyone took any of the cursed possessions of the city of Jericho.
11. Explain why the Lord warned the people in advance that anyone that took anything from the city would bring a curse on himself.
12. Explain why you think that God said that all of the cattle and possessions of the first city that they conquered were to be completely destroyed.

Here we see that God warned that the sin of one person would bring trouble to the entire camp of Israel. When we sin, our sins also affect the lives of other people. God said that the only things that were not to be destroyed were the pieces of metal that could not be destroyed. Anything metal was to be given to the Lord. As a result we see that everything from this first city was to be either destroyed or given to the Lord. This is an example of the fact that the Lord wants us to give our offerings to Him first. Then the Lord will provide for our needs from the things that remain.

13. Read Joshua 6:17-27 and write what happened when the people of Israel gave a great shout.
14. Explain why everything that was metal was to be given to the Lord as an offering to the Lord.
15. Explain why you think that it is important to put the Lord first in your own giving and not to give Him what is left over.

Nothing remained of the wall when the people gave a great shout. The wall became just a pile of stones lying on the ground. Then all of the people of Israel marched straight into the city because there was no wall to stop them. They completely destroyed all of the people and their animals except the family of Rahab. No one else in the entire city was allowed to remain alive. Joshua sent the two men that had been spies to take Rahab and her family and their possessions out of the house of Rahab. The spies kept their word exactly as they had spoken it to Rahab.

16. Read Joshua 6:17-27 and write what Israel did to the city of Jericho after they had destroyed all of the people and animals in the city.
17. Explain why Joshua sent the two spies to lead Rahab and her family from their house to safety.
18. Explain why you think that God wanted the people to see that the faith of Rahab had protected her and her family.

The only things that were allowed to remain were the precious metals. These precious metals were gathered and placed in the house of the Lord. The only people that remained alive were those of the family of Rahab that were in her house. They became a part of the nation of Israel. In fact, Rahab became a part of the family of Christ. God also warned that the city of Jericho was not to be rebuilt. God said that if any man decided to rebuild Jericho that the oldest and the youngest sons of that man would die. This reminds us again of the high cost of disobedience.

19. Read Joshua 6:17-27 and write what spread around the land because of the fact that the

Lord was with Joshua.

20. Explain why everything in the city of Jericho was to be completely destroyed or given to the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that God said that if anyone ever decided to rebuild the city of Jericho that the oldest and youngest sons of that man would die.

God had warned Israel that no one was to take anything from the city of Jericho. However, a man by the name of Achan disobeyed and took some of the things from the city of Jericho. His sin soon affected the entire nation. Joshua sent some spies to go and look at the city of Ai. These men went and saw that the city of Ai was not a very large city. They said that it would not be necessary to send the entire army of Israel against Ai. Here we see that these spies were depending on their own efforts instead of the Lord. Three thousand men would be plenty to destroy the city of Ai. Joshua listened to the words of these spies and sent only three thousand men.

22. Read Joshua 7:1-9 and write what happened to the three thousand men of Israel when they fought against the city of Ai.

23. Explain why the decision to only send a few men rather than asking the Lord what to do showed that Joshua and the other leaders were depending on their own strength.

24. Explain why you realize that when you depend on your own efforts instead of asking the Lord for guidance that you often make unwise decisions.

We see that there are several failures here. Of course there was sin in the camp. In addition, Joshua had failed to ask the Lord how he was to fight against the city of Ai. The spies were also depending on their own strength because they suggested the number of men that they felt would be required to defeat Ai. However, the Lord is the One that controls all things. He allowed the army of Ai to defeat the men of Israel. A total of thirty-six men of Israel were killed. Again we are reminded of the fact of the high cost of sin. This defeat caused the people of Israel to be filled with fear. When we allow sin to remain in our lives, we will also have fear.

25. Read Joshua 7:1-9 and write what Joshua did when he heard what had happened to Israel at Ai.

26. Explain why the Lord allowed the army of Ai to defeat the army of Israel because of the various sins that were involved.

27. Explain why you think that the people of Israel were immediately filled with fear when they saw this defeat.

After Joshua had heard the bad news, he immediately went to the tabernacle and began to pray to the Lord. He asked the Lord why the Lord had brought Israel across the Jordan River to destroy them. He said that he wished that the people would have been satisfied to remain on the other side of the Jordan River. Joshua complained that the surrounding nations would hear what Ai had done to Israel and would gather together and come and destroy Israel. Here we see that Joshua was now living in fear instead of trusting the Lord for strength.

28. Read Joshua 7:1-9 and write what Joshua said the Canaanites would do to the name of Israel when they heard what had happened.

29. Explain why Joshua immediately began to complain to the Lord instead of asking the Lord for wisdom.

30. Explain what you learn about the results of sin and depending on our own strength from these verses.

The Lord listened to Joshua. Then the Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to stop complaining and get up and find out who had sinned. God told Joshua that the people had not all obeyed at Jericho. There was one person that had taken some of the things of Jericho which God has said were cursed and was to be destroyed. The Lord told Joshua that Israel would not have another victory until the one that had taken the cursed things had been destroyed. Here we see that

when people have sin in their lives that they will live in fear and not depend on the Lord.

31. Read Joshua 7:10-26 and write how long God said that it would be before Israel could again stand before its enemies.

32. Explain why the Lord told Joshua to deal with sin instead of complain in order to have victory in the future.

33. Explain why you think that God said that Israel would not experience another victory until they had dealt with the sin.

The next morning Joshua gathered all of the people together. God told Joshua that He would show who had taken the things that were cursed. Then God said what was to happen to the person that had done this evil. He, his entire family, all of his animals and all of his possessions were to be burned with fire. Nothing that belonged to the man that had committed this evil was to be allowed to remain. Everything was to be destroyed. The reason that his family were to be destroyed was due to the fact that they knew what the person had done and had said nothing.

Then the Lord showed that the one that had done wrong was from the tribe of Judah, the clan of Zerah and the family of Zabdi.

34. Read Joshua 7:10-26 and write the name of the name of the man that had done the evil and taken what God had cursed.

35. Explain why God said that the person that had sinned along with his entire family and all of their possessions were to be destroyed.

36. Explain why you think that the entire family of Achan were to be destroyed along with Achan.

When Achan was faced with his sin, he admitted that he had done wrong. He told how he had taken some clothes, some silver and some gold from the city of Jericho. He had dug a hole in his tent and had buried the things that he had taken from the city of Jericho. This explains why the family was to be judged. God had said that it was a sin to know when someone had broken the law and those who knew what the person had done had not reported the thing to those who were in authority. Because of the place where Achan had buried the things that were taken, his entire family knew that he had done wrong and none of them had reported his sin.

37. Read Joshua 7:10-26 and write the reason why Achan said that he had taken the garment, the silver and the gold.

38. Explain why God said that it was necessary for the entire family of Achan to be judged with him for his sin.

39. Explain why this helps you to understand that those who know about sin and say nothing are also guilty of having a part in that sin.

Joshua and the rest of the people of Israel took Achan, his family and his possessions to the valley of Achor. There they stoned Achan and his family. They also stoned all of his cattle and sheep. After the family and the animals were dead, they took them and burned them with fire. They also burned the things that Achan had taken as well as the rest of his possessions. After everything had been burned, the remains were covered with a great pile of stones. This pile of stones was a constant reminder to the rest of the nation of Israel of the results of sin.

40. Read Joshua 7:10-26 and write what the people of Israel called the place where Achan and his family were stoned.

41. Explain why the judgment of Achan and his family included both stoning and then burning everyone that was in the family.

42. Explain why you think that God wanted this great pile of stones to be a reminder to the rest of the nation of Israel about the results of sin.

Now reread Joshua 6:1-7:26 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 4

Joshua 8:1-9:27

In our last lesson we learned that the city of Ai had defeated Israel because of the sin of Achan. We also saw that the sin of Achan was judged and that he and his family were stoned to death. Then the Lord was able to give the people of Israel victory over the city of Ai. We will learn about the instructions that the Lord gave Joshua to conquer the city of Ai. We will also learn about the victory that followed. When the city of Gibeon heard how Israel had defeated Jericho and Ai, the people of Gibeon decided that it would be better to become the servants of Israel rather than have their lives destroyed by the army of Israel. We will learn what the people of Gibeon did in order to become the slaves of Israel instead of being destroyed.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the city of Ai was destroyed.
- Explain how the people learned the blessings and the cursings.
- Explain how the men of Gibeon deceived Joshua.
- Explain what happened to the men of Gibeon.

When Israel was defeated by the men of the city of Ai, only three thousand men of the army of Israel had gone to fight against Ai. The second time Joshua asked the Lord how the Lord wanted Israel to defeat Ai. The Lord told Joshua to take the entire army of Israel with him to fight against the city of Ai. This time the Lord also said that the people of Israel could keep the possessions of the people of Ai. God then explained the way that Israel was to defeat Ai was to place an ambush behind the city. Joshua quickly prepared for battle during the night. He sent thirty thousand men around the city and told them to hide on the opposite side of Ai.

1. Read Joshua 8:1-17 and write what Joshua told these men to do when he sent them around the city of Ai.
2. Explain why Joshua realized the importance of asking the Lord how the Lord wanted him to defeat the city of Ai.
3. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Israel would be allowed to keep the possessions of the people of Ai.

The men were told to hide on the opposite side of Ai until Joshua gave the signal. Then they were to come out of the places where they were hiding and capture the city. God said that He would give them victory. They were also to set the city on fire. In the meantime Joshua said that he would lead the rest of the army against Ai. They would pretend to run away from the army of Ai just as the first army had done. Joshua knew that the army of Ai would quickly chase after the army of Israel. They would think that they were going to win an even greater victory than the army had won the first time when they fought against Israel.

4. Read Joshua 8:1-17 and write how many men were set in ambush between the cities of Bethel and Ai.
5. Explain why Joshua gave very complete instructions to the men that set the ambush about what they were to do.
6. Explain why you think that Joshua knew that all of the men of the city of Ai would come after Israel when they saw that the army of Israel was fleeing.

The men that were placed in ambush between Bethel and Ai were to stop any of the men of Bethel that might come to help the men of Ai fight against Israel. During the night Joshua arranged his men in the valley in front of the city of Ai. Early the next morning the king of Ai saw the army of Israel and led his army against them. Immediately Israel turned and started to

run the other way. This encouraged the king of Ai and he called every single man in his army to go after the army of Israel. Soon there was not a single man left in the city.

7. Read Joshua 8:1-17 and write what the army of Ai left open while they pursued after the army of Israel.

8. Explain why we can trust the Lord to guide us just as He guided Joshua and the army of Israel when Joshua prayed and asked for wisdom from the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that the king of Ai thought that he was going to win a great victory when he saw that the men of Israel were fleeing from his army.

Joshua and the army of Israel continued to flee until all of the men of Ai were out of the city. When Joshua saw that all of the men had left the city, he raised his spear. That was the signal for the men that were waiting in ambush. They quickly rushed into the city. These men then captured the city and set the city of fire. Suddenly the army of Ai saw that their city was on fire. They realized that they had been tricked. Suddenly the army of Israel that had been fleeing from them turned around. Then the army of Israel began to fight against the army of the city of Ai. The army of Ai was surrounded and they had no way to escape.

10. Read Joshua 8:18-35 and write how many of the men in the army of Ai were able to escape from the army of Israel.

11. Explain how the men that were waiting in ambush did exactly what Joshua had told them to do when he gave the signal.

12. Explain what you think that the king and the army of Ai felt when they realized that they had been tricked by the army of Israel.

The king of the city of Ai was captured. The men of Israel took him and hung him from a tree until the evening so that he died. At the same time the men of Israel chased all of those who were trying to escape and killed them with the sword. They did not stop fighting until every single person from the city of Ai had been destroyed. Then the Lord allowed the people of Israel to take the cattle of the people of Ai and divide the cattle among themselves. Finally the city was completely destroyed so that it became nothing but a pile of rubble.

13. Read Joshua 8:18-35 and write where Joshua built an altar after the army of Israel had defeated the city of Ai.

14. Explain why the Lord gave the army of Israel a complete victory over the city of Ai during this second battle.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord allowed the people of Israel to take the cattle of Ai and divide the cattle of Ai among themselves.

In the book of Deuteronomy the Lord had commanded Moses to tell the people to build an altar at Mount Ebal. This altar was to be built of stones that had never been cut. Then these stones were to be plastered. God had said that the law of God was to be written on this plaster so that everyone that passed that way would be able to see the law of God. God had told the people to do this because He wanted them to have a permanent copy of the law that all could read when they came to that place. Here we see that Joshua obeyed the commandment that the Lord had given to Moses. He built an altar at Mount Ebal. Then the people of Israel offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord on that altar.

16. Read Joshua 8:18-35 and write what Joshua wrote on the stones of the altar.

17. Explain why God wanted the law written on a place where everyone that passed by that place would be able to read the law.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord wants everyone to become familiar with the Word of God today.

Then Joshua divided the people into two groups. Half of the people gathered on the side of Mount Ebal. The other half of the people gathered on the side of Mount Gerizim. Then Joshua began to read the law of God to the people. He also read all of the promises of blessing and

cursing. Joshua read the entire law of God to the people. He did not skip any part of it. All of the people heard the law of God. They all heard the blessings for obedience and the cursings for disobedience. That meant that the people of Israel now faced a choice. They could choose to obey God and enjoy the blessings or they could choose to disobey and experience the cursings.

19. Read Joshua 8:18-35 and write the various groups that heard the law of God in addition to the men.

20. Explain why it is important to teach the Word of God to all people so that each person can make the choice whether to follow the Lord or to reject the Word of God.

21. Explain why you think that it was important for Israel to realize that they would experience either blessing or cursing depending on whether or not they decided to obey the Word of God.

When the kings of the land of Canaan heard what Israel had done to the cities of Jericho and Ai, those kings decided to join together to fight against Israel. However, the Hivites from the city of Gibeon chose a different way to be protected. They decided to send men to make a peace treaty with Israel. In order to trick Joshua and the people of Israel, the leaders of Gibeon made these men look like they had traveled a great distance in order to make this peace treaty with Israel. They placed patched food sacks and patched wineskins on their donkeys. The men dressed in old clothes and wore shoes that were old and patched.

22. Read Joshua 9:1-15 and write what their bread was like.

23. Explain why the people of Gibeon made the choice to make a treaty with Israel rather than fight against Israel.

24. Explain why you think that the people of Gibeon realized that they could not win a victory over Israel and decided to make a peace treaty instead.

These men came to Joshua in their old clothes. They told Joshua that they had come from a far country. They said that they wanted to make a peace treaty with Israel. Immediately the men of Israel said that the men might be from the land and said that they could not make a treaty with anyone in the land. Then these men told some more lies. They said again that they had come from a far country. They told how they had heard what God had done to Egypt and to the nations on the other side of the Jordan River. They said that they realized the power of God and wanted to make a peace treaty with the people of Israel.

25. Read Joshua 9:1-15 and write what they said their bread was like at the time when they had left their own country.

26. Explain why these men from Gibeon did not mention the fact that they had heard about what Israel had done to Jericho and Ai.

27. Explain why you think that the men of Gibeon tried to make it look like they had traveled a great distance to make a peace treaty with Israel.

These men claimed that their bread had been fresh and that their clothes had been new when they left their own country to come and make a treaty with Israel. Then Joshua made a terrible mistake. He listened to these men instead of praying and asking the Lord what he should do. He agreed to make a treaty with the men of Gibeon. Here we see one of the ways that we often fail as Christians. We listen to the advice of other people when we should be praying and seeking the will of the Lord. When we do not seek the will of the Lord we can easily be deceived. When that happens Satan will use others to deceive us and we will experience trouble and problems.

28. Read Joshua 9:1-15 and write what Joshua and the men of Israel decided to do after they had heard the words of the men of Gibeon.

29. Explain what will often happen to us when we listen to others instead of seeking the will of the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that Joshua listened to these men instead of asking the Lord whether he should make a peace treaty with the men.

We also see that the things that others may say to deceive us may only deceive us for a short time. However, if we listen to men instead of asking the Lord for wisdom, we will be deceived long enough for the devil to gain a victory. It was only three days later that the people of Israel learned that they had signed a peace treaty with a city that was located very close to their camp. However, Israel had made an agreement and it was too late for Israel to break the treaty. Israel had signed the treaty and it could not be broken. Today the devil will also trick us if we are not in constant communication with the Lord so that we have His wisdom.

31. Read Joshua 9:16-27 and write how long it took Israel to travel to Gibeon and the surrounding cities.

32. Explain why the fact that Israel had signed a treaty meant that it could not be broken even though the men that made the treaty had lied.

33. Explain why you think that Satan is only concerned to deceive us long enough so that he can have victory over us.

It was only a few miles to the city of Gibeon and the cities around it. The people complained when they realized that the princes had signed a peace treaty with a city that was located right in the middle of the land. The people probably thought that they should destroy those cities because the messengers had told lies. However, the princes said that they had given their word and they could not break it. They had to let the people of Gibeon and the surrounding cities live. When we make a promise, we should also keep that promise just as the people of Israel kept their promise to the people of the city of Gibeon.

34. Read Joshua 9:16-27 and write what the princes said that the people of Gibeon and the surrounding cities should do.

35. Explain why it is important for us to also keep our word when we make a promise to the Lord or to someone else.

36. Explain why you realize that you need to ask the Lord for wisdom and guidance before making any decision.

As we study this section of Scripture, we are reminded of the importance of doing what we say. The people of Israel had made a promise not to kill the people of Gibeon. They had made that promise because they had believed the lies of the men of Gibeon. Even though the men of Gibeon had lied in order to get Israel to make the promise, Israel still had to keep their part of the promise. When we make a promise today, we need to keep our part of the promise regardless of what the other person does.

37. Read Joshua 9:16-27 and write what Joshua did when he realized that he and the other leaders of Israel had been tricked.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of keeping a promise once the promise has been made.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to do what you say you will do even if keeping your word is not to your advantage.

When Joshua realized that he had been tricked, he called those men and asked them why they had told him lies. The men answered that they had heard that God had said that Israel was to completely destroy the people that lived in the land. They believed the Word of God. As a result, they were willing to become servants rather than have their lives destroyed. The family of Rahab had been protected in Jericho because she had believed the Word of God. Here we see that an entire city was being protected because the people had believed the Word of God.

40. Read Joshua 9:16-27 and write what the men of the city of Gibeon told Joshua to do to them.

41. Explain why the people of Gibeon were protected because they believed the Word of God even though the other cities were judged.

42. Explain why you realize that there are people in every nation that will turn to the Lord when we share the Word of God with them.

Now reread Joshua 8:1-9:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 5

Joshua 10:1-12:24

In our last lesson we learned that the people of Gibeon had deceived the people of Israel and had become the servants of Israel. Some of the surrounding cities became very fearful when they heard that Gibeon had made a treaty with Israel. As a result, the people of these surrounding cities decided to destroy the city of Gibeon. The men of these cities came to fight against the people of Gibeon. We will see that the Lord used one of the greatest miracles in the history of the universe to defeat the armies that came against Gibeon. We will study a summary of the victories of the people of Israel over the cities of the land of Canaan.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened when the sun stood still.
- Tell about the victory of Israel at Makkedah.
- Tell about the victories of Israel in the south.
- Tell about the victories of Israel in the north.

The nations in the land of Canaan were very fearful when they heard what Israel had done to Jericho. However, this fear was greatly increased when they heard that Gibeon and its surrounding cities had made a treaty with Israel. Few cities in the entire land were stronger than the city of Gibeon. This was the reason that five of the kings of Canaan decided to gather together and go to fight against the city of Gibeon. They knew that Gibeon must be destroyed before they would be able to fight against Israel. The king of the city of Jerusalem was the leader in gathering these five kings together to go and fight against the city of Gibeon.

1. Read Joshua 10:1-14 and write why the king of Jerusalem asked the other kings to come and help him destroy Gibeon.
2. Explain why the fear of the people of Canaan was greatly increased when they heard that the city of Gibeon had made a peace treaty with Israel.
3. Explain why you think that the kings of the other cities decided that they must destroy Gibeon first before they fought against Israel.

The kings of these five cities quickly gathered their armies together and went to fight against the city of Gibeon. The king of Gibeon immediately sent messengers to Joshua and asked him to come and help protect Gibeon. Here we see the first problem that arose because Israel had made a treaty with Gibeon without seeking the will of the Lord. Now Israel was in a situation where they were forced to protect a city that God had said that Israel was to destroy. When we make our decisions without asking the Lord for guidance, we will often make decisions that hinder the work of the Lord instead of carrying out the will of the Lord.

4. Read Joshua 10:1-14 and write what Joshua did when he received the message from the leaders of Gibeon.
5. Explain why the army of Israel was called to protect the city of Gibeon from the other kings of the land.
6. Explain how this event helps you to realize that you can hinder the work of the Lord by making decisions without asking the Lord for guidance.

Although Joshua had failed to seek the will of the Lord before he made the treaty with Gibeon, he now did the right thing. He honored the treaty that he had made and went to help Gibeon fight against the armies of these five cities that had become their enemies. This shows the importance of keeping our word when we have made a promise. Then the Lord spoke to Joshua and promised him that none of the enemies would be able to stand against him. We see that the armies from these cities fled before the army of Israel. God also killed many of the soldiers of

these cities with great hailstones.

7. Read Joshua 10:1-14 and write what Joshua told the sun to do as the army of Israel was fighting against these enemies.
8. Explain why Joshua gives us a great example of integrity by going to fight to protect the city of Gibeon.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to kill many of the soldiers of their other cities with great hailstones.

That day one of the greatest miracles in the entire Bible happened. God showed His great power to hold the universe together. We read that the sun and the moon stood still in their places. This also means that the earth and probably the entire universe stood still. The Word of God says that there was never a day like that day before that time. It also says that there will never be a day like that day again. The Lord heard the prayer of Joshua and fought for Israel by changing the laws of nature that day. This reminds us of the fact that the Lord is the One who made the universe and He is the One that is able to control how the universe functions.

10. Read Joshua 10:1-14 and write what the Lord did for the nation of Israel on that particular day.
11. Explain why these verses show that the Lord is in total control of the universe and that He is not controlled by the laws of nature.
12. Explain what these verses teach you about the power of the Lord to control the universe.

The Lord gave the army of Israel a great victory as a result of the long day. When the five kings saw that their armies were destroyed, they ran and hid in a cave. There they thought that they might be hidden from the army of Israel. However, someone found the kings in the cave and told Joshua. Instead of stopping the entire army of Israel, Joshua ordered a few men to cover the entrance to the cave with stones and guard it so that no one could escape. In this way the rest of the army could continue to fight against the armies of these cities.

13. Read Joshua 10:15-43 and write the name of the place where the cave was located where the kings had hidden.
14. Explain why Joshua had a few men cover the entrance to the cave so that the rest of the army could continue to fight against the other soldiers.
15. Explain why you think the Lord extended the length of this particular day so that Israel could defeat the armies of these other cities.

After the army of Israel had completely destroyed the five cities, the people came back to the cave. Then they removed the stones and took the kings out of the cave. In order to give the people of Israel a picture of the victory that the Lord would give to Israel, Joshua had the leaders of the army place their feet on the necks of the five kings. While the men had their feet on the necks of the kings, Joshua spoke to the people and told them not to be afraid. He told the people to be strong and filled with courage. He reminded the army of Israel that they could depend on the Lord to help them.

16. Read Joshua 10:15-43 and write why Joshua said that the people of Israel could be filled with courage.
17. Explain why Joshua gave the army of Israel a visual illustration by having men put their feet on the necks of the kings while Joshua told the people to be strong and full of courage.
18. Explain why you think that the Bible often uses visual illustrations to help people remember key teachings of the Lord.

The people were told that they could be filled with courage because they could depend on the Lord to give them victory over all of their enemies. Here we find the secret for success in our own lives. We must choose to recognize the fact that the Lord is the One that is in control of all things. The Lord is the One that can do all things. No one is able to stand against the Lord. In order to have a successful life, we must recognize the fact that the Lord is the One that we can

fully trust. He is the One that can take away all fears and give us His courage.

19. Read Joshua 10:15-43 and write what Joshua and the army of Israel did with the kings of the five cities.

20. Explain why we can be filled with courage when we place our trust in the Lord and depend on His strength instead of our own.

21. Explain why you think that a key secret to success in our lives is to recognize that the Lord is the One that is in control of all things.

We go on to read about a number of other cities that were completely destroyed by the army of Israel. Not a single person from these cities was allowed to live. We are reminded again of the fact that God judges sin. The sins of these people were so great that the Lord said that the people must be completely destroyed. God told Joshua not to allow any of the people of the land to live. Joshua obeyed the command of the Lord and ordered the army of Israel to completely destroy all of the people of each city that the army captured. In this chapter we see that the main cities of the southern half of the land were all destroyed.

22. Read Joshua 10:15-43 and write who fought for Israel as Joshua led the armies of Israel against the cities of the south.

23. Explain why the sins of the people of Canaan were so great that the Lord said that all of the people of Canaan must be judged and destroyed.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to realize that the Lord must judge sin and not just ignore sin.

After the victories over the kings of the south, the army of Israel went to fight against the cities in the northern part of the country. However, the cities in the north had heard all that Israel had done to the cities of the south. As a result, the cities of the north joined together to fight against Israel. These cities thought that they would be strong because of the great power of their armies. These cities also have many horses and chariots that they used for fighting. These cities were depending on their own military power to defeat the army of Israel.

25. Read Joshua 11:1-23 and write how the number of people in this great army that came against Israel is described.

26. Explain why the cities of the north thought that they would be able to defeat the army of Israel because of the fact that they had many horses and chariots.

27. Explain why you think that many nations trust their military power instead of trusting the Lord to give them victory over their enemies.

Today there are many people that are just like the people of these cities. These people think that the only thing that is important is their own strength. They feel that they can do all that they choose through their own power. This is the reason that many people do not think that they need the Lord. They feel that their own plans and their own strength will give them the things that they desire. However, we see that the Lord is the One that had the final word. The Lord was the One that gave Israel victory over its enemies and the Lord is the One that continues to have the final word today.

28. Read Joshua 11:1-23 and write what the Lord promised Joshua when all of these kings gathered together at the waters of Merom.

29. Explain why people that depend on their own plans and their own strength do not think that they need the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that many people feel that they can depend on their own strength.

The Lord waited until all of these armies were gathered together to fight against Israel. Then the Lord spoke to Joshua. The Lord told Joshua that he did not need to be afraid because the Lord would give Israel a great victory the next day. This is another thing that the Lord does for us today. When the problems that we face look very difficult, then the Lord comes to us to speak to us and encourage us. The Lord has promised never to leave or forsake us. The next

day the army of Israel came against these other armies very suddenly.

31. Read Joshua 11:1-23 and write what the Lord did to these other armies when Israel fought against them.

32. Explain why the Lord spoke to Joshua and told him that he did not need to be afraid because the Lord was going to give Israel a great victory.

33. Explain why it is important for you to be reminded in your own life that the Lord will never leave you or forsake you.

The Lord also told Joshua to burn the chariots and make it so the horses could not run. There was a very important reason for these instructions. The horses and chariots were the things that people of that day depended on for military strength. If Israel would have captured the horses and chariots and made them a part of their own army, then Israel would have begun to depend on the horses and chariots for strength instead of depending on the Lord. In the same way if we begin to depend on any kind of thing instead of the Lord, we need to get rid of those things so that our total dependence will be on the Lord instead of our own strength.

34. Read Joshua 11:1-23 and write why all of the nations in the land of Canaan except Gibeon chose to fight against Israel.

35. Explain why the Lord did not want Israel to learn to depend on horses and chariots for strength.

36. Explain why you think that many people choose to depend on something other than the Lord to help them in their lives.

The people in the land of Canaan had sinned so much that the Lord said that the people of the land must be destroyed. Once the people had reached that point, God hardened their hearts so that they chose to fight against Israel. Today when people continue to reject the Word of God it is also possible for them to rebel so long that their hearts also become hard. This is the reason why some people come to the point where their sins no longer bother them. They have rejected the Word of God for so long that they have seared their conscience.

37. Read Joshua 11:1-23 and write what group of people the army of Israel destroyed in the mountains of Judah.

38. Explain in your own words the reason that God hardened the hearts of the people of Canaan.

39. Explain why you think that there are also people today that harden their hearts so many times that their sins no longer bother them.

We go on to read a summary of the kings and the cities those kings ruled that were destroyed by Israel. First we have a list of the kings that Israel destroyed on the east side of the Jordan River. Then we have a list of the kings that were destroyed on the west side of the Jordan River. The Lord used the leadership of Moses to destroy the first group of cities and the leadership of Joshua to destroy the second group of cities. This reminds us of the fact that the Lord is able to use any person that is willing to be used by the Lord. The Lord is looking for people that will depend on Him for strength and guidance and He will work through their lives to complete His purpose.

40. Read Joshua 12:1-24 and write down the total number of kings that Israel destroyed.

41. Explain why the Lord showed that two different leaders that depended on the Lord could be used equally to give Israel victory.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to yield your life to the Lord so that He can complete His purpose for your life.

Now reread Joshua 10:1-12:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 6

Joshua 13:1-15:63

Today we will begin our study of the division of the land of Canaan among the various tribes of Israel. The Lord had told the people of Israel that He would give them the land of Canaan. The main cities of that land had now been conquered. The time had come for the people of Israel to divide the land. God was going to give each tribe a part of the land that would become the permanent possession of that tribe. In addition, we will also learn about the land that Caleb requested for a possession. That area was the area that had caused the spies of Israel forty years earlier to be afraid to go into the land that God had promised to give to Israel.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God said that there remained much land to be possessed.
- Explain the request that Caleb made to Joshua.
- Explain what land the tribe of Judah received as their inheritance.

We have learned that the people of Israel defeated a total of thirty-one kings in the land of Canaan. The people had also entered the land and were now in the land. However, they had not yet taken possession of the land. The land was theirs but they were not yet enjoying the blessings that the Lord wanted to give them in the land. This is an example of what often happens in our lives as Christians. We have become Christians. The Lord has given us many wonderful promises in the Word of God. Yet we have failed to accept those promises and act as we should as a result of those promises. Many people also choose to focus on material blessings instead of spiritual blessings and so they do not even understand those promises.

1. Read Joshua 13:1-33 and write how much of the land the Lord said that there still remained to be possessed.
2. Explain why it was important for Israel to begin to take possession of the land and not just be in the land.
3. Explain why you think that many Christians focus on material blessings instead of spiritual blessings in their lives.

The Lord told Israel to take possession of the land that God had given to Israel. Israel could not enjoy a complete blessing as long as the enemy was allowed to remain in part of the land. Until we give the full control of our lives to Christ, we will not enjoy a complete blessing either. This is the reason that we are told to present our bodies to Christ as a living sacrifice. The Lord promised to drive the enemies out of the land of Canaan if the people would go and take possession of the land that God had promised to them. However, the people had to divide the land first so that they knew what land each tribe would receive.

4. Read Joshua 13:1-33 and write how God commanded the people to divide the land for the different tribes.
5. Explain why it was important for the people to divide the land so that each tribe would know what God wanted that tribe to receive.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to want to enjoy the blessings of the Lord because you have chosen to yield the control of your life to Him.

God told the people that the land was to be divided by lot rather than by the decisions of men. Here we are reminded of the fact that it was God that decided what land each tribe should receive in the main part of the land. Two and one-half tribes had made their own choice and they chose land that was outside the land that God had promised to give to the people of Israel. This is the same thing that many Christians do today. They make their own choices. The two and one-half tribes received a good land but they missed the best land. When we make our own

decisions instead of letting the Lord lead us, we may also choose the good and miss the best.

7. Read Joshua 13:1-33 and write which tribe God had said would not receive a separate inheritance.

8. Explain why it was important for the Lord to decide what part of the land each tribe would receive rather than having the tribes choose what they wanted.

9. Explain why you think that the two and a half tribes made the choice to choose land outside of the land that the Lord had promised to the nation of Israel.

The tribe of Levi did not receive a separate inheritance for a very important reason. The Lord had chosen the tribe of Levi and had set them apart as the tribe that would serve the Lord throughout the land. Instead of receiving a piece of land as their inheritance, we read that the God of Israel was their inheritance. Today as Christians we also have been set apart to serve the Lord. For this reason our greatest concern should be to serve the Lord rather than the things of this world. As we serve the Lord during the period that we are here on earth, we can look forward to eternal blessing.

10. Read Joshua 13:1-33 and write the names of the tribes that had received their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan River.

11. Explain what the Lord meant when he said in verse 33 that the God of Israel was the inheritance of the tribe of Levi.

12. Explain why you think that it is important for our greatest concern to be to serve the Lord rather than to focus on getting the things of this world.

The responsibility for the division of the land was placed on the men that were the leaders of Israel. Two of these leaders are mentioned by name. One was Eleazar because he was the high priest of the people of Israel. The other was Joshua because the Lord had used him to lead the people into the land. In addition to these two men, the men that were the heads of each of the tribes were to help in the division of the land. Here we see that the Lord gave the responsibility for dividing the land to the men that already had the respect of the people and had already served as leaders.

13. Read Joshua 14:1-14 and write which son of Jacob had two tribes.

14. Explain why the Lord said that the men that already had the respect of the people should be the men that divided the land.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord often chooses to use the people that have become respected because of their godly lives.

Here we also learn the reason why there were twelve tribes to receive the inheritance even though the tribe of Levi did not receive a separate inheritance. Before Jacob had died several hundred years earlier, he had given the blessing to Joseph. That blessing meant that Joseph was to receive twice as much as the other brothers received. As a result, the Lord caused two tribes to come from the family of Joseph instead of just one tribe. Here we are reminded that the names of those two tribes were named after the two sons of Joseph and so were named Manasseh and Ephraim.

16. Read Joshua 14:1-15 and write the name of the man that came to Joshua with a special request.

17. Explain why there were two tribes from the family of Joseph that received an inheritance instead of just one tribe.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord had greatly blessed the descendants of the family of Joseph.

Caleb and Joshua had been the two spies that had told the people of Israel that God would give Israel victory over the people that lived in the land of Canaan. The other ten spies had been afraid to enter the land because they had seen the children of Anakim. The children of Anakim were great giants. Caleb had not been concerned about the size of those giants. His trust was in

the Lord rather than in his own strength or the strength of the army of Israel. Caleb knew that the Lord could give Israel a great victory. He had his complete faith in the Lord. This is the only way that we can have true faith is when we place our faith in the Lord and not in our own strength.

19. Read Joshua 14:1-15 and write how Caleb told Joshua that he had followed the Lord throughout his life.
20. Explain why true faith must be faith in the power of the Lord to work and not faith in our own strength.
21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the faith of Caleb and his trust in the Lord.

Caleb had lived for forty-five years since that time when he and Joshua had gone as spies to the land of Canaan with the other ten men. He was now an old man of eighty-five years of age. Except for Joshua, all of the other men of Israel were at least twenty years younger than Caleb. However, the Lord had given long lives to Joshua and Caleb because they had put their faith and trust in the Lord even when they had seen the giants. God had also given real strength to Caleb. In fact Caleb was able to say that he was as strong as when he had been a young man.

22. Read Joshua 14:1-15 and write what Caleb asked Joshua to give him as an inheritance.
23. Explain why the Lord chose to give Caleb the same strength at eighty-five that he had when he was forty-five.
24. Explain why you think that the Lord rewarded the faith of Joshua and Caleb by allowing them to live and receive an inheritance in the land of promise.

The ten spies had refused to enter the land of Canaan because they had seen the children of Anakim. Now Caleb asked for the mountain where the children of Anakim lived. Caleb was not afraid of the giants or their great cities. Instead they offered him a great challenge. Caleb knew that he served a God that was greater than any of the giants. When we have our trust in the Lord, we do not need to be afraid of anything that the evil one will use in an effort to try and stop us. The Lord will always give us victory over the powers of the devil when our trust is in the Lord.

25. Read Joshua 14:1-15 and write what Joshua gave to Caleb for an inheritance.
26. Explain why his trust in the Lord led Caleb to ask Joshua to give him the mountain where the Anakim lived.
27. Explain why you think that Caleb viewed the Anakim as an opportunity and a challenge rather than giants that brought great fear.

Caleb gives us an example of the way that we should trust the Lord. We should realize that nothing is too hard for the Lord. When the Lord is on our side, no one will be able to stand against us. The devil will try to discourage us by making the things that we face look like great giants. The devil will try to make us think that we cannot do the work of the Lord because it is too hard. However, Caleb reminds us by his request that nothing is impossible for the Lord.

28. Read Joshua 14:1-15 and write the name of the city that Joshua gave Caleb as an inheritance.
29. Explain why Caleb gives every Christian an understanding of the meaning of faith and an example to follow.
30. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you know that nothing is too hard for the Lord.

The land that was to belong to the tribe of Judah is mentioned next. The land of Judah was between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It extended out into the northern part of the Sinai desert to the River of Egypt. Since Christ later came from the tribe of Judah and the family of David, we will be learning much about this part of the land throughout our study of the Old Testament. We will see how the things that happened in this area affected the entire nation of Israel. This is also the area when the Anakim lived that led Caleb to say, "Give me

this mountain”. As a result, we see how the Lord worked through Caleb to conquer the Anakim.

31. Read Joshua 15:1-20 and write who destroyed the city of Kirjath Sepher.

32. Explain why the land that was given to the tribe of Judah will be mentioned often throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord gave Caleb the opportunity to be the one that conquered the Anakim.

We saw earlier that Caleb had asked Joshua to receive the land of the giants as his inheritance. The Lord was with Caleb and he destroyed several of the cities of the giants. Then Caleb offered to give his daughter in marriage to the man that would destroy the city of Kirjath Sepher. Othniel was the son of the brother of Caleb. Othniel heard what Caleb said and wanted to marry the daughter of Caleb. We read that Othniel was victorious over the city of Kiriathsepher and married the daughter of Caleb. The daughter encouraged her husband to ask her father for a field. Caleb gladly honored the request and gave a field to Othniel and Achsah.

34. Read Joshua 15:1-20 and write the second thing that Achsah requested of Caleb.

35. Explain why Achsah encouraged Othniel to ask Caleb for a field as well as the city that he had received.

36. Explain why you think that Caleb was very willing to listen to the requests of Othniel and Achsah.

Achsah realized the importance of water in the land where she would be living. As a result, she decided to make a request of her father. Then Caleb gave them both the upper and the lower springs. This is an example of the way that the Lord answers our prayers. God knows our needs. He also wants to supply our needs. When we come to Him in prayer, He gives us everything that we need to serve Him effectively. God will show His love to us just as Caleb showed his love to his daughter.

37. Read Joshua 15:1-20 and write what Achsah called the land that her father had given to her and Othniel.

38. Explain why it is important for Christians to bring our requests to the Lord just as Achsah brought her requests to her father.

39. Explain why you think that Caleb gave Othniel and Achsah even more than they had requested.

There were many cities in the land that were given to the tribe of Judah. We are given a list of those cities. The people of Israel destroyed the people that lived in many of these cities. However, they were not able to destroy all of the cities. The people of Judah were not able to destroy one city that later became very important in the history of Israel. That was the city where the Jebusites lived.

40. Read Joshua 15:21-63 and write the name of the city of the Jebusites where Israel was unable to drive out the Jebusites.

41. Explain why God allowed the people in some of the cities to survive and did not give Israel the strength to drive them out at this time.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the Lord works in ways that we do not always understand.

Now reread Joshua 13:1-15:63 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 7

Joshua 16:1-18:28

In our last lesson we learned how the Lord began to divide the land between the various tribes of Israel. We saw that the Lord said that the land was to be divided to the various tribes by lot. Today we will be learning more about the division of the land. We will see where several of the other tribes received their land. As you remember, there were two tribes that came from the family of Joseph. In our study today we will learn what part of the land was given to these two tribes. We will also learn how the rest of the land was divided. Then we will learn about the people of Israel setting up the tabernacle so that they would have a central place to gather to worship the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the land that the tribe of Ephraim received.
- Tell about the land that the tribe of Manasseh received.
- Explain how the rest of the land was divided for the other tribes.
- Tell about the land that the tribe of Benjamin received.

God had delivered Israel out of the land of Egypt. Then He had led them through the wilderness forty years in spite of their rebellion. Now the Lord had brought Israel into the land of Canaan. God had also given Israel victory over the large cities in Canaan. Now we see that the Lord was the One that was dividing the land between the various tribes. Throughout these chapters there is a strong emphasis on the fact that God is the One that divided the land. God had chosen His people and now God was giving each tribe the land that God wanted each tribe to have. Today, the Lord is still the One that is in control of all of the tribes and nations of the world.

1. Read Joshua 16:1-10 and write what well known river was east of the land of the families of Joseph.
2. Explain why it is important to understand that God is the One that determined what part of the land each tribe should have.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to understand that the Lord has determined how to bless your life and make your life count for eternity.

The land that was given to the two tribes that came from the family of Joseph stretched from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. First the land of Ephraim is mentioned. The land of Ephraim did not go all of the way to the Mediterranean Sea or to the Jordan River because the tribe of Dan was right next to the sea and a piece of the land of Manasseh was right next to the Jordan River. The southern boundary of the land of Ephraim was a line that ran east and west between them and the tribe of Benjamin. Along the northern and western boundary was the tribe of Manasseh although Ephraim had some cities in the middle of the tribe of Manasseh between their boundary and the Jordan River.

4. Read Joshua 16:1-10 and write what group of people the tribe of Ephraim failed to drive out of the land that was given to them.
5. Explain why the Lord wanted the people of Israel to realize that He had a plan for each tribe.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord placed the various tribes of Israel in the places where He placed them.

God had told the people of Israel to completely destroy the Canaanites that lived in the land that the Lord was giving to Israel. God said that this must be done to judge the Canaanites for their sin. However, the people of Ephraim did not obey the command of the Lord and destroy all of

the Canaanites. Instead the Canaanites became slaves. Later these Canaanites encouraged the people of Israel to worship idols. This led to great sin in the nation of Israel. Finally it became necessary for God to judge the people of Israel because of their idol worship.

7. Read Joshua 16:1-10 and write what kind of work the people of Israel made the Canaanites do.
8. Explain why the people of Ephraim experienced a great failure when they failed to destroy the Canaanites.
9. Explain why you think that the people of Israel listened to the Canaanites and followed their idols.

The land given to the tribe of Manasseh is mentioned next. The land of this tribe stretched from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. The land of this tribe was almost in the center of the land. This tribe gives us an example of the way that the land was divided by each of the tribes. The land was divided so that there was a part for each of the families that had come from the sons of Manasseh. Then this land was divided further so that each individual family was given a piece of land as a possession. In this way every single family received a possession.

10. Read Joshua 17:1-18 and write the name of the son of Manasseh that had no sons to receive the land for the family.
11. Explain why God wanted every individual family to have a certain part of the land as their permanent possession.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord led Joshua to give so much detail about the way that the land was divided.

Since Zelophehad had no sons, his daughters had come to Moses to request a possession for the families that came from them. God had told Moses that these daughters were entitled to the possession that would have belonged to their father. God had also said that these daughters must marry men from their own tribe so that the land would remain a possession of their tribe. Now the daughters came to Joshua and the other leaders to claim the possession that they had been promised by Moses. Then they received a piece of land as a possession. In this way every single family received land as a possession for their family.

13. Read Joshua 17:1-18 and write how many portions of land the tribe of Manasseh received on the west side of the Jordan River.
14. Explain why it was important for the daughters of Zelophehad to marry men from their own tribe so that their land would remain a part of that tribe.
15. Explain why you think that God provided women with the right to inherit land hundreds of years before most cultures provided that right.

We read that the people of Ephraim had failed to drive the Canaanites out of their part of the land. Now we read that the children of Manasseh were not able to drive the Canaanites out of their part of the land either. When the people of Manasseh did become strong, they made slaves of the Canaanites instead of driving them out of the land. Here we see that the people of Manasseh failed in the same way that the tribe of Ephraim failed. These failures had a great affect on the future of Israel. Many generations of the nation of Israel were affected by these failures. This is a reminder of the fact that our sins can also have a great effect upon our families.

16. Read Joshua 17:1-18 and write what land the people of Manasseh were told to get if they wanted more land.
17. Explain why several of the tribes made the choice to make the people slaves instead of driving them out of the land as they had been instructed.
18. Explain why you think that these failures of these tribes show that failure to obey the commandments of the Lord can affect many future generations.

The tribe of Manasseh was a large tribe. As a result, they requested more land. Then they were

given the land of the Perizzites where the giants lived. Then Joshua gave the people of Manasseh a wonderful promise. Joshua told them that the Lord would give them victory over their enemies even though their enemies had chariots of iron. They would have victory even though their enemies were strong. This reminds us that God has all power and is able to give His people victory at all times if they will depend on Him instead of depending on their own strength.

19. Read Joshua 17:1-18 and write what was on the mountain of Mount Ephraim.

20. Explain why it is important to believe the promises of the Lord and trust Him to give victory.

21. Explain why you think that the people did not need to be afraid even though their enemies had much more military strength.

After Ephraim and Manasseh had received the land that God had given to those two tribes, the people gathered together at Shiloh. Shiloh was located in the part of the land that had been given to the tribe of Ephraim. When all of the people were gathered together, the tabernacle was set up at Shiloh. This was the place where the people were to bring their sacrifices to offer to the Lord. It was the place where the men of Israel were to come three times each year to meet with the Lord. As a result, Shiloh actually became the center of the life and activity in the land of Israel.

22. Read Joshua 18:1-10 and write how many of the tribes of Israel had not yet received their inheritance.

23. Explain why it was important that the tabernacle was set up in Shiloh since that city was in the middle of the land.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord had said that the men were all to get together at the tabernacle three times a year.

The tribe of Judah and the two tribes that came from the family of Joseph had received their inheritance. Since the two and a half tribes had received their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan River, this meant that there were still seven tribes that had not yet received their inheritances. The leaders of these tribes had not taken the leadership to get an inheritance for their tribes. Now Joshua spoke to these leaders and told them to choose three men from each of their tribes to go through the land and divide the remaining land into seven parts. In this way it would be possible to cast lots so that the other tribes would receive their inheritances.

25. Read Joshua 18:1-10 and write which tribe was not to receive a separate inheritance.

26. Explain why Joshua chose three men from each of the remaining tribes to go through the land and divide it into seven parts.

27. Explain why you think that the leaders of these tribes had not shown the leadership that had been shown by the tribes that already had been given land.

There were two reasons why the Levites did not receive a separate inheritance. God had chosen the Levites to be the tribe that helped the priests. As a result, God was their inheritance and they were not to receive a separate land as an inheritance. Back in Genesis 49 Jacob had also said that Simeon and Levi would be scattered among the other tribes because of their sin. We will learn how the tribe of Simeon was scattered in the next chapter. Here we see that the tribe of Levi was scattered among the other tribes in fulfillment of the prophecies in Genesis.

28. Read Joshua 18:1-10 and write what Joshua told the three men from each tribe to go through the land and do.

29. Explain in your own words the reasons why the tribe of Levi did not receive a separate inheritance.

30. Explain why you think that the sin of Simeon and Levi resulted in their descendants being scattered among the other tribes several hundred years later.

Joshua told the three men that had been selected from each tribe to go and study the land. As these men walked through the land, they wrote a description of the remaining land in a book.

Then they used this description to divide the remaining land into seven sections. The men then brought this book back to Joshua so that Joshua could cast lots and divide the land among the remaining tribes. In this way each of the tribes were given an inheritance in the land according to the promise of the Lord.

31. Read Joshua 18:1-10 and write where Joshua cast the lots for the division of the land for the remaining tribes.

32. Explain why the Lord used these men to write a description of each of the seven sections of land and then had Joshua cast lots to see who received each section.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord led Joshua to cast lots to determine what land each tribe received.

Here we see that Shiloh had become the center for religious and political activities immediately. It remained the center where the people gathered to worship God until David became the king about four hundred years later. However, the people of Israel served false gods during much of that time so Shiloh did not really remain the center of the religious life for many of the people of Israel during that period. The first of the seven tribes to receive its inheritance was the tribe of Benjamin. Benjamin received its land between the tribes of Judah and Ephraim.

34. Read Joshua 18:11-28 and write what formed the east boundary of the inheritance of Benjamin.

35. Explain why the Lord wanted Shiloh to be the center of religious and political life for the people of Israel.

36. Explain why you think that the people of Israel served false gods much of the time between the time of Joshua and the time of David.

The area that was given to the tribe of Benjamin included a number of cities. One of these cities was the city of Gibeon. This was the city that had tricked Joshua and had made a treaty with Israel. This happened because Israel had not asked God to show them what to do. This sin placed a foreign nation right in the center of Israel. As we continue our study through the historical books, we will see that this sin divided the tribes and caused the tribes in the north and the tribes in the south to distrust each other. This finally led to the division of Israel into the nations of Israel and Judah.

37. Read Joshua 18:11-28 and write how many cities were given to the tribe of Benjamin as their inheritance.

38. Explain what you learn about the results of sin from the effect that the city of Gibeon had on the nation of Israel.

39. Explain why you think that the fact that Gibeon was in the center of the land and divided the north and south helped to cause the people to the north and to the south to begin to distrust each other.

One of the other cities that was received by Benjamin became important at a later time because of a prophecy that was associated with it. This was the city of Ramah. In Jeremiah 31:15 we read that the people of this area would not be able to be comforted because of what happened to their children. This prophecy was fulfilled when Herod killed the babies in nearby Bethlehem in an effort to destroy Christ as recorded in Matthew 2.

40. Read Joshua 18:11-28 and write the name of the first city that was included in the land that was given to the tribe of Benjamin.

41. Explain why Jeremiah said that there would come a time when the people of Ramah would not be able to be comforted because of what happened to their children.

42. Explain why you think that it important to understand how the city of Ramah became a city that had a prophecy about it fulfilled at the time of Christ.

Now reread Joshua 16:1-18:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 8
Joshua 19:1-22:34

In the last two lessons we have been studying about the inheritance that the various tribes of Israel received from the Lord. Today we will begin our study by learning about the inheritance that the Lord gave to the last six tribes of Israel. We have mentioned that the tribe of Levi did not receive a certain section of the land as the place where their tribe would live. Instead the Levites were given a total of forty-eight cities scattered throughout the inheritance of the other tribes. Six of these cities were to be the cities of refuge. In our study today we will also review the purpose why God chose to call these six cities, cities of refuge.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the inheritance of the six tribes.
- Explain the purpose of the cities of refuge.
- Tell about the cities that were given to the Levites.
- Explain what happened when the two and one-half tribes went home.

As we begin our study today, the first tribe that is mentioned is the tribe of Simeon. They received the second lot that was chosen. They received their lot within the boundaries of the land that had been given to the tribe of Judah. This was done because Judah could not occupy all of the land that had been given to the tribe of Judah. However, this also fulfilled the prophecy that had been given in Genesis 49. In this chapter that records the prophecies of Jacob about the families of each of his sons, we read that Jacob had prophesied that Simeon and Levi would be scattered among the other tribes as a result of their sin. This prophecy was fulfilled here as the tribe of Simeon was scattered among the people of the tribe of Judah.

1. Read Joshua 19:1-23 and write what tribe received the third lot.
2. Explain why the land that was given to the tribe of Simeon by lot helped to fulfill the prophecy of Jacob hundreds of years earlier.
3. Explain why you think that the land that was given to the tribe of Simeon was within the land that had been given to the tribe of Judah.

Zebulun and Issachar were the next two tribes to receive an inheritance. These two tribes received their inheritance together. The land of Issachar was next to the Jordan River and reached from the land given to Manasseh almost to the south edge of the Sea of Galilee. The land that was given to the tribe of Zebulun was west and just a little north of the land that was given to the tribe of Issachar. Two other tribes were also given an inheritance in the north part of the land of Israel. Asher was next to the Mediterranean Sea and Naphtali was north and west of the Sea of Galilee.

4. Read Joshua 19:24-51 and write the name of the final tribe that received an inheritance.
5. Explain why it was important for each of the tribes to realize that the Lord had given them the land that they had and that they needed to serve Him.
6. Explain why you think that God placed each of the twelve tribes in the various places that He placed them.

The tribe of Dan was given their inheritance along the edge of the Mediterranean Sea. However, their land was in the center of Israel. Dan had Judah on the south, Ephraim on the east and Manasseh on the north of the land that the tribe of Dan received. Later the people of Dan realized that they needed more land. As a result, part of the people of the tribe of Dan moved to another area. This area was at the very north edge of the nation of Israel on the northeast edge of the Sea of Galilee. This meant that the tribe of Dan had an inheritance in two

separate places.

7. Read Joshua 19:24-51 and write what man was given a special inheritance by the people of Israel.
8. Explain why the tribe of Dan later added more land to their inheritance in a different section of the land.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord was working in the division of the land to put each tribe in the place where the Lord could bless that tribe.

The people of Israel asked Joshua what city he wanted as a possession for he and his family. When Joshua told the people the city that he would like to have, the people gave that city to him. They gave him a city by the name of Timnathserah. There Joshua built the city and lived in it. We are reminded again of the fact that the Lord guided the nation of Israel in the division of the land. God was the One that gave each tribe its possession. God also wants us to seek His guidance as we make decisions in our lives. That is why it is important to pray for His will and then follow what He leads us to do.

10. Read Joshua 19:24-51 and write the name of the place where they cast lots to give each tribe the inheritance that the Lord had for them.
11. Explain why it is important for us to seek the guidance of the Lord when we are making decisions in our lives.
12. Explain why you think that it is very important for us to do the will of the Lord once we know the will of the Lord.

Once the division of the land was complete, the Lord spoke to Joshua again. The Lord reminded Joshua to select the cities that were to be the cities of refuge on the west side of the Jordan River. The Lord again explained the purpose of the cities of refuge so that all of the people would know the reason for the existence of these cities. These cities were to be places where a person could flee if that person had killed another person by accident. If a person that accidentally killed another person did not flee to a city of refuge, that person could be killed by a relative.

13. Read Joshua 20:1-9 and write what this close relative is called.
14. Explain what the cities of refuge teach about the difference between accidental death and murder.
15. Explain in your own words the purpose of the six cities of refuge that were established in various parts of the land.

A man that had killed another person by accident was to flee to the city of refuge. There he was to explain what had happened to the men that were the rulers of the city. These men were to make certain that the death had been an accident. Once they were certain that the man had not committed murder, they were to give that man a place to live in the city of refuge. If the avenger of blood came to the city of refuge, he was not allowed to kill the man that had killed his relative by accident. The city of refuge was a place of safety and protection for the man that was not guilty of murder. It was a place of judgment for the person that was guilty of murder.

16. Read Joshua 20:1-9 and write how long the man was to remain in the city of refuge.
17. Explain why the rulers of the city of refuge were to make certain that a death was accidental and that the person had not committed a murder.
18. Explain why you think that the cities of refuge were to provide protection for the innocent and judgment for the guilty.

When the high priest of the nation of Israel died, all those that were at the cities of refuge were allowed to return to their own land. The avenger of blood no longer had the right to kill the person that had killed a relative of the avenger of blood by accident. God required death for a person that was guilty of murder. However, the sentence for accidental death was to remain in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. An avenger of blood who killed a person

after the death of the high priest became guilty of murder and was to be put to death. This meant that there was punishment for accidental death but that punishment lasted only until the death of the high priest.

19. Read Joshua 20:1-9 and write the names of the names of the three cities of refuge on the west side of the Jordan River.

20. Explain the purpose of the cities of refuge and why they were important to keep the people from taking revenge forever.

21. Explain why you think that God allowed those who had accidentally killed another person to go free when the high priest died.

The tribe of Levi had not received a separate inheritance of land because God had chosen that tribe to serve Him. We mentioned earlier that this had also fulfilled a prophecy by Jacob that the people of the tribes of Simeon and Levi would be scattered among the people of the other tribes. As a result, the Levites were given a total of forty-eight cities that were scattered among the various tribes and included the six cities of refuge. This completed the division of the land of promise. The Lord had given Israel the land exactly as He had promised. The Lord also gave Israel peace from all of the enemy nations around it. None of the enemies of Israel were able to stand against the people of Israel.

22. Read Joshua 21:1-45 and write what the Lord had done to all of the enemies of the people of Israel.

23. Explain why the tribe of Levi was given the privilege of being the tribe that led in the service for the Lord even though they did not receive a separate inheritance.

24. Explain why you think that God even used the sin of Levi in the past to place his descendants throughout the land so that they could lead in service for the Lord.

Everything that the Lord had done for the nation of Israel in the land was good. Now the time had come for the two and a half tribes to return to their possession across the Jordan River. Before these men returned to take possession of the land that had been given to them, Joshua gave them some words of instruction and encouragement. He thanked them for the way that they had obeyed the Lord and helped their brothers gain the land of Israel for a possession. Then he told them that the time had come for them to return to their own land.

25. Read Joshua 22:1-9 and write how the people were to serve the Lord when they returned to their own land.

26. Explain why Joshua took the time to thank the men of the two and a half tribes and encourage them before they returned to their inheritance on the other side of the river.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to thank people for their obedience and service for the Lord.

The instructions of Joshua to the men of the two and a half tribes are also very important for us today. Our desire should be to obey the Word of God. We should want to obey His commandments. This will only happen as we truly love the Lord. As we love the Lord, we will want to walk in His ways. We will want to keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Only as we love the Lord will we serve Him with all of our heart and soul. This is one reason why the Bible places such importance on love. This love for the Lord must come first in our lives. That will only happen as we let the love of Christ take control in our lives.

28. Read Joshua 22:1-9 and write what they were told to do with the riches that they had gained while they were helping the other tribes take possession of the land.

29. Explain why a true love for the Lord will give a person the desire to obey the commandments of the Lord.

30. Explain what it means to love the Lord with all of your heart and with all of your soul.

When the men of the two and a half tribes reached the Jordan River, they built a great altar. It was an altar that was easy for all those on both sides of the river to see. However, this altar

soon created problems. The men of the other tribes heard about this great altar. They thought that the two and a half tribes must have decided to serve other gods. The men on the west side of the Jordan River decided to go and fight against their brothers when they thought that they were rebelling against God. As a result, they gathered a great army to go and destroy those tribes. Before going to fight, they decided to send some men to talk to these other tribes.

31. Read Joshua 22:10-34 and write the name of the leader of these men.

32. Explain why it was important for the tribes on the west of the river to find out why the tribes on the east of the river had built this great altar and not just go and fight them.

33. Explain how this event helps you to understand that many people can misinterpret the meaning of any event that happens.

The eleven men crossed the Jordan River and came to the two and a half tribes. These eleven men asked why the two and a half tribes had decided to rebel against God. The eleven men said that there was room on the west side of the Jordan River for those tribes if the land on the east side of the river was unclean. The tribes on the east side of the Jordan River were also reminded of what had happened to Achan when he had sinned and stolen the things that the people of Israel were not to take. Then the tribes on the east side of the river said that those on the west had misunderstood the purpose of the altar that they had built.

34. Read Joshua 22:10-34 and write the real purpose of the altar.

35. Explain why the men from the tribes on the west side of the river told those on the east side what they assumed instead of asking why they had built the altar.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to discuss with people why they do what they do instead of just assuming that they are sinning.

The purpose of the altar was to remind the people of all of the tribes that they all served the same God. Here we have an example of the way to avoid divisions in the church. The two groups talked over their disagreement before they started fighting. They found out that both groups actually had the same purpose. Because they talked together before starting to fight, the tribes had unity and oneness instead of divisions. People need to learn to sit together and carefully listen to one another instead of immediately making judgments that are wrong.

37. Read Joshua 22:10-34 and write how the rest of the men of Israel felt when they had the real purpose of the altar explained to them.

38. Explain why it is important to find out why others do the things the way that they do them rather than fight.

39. Explain why you think that it is important for people to learn to sit together and listen carefully to one another when they have a problem.

Here we see that the people on the east side of the Jordan River had a very good purpose for building the altar. They wanted their children to serve the Lord rather than rebel against the Lord. They built the altar as a witness of their desire to serve the Lord. They wanted to remind the other tribes that they had a right to come and worship the Lord at Shiloh. When the tribes on the west side of the river heard the purpose of the altar they were very glad. That immediately changed their attitude about fighting against the tribes on the other side of the river.

40. Read Joshua 22:10-34 and write why the people of the tribe of Reuben and the people of the tribe of Gad called the altar El.

41. Explain why the people on the east side of the river wanted their children to serve the Lord and built the altar as witness of that fact.

42. Explain how this passage shows you the importance of working with others to develop good communication in our service for the Lord.

Now reread Joshua 19:1-22:34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 9
Joshua 23:1-24:33

Today we will be studying our final lesson in our study of the book of Joshua. As we have studied this book, we have seen how the Lord worked in the lives of the people of Israel and how the Lord gave the land of Canaan to the nation of Israel. After the people had taken possession of their land, the Lord gave them peace for a long time. One day Joshua realized that he would soon die and called all of the people of Israel together to talk to them before his death. He wanted to remind them of the way that the Lord had worked in their history. In our study today we will learn what Joshua told the people of Israel as they gathered together.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the challenge that Joshua gave to the people of Israel.
- Tell about the review of the history of Israel.
- Explain the choices that were faced by the nation of Israel.
- Explain why the bones of Joseph are mentioned.

The Lord gave Joshua a long and blessed life. One day he realized that he was getting old and would soon die. As a result, Joshua called for the people of Israel to gather together so that he could give them his final message. When Joshua called the people together, he had a very important message for them. Joshua wanted to remind the people of all of the things that the Lord had done for Israel. The Lord had destroyed these other nations because He was the One that fought for Israel. The Lord was the One that had given the people an inheritance. God was the One that had destroyed the enemies of Israel and had driven them out of the land. The Lord had done everything that He had promised to do for the nation of Israel.

1. Read Joshua 23:1-16 and write what Joshua encouraged the people to do since the Lord had done all of these things for Israel.
2. Explain why it was important for Joshua to remind the people of Israel about all of the things that the Lord had done for Israel.
3. Explain why you think it is important to take time to talk about the past blessings of the Lord so that people realize how the Lord has worked in the past.

Today we need the same message that Joshua gave to the people of Israel. We need to be filled with the courage that comes from the Lord. We need to stick to the Word of God and do what the Word teaches us to do. After encouraging the people to continue to follow the Word of God, Joshua went on to warn the people not to follow the false gods of the nations around them. They were not to worship or serve those gods in any way. The people did not have strength in themselves. The reason that no one had been able to stand against Israel was the fact that they had served the Lord.

4. Read Joshua 23:1-16 and write how many of the enemy one man could chase if the people continued to serve the Lord.
5. Explain why it was important for Joshua to encourage the people to follow the Word of God and do what the Word teaches us to do.
6. Explain why you think that Joshua chose to remind the people that the reason that none had stood against Israel was due to the fact that they were serving the Lord.

God promised that no one would be able to stand against Israel as long as the people continued to have their trust in the Lord. God promised that He would fight for His people as long as they loved Him and served Him. However, if the people of Israel made marriages with other nations and began to follow other gods, then the people of Israel could be certain that God would not

fight for them any longer. Instead the people of these other nations would become snares and traps to the people of Israel. The Lord would allow those nations to begin to defeat Israel.

7. Read Joshua 23:1-16 and write where Joshua said that he was going.
8. Explain why Joshua again reminded the people of the blessings that come from following the Lord and the consequences that would come if they turned from the Lord.
9. Explain why you think that Joshua said that the people that followed other gods would be like traps and snares to the people of Israel.

The Lord had shown Joshua that he would soon die. For this reason he wanted to remind the people of Israel that they had a choice. People need to be reminded regularly that they always have choices. God had brought great good to the people of Israel because they had chosen to serve Him. However, the people could expect great evil and judgment if they failed to continue to serve the Lord. That was why they could choose blessing or they could choose judgment. God warned the people that they would feel the anger of the Lord if they began to serve other gods.

10. Read Joshua 23:1-16 and write what Joshua said would happen to Israel if they turned from the Lord and served other gods.
11. Explain what Joshua said would be the results of allowing other things to become more important to them than God.
12. Explain why you think that people today also need to be reminded of their choices and the consequences of those choices.

Then Joshua gave a short review of the history of Israel beginning with the time of Abraham. We learn a very important lesson about Abraham from this passage. We see that at the time that God chose Abraham to leave his country and go to a country that the Lord would show him that the father of Abraham was serving false gods. As a result, Abraham had grown up in a family that worshiped false gods. Here we are reminded of the fact that God chose us while we were still in sin. In fact the Lord chose us before He ever created the earth. God chose Abraham and caused his family to multiply. God also blessed the family of Abraham in many other ways. Then the Lord led the family of Abraham to a new land where he became the father of many nations.

13. Read Joshua 24:1-13 and write where God led Jacob and his children.
14. Explain why it is important to understand that God called Abraham out of a family that was serving idols.
15. Explain why it is important to you to realize that the family of a person or the past of a person does not prevent that person from coming to the Lord.

The family of Jacob became a great nation while it was in Egypt. Then God sent Moses to lead the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. God also destroyed the land of Egypt with great plagues. When the king of Egypt tried to recapture the people of Israel again, the Lord destroyed Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea. That was the last time that Israel had to worry about the army of Egypt because God had fought for Israel. Then God led His people through the wilderness and protected them in the wilderness for forty years. God did that for Israel even though the people complained many times. Just as God brought His people out of the land of Egypt, God brought them into another land. That was another example of the blessing of the Lord.

16. Read Joshua 24:1-13 and write the name of the first land where God brought His people.
17. Explain why God fought for Israel against Pharaoh and brought Israel out of the land of Egypt.
18. Explain why the Lord blessed Israel and protected them in the wilderness even though the people of Israel complained many times.

God gave His people victory over every form of opposition that the devil tried to bring against

Israel. We read that the Lord used the hornets to drive out the Amorites. God prevented Balaam from casting an evil spell on those who had their trust in God. Here we see that an evil spell will never be effective against those who have their trust in the Lord. God has all power over all men and so no one can successfully cast an evil spell on those who have their trust in Him.

19. Read Joshua 24:1-13 and write what God said that He had given to the people of Israel.

20. Explain why Christians do not need to worry about those who cast evil spells when their trust is in the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to use the hornets to drive out the Amorites.

As Joshua came to the end of his life, he led the people of Israel to realize that they faced choices. Today we also need to help people realize that they are facing important choices in their lives. Joshua helped the people to realize that they had at least three choices. They could serve the gods that their father served on the other side of the river. They could choose to serve the gods of the Amorites in whose land they now lived. They could also choose to serve the Lord that had brought them into this land. This was the decision that was faced by each of those that were listening to Joshua that day. It is still the same choice that people face today. It would be easy for the people of Israel to follow the false gods of the nations around them. The devil always makes it easy to follow him.

22. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write who Joshua told the people that he and his family would serve.

23. Explain why Joshua let the nation of Israel know that regardless of what the people did that he and his family had chosen to serve the Lord.

24. Explain why it is important for you to help others realize the choices that they face and also help them to understand why you have chosen to serve the Lord.

Joshua knew that each person had to make a choice to follow the Lord. To make no decision is actually a decision to follow the devil. Joshua was not afraid to let everyone know that he was going to serve the Lord. In addition, Joshua knew that his family would join him in serving the Lord. Joshua knew that his family would serve the Lord because he had faithfully taught them the Word of God and taught them to meditate on that Word. Even more important, Joshua had lived what he taught. His example and teaching had shown his children how to follow the Lord.

25. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write the answer that the people gave about turning from the Lord.

26. Explain how the example and training that Joshua had given his family caused him to be confident that his entire family would continue to serve the Lord.

27. Explain what you can do to help your family make the choice to be faithful in serving the Lord.

The people said that they would serve the Lord and would not follow after other gods. However, Joshua realized that the people thought that they could serve the Lord in their own strength. They thought that their own efforts were good enough. Today many people are just the same as the people of Israel. They are also depending on their own efforts for salvation. Joshua told the people that they could not serve the Lord in their own strength because He is a holy God. The efforts of men will always fall short because no man is perfect. The efforts of men will only bring judgment.

28. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write who the people said had brought them out of the bondage of Egypt.

29. Explain how the people answered Joshua when he warned them of the results of turning away from the Lord.

30. Explain why you realize that many people need help understanding that they cannot serve the Lord in their own strength.

Joshua then went on to warn the people what would happen if they turned from God to follow false gods. God would have to judge His people if they turned away from following Him. The people realized what that meant. The people of Israel had seen the judgment of God upon the people of Canaan because of the sins of the people of Canaan. They could expect the same kind of judgment if they turned away from the Lord. Since God is holy, those who sin cannot escape judgment. That judgment will certainly come and none will escape.

31. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write what the people answered Joshua when he warned them about the results of turning away from the Lord.

32. Explain why the fact that God is a holy God means that God must bring judgment to those who reject the salvation that He freely offers.

33. Explain why it is important to help those that you know understand the fact that they cannot escape judgment if they reject the Lord.

The people were now beginning to realize what it actually meant to serve the Lord. They began to realize that serving the Lord meant making a definite choice to put the Lord first in their lives. The people said that they were willing to make this choice. They were willing to put the Lord first in their own lives. This is the same choice that we make when we become Christians. We make a decision to serve Christ instead of ourselves or some other thing. Actually we make the choice of whether we are going to serve Christ or serve the devil. The devil just deceives us by making us think that we are serving some other thing.

34. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write what Joshua told the people to put away.

35. Explain why it is important today to help people understand the choices that they face so that they will be willing to put the Lord first in their lives.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to help people realize that they either make the choice to follow the Lord or they are making the choice to follow the devil.

Here we see that the people of Israel had been trying to serve the Lord and serve other gods at the same time. Joshua wanted the people to realize that they could not truly serve the Lord as long as they kept their other gods. They were only deceiving themselves. The only way that they would actually serve the Lord would be to get rid of all of the other gods that they were serving. Today we still have people that think that they can serve God at the same time that they are serving other things around them.

37. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write what Joshua set up and then wrote the law on it for all the people to see.

38. Explain why people cannot truly serve the Lord as long as they are serving other things.

39. Explain why you think that many people can deceive themselves into thinking that they can serve both the Lord and other gods at the same time.

In the final verses of the book of Joshua we read about three people being buried. Joshua had been the leader of the people when they entered the land. Eleazar had been the high priest. The people also buried the bones of Joseph. When Joseph had died several hundred years earlier, he had requested that his bones be buried in the land that God had promised to Israel. Joseph had made this request because he believed the promise of God because God had said that one day He would give the land of Canaan to the people of Israel.

40. Read Joshua 24:14-33 and write the name of the place where Joseph was buried.

41. Explain why the request of Joseph several hundred years earlier showed that he understood that the Lord would bring the people out of Egypt and back to the land of promise.

42. Explain why you are thankful that you can face death with the assurance that you can look forward to being with the Lord when you die.

Now reread Joshua 23:1-24:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 10
Judges 1:1-3:31

In our study of the book of Joshua we learned how the people of Israel received the land of Canaan as an inheritance. Now we will begin our study of what happened to the nation of Israel as they lived in the land that the Lord had given to them. The last part of Joshua mentioned the fact that the people of Israel had failed to completely destroy the nations that were in the land even though God said that those nations were to be judged for their sin. As a result, these nations that remained in the land led Israel to begin the worship of idols. Finally it became necessary for God to judge His people because of their sin. As we study the book of Judges, we will see that the people of Israel turned away from the Lord many times.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why some of the tribes failed to gain complete victories.
- Explain what God said about this disobedience.
- Explain how God helped His people even after they had sinned.
- Explain how Ehud judged Israel.

As we begin our study of the book of Judges, we learn about the condition of Israel at the time of the death of Joshua. There were still various groups of Canaanites living in the land of Israel. God had said that these people should be destroyed so the people asked God who should go and destroy these people. God told the people of the tribe of Judah to go against the people in the land that God had given to the tribe of Judah first. The tribe of Judah obeyed the Lord and He gave them a great victory. One of the kings that Israel captured was a man by the name of Adoni-Bezek. This king had been a very powerful king that had conquered many other kings.

1. Read Judges 1:1-36 and write how many kings he said that he had captured.
2. Explain how the obedience of the tribe of Judah was rewarded by the Lord with victory over a very powerful king.
3. Explain why you think that the tribe of Judah asked the Lord what He wanted them to do about the Canaanites that were in their allotted territory.

Judah continued to fight against the nations in the part of the land that the Lord had given to Judah. Caleb was from the tribe of Judah. He won some great victories including a victory over the three sons of Anak. This was the very group of people that had caused the ten spies to be fearful forty years earlier. Caleb also allowed Othniel to marry his daughter when Othniel destroyed the city of Kirjath Sepher. The tribe of Judah was successful in destroying all of the people that lived in the mountains. However, they did not destroy the people that lived in the valleys.

4. Read Judges 1:1-36 and write why Judah failed to destroy the people that lived in the valleys.
5. Explain why Caleb did not fear the children of Anak even though the spies had feared that group of people forty years earlier.
6. Explain why you think that Caleb had asked for the mountain where the children of Anak lived even though they were giants.

The other tribes also went to fight against the people that lived in the lands that the Lord had given to them for their inheritances. The tribe of Benjamin failed to destroy the people that lived in Jerusalem. However, the family of Joseph won a great victory over the city of Bethel. A man that lived in the city of Bethel agreed to show spies from the tribes of Joseph how to get into the city in exchange for his life and the lives of his family. Even though God had told

Israel to destroy the people of the land, God showed His mercy to a few individuals like this man and his family.

7. Read Judges 1:1-36 and write the name of the city that this man built.
8. Explain how this man showed that he recognized the Lord and chose to help Israel so that God would show mercy to his family.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord gave the tribes of Joseph a victory at the city of Bethel.

As we read the last part of this chapter, we read a very sad story. The tribes of Israel failed to destroy many of the nations in the land even though God had commanded them to completely destroy the people of the land because of the terribleness of their sin. Instead these people were allowed to live. At times the people of Israel did make the people of these other nations serve as slaves. However, that was not what God had instructed Israel to do. As a result of the failure of Israel, these other nations soon led Israel to begin to worship idols.

10. Read Judges 1:1-36 and write what the Amorites did not allow the tribe of Dan to do.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the failure of Israel to completely destroy the inhabitants of the land for their sin.
12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from this chapter.

The people of Israel had failed to destroy the people of the land as the Lord had told them to do. Then the angel of the Lord came with a message to the people of Israel. The angel of the Lord is an Old Testament appearance of Christ. He was called the angel of the Lord whenever He appeared to people in the Old Testament. Christ told the people of Israel what would happen to them because they had failed to obey the Lord. Here we see that disobedience must always be judged. God said that the people that Israel had not destroyed would be used by the Lord to bring judgment on Israel.

13. Read Judges 2:1-10 and write what God said that these people and their gods would be to the people of Israel.
14. Explain why this Old Testament appearance of Christ was to give a warning to the people of Israel that they would be judged by the nations that they did not destroy.
15. Explain why you think that it is important for people to know that Christ is called the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament.

God warned the people of Israel that their enemies would cause many problems and bring much sorrow to the people of Israel. These enemies would make the people of Israel suffer. They would encourage the people of Israel to worship other gods. This worship of false gods would make it necessary for God to bring judgment on the nation of Israel. The people of Israel were filled with sorrow when they heard what the Lord said about the people that had been allowed to remain in the land. However, they were like many people today. They did not ask the Lord to forgive their sin and they did not ask God to take control and yield their lives to Him.

16. Read Judges 2:1-10 and write how long the people of Israel served the Lord.
17. Explain why people being sorry for the mess that they are in is called false repentance in the New Testament.
18. Explain why you think that people can be filled with sorrow when they hear about the consequences of their sin but that many of them still do not ask the Lord to forgive that sin.

The people served the Lord as long as there were leaders that remembered how the Lord had brought the people of Israel into the land that the Lord had promised to them. These people had seen the great works of the Lord and so they could not forget what the Lord had done. However, these people failed to teach their children about the Lord. As a result, the next generation did not know anything about the Lord. Instead the new generation did evil and turned away from God. Today our children will also turn away from the Lord if we fail to teach them about Him.

19. Read Judges 2:1-10 and write how old Joshua was when he died.

20. Explain why the people served the Lord as long as there were people alive that had seen the great works of the Lord.
21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about what happens when we fail to teach our children about the greatness of the Lord.

As soon as the people that had seen the power of the Lord had died, the next generation that had not learned about the Lord began to follow the gods of the people around them. This was exactly what the Lord had earlier warned Israel would happen. Then God shows that pattern that we will see throughout the book of Judges. The people turned away from God and began to live in sin. Then God allowed their enemies to defeat them. When the people called to the Lord for help, God would send judges to deliver the people from their enemies.

22. Read Judges 2:11-23 and write what the people could not do when their enemies came against them.
23. Explain why the people would begin to follow idols and only cry to the Lord for help after they were in bondage to other nations.
24. Explain why you think that the people that had seen the great works of the Lord failed to teach their children about what the Lord had done for them.

Here we are reminded of the fact that we have no strength when we try to depend on ourselves for strength. God is the only One that can give us strength because He gives us His strength as we yield our lives to Him. When the people of Israel turned away from the Lord, He allowed the enemies of Israel to come and defeat them. Even when God sent judges to deliver Israel from its enemies, the people would not listen to the Lord for very long. Instead they would quickly turn away from Him. All of the people were doing what they chose to do instead of asking the Lord to lead and guide them so that they would have the power to do what was right.

25. Read Judges 2:11-23 and write what God said He would not do because the people refused to listen to Him.
26. Explain why you think that the people of Israel began to do as they chose instead of continuing to follow the Lord.
27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to continue to yield to the Lord so that He gives you His strength so that you do not begin to depend on your own strength.

God said that He would stop driving their enemies out from the people of Israel because they were not listening to Him. Instead God said that He was going to use these nations to test Israel. God wanted the people to see the difference between following Him and following the ways of the devil. This meant that each person had to make a personal choice to either follow the Lord or reject the Lord. It was easy for the people to follow the ways of the surrounding nations. They had to choose to be different if they wanted to follow the Lord. This is still the same choice that all people face today and every person has to make that choice.

28. Read Judges 2:11-23 and write why God made the choice to leave these other nations to test the people of Israel.
29. Explain why the Lord said that He would use the nations that Israel had not destroyed to test the nation of Israel.
30. Explain why you think that God gives us a choice instead of forcing us to do what He desires.

We go on to read about the nations that were allowed to remain in the land to test the nation of Israel. We also see what caused the people of Israel to turn away from the Lord. The men of Israel began to marry wives from the people of the surrounding nations. They also allowed their daughters to marry the men of these nations that were around them. As the people began to marry the people of the surrounding nations, they also began to worship the gods of these nations. This is the reason that today God warns Christians not to marry those who are not Christians. There is then a division in the family and that often turns the family away from the

Lord.

31. Read Judges 3:1-31 and write the name of the first judge.

32. Explain why the choices that Israel made show why it is important for those who follow the Lord to choose as husbands or wives those who also follow the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that there many Christians who never realize how divided their family will be until after they have married a partner that does not serve the Lord.

Even though most of the people turned away from the Lord, there were still a few people that served the Lord. Othniel was one of those that chose to serve the Lord. As a result, we read that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. In the Old Testament God sent the Holy Spirit to individuals when they were given a special job or responsibility. Today Christ gives the Holy Spirit to all Christians at the moment that a person becomes a Christian. Christ does this because the Lord has prepared a ministry for every Christian. After Othniel died, the people of Israel did evil and turned away from the Lord. Then the Lord allowed them to become the servants of Moab for eighteen years.

34. Read Judges 3:1-31 and write the name of the second judge that God sent to judge Israel.

35. Explain the purpose why the Lord sent the Holy Spirit on Othniel and sent him against the king of Mesopotamia.

36. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that Christ gave us the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation so that we can do the work that the Lord has for us.

Ehud was led by God to use the pride of the king of Moab to deliver the nation of Israel from the people of Moab. Ehud brought the required payment to Eglon and then Ehud told Eglon that he had a secret that he wanted to tell Eglon. The pride of Eglon caused him to send all of his guards out of his house so that he could hear the secret. Instead of a secret to make Eglon feel better, Ehud brought Eglon a message of death from God. We see that the Lord used Ehud to kill the king of Moab.

37. Read Judges 3:1-31 and write what happened when Ehud killed Eglon.

38. Explain what this chapter teaches about the pride of Eglon and how that pride led to his death.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord often warns us about the dangers of pride in our own lives.

Ehud said that he had a message from the Lord for Eglon. When Eglon arose to come to him to hear the message, Ehud thrust a dagger into his belly. After Ehud had killed Eglon, he locked the door of the house of Eglon and quickly returned to the land of Israel. The guards of Eglon thought that he was sleeping and did not bother him for several hours. Finally they became concerned and unlocked the door. Then they found Eglon dead. Meanwhile Ehud quickly returned to Israel and gathered an army. That army destroyed ten thousand men of Moab and that caused Israel to have peace.

40. Read Judges 3:1-31 and write the name of the judge that delivered Israel from the Philistines.

41. Explain how the Lord used Ehud to set the people free from the bondage of the king of Moab.

42. Explain why you think that the army of Israel was able to defeat the army of Moab once the king of Moab was dead.

Now reread Judges 1:1-3:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 11

Judges 4:1-5:31

Today we have an example of what happens when we fail to teach the physical and spiritual leaders that God has given to those who are leading others. When Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God said that man was to be the leader. However, men often fail to fulfill this God given responsibility. God tells us that when men fail to take their place of responsibility and spiritual leadership that there is often a loss of respect for those men. We will see that such a loss of respect happened because of the choices of Barak. We also see a good example of the right way for a woman to encourage a man to take spiritual leadership.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God says about men that fail to take God given leadership.
- Explain how God gave Israel victory over the king of Canaan.
- Explain what you learn from the song of Deborah and Barak.

We have seen that the nation of Israel quickly turned away from the Lord and had started following other gods. Instead of trusting the Lord, the people of Israel did evil. As a result, the Lord allowed the king of Canaan to make servants of the people of Israel. Here we see that God fulfilled His promise that He would allow the people of Israel to become the servants of other nations if they turned away from the Lord. This particular judgment of Israel lasted for twenty years. That was the length of time that the Lord allowed the king of Canaan to rule over the people of Israel. Finally the people called to the Lord for help. The people forgot about God until they got into trouble. When they realized they were in trouble, then they asked God for help.

1. Read Judges 4:1-9 and write the name of the woman that God used to help the people of Israel.
2. Explain why it was necessary for God to allow the king of Canaan to make servants of the people of Israel.
3. Explain why you think that many people are like the people of Israel and forget about God until they get into problems or trouble.

Deborah was one of the few people in Israel that still trusted in the Lord. She spoke to the people about God when they visited her. As a result, the people realized that she knew what was right and wrong. This caused the people to come to her when they needed someone to serve as a judge. When we are faithful in speaking the Word of God to those who visit us, we will soon find that people begin coming to us when they have problems. Then we can take the Word of God and help them find the answers to their problems from the Word of God. Although Deborah was judging the people, she knew that God wanted a man to lead the people against their enemy.

4. Read Judges 4:1-9 and write the name of the man that she reminded about his responsibility to lead the people.
5. Explain why the people started coming to Deborah when they needed someone to make a judgment for them.
6. Explain why you realize that it is a great privilege to help people find the answers to their questions and problems from the Word of God.

Here we see that Deborah did not try to lead the people of Israel herself. Instead she reminded a man of his God given responsibility. Many times women are willing to take spiritual leadership when they see men fail to take that leadership. However, that is not the plan of God but it speaks of the failure of men. In the New Testament God tell the women not to try and

take the authority that God has given to a man. In this passage we see that Deborah gives a great example of what a woman can do to encourage a man to take the responsibility that God wants him to take. Deborah asked a question of Barak to remind him of his responsibility.

7. Read Judges 4:1-9 and write what Barak asked Deborah to do when she told him what the Lord wanted Him to do.

8. Explain how the Lord used Deborah to help Barak think about his responsibility to help lead the people of Israel.

9. Explain why you think that women will often be willing to take spiritual leadership with the men fail to exercise spiritual leadership.

Barak was still not willing to take the complete leadership that God wanted him to take. Then Deborah agreed to go along with Barak. However, Deborah warned Barak that God would use a woman to destroy Sisera. Here we see that Deborah warned Barak that God had called him to take a responsibility and that because he was unwilling to take full responsibility that God would use a woman to do what Barak did not have the courage to do. God will still complete His plan even when a man fails to completely obey the Lord. However, the man that God wants to use will fail to enjoy the blessings and rewards of the Lord if he fails to do what God tells him to do.

10. Read Joshua 4:1-9 and write to what place Deborah went with Barak.

11. Explain why Barak was told that his lack of courage would result in him missing out on part of the blessing that the Lord wanted him to experience.

12. Explain what lessons you learn about your responsibility to do what the Lord leads you to do from these verses.

When Deborah agreed to go with Barak, he took the leadership and called the men of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali together. Here we see that the Lord greatly used the ministry of Deborah to encourage Barak. He was willing to do what the Lord wanted him to do as long as Deborah went with him. Ten thousand men gathered together to go with Barak and Deborah to fight against Sisera, the leader of the army of Canaan. Sisera soon received word of the plans of Barak and gathered his army together. In addition to his army, Sisera also brought his battle chariots with him.

13. Read Judges 4:10-24 and write how many chariots Sisera had.

14. Explain how the Lord can use you to be an encouragement to those who are places of spiritual leadership.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord will give us a great ministry when we make the choice to seek to encourage others.

In that day, an army was very powerful if it had chariots because the leader of the army would line the chariots side by side and several rows deep. The chariot wheels often had sharp spikes that would injure and kill those who were run over by the chariots. Then these chariots would charge straight into the army and the horses and the iron chariot wheels would often completely destroy the soldiers in the other army. Any soldiers that were just wounded were quickly killed by the soldiers of the army that had the chariots. However, we see that the Lord fought for Israel and Sisera was forced to jump out of his chariot and run for his life. Sisera came to a tent and the woman invited Sisera to come inside her tent and hide from the army of Israel so that he would be protected.

16. Read Judges 4:10-24 and write the name of the woman that invited Sisera into her tent.

17. Explain why these military chariots would often make an army much more powerful than its enemies.

18. Explain why you think that Sisera thought that he could easily defeat the army of Israel with his military chariots.

Jael gave Sisera a drink of milk and then he lay down and went to sleep because he was very

tired from running from the army of Israel. When Sisera was sound asleep, Jael took one of the stakes that was used to help hold up the tent. Then she took a hammer and used it to drive the tent stake through the head of Sisera and into the ground. As a result, Sisera died. When Barak came that way, Jael invited Barak to come into her tent and see what had happened to Sisera. Just as Deborah had said to Barak, the Lord used a woman to gain the victory for Israel.

19. Read Judges 4:10-24 and write the name of the man that was the king of Canaan

20. Explain why even though Sisera was the general in charge of the army of Canaan that he became controlled by fear and ran from the army of Israel.

21. Explain what lessons you learn from the way that Sisera died.

Deborah and Barak saw that the Lord had given a great victory to the army of Israel. Then they sang a song of praise to the Lord for the victory that he had given to Israel over its enemies.

They were filled with praise to the Lord because they knew that the Lord was the One that had given them victory over their enemies. Here we learn an important lesson for our own lives.

Many times we pray to the Lord and then we forget to thank and praise the Lord for what He had done for us. Here we are reminded of the fact that the Lord is the One that deserves all of our praise because of all of the things that the Lord has done for us.

22. Read Judges 5:1-11 and write what God had caused the clouds to do during the battle to give the victory to Israel.

23. Explain why Deborah and Barak could be filled with praise to the Lord for the victory that He had given Israel over the army of Canaan.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to give praise and thanks to the Lord for the things that he does in your own life.

Here we are given the first hint about the way that the Lord fought for the people of Israel. We will learn more in a few verses. However, we are told what things were like in Israel before this victory before we read what else the Lord did. The people had been afraid to travel on the highways. The enemy probably guarded the highways and took the possessions of the travelers that traveled on the highways. They may even have hurt or killed part of the people that were caught on the highways. As a result, for their own safety the people were forced to travel on little paths instead of traveling on the highways.

25. Read Judges 5:1-11 and write what the people had chosen to worship instead of the living God.

26. Explain why the people of Israel had been so fearful of the people of Canaan that they had even been afraid to travel on the highways.

27. Explain what you think made it possible for people that were even afraid to travel on the highways to win a great victory over their enemy.

Here we come to the reason why God had allowed the people of Israel to suffer judgment from the people of Canaan. The people of Israel had chosen to serve other gods. They had turned away from the true and living God. Throughout the Bible we are warned that sin and rebellion against God must be judged. Men cannot escape judgment if they choose to reject God and rebel against Him. That was the reason that God had allowed Canaan to judge the people of Israel. God had warned the people of Israel that judgment would come if they chose to rebel against Him.

28. Read Judges 5:1-11 and write what the song said that the people would talk about at the places where they gathered to draw water.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the consequences of choosing to live in rebellion against God.

30. Explain why you think that when people choose to follow false gods that their lives will become controlled by fear.

We also learn more about the army of Israel. The army of Israel had walked into the valley where they were going to fight against the army of Canaan. Since the army of the enemy had

nine hundred iron chariots, this should have meant almost certain death for the army of Israel. It was humanly impossible for an army on foot to stand against an army with iron chariots. The chariots would normally have run over the other army and completely destroyed it. However, God was fighting for the people of Israel. God was concerned about His people and He was going to give them victory. The strongest army in the world could not have stood against Israel because the Lord was fighting for Israel that day.

31. Read Judges 5:12-31 and write what the river Kishon did to the army of Canaan.

32. Explain why an army on foot would normally be at a great disadvantage when facing an enemy with iron chariots.

33. Explain why you think that the key for Israel that day was the fact that the army of Israel was depending on the Lord for His strength instead of their personal efforts.

Here we learn about the way that God brought victory to the army of Israel so that they defeated the army of Canaan. We saw in the first part of the chapter that God sent the rain. We see that God sent so much rain that there was a flood. Here we see the way that the Lord chose to fight for Israel that day. He used the rain and the flood to stop the chariots of the enemy. Suddenly the chariots could no longer help the enemy because the chariots had become stuck in the mud. This was the reason why it became necessary for Sisera to get out of his chariot and run from the army of Israel. In this way God gave Israel a great victory over the army of Canaan.

34. Read Judges 5:12-31 and write what woman is promised great blessings above other women.

35. Explain why the Lord chose to use the rain and the flood to stop the chariots of Sisera and defeat his army.

36. Explain why you think that God chooses to work in some very unusual ways to carry out and complete His plan.

Jael was promised this great blessing because she used what she had to fight for the Lord. When Sisera came to her tent, she gave him food and milk. This caused his sleep to be much heavier so that he did not wake up when she came to drive a tent stake through his head. The tent stake was also something that was very common. However, Jael was willing to take common things and use them for the Lord. In the same way, the Lord will take what we have and use it for His glory. The Lord is able to take whatever we have when we are willing to use it for His glory.

37. Read Judges 5:12-31 and write the name of the husband of Jael.

38. Explain why it is important for every Christian to use what we have been given for the work of the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that God chose to use very common things like a flood, milk and a nail to give Israel victory that day.

The song of Deborah and Barak closes by speaking of the feelings of the mother of Sisera as she waited for the return of her son. When the time was long that he was gone, his mother became concerned. The other women tried to encourage his mother by telling her that Sisera was probably collecting large amounts of the possessions of Israel as a result of his great victory. This is a real example of the way that people without Christ think. They are often only concerned about satisfying themselves and getting the things that they want in their lives.

40. Read Judges 5:12-31 and write how long the land had rest after the victory by Deborah and Barak.

41. Explain why the mother of Sisera shows the concern of a mother even though her son was an adult and in fact the leader of the army.

42. Explain why you think that the other women tried to encourage the mother of Sisera by saying that he was probably collecting much spoil.

Now reread Judges 4:1-5:31 and write down the three most important lessons you learned from

these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 12
Judges 6:1-7:25

The people of Israel forgot God, were delivered into bondage, cried to the Lord and the Lord raised up a deliverer to deliver them. However, the people of Israel did not learn. Today we will see that the people of Israel forgot the Lord again. As a result, they again served the gods of the nations around them. Then God brought judgment on the nation of Israel because of its sin. For seven years the people of Midian and Amalek came at the time of harvest and took the crops that the people of Israel had harvested. Finally after seven years of judgment the people cried to the Lord and asked for help. Then the Lord sent a man to lead the people of Israel. We will learn how the Lord worked through that man in our study today.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened to Israel because of sin.
- Explain how the Lord chose a man to lead Israel.
- Explain why God wanted Israel to have a very small army.
- Tell about the victory of Israel over the army of Midian.

The rebellion of the people of Israel against God caused Him to bring great judgment on the people of Israel for their sin. The situation became so severe that the people of Israel were forced to hide in the caves to escape. Each year the people of Midian and the people of Amalek came and took the crops of the people of Israel. They took so much that the people of Israel did not have any food left for themselves or their animals. The armies of the Midianites and the Amalekites took everything that the people of Israel needed for their families.

1. Read Judges 6:1-24 and write how God describes the number of people that came from these nations.
2. Explain why the people chose to so completely rebel against the Lord that He had to bring great judgment on them for their sins.
3. Explain how you think that the people of Israel felt when they were forced to hide in the caves and watch the Midianites and Amalekites take their food for the coming year.

When these armies came against the nation of Israel, the people covered the land so that they were destroying the land very quickly. Finally the people of Israel saw their terrible condition and called to the Lord for help. As soon as the people called to God, He sent a prophet to remind them how He had brought them out of the land of Egypt. This prophet reminded the people that God had told them that they were to serve Him. However, the people had not obeyed the Word of God and had chosen to follow false gods instead. The prophet told the people of Israel that their disobedience and rebellion against God was the reason why they were suffering. Then the Lord sent an angel to speak to Gideon by his winepress.

4. Read Judges 6:1-24 and write what Gideon was doing when the angel came to speak to him.
5. Explain why God first sent a prophet to the people of Israel to tell them why they were experiencing such great suffering.
6. Explain why you think that people around you need to be reminded of the consequences that they face when they choose to rebel against the Lord.

As Gideon tried to hide his wheat from the Midianites, an angel suddenly appeared to him. This angel began by calling Gideon a mighty man of valor. This is the Angel of the Lord and is actually one of the Old Testament appearances of Christ. Gideon asked the Lord what had happened that they did not see miracles like the people of Israel had experienced when they came out of Egypt. Then the Lord told Gideon a very surprising thing. The Lord told Gideon that the Lord would use Gideon to save the nation of Israel from the Midianites.

7. Read Judges 6:1-24 and write what Gideon asked the Lord to do to show him if he had found grace in the sight of the Lord.
8. Explain why the Lord called Gideon a mighty man of valor when he was hiding by the winepress to thresh his wheat.
9. Explain why you think that Christ focuses on what people will become instead of what they are at the present moment.

The Lord agreed to wait while Gideon went and fixed something for the Lord to eat. When Gideon brought the food, the Lord told him to put the food on a rock. Then the Lord touched the food with a stick and a fire came from the rock and burned up the food. Then the Lord immediately disappeared. Suddenly Gideon realized that it was the Lord rather than an angel that he had seen. Gideon was afraid that he would die. The Lord told Gideon that he would not die. When Gideon heard the words of the Lord, Gideon built an altar to the Lord.

10. Read Judges 6:1-24 and write what Gideon called the name of the altar that he built.
11. Explain why Gideon was afraid that he would die when he realized that he had seen the Lord.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord chose a man like Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites.

Before Gideon could be effective in serving the Lord, he first had to get rid of the false gods that his family was serving. Today we must also get rid of anything that will hinder our service for the Lord if we want to be effective in our service for the Lord. That very same night the Lord told Gideon to destroy the image of Baal that his father had. Gideon obeyed that same night. He took ten servants with him and destroyed the idol. Then he offered a sacrifice to the Lord. The next morning the men of the city were very angry when they saw that the idol that they had worshiped had been destroyed.

13. Read Judges 6:25-40 and write what the men of his city said should be done to Gideon for destroying the idol.
14. Explain why people must separate themselves from false worship before they can be effective in their service for the Lord.
15. Explain why you think that Gideon chose to destroy the idol of Baal that his father had that very same night.

Instead of turning Gideon over to the men of the city so they could kill him, the father of Gideon gave a challenge to the other men of the city. He said that Baal would have been able to protect himself if he was truly a god. Joash then said that those who would speak for Baal should be put to death. Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon and he sent out messengers to the people inviting them to come and fight against the Midianites. When the people were gathered together, Gideon used something to show the people that God had chosen him to lead them against the Midianites.

16. Read Judges 6:25-40 and write what Gideon used.
17. Explain why the father of Gideon explained to the people of the city that the idol of Baal could not be a god because it could not even protect itself.
18. Explain why Gideon became a totally changed man when the Spirit of the Lord came on him.

As the people of Israel gathered to meet with Gideon, he wanted to let the people see that he was being guided by the Lord. As a result, Gideon asked the Lord for a sign. The first night Gideon asked God to allow the dew to fall only on the sheepskin of wool and let the ground around it be dry. The second night Gideon asked the Lord to cause the sheepskin to remain dry and let the ground around the sheepskin to be covered with dew. God answered his prayers both nights. In fact the first night God caused the sheepskin to contain a bowl full of water. In this way God showed the people that He had chosen Gideon to lead them. Gideon wanted the people to know that he was not following his own plans.

19. Read Judges 6:25-40 and write the names of the four tribes from which the men came to fight with Gideon.
20. Explain why it was important for the men of Israel to realize that Gideon was not depending on himself but instead was obeying the Lord.
21. Explain whether you think that we should ask the Lord to answer our prayers in certain ways as Gideon did.

The next day Gideon gathered all of the men together that had come to fight against the Midianites. At that time the army of the Midianites greatly outnumbered the men that had come to Gideon. There were at least four enemy soldiers for each of the men that Gideon had with him. Then the Lord told Gideon a very unusual thing. The Lord told Gideon that he had too many men in his army. This seemed like a very unusual thing to say since the army of Gideon was already greatly outnumbered. However, the Lord knew that the people would boast about the things that they had done if they won a victory over Midian with a large army. The Lord wanted to show that He was the One that would give Israel the victory.

22. Read Judges 7:1-8 and write who the Lord told Gideon to send back to their own homes.
23. Explain why the Lord told Gideon that he had too many men with him for the Lord to give them victory.
24. Explain why you think that it is important for us to realize that the Lord can work effectively even when just a few people are truly committed to Him.

The army of Israel grew much smaller very quickly. Twenty-two thousand men went home and only ten thousand remained. The army of Israel was now outnumbered more than thirteen to one. However, God told Gideon that his army was still too large. The people would still boast about what they had done. The Lord told Gideon to take the men to a place where they could drink water. The Lord told Gideon to send the entire group of men home that drank water like a dog. Only those who drank with one hand were to remain with Gideon because they were the only ones that were prepared for whatever happened. Here we see that God wants us to be prepared at all times to do the work that He has for us to do.

25. Read Judges 7:1-8 and write how many men were left with Gideon after he sent home the men that had lapped the water like a dog.
26. Explain why the Lord told Gideon that only the men that were prepared for the enemy at all times were to go with him.
27. Explain why you think that the Lord wanted to defeat the Midianites and the Amalekites with just a very small group of men.

Now Gideon had an army that was so small that the people would see that it had to be the Lord that would give a victory to Israel. The people would not be able to boast about their own strength. Here we see that the Lord focuses on different things than the things on which people focus. The Lord does not need large numbers of people to do His work. Rather the needs people that are totally dedicated to do the work that the Lord wants them to do. When we are willing to let the Lord have complete control of our lives, He will be able to use our lives to do great things for Him.

28. Read Judges 7:1-8 and write what the three hundred men took with them as they went to fight against the Midianites.
29. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to work through just a small group of people that were totally dedicated to Him.
30. Explain why you think that the Lord wanted Gideon to have such a small army to fight against the large number of Midianites.

The Lord wanted to encourage and strengthen Gideon before the battle started. That night the Lord told Gideon to go down to the camp of the Midianites and listen to what the people in the camp of Midian were saying. Then Gideon went down into the valley where the Midianites and the other people were camped. There were so many people in that valley that their number

could not even be counted. However, the Lord had a very special message for Gideon that night. He delivered that message to Gideon through some Midianite soldiers. When Gideon reached the edge of the camp, he could hear some men talking in their tent. One of the men was telling about a dream that he had dreamed.

31. Read Judges 7:9-25 and write what the man dreamed that he saw rolling into the camp of Midian.

32. Explain why the Lord wanted to encourage Gideon and strengthen him before he fought against the Midianites.

33. Explain how you think that Gideon felt as he went close enough to the edge of the camp of Midian that he could hear the men talking in a tent.

The man had dreamed that he saw a small roll of barley bread roll into the camp of the Midianites and completely destroy the tent that it hit. Another man said that this was a sign that the army of Gideon would destroy the army of Midian. As soon as Gideon heard the dream, he worshiped the Lord and returned to the camp where the three hundred men were gathered. Then he divided the men into three groups of one hundred men each. Each man was given a trumpet, an empty pitcher and a lamp to hold inside the empty pitcher. The three groups of men then surrounded the camp of the Midianites on the hills above the camp.

34. Read Judges 7:9-25 and write what the men were told to shout after they blew their trumpets.

35. Explain how the Lord encouraged Gideon through the dream and the interpretation by the Midianites.

36. Explain why you think that Gideon gave such unusual weapons as a trumpet, an empty pitcher and a lamp to each of his three hundred men.

The army of Gideon surrounded the camp just after they had changed the guard. At the signal of Gideon, the men blew their trumpets, threw down their pitchers and held up their lamps. Immediately the entire camp of Midian was awake. The Midianites took their swords and began to kill everyone that they met because they could not see who they were meeting in the darkness. As a result, they were actually killing each other. Meanwhile, the men of Gideon continued to stand in their places around the outside of the camp. These men give us an example of the kind of people that the Lord wants us to be.

37. Read Judges 7:9-25 and write what the other men of Israel did as the Midianites began to flee from the men of Gideon.

38. Explain why the Lord caused such great fear to come on the Midianites that they began to kill one another.

39. Explain why you think that we should stand in the place that the Lord has given each of us the opportunity to stand for Him.

As these men continued to stand in their places, the people of Midian that had not been killed began to run and try to escape. Then part of the other men of Israel came out to fight against the people of Midian as they were trying to escape. The men of the tribe of Ephraim went down to the crossings of the Jordan River and waited to catch the Midianites as they tried to escape across the river. There they caught two of the princes of the Midianites and killed them.

40. Read Judges 7:9-25 and write the names of these two princes that were killed by the men of the tribe of Ephraim.

41. Explain why the Lord allowed the other men of Israel to become a part of the battle only after the Midianites were already fleeing from the army of Gideon.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord used this battle to help the people of Israel realize that they could have victory if they would obey the Lord.

Now reread Judges 6:1-7:25 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 13

Judges 8:1-9:57

In our last lesson we learned that the Lord called Gideon to lead Israel against the army of Midian. We saw that the Lord used only a small group of three hundred men to defeat the army of Midian. In fact Israel won a great victory and the Midianites began to flee. Today we will be studying about the final part of that battle. We will see that some of the people of Israel refused to help Gideon in the fight against the Midianites as they were fleeing. As a result, we will see that these people were punished. We will also learn about the family of Gideon after the death of Gideon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened to those cities that refused to help Gideon.
- Tell what Gideon did that caused Israel to sin.
- Explain what Abimelech did to gain power.
- Explain how God judged Shechem and Abimelech.

The men of Ephraim were angry because Gideon had not called them originally to come and join in the fight against Midian. Then Gideon explained that the men of Ephraim had actually done more by killing the two princes of Midian than he had done in leading the army of Israel. As a result, these men forgot their anger and did not argue or fight with Gideon any longer. Then Gideon and the three hundred men with him crossed the Jordan River to chase the people of Midian that had escaped. The men with Gideon became tired and hungry. Gideon asked the people of the city of Succoth for food to feed and strengthen his men.

1. Read Judges 8:1-21 and write who Gideon and his men were chasing at the time when Gideon asked for food.
2. Explain how Gideon calmed the men of Ephraim by reminding them of the way that the Lord had used them.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord can also use your life in a great way if you are willing to let others have the credit.

The men of Succoth refused to give Gideon and his men any food because they said that Gideon and his men had not yet captured the kings of Midian. Gideon promised to judge the men of Succoth with thorns and briars for refusing to help. The men of Penuel also refused to give food to Gideon and his men. Instead of wasting more time trying to get food, Gideon and his men then went after the two kings of Midian. God gave Gideon another great victory and he was able to capture the kings of the Midianites. Gideon was depending on the Lord and the Lord gave him a great victory. Then Gideon returned to punish the men of the cities of Succoth and Penuel for refusing to help by giving food to his men.

4. Read Judges 8:1-21 and write how many men were leaders in the city of Succoth.
5. Explain why in every situation there will be people like the men of Succoth and Penuel that will refuse to participate in the work that the Lord is doing.
6. Explain why you think that Gideon chose to go after the two kings of Midian rather than wasting any more time trying to get food for his men.

The men of Succoth were beaten with thorns as punishment for refusing to help Gideon and his men. In Penuel Gideon destroyed the tower of the city and killed the men of the city. Then Gideon asked the two kings of Midian about the men that they had killed at Tabor. When Gideon found out that the kings had killed his brothers at Tabor, Gideon ordered his son to kill the two kings. The son of Gideon was afraid to kill the two kings. Then the two kings of Midian asked Gideon to kill them himself rather than have someone else kill them. Gideon did

as the two kings of Midian had suggested and put the two of them to death.

7. Read Judges 8:1-21 and write what had not yet happened when Gideon and his men returned from the battle.
8. Explain why the two kings of Midian suggested that Gideon personally kill them for killing his brothers.
9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the things that happened in this chapter.

Because Gideon had been the leader that the Lord had used to destroy the Midianites, the people wanted to make Gideon their king. The people wanted Gideon to start a kingdom so that he and his sons could rule over the land. However, Gideon refused to become their king. Instead Gideon reminded the people that the Lord was the One that was to rule over them. They were to look to the Lord for leadership. Then we go on to read about sin and failure in the life of Gideon. Even though Gideon told the people to follow the Lord, he did things that caused the people to turn away from the Lord.

10. Read Judges 8:22-35 and write what Gideon asked the men to give him from their battles.
11. Explain why Gideon explained to the people of Israel that the Lord was the One that was to rule over them.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord explained about both the victory of Gideon and the failure of Gideon.

The Midianites that had been destroyed wore gold earrings. The men of Israel had taken these golden earrings off of the dead bodies of the Midianites. Then Gideon asked the men of Israel to give these earrings to him. Gideon took the earrings and melted them. Then he used the melted gold to make an ephod of gold. As a result, the people of Israel began to worship this ephod rather than worshipping the true and living God. This is a reminder to us that we should be careful not to do or say anything that would cause people to turn away from the Lord.

13. Read Judges 8:22-35 and write how many sons were born to Gideon during his lifetime.
14. Explain why the people quickly began worshipping the ephod of gold rather than worshipping the true and living God.
15. Explain why you realize that it is important to continually remind others to worship the Lord and not some object.

Gideon had many sons because he had many wives. We will see throughout the Word of God that those men that had many wives also had great problems with their children. Gideon was no exception. The plan of God is for husband and wife to become one. This is not possible when a man has more than one wife. We also see that the people turned away from the Lord as soon as Gideon died. We read that the people of Israel returned to their worship of the idol Baal. They forgot that the Lord was the One that had freed them from their enemies.

16. Read Judges 8:22-35 and write the other name that is given for Gideon in these verses.
17. Explain what these verses teach about the failures and sins of Gideon after he defeated the Midianites.
18. Explain why you think that the people of Israel quickly returned to the worship of Baal after the death of Gideon.

We said that Gideon had problems with his children because he had many wives and many children. Chapter nine tells us about some of those problems. One of the sons of Gideon decided to make himself the king even though his father had refused to become the king of Israel. This son went to the men of the town of his mother and convinced the men of that town that he would make a good king for them because he was related to them. He also said that the other sons of Gideon should be killed so that they would not try to make themselves the rulers of Israel. Here we see that this son was willing to destroy others to gain power for himself.

19. Read Judges 9:1-29 and write what Abimelech asked the men of Shechem to remember as

they made their decision.

20. Explain how this passage shows that there was conflict between the sons that had different mothers even though they were all children of Gideon.

21. Explain why you think that Abimelech was willing to kill all of his brothers in an effort to gain power and become the king.

Because Abimelech was related to the men of Shechem, they agreed to give him money to hire worthless men to kill the other sons of Gideon. These worthless men went with Abimelech and killed all of the sons of Gideon except one. Jotham, the youngest son, escaped from these worthless men by hiding. Then the men of Shechem made Abimelech their king. Jotham went to the top of a mountain. From the top of that mountain he shouted a story to the men of the city of Shechem. That story gave the men of the city a picture of what they had done in choosing Abimelech to be their king and rule over them.

22. Read Judges 9:1-29 and write who the trees chose to rule over them in the story of Jotham.

23. Explain why the story of Jotham gave the men of Shechem a warning about the consequences of their choice.

24. Explain why you think that evil leaders like Abimelech can always find worthless men to join them in their evil.

Jotham said that the trees were all good and so they did not want to rule over the other trees. However, the bramble was worthless and so it was eager to rule. Then Jotham asked the men of Shechem if they had treated his father the right way after Gideon had risked his life to free them from the Midianites. Jotham told the people of Shechem that they would be filled with joy if they had done the right thing in making Abimelech their king. However, he said that they would be destroyed if what they had done was wrong. Judgment would come on them.

25. Read Judges 9:1-29 and write what God sent to bring His judgment after Abimelech had ruled over Israel for three years.

26. Explain how Jotham made it clear to the men of Shechem that they would be judged by God for their sin.

27. Explain why you think that many people think that they can do evil and not experience judgment.

The Lord will always judge evil. God used an evil spirit to divide Abimelech and the men of Shechem. The men of Shechem set a trap to catch Abimelech. They started robbing all of the men that came through the mountain pass so that Abimelech would come to stop them. A man by the name of Gaal also encouraged the people to rebel against Abimelech. As the men of Shechem drank their wine, they cursed Abimelech and decided to join Gaal in rebelling against the rule of Abimelech over them. Here we see that the evil spirit was bringing division between Abimelech and the people that had made him king.

28. Read Judges 9:1-29 and write what message Abimelech sent to Gaal when he heard the words of Gaal.

29. Explain why you think that God allowed an evil spirit to bring division between Abimelech and the men of Shechem.

30. Explain how these verses help you to understand that evil spirits are actually following Satan and their goal is always to destroy.

There was one of the men in the city of Shechem that still followed Abimelech. As a result, he decided to do something to protect Abimelech and destroy the rest of the men of the city. This man sent a messenger to warn Abimelech so that Abimelech would come during the night to destroy those who were rebelling against him. The next morning Abimelech was prepared to fight against the men of Shechem and their leader, Gaal. For two days the people of Shechem fought against the army of Abimelech. Finally the city of Shechem was captured. Then Abimelech killed the people that still remained in the city.

31. Read Judges 9:30-57 and write what Abimelech did after he beat down the walls of the city.
32. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment of the men of Shechem for choosing to follow Abimelech in destroying his brothers.
33. Explain why you think that the Lord waited for three years before bringing this judgment on the men of Shechem.

Abimelech spread salt throughout the city so that nothing would grow in the city. This was to prevent the city from being rebuilt again. Many of the men of Shechem escaped to the house of their god. In order to destroy these men, Abimelech took his men to a nearby mountain and told each of the men to cut a branch from a tree and put it on their shoulders. Then they returned and put the branches against the sides of the house of the god. These branches were then used to start a fire that destroyed all of those who were inside the house of their god. That finished the judgment of the city of Shechem and the people of that city.

34. Read Judges 9:30-57 and write what city Abimelech decided to destroy after he had destroyed the city of Shechem.
35. Explain why Abimelech chose to burn these men to death when they fled to the house of their god.
36. Explain why you think that the way that the men of Shechem died caused them to realize that their god was powerless and could not protect them.

Abimelech also destroyed the city of Thebez. However, the people escaped to a strong tower inside of the city. Abimelech decided to burn this tower also. As he tried to start the fire, a woman in the tower threw down a rock that hit Abimelech on the head. When Abimelech realized that he was dying, he asked a young man to kill him so that no one could say that a woman had killed him. This completed the curse that Jotham had spoken against Abimelech and the men of Shechem. All of the men of the city of Shechem were destroyed along with Abimelech himself.

37. Read Judges 9:30-57 and write why God chose to judge Abimelech in the way that He judged him.
38. Explain why the Lord chose to allow a woman to be the one that brought personal judgment on Abimelech.
39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the judgment of Abimelech and the city of Shechem.

The Lord never forgets the sins of people if those people do not confess them. Abimelech and the men of Shechem probably thought that they had escaped the curse that was placed on them when nothing happened to them for three years. However, God remembered their sin. God in His mercy gave the men of the city three years to repent of their sin. However, we do not read that any of the men of the city repented. One day the judgment of the Lord came both on the men of Shechem and on Abimelech. God judged Abimelech for killing his brothers. God also judged the city of Shechem for sharing in that evil deed.

40. Read Judges 9:30-57 and write what the men of Israel did when they saw that Abimelech had been killed.
41. Explain why those who reject the mercy of the Lord will have no escape from the judgment of the Lord.
42. Explain why you think that it does not mention that any of the men of the city of Shechem repented for killing the sons of Gideon.

Now reread Judges 8:1-9:57 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 14
Judges 10:1-12:15

We have seen how the nation of Israel turned away from the Lord and turned to the worship of idols many times. In our study today we will see that they turned away from the Lord again. As a result, God used the nation of Ammon to judge Israel this time for the sins of the people. For eighteen years the people of Israel served the nation of Ammon and the Philistines. Finally after much suffering and persecution, the people of Israel finally cried to God for help. Even though the people had turned away from the Lord many times, God is a merciful God and sent judges to lead them to victory over their enemies.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the Lord answered when Israel cried to Him for help.
- Explain why the men of Gilead asked Jephthah to lead them.
- Explain what you learn about the vow of Jephthah.
- Explain what you learn about the judgment of Ephraim.

When Israel came into the land that God had promised to them, the people were warned many times that they were not to follow the false gods of the surrounding nations. However, we have seen that the parents failed to pass this warning on to their children. As a result, we have already seen that the people of Israel turned to these false gods several times in the book of Judges. Then people did not learn from the judgments that the Lord had brought on the people of Israel because of their sin. In our lesson today we see that the people of Israel were worshipping false gods again. They had completely turned away from the Lord. Finally God allowed the Philistines and the people of Ammon to judge the people of Israel for their sin.

1. Read Judges 10:1-18 and write how long these nations made the people of the nation of Israel suffer.
2. Explain why the book of Judges shows the consequences when parents fail to lead their children to love and serve the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that the people of Israel did not learn from the past but would quickly return to the worship of false gods again.

These nations made the people of Israel endure great suffering. Although the suffering was very great, we see that it was eighteen years before the people of Israel finally called on the Lord and asked Him for help. Here we see that people can suffer from the consequences of their sin for a long time before they are finally ready to turn to the Lord. That is still true today. When the people did call to the Lord for help, He told the people of Israel that He had delivered them from their enemies many times. Each time the people had returned to their worship of false gods. God told the people that He had helped them enough times. Now they were invited to ask someone else for help instead of asking the Lord.

4. Read Judges 10:1-18 and write who the Lord told the people of Israel to ask for help this time.
5. Explain why the Lord did not respond immediately when the people of Israel first called to Him for help this time.
6. Explain why you think that the people waited so long before they finally turned to the Lord for help in their suffering.

The people of Israel knew that the gods that they were serving could not help them. They realized that their idols were powerless. As a result, the people called to the Lord for help again. In addition, the people also got rid of the false gods that they had been serving. By getting rid of their false gods, the people of that generation were showing that they had made a

choice to serve the true and the living God. Today there are also many people who are trying to serve God and serve other things at the same time. God will not listen to their prayers just as He would not listen to the prayers of the people of Israel until they repented.

7. Read Judges 10:1-18 and write what the people of Israel said when they admitted to the Lord that they had sinned.

8. Explain why the Lord will not listen to those who are serving false gods and other things.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord quickly helped Israel when they confessed that they had sinned and got rid of their idols.

As soon as the people put away their other gods and asked God for help, God heard their prayer. Then the Lord raised up a man by the name of Jephthah to serve as a judge for Israel. When Jephthah was young he had been sent away from his home because his mother was a prostitute. Here we are reminded that the Lord can change and transform any person and use that person to complete His purpose. When Jephthah left home, he became the leader of a group of worthless men. However, the Lord led the men of Gilead to ask Jephthah to return home and become their leader and to lead them in their fight against the people of Ammon.

10. Read Judges 11:1-28 and write what the people Gilead made Jephthah when he returned home to them.

11. Explain why the Lord chose to use Jephthah to give Israel victory over their enemies even though he was the son of a prostitute and had a sinful past himself.

12. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord can change and transform the live of any person regardless of their past.

As soon as Jephthah became the leader of the people, he wrote a letter to the king of Ammon. In that letter he asked the king of Ammon why the people of Ammon were fighting against the people of Israel. Immediately the king of Ammon made an excuse and blamed Israel for taking part of the land of Ammon at the time when Israel had come out of the land of Egypt. Jephthah immediately wrote a second letter to the king of Ammon. In this letter Jephthah answered the excuse of the king of Ammon. Here we see that Jephthah knew that the excuse did not agree with the truth.

13. Read Judges 11:1-28 and write what Jephthah said about the charge that Israel had taken part of the land of Ammon.

14. Explain why the king of Ammon said that Israel had taken part of his land when Israel came from Egypt as his excuse for making Israel suffer.

15. Explain why you think that people will often use excuses and blame others to try and justify their own sins.

Jephthah told how Israel had carefully avoided any fights with the nations of Edom, Moab or Ammon when Israel came out of the land of Egypt. These nations were all related to Israel through the families of Lot and Esau. When these nations had refused to allow Israel to pass through their lands, Israel had made a long journey around these lands in order to prevent war. It was only when the king of the Amorites refused to allow Israel to pass through his land and came to fight against Israel that Israel finally fought. Still Israel did not touch the land of Ammon.

16. Read Judges 11:1-28 and write how long it had been since the nation of Israel had come into the land.

17. Explain why the excuse that the king of Ammon gave showed that the king did not even know the history of his own nation.

18. Explain why you think that many people will try to use something from the past as an excuse to justify their present actions.

When Jephthah mentioned the length of time that had passed since Israel had come into the land, he gave the final proof that the king of Ammon was only looking for an excuse to fight

against the people of Israel. There had been no request for the land during that entire three hundred year period so that were no reason for the king of Ammon to demand that land at this time. Here we see that Jephthah answered the excuse by clearly explaining the actual facts of history. Today we see that people are still looking for excuses to do evil to others. They do not care what is right. Their only desire is to get what they want. As a result, they will say anything or do anything to get what they want to satisfy themselves.

19. Read Judges 11:1-28 and write to what group of people the land had actually belonged that the king of Ammon was now trying to get for his nation.

20. Explain why Ammon had never accused Israel of taking their land at any time during the previous three hundred years.

21. Explain why you think that people make excuses so that they can do evil to other people.

We also see that way that the Lord worked in the life of Jephthah. When Jephthah was willing to do what the Lord wanted him to do, God sent the Holy Spirit on him to give him the strength to do what the Lord wanted him to do. Jephthah was not depending on his own strength instead he was depending on the power that the Holy Spirit supplied. Jephthah also made a promise to the Lord to offer as a sacrifice to the Lord the first thing that came out of the door of his house when he returned if the Lord would give him victory over the people of Ammon. God did give Jephthah a great victory over Ammon. Then Jephthah returned to his house with great joy. However, this great joy was suddenly turned to sorrow.

22. Read Judges 11:29-40 and write who came out the door first to meet Jephthah when he returned home.

23. Explain why it is important to understand that the Lord sent the Holy Spirit on Jephthah to give him power to lead Israel against the Ammonites.

24. Explain why you think that Jephthah made a promise to God that he would offer as a sacrifice the first thing that came out of the door of his house when he returned home.

Jephthah only had one child. That child was a daughter. When Jephthah returned home that daughter was the first one to come out the door of the house. This filled the heart of Jephthah with sorrow because of the vow that he had made. Jephthah realized that he had been wrong to make such a rash vow. However, he also realized that it was his responsibility to keep that vow. The Law of Moses did not allow the people of Israel to offer their children as human sacrifices. As a result, it appears that the Lord allowed Jephthah to fulfill this vow in another way.

25. Read Judges 11:29-40 and write what the daughter of Jephthah said she would do for two months.

26. Explain why Jephthah was filled with great sorrow when he realized that his vow was a rash vow when his daughter was the first thing that came out the door of his house.

27. Explain why you think that the danger of rash vows is one of the reasons why the Lord tries to discourage us from making vows that we might not be able to keep.

Apparently the Lord allowed Jephthah to cause his daughter to remain a virgin for life rather than offer her as a burnt offering. This is indicated by the fact that the Scripture says that she fulfilled the vow and knew no man rather than saying that that she was offered as a burnt offering. From this vow of Jephthah, we see that it is a very dangerous thing to make a vow without giving much thought to the possible results of the vow. Otherwise we may do things that are against the law of God. We may also create real problems for ourselves and for our families.

28. Read Judges 11:29-40 and write how many days the young women mourned for the daughter of Jephthah each year.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of making any kind of a vow without seriously thinking through the consequences of the vow.

30. Explain why you think that God allowed the daughter of Jephthah to remain a virgin for life

rather than being offered as a human sacrifice.

We also see that Jephthah had to deal with conflict from the people of his own nation. After the victory of Jephthah over the army of Ammon, the men of the tribe of Ephraim came to him. They were angry because they had not been invited to join in the battle against Ammon. As a result, they decided to burn the house of Jephthah with fire. However, Jephthah had asked the people of Ephraim to come and fight against the people of Ammon. The real problem was that the men of Ephraim refused to come and help fight against Ammon. Now they were actually trying to receive the credit for the victory after they had refused to fight earlier.

31. Read Judges 12:1-15 and write what Jephthah and the men of Gilead did when they were falsely accused by the men of Ephraim.

32. Explain how the men of Ephraim tried to cover their own sin by blaming Jephthah and saying that he had not invited them to come and fight against Ammon.

33. Explain why you think that people often want to be given the credit for beneficial things that they did not even do.

The men of Ephraim had come across the Jordan River to get even with Jephthah because they had not received the credit for destroying the army of Ammon. Then the men of Gilead decided to fight to protect themselves. The men of Gilead started to win a great victory and so the men of Ephraim fled from them. The men of Ephraim thought that they could escape. However, the men of Gilead waited for them at the places where they knew the men of Ephraim would try to cross the Jordan River. Each man that came to cross the river was asked to say just one word.

34. Read Judges 12:1-15 and write the word that all of the men were required to say before they could cross the river.

35. Explain why God allowed the men of Gilead to defeat the men of Ephraim when they crossed the Jordan River to fight against Gilead and Jephthah.

36. Explain why you think that the men of Gilead waited at the places where the Jordan River could be crossed to judge the men of Ephraim.

The men of Ephraim pronounced their sounds a little different than the men of Gilead pronounced them. They could not make an sh sound. As a result, it was easy to tell what men came from Ephraim. That day the pride of the men of Ephraim caused forty-two thousand of those men to lose their lives. Again we are reminded of the terrible results of putting ourselves first rather than putting the Lord first in our lives. That pride can often bring different kinds of judgment to our lives.

37. Read Judges 12:1-15 and write the names of the three men that served as judges of Israel after Jephthah.

38. Explain why these verses show that pride both in the life of an individual and in the lives of an entire group of people can produce severe judgment.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from what happened to the men of Ephraim.

We see that there were several other men that also served as judges of the nation of Israel. Some of these men only served as judges of one section of the land of Israel. With some of these men we see that no mention is made that some of them even served the Lord. In fact the actions of some of the judges showed that they did not obey the Lord. One judge had thirty sons and thirty daughters. He got wives for his sons from foreign nations. He also gave his daughters to men of other nations. This was against the commandment of the Lord because God had told Israel that they were to be a separate people. They were not to marry people from the nations that worshiped false gods. Although this judge did judge the people, his actions did not lead the people to serve the Lord because he was not serving the Lord.

40. Read Judges 12:1-15 and write the name of the judge that allowed his children to marry people from foreign nations that did not worship God.

41. Explain why God allowed some men to serve as judges in Israel that did not even serve the

Lord themselves.

42. Explain why you think that God warned the people of Israel not to marry foreign wives or give their daughters to marry men of other nations.

Now reread Judges 10:1-12:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 15
Judges 13:1-14:20

Today we begin our study of a judge that had tremendous physical strength. However, this physical strength caused him to depend of himself for strength rather than asking the Lord to give him the Lord's strength. This caused him to fail and fall into sin many times. As a result, the life of Samson gives us a real picture of what will happen when a Christian tries to depend on his own strength instead of asking the Lord to give him strength. We will see that when he depended on his own strength that he usually made wrong choices. We will see that such a life will bring unhappiness and failure to the life of that person. This is what happened to Samson. As a result, instead of his life bringing glory to the Lord his life became a series of failures.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened when an angel appeared to the parents of Samson.
- Tell about the prayer of Manoah.
- Explain what happened when Samson met a lion.
- Explain what happened when Samson wanted to get married.

The people of Israel turned away from the Lord again. This time the Lord allowed the Philistines to bring judgment on the people of Israel. The Philistines punished Israel for forty years. Although most of the people turned away from the Lord, there were still a few people that faithfully served God. God will always keep a small group that are faithful and serve Him. The Lord appeared to one of these couples to tell the couple that they would have a child that would begin to deliver the people of Israel from the Philistines. This happened to a man by the name of Manoah. One day the Lord appeared to the wife of Manoah and told her that she would have a son. He also gave her certain instructions about the way to raise this son.

1. Read Judges 13:1-7 and write what the Lord told the wife of Manoah that she was not to do.
2. Explain why the Lord gave instructions to the wife of Manoah about the way that they were to raise their son that would be born.
3. Explain why you think that all parents would be wise to pray and ask the Lord for wisdom about the way to raise their children.

God told the wife to avoid several things. She was not to drink any wine or strong drink. She was not to eat any unclean thing. The Lord told the woman not to do these things because her son was to be a Nazirite from the time that he was born. Normally the Nazirites were people that had made a special vow to God for a certain period of time. During the time of this vow they were not to cut their hair. They were not to touch anything that was unclean. Then they were not to drink any wine or strong drink. They were not to do these things because they were set apart to God for special service for as long as their vow lasted. This was an unusual situation here. Here we see that God said that this son was to have a Nazirite vow right from the time that he was born so he was not the one that made the vow.

4. Read Judges 13:1-7 and write who the woman told about this promise that she would have a son.
5. Explain why those who made a Nazirite vow were to avoid certain things for the entire time of their vow.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord gave the people of Israel the opportunity to make a vow for a certain period of time.

The wife of Manoah came and told him about the One that had appeared to her. She did not know how to describe the One that had appeared to her and so she said that it was a man of God

that looked like an angel. The woman was so afraid that she had failed to ask the name of the One that had appeared to her. Then the wife of Manoah told her husband about the promise of a son. She explained that she was to avoid certain things and not to do certain things because their son was to be a Nazirite right from the time that he was born.

7. Read Judges 13:1-7 and write how long the Lord told the woman that the Nazirite vow of her son would last.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the things that a person was to avoid during the time that the person had a Nazirite vow.

9. Explain why you think that the woman was so afraid that she did not even ask the name of the person that gave her this message about a son.

When Manoah heard that they were going to have a son, he did what every couple that follows the Lord should do when they realize that they are going to have a child. Manoah prayed and asked the Lord to teach them how to teach their child. Only as the Lord teaches us how to teach our children can we truly be effective as parents. The Lord heard the prayer of Manoah and came to visit Manoah and his wife again. Then Manoah asked the Lord how they should teach the child. God told Manoah to make certain that his wife did not eat the things that God had warned against. Here we see that God reminded Manoah that he as the husband is responsible for the spiritual welfare of his family.

10. Read Judges 13:8-25 and write how long Manoah asked his visitor to stay.

11. Explain why it is important for all parents that follow the Lord to pray and ask the Lord for wisdom about the way to raise their children.

12. Explain why you think that Manoah wanted to hear from the Lord personally how he should raise this son that the Lord was going to give them.

Manoah still did not realize that he was talking to the Lord. Then the Lord said that He would not eat a meal even if Manoah prepared a meal for Him. Instead the Lord suggested that Manoah offer a sacrifice to the Lord. The Lord said that if he offered a burnt offering that he was to offer it to the Lord. Many of the people around Manoah were offering sacrifices to idols and other things. The Lord wanted Manoah to realize that it would never help to offer a sacrifice to an idol. Instead he must make the choice to serve the Lord and offer any sacrifice to Him. Here we see that the Lord is helping Manoah to realize that the true and living God was not like the false gods of the surrounding nations. Then Manoah asked the name of the Lord.

13. Read Judges 13:8-25 and write what God said about His name.

14. Explain why the Lord told Manoah to offer a burnt offering as a sacrifice to the Lord instead of preparing a meal for the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord used the purpose of the sacrifice to help Manoah understand the difference between offering sacrifices to idols and sacrifices to the true and living God.

The angel of the Lord answered that His name is Wonderful. This makes it very clear that this is an Old Testament appearance of Christ since that is one of the names that is given to Christ. He is the One that is called Wonderful in Isaiah 9:6. This is one of the times that Christ appeared to people in the Old Testament. Manoah then prepared the sacrifice and placed it on a rock. As the sacrifice was burning, the Lord went into the flame and disappeared. Suddenly Manoah realized that he had been talking to the Lord. It was not just a prophet or some other man of God as his wife had first described the One that had appeared to her.

16. Read Judges 13:8-25 and write what Manoah said to his wife.

17. Explain why it is important to understand that one of the names that is given to Christ is the name "Wonderful".

18. Explain how you think that Manoah felt when he realized that he had been talking directly to the Lord

Manoah thought that they would die because they had seen the Lord. Then the wife of Manoah reminded him that the Lord would not have received their sacrifice and told them the things that He told them if He planned to kill them. When the Lord gives us a ministry to carry out, He will give us the time to complete the ministry that He has for us to do. That was what happened to Manoah and his wife. A son was born to them just as God had promised. Then they named the child Samson. This child grew and was blessed by the Lord because the parents had asked God how they should teach this child even before the child was born.

19. Read Judges 13:8-25 and write who began to work in the life of Samson as he grew and became an adult.

20. Explain why it is important for all Christians to ask the Lord how to teach their children effectively.

21. Explain why you know that the Lord will give you time to complete the work that He has for you to do on this earth.

When Samson became a man, the Spirit of the Lord began working in his life. However, we will see that Samson created problems in his life because he did not seek the wisdom of the Lord. One area where he did not ask God for wisdom was who the Lord wanted him to marry. As a result, we see that Samson had an interest in women that did not trust the Lord. These women would cause many problems in his life including the loss of his sight. One day Samson went down to the country of the Philistines. There he saw a Philistine woman that he decided would make a good wife for him. He returned home and told his parents to make the necessary arrangements for this woman to become his wife.

22. Read Judges 14:1-9 and write the question of his parents.

23. Explain why Samson would face many problems in his life because of the fact that he failed to ask the Lord for wisdom to carry out his Nazirite vow.

24. Explain why you think that every person needs to realize that the Lord is the only source of godly wisdom.

The parents of Samson faced the same problem that many Christian parents face today. They did not know what to do when their son decided that he wanted to marry a girl that did not trust in the Lord. Their failure was failing to train him about the importance of looking for a woman that trusted the Lord before he started to think about a wife. When the parents tried to talk to him after he had already made his choice, there was very little that they could say or do to change the mind of Samson. He had already made up his mind.

25. Read Judges 14:1-9 and write the answer of Samson when his parents tried to suggest that he marry a young woman from the nation of Israel.

26. Explain why the parents of Samson waited until it was far too late to begin teaching Samson about the importance of a godly wife.

27. Explain why you think that many people are like Samson and look for a marriage partner based on physical appearance rather than godly character.

The answer of Samson shows what happens when Christians fail to teach their children about the importance of marrying a Christian. Such children make their own choices and are often completely unwilling to listen to their parents after they have made that choice. The parents of Samson realized that they could not change his mind and so they agreed to go with him to make the necessary arrangements for the marriage. We also see that the parents of Samson had failed to keep good communication with him because he did not even tell them when he killed a lion.

28. Read Judges 14:1-9 and write what made it possible for Samson to kill a lion on the way to Timnah.

29. Explain why parents that wait until their children are adults will probably have their children reject their advice if the parents try to control their choices at that point.

30. Explain why you think that it is very important to teach your children about the standards of God for marriage before they even start dating.

When it came time for the marriage, Samson and his parents walked to the home of the girl. On the way to the wedding, Samson turned off the road to go and look at the lion that he had killed. He saw that the bones of the lion had a swarm of bees in them. Since God had said that he was to have a Nazirite vow from the time of his birth, he was not even supposed to touch anything that was dead. However, the swarm of bees had honey in the bones of the dead lion and so he took some of the honey. He and his parents ate the honey as they walked along the road. When Samson reached the land of the Philistines, the Philistines had thirty men join him for the period of the wedding feast which lasted for several days. Samson spoke a riddle to these men.

31. Read Judges 14:10-20 and write how many days Samson gave these men to figure out his riddle.

32. Explain why Samson wanted to look at the lion that he had killed earlier as he and his parents were on their way to the land of the Philistines.

33. Explain why you think that Samson decided to tell his riddle to the thirty Philistines and then make a deal with them.

Since the riddle was about the honey in the lion, the thirty men could not figure out the meaning of the riddle. Then the men told the wife of Samson that they would destroy her and her family if she did not tell them the meaning of the riddle by the end of the seventh day. Each day she begged Samson to tell her the meaning of the riddle. Finally on the seventh day Samson explained the riddle to her. Then she told the men and they gave the answer to Samson. Because Samson had picked a wife by her looks, he suddenly learned that he had also picked a wife that could not be trusted. A very important thing that all young people need to learn is to focus on godly character rather than looks if they want to have a strong marriage.

34. Read Judges 14:10-20 and write what Samson told the men when they explained the meaning of his riddle to him.

35. Explain why the thirty men warned the wife of Samson that they would destroy her and her family if she did not tell them the meaning of the riddle by the end of the seventh day.

36. Explain why you think that Samson became so angry when he realized that he had picked a wife that could not be trusted.

Here we see another failure in the life of Samson. Samson showed a lack of respect in the way that he spoke about his wife. He had not learned about the great importance and value that the Lord has given to marriage. Samson also had used his riddle as a way to gamble with these men. Then Samson was filled with anger when the men explained his riddle. Here we see that one sin soon leads to another sin. In spite of the sin of Samson we see that the Lord was still working in his life. This is a reminder of the patience of the Lord as we learn to walk with Him instead of depending on our own efforts.

37. Read Judges 14:10-20 and write what Samson did when the Spirit of the Lord came on Samson.

38. Explain why it is important for every husband to show great respect for their wife both in the way that they speak and in the way that they act toward her.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your life from the failures of Samson that we see in this chapter.

In his anger because the men had explained his riddle, Samson went to another city of the Philistines. There the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he killed thirty men. He then took the clothes of the dead men and gave them to the men that had explained his riddle. Samson was so angry that he returned to the home of his parents without taking his new wife with him. When God performed the first marriage of Adam and Eve in Genesis, God said that a man was to leave his parents and become one with his wife. The fact that Samson did not take his wife with him because of his anger also led to other consequences.

40. Read Judges 14:10-20 and write what happened to the wife of Samson since he did not take her with him.

41. Explain why Samson took care of his anger by going to another city of the Philistines and

killing thirty men.

42. Explain why you think that it is very important to help all young people and young adults understand how God views marriage.

Now reread Judges 13:1-14:20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 16
Judges 15:1-16:31

In our last lesson we learned that Samson married a wife and then failed to take her home with him because of his anger. This happened because she had given the answer to the riddle of Samson to the young men that were with him during the seven days of the wedding celebration. As a result, her father gave his daughter to another man. Today we will learn what happened when Samson was told that his wife had been given to another man. We will also learn about several other ways that the Lord allowed Samson to judge the Philistines with the great strength that the Lord had given Samson. However, we will also see what caused him to lose his strength.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Samson did when he learned that his wife had been given to another man.
- Explain how Samson killed a thousand Philistines.
- Explain how sin caused Samson to lose his strength.
- Explain the results of the sin of Samson in his life.

One day Samson decided to go and visit his wife. He took a young goat as a present for her. When Samson reached the house of her father, he said that he wanted to go and visit his wife in her room. Her father refused the request of Samson and would not allow Samson to go into her room. The father went on to explain that he had thought that Samson had hated his daughter. As a result, the father said that he had given his daughter to another man. The failure of Samson to take his wife at the time of their wedding now meant that Samson did not have a wife.

1. Read Judges 15:1-9 and write who the father suggested would make a better wife for Samson.
2. Explain why the father told Samson that he had given his daughter to another man instead of Samson.
3. Explain why you think that Samson was showing by his actions that he was not asking the Lord for guidance and direction for his life.

Samson was filled with anger when he heard that his wife had been given to another man. As a result, Samson decided to get even with the Philistines. Samson went and caught three hundred foxes and tied their tails together so that there were one hundred and fifty pairs of foxes. He then tied a torch to the tails of each pair. Samson then started a fire on each torch. Of course the fire caused the foxes to be filled with fear and they began to run. They ran right through the fields of the Philistines. As a result, the crops of the Philistines were destroyed by fire and the Philistines were very angry to see that their crops had been destroyed.

4. Read Judges 15:1-8 and write what the Philistines did to the wife of Samson and her father because Samson had destroyed their crops.
5. Explain what these verses shows us about the destructiveness of anger in the life of any person.
6. Explain how you think the Philistines felt when they saw the way that Samson had taken revenge for his father-in-law giving his wife to another man.

Samson continued to take revenge by killing many other Philistines. As we have seen, the Philistines also judged the woman that had been the wife of Samson along with her father. The woman and her father were burned with fire by the Philistines. They did this because the woman had been given to another man right after Samson had married her and so the rest of the

Philistines were also angry with the woman and her father. In this way the Philistines punished the ones that they felt were responsible for the suffering that they had received at the hands of Samson. Here we see the powerful impact of uncontrolled anger in the life of both Samson and the Philistines.

7. Read Judges 15:1-8 and write the name of the place where Samson went after he took revenge against the Philistines.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that one sin often leads to the committing of other sins.

9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the danger of uncontrolled anger if you allow anger toward others to remain in your life.

The Philistines were not satisfied just to kill the woman and her father. They were also filled with anger and hate toward Samson after he had destroyed their crops and killed some of them. Then the Philistines decided to go and kill Samson to get revenge. When the Philistines reached Lehi, the people of Israel were filled with fear. The people of Israel asked the Philistines why they had come. The Philistines said that they had come for Samson because they wanted to get even with them for the things that he had done to them. Because of their own fear, the people of Israel immediately went and found Samson.

10. Read Judges 15:9-20 and write what the men of Israel told Samson that they were planning to do to him.

11. Explain why the Philistines decided to kill Samson to get revenge against Samson for what he had done.

12. Explain why you think that the people of Israel showed that they were controlled by great fear in their own lives.

Samson agreed to let the men of Israel tie him up and turn him over to the Philistines as long as the men of Israel promised him that they would not kill him. The men of Israel made that agreement with Samson. Then they tied Samson with two new ropes so that he would not be able to escape from them. Here we see that the men of Israel did not realize the strength of Samson because they thought that the two ropes would hold him. The men of Israel then carried Samson to the place where the Philistines were and gave Samson to them. However, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson. With his great strength, Samson easily broke the ropes with which the men of Israel had tied him. Samson was so strong that the ropes were like burned ropes to Samson.

13. Read Judges 15:9-20 and write what Samson found as soon as he broke the ropes with which he was tied.

14. Explain why the people of Israel were willing to tie up Samson and turn him over to the Philistines to kill him.

15. Explain why the ropes had no power to keep Samson bound when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

Samson found the jawbone of a donkey and used that jawbone to fight against the Philistines that were surrounding him. The Lord gave Samson such great strength that the Philistines could not even protect themselves even though they were prepared for war. That day the Lord gave Samson the strength to kill one thousand men of the Philistines with that jawbone. A jawbone may seem like it is very small and would not kill anyone. However, God is able to use the small things as well as the great things. This is one of several small things that the Lord used in the book of Judges to deliver the people of Israel from their enemies.

16. Read Judges 15:9-20 and write what Samson did when he became very thirsty after destroying the Philistines.

17. Explain how the Lord made it possible for Samson to kill one thousand Philistines with just the jawbone of a donkey.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to use something as small as the jawbone of a donkey to give Samson a great victory that day.

The Lord heard the prayer of Samson and caused the jawbone to split open. Then water came out of the hole in the jawbone and refreshed Samson so that he was able to go on his way. Here we see a beautiful picture of the power of God to use small things. God used a jawbone to defeat an army and to supply the need of Samson for water. There are times that we may think that the Lord cannot use our lives because we think that we do not have many gifts or abilities. However, the question is not what we have. The Lord is able to use anyone or anything for His service even if we think that we have very little that the Lord can use. The thing that matters is whether we are willing to allow the Lord to work in our lives and through our lives to use what He has given us.

19. Read Judges 15:9-20 and write how many years Samson judged Israel.

20. Explain why all Christians need to allow the Lord to work in their lives and through their lives to accomplish what the Lord has planned to do through each person.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Lord will do much more than you can imagine if you will yield the control of your life to Him.

Because of his great strength, Samson began to depend on himself instead of the Lord that gave him that strength. As a result, he fell into sin. Samson went to one of the cities of the Philistines called Gaza. There he saw a prostitute and went into her. The Philistines knew that Samson was there so they locked the gates of the city so that they could capture him the next morning. However, Samson decided to leave in the middle of the night. When Samson saw that the great gate of the city was locked, he pulled up the gate and the posts that held it and carried them seven miles.

22. Read Judges 16:1-20 and write the name of the next woman of the Philistines that deceived Samson.

23. Explain why every person is in danger of falling into sin when they begin to depend on their own strength instead of asking the Lord for His strength.

24. Explain why this event helps you to realize the importance of godly moral character if we want to be effective in our leadership for the Lord.

Samson still had not learned that he would get into trouble every time if he looked for women that did not trust the Lord. As a result, he fell in love with a Philistine woman by the name of Delilah. As soon as the Philistines saw that Samson loved Delilah, they offered her a great reward if she could find out where Samson got his great strength. Three times Samson told a lie about the source of his strength and three times he escaped when the Philistines came after him. Samson should have realized that Delilah was working for the Philistines. However, he continued to visit Delilah and she continued to ask him the source of his strength.

25. Read Judges 16:1-20 and write what Samson finally told Delilah would cause him to lose his strength.

26. Explain why Delilah shows the great danger of looking for a partner that does not know and follow the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that Samson continued to spend time with Delilah when she had already done the things that Samson said would cause him to lose his strength three times.

Once Delilah knew the secret that would cause Samson to lose his strength, she caused Samson to go to sleep with his head on her knees. While Samson was sleeping, Delilah had a man of the Philistines come and cut off the hair of Samson. Then she told Samson that the Philistines had come to get him. Samson did not realize that his strength was gone and that the Lord had departed from him until it was too late. This is the way it is when we allow sin to remain in our lives. Sin will keep us from having an effective ministry for the Lord.

28. Read Judges 16:1-20 and write what the Philistines did to Samson this time when they came.

29. Explain why Samson did not realize that the Lord had departed from him until it was too late.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from studying the failures in the life of Samson.

Sin always brings a penalty with it. Because Samson was depending on his own strength, he revealed the source of his strength. One Samson told his secret, the Philistines cut off his hair and the Lord departed from him. Then the Philistines put out the eyes of Samson so that he became blind. Then they took him to the city of Gaza and bound him with chains. At Gaza they put him to work grinding the wheat. That was a job that was commonly done by oxen or other animals. However, the hair of Samson began to grow as he was in prison.

31. Read Judges 16:21-31 and write what all of the Philistines said that their god had done for them.

32. Explain why these verses teach were the consequences of the sinful choices that Samson had been making in his life.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to realize that there will be consequences in your life when you choose to sin.

The Philistines praised their idol, Dagon, for giving them victory over Samson. They thought that it was their god that had made the difference and gave them the victory. They did not realize that God had allowed them to have victory over Samson to discipline him for his sin. As a result, one day they decided to have a victory celebration in the house of their god. During the time that they were planning this celebration, the hair of Samson continued to grow. After the people had become drunk at their celebration, they thought that it would be fun to have Samson come to the house of their god.

34. Read Judges 16:21-31 and write why the Philistines wanted to bring Samson to the house of their god where they were celebrating.

35. Explain why the Philistines gave their god, Dagon, the credit for giving them victory over Samson.

36. Explain why this passage helps you to understand that people are easily deceived by the false gods that they worship.

The people thought that it would be great fun to watch Samson stumble around in his blindness. They brought Samson into their temple and placed him between the two pillars that held up the temple of Dagon. Samson realized that he had sinned and asked the Lord to forgive him. Then Samson prayed and asked the Lord to give him strength so that the Lord could use him to judge the Philistines. When Samson prayed to the Lord, the Lord heard and answered his prayer. God is willing to forgive our sins and to use us again when we are willing to confess our sins and then depend on the Lord to give us His strength.

37. Read Judges 16:21-31 and write the final prayer that Samson prayed to the Lord that day.

38. Explain why this passage is a reminder of the fact that the Lord will always hear a prayer of repentance and a request for forgiveness.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the prayer of Samson.

Since Samson was between the two pillars that held up the temple of the Philistines, he prayed that the Lord would give him strength so that he could push the pillars of the temple and destroy the temple. Samson was willing to die with the leaders of the Philistines so that his people could have peace from the terrible persecution of the Philistines. God heard the prayer of Samson. Then the Lord gave him the strength that he needed to destroy the temple. The Philistines were both in the temple and on the roof of the temple. When the temple was destroyed and fell, all of the leaders of Philistines were killed along with Samson.

40. Read Judges 16:21-31 and write how long Samson judged the nation of Israel.

41. Explain why Samson was willing to die with the Philistines so that the Philistines would be judged.

42. Explain why you realize that the Lord will answer prayer and give strength to any person once that person repents of sin.

Now reread Judges 15:1-16:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth
Lesson 17
Judges 17:1-18:31

As we have studied the book of Judges, we have seen that the nation of Israel repeated the same pattern over and over again. They sinned, God delivered them into bondage, they cried to the Lord and He delivered them. Today we will be studying a verse that really summarizes the book of Judges. That verse says that every man did that which was right in his own eyes. When people do the things that are right in their own eyes, they will always begin doing things that are evil. Today we will also learn about part of the tribe of Dan turning from the Lord and setting up their own idol. This is an example of what happens when people begin doing what is right in their own eyes.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happens when people follow their own desires.
- Explain how Micah got his own priest.
- Explain what happened when the tribe of Dan needed more land.
- Tell what happened when the men of Dan took the idol of Micah.

One day one of the young men of Israel that lived in Mount Ephraim came to his mother and told her that he was the one that had stolen a large amount of silver from her. She had been filled with anger when the silver was stolen from her and had cursed the one that had stolen the silver. Of course she did not realize that it was her son that was the one that had stolen the silver. The son probably did not know what kind of a reaction to expect from his mother when he told her what he had done. However, we see that she was very happy when her son told her that he was the one that had stolen the silver. Here we see that her concern was for things.

1. Read Judges 17:1-6 and write what the mother said when her son confessed that he was the one that had stolen her silver.
2. Explain why this mother was so angry that she had cursed the person that had stolen her silver.
3. Explain what kind of a reaction you think the young man expected when he told his mother that he was the one that had stolen her silver.

When we read the answer of the mother, at first it sounds as though the mother had a love for the Lord. However, we quickly see that she was not talking about the God that we serve. Instead she was thanking false gods for the fact that her son was going to give her silver back to her. This is seen by the fact that the mother had planned to use the silver to make an idol. The mother said that she had dedicated this silver to the Lord so that it could be used to make an idol. Today we still have many people that talk about God when they are actually talking about and serving false gods.

4. Read Judges 17:1-6 and write where this idol was placed after the mother had the silver made into an idol.
5. Explain why this woman makes it very clear that we need to find out what god people are talking about when they talk about god.
6. Explain why you think that many of the people that talk about god are talking about someone other than the true and living God.

The mother took the silver to a silversmith. Then he used that silver to make an idol. The mother of Micah took this idol and placed it in the house of Micah. Now the silver that Micah had stolen had now become an idol in his own house. Micah soon made a house of gods for his idol. Then Micah chose one of his sons to be the priest that would lead the family in the

worship of these idols. Here we see that people begin to worship other things where they turn away from the Lord. Today we see the same thing happening all around us because people have chosen to reject Christ and have begun to serve other things.

7. Read Judges 17:1-6 and write what every man was doing in the land of Israel at that time.
8. Explain why Micah shows the pattern that people often follow when they begin to worship false gods.
9. Explain why you think that many people today have placed their focus on the worship of things.

The book of Judges gives us a terrible picture of what happens when men begin to do that which is right in their own eyes. This statement means that people are not doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord. Back in the time of Noah we read that the thoughts of men had become evil continually. Evil thoughts quickly take control when people turn to do the things that are right in their own eyes. As a result, the things that people are doing are sin. Their goal becomes to satisfy their sinful desires. Today we see that people are again doing the things that are right in their own eyes. People have turned away from the Lord and are not following the Biblical standards that God has given to us in the Word of God.

10. Read Judges 17:1-6 and write why every person was doing that which was right in his own eyes.
11. Explain what happens when people turn from God and begin to do that which is right in their own eyes.
12. Explain why people will always do evil when they choose to do the things that are right in their own eyes.

One day a young man came to visit the house of Micah. This young man had come from the part of the land that belonged to the family of Judah. However, he was not from the tribe of Judah. Instead the young man was a Levite. The tribe of Levi was the tribe that the Lord had chosen to assist the priests in their spiritual leadership. When the young man came to the house of Micah, Micah asked the young man where he was going. The young man said that he was traveling and looking for a place to live. When Micah heard that the young man was a Levite, he asked the young man to do a certain thing.

13. Read Judges 17:7-13 and write what Micah asked the young man to do.
14. Explain why this young man was looking for a new place to live since his family lived in the land that belonged to the family of Judah.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord had chosen the entire tribe of Levi to assist the priests in their spiritual leadership.

The Levites were supposed to be the religious leaders in the nation of Israel and assist the priests in their ministry. However, they were supposed to lead the people in the worship of the true and living God and not in the worship of false gods. Now Micah was inviting this young Levite to become the personal priest of his family and lead his family in the worship of his idol. The young man did not have his trust in the Lord. As a result, the young man thought it would be fine to become the priest of Micah and so he agreed to live with Micah and be his priest. Instead of being a spiritual leader to the people, this Levite chose to become a leader in the worship of an idol.

16. Read Judges 17:7-13 and write how Micah treated this young man.
17. Explain why this young man was glad to become the personal priest of Micah and lead his family in false worship of the idol.
18. Explain why you think that there are many people that are religious leaders that have never placed their trust in Christ.

Micah thought that the Lord was blessing him because he had his own priest to lead in the worship of his idol. This is a good example of what happens to people that have developed

their own religion. The devil has deceived them into thinking that they are serving the Lord when they are actually following their own religion. We see that the religion of Micah was a worship of his own efforts. This is what all false religion actually becomes. True worship is worshipping the living God in spirit and in truth. Religion is the worship of self effort. We see that true Christianity and religion are exact opposites because religion is based on self effort.

19. Read Judges 17:7-13 and write why Micah was sure that the Lord would do him good.

20. Explain why these verses show that the religion of Micah is like all false worship and is actually the worship of self effort.

21. Explain why you think that many people have deceived themselves with their own religion and actually think that the Lord is pleased with their self efforts.

One day the tribe of Dan decided that the tribe did not have enough land for all of the people of the tribe. As a result, the leaders of the tribe of Dan decided to send five men to look for a place where part of the people of the tribe of Dan could move. On their way to search for a new land, these five men stayed at the house of Micah. When the men reached the house of Micah, the men recognized a familiar voice. Then they saw the Levite that was serving as the priest of Micah. These men had known this young Levite before he came to the house of Micah.

22. Read Judges 18:1-13 and write what the five men asked the Levite to do.

23. Explain why the tribe of Dan had sent this group of five men to find a place where part of the people of the tribe of Dan could move.

24. Explain why you think that the men from the tribe of Dan were happy when their heard a familiar voice and recognized the young Levite.

We see that these men from the tribe of Dan also failed to recognize the difference between the true worship of God and false religion. As a result, these men thought that it would be a good idea to find out if God wanted them to continue on their way to search for a new land. The priest told the men to go in peace because the Lord would go with them. The five men traveled on to a place called Laish. There they saw that the city of Laish was a city that was not protected. The people there did not think that anyone would come to fight against them. It was also a place where there were not any other cities close to the city of Laish.

25. Read Judges 18:1-13 and write what the five men said about the land that they had visited when they returned to the rest of the tribe of Dan.

26. Explain why the men of Dan also failed to recognize the difference between the true worship of God and false religion.

27. Explain why you think that these men thought that they had received counsel from God when the Levite gave them his own opinion.

The five men of the tribe of Dan suggested that they go immediately to the good land that they had seen. The spies reported that it was a very good land where they would not lack anything. It was a large land which would give the people plenty of room to expand. They also said that it was a land that would be easy to capture. The tribe of Dan immediately chose six hundred men to go and capture the land. In this way the men of the tribe of Dan do give us one good example by taking immediate action even if most of the things that they did were evil. When God tells us to do something, we should do it immediately.

28. Read Judges 18:1-13 and write whose house these six hundred men passed by as they were traveling.

29. Explain why it is important for us to do something immediately when God tells us that we are to do that thing.

30. Explain why you think that the men of Dan thought that it would be easy for them to capture the city of Laish and possess the land surrounding that city.

When the six hundred men of Dan passed near the house of Micah, the five spies told the men about the image and the priest in the house of Micah. The spies then went to the house of the

Levite and talked to him. After saying hello to the Levite, these five men went and took the idol of Micah. Suddenly the Levite spoke to the spies and asked them what they were doing. The spies told the priest to keep quiet. They told him not to say a word about what they were doing. Instead they had another suggestion for this young man that had become the priest of Micah.

31. Read Judges 18:14-31 and write what the spies invited this priest to do.

32. Explain why the five spies went to get the idol of Micah to take with them as they went to conquer the city of Laish.

33. Explain why you think that the Levite did not continue to try to stop the spies once they told him to keep quiet.

The spies told the priest that he would be a much more important man if he would go with them and become the priest for the whole tribe of Dan instead of just the priest of the family of Micah. The priest was filled with joy when he heard the words of the spies. Since he had only religions and was not serving the true and living God, the priest thought it would be great to be given a more powerful position. This is often true when men trust themselves instead of trusting the Lord. They look for power and position so that they can satisfy their own desires instead of doing the will of the Lord.

34. Read Judges 18:14-31 and write who came chasing after the six hundred men of Dan as they went on their way.

35. Explain why the young Levite was happy and excited when he was offered a position that would give him power and position.

36. Explain why you think that the young Levite was very happy to become the priest of a large group from Dan instead of just the priest of the family of Micah.

Micah was very angry when he saw that the men of Dan had stolen his god and his priest. As a result, he chased after them and spoke to them. However, the men of Dan laughed at Micah. They told Micah to get lost before some of the men of Dan got angry and killed him and his family. When Micah saw that the men of Dan were much stronger than he was, Micah decided that it would be safer to go home and forget his god. He realized that he could not defeat the six hundred men of Dan.

37. Read Judges 18:14-31 and write what the men of the tribe of Dan did when they came to the city of Laish.

38. Explain why you think that Micah quickly began to fear for his life when he talked to the men of Dan to try and get his idol back.

39. Explain why you think that the priest of the house of Micah was happy to go with the men of the tribe of Dan.

The men of the tribe of Dan traveled on to the city of Laish. Just as the spies had reported, the people of Laish were not prepared to fight. The men of Dan quickly captured the city and destroyed it with fire. Since there were no other cities nearby, there was no one that the people of Laish could ask for help. The men of Dan then built a city and named their city Dan. There the men of Dan set up the idol of Micah and began to worship that idol as their god.

40. Read Judges 18:14-31 and write how long the men of the tribe of Dan continued to worship that idol.

41. Explain why the men of Dan set up the idol of Micah and began to worship it once they had conquered the city of Laish.

42. Explain why you think that the choices of the tribe of Dan help you to understand how people will act when they begin to do what is right in their own eyes.

Now reread Judges 17:1-18:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 18

Judges 19:1-21:25

Today we come to our final lesson in the book of Judges. This final lesson will show us how the sins of men become worse and worse as we see the sin of the tribe of Benjamin. The tribe of Benjamin was almost completely destroyed because of the terribleness of its sin. First we see the terrible sins of the men of the city of Gibeah. Then we see that the tribe of Benjamin decided to protect these sinful men. This caused the other tribes to come and fight against the tribe of Benjamin. Finally there were very few men of the tribe of Benjamin left. However, we will see that the Lord in His mercy and love kept the entire tribe from being destroyed.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain about the sins of the men of the city of Gibeah.

Explain why the tribe of Benjamin protected these sinful men.

Tell about the judgment of the tribe of Benjamin.

Explain how the Lord protected a small group of the tribe of Benjamin.

One of the things that almost always goes along with idol worship is immoral living. This was exactly what happened in the nation of Israel as they turned away from the Lord and began to worship idols. One day a man of Israel that was a Levite took a woman as his concubine (common law wife). The woman later returned to the house of her father where she lived as a prostitute. After four months, the man went to the home of his father-in-law to get the woman. The father-in-law was very happy to see the man. After four days the man prepared to return home. However, the two men talked so long that the man decided to stay another night when his father-in-law invited him to stay. The same thing happened the fifth day but that day the man refused to stay another night.

1. Read Judges 19:1-30 and write the name of the town where the man refused to stay as they returned home.
2. Explain why the worship of idols and various forms of immorality will often go together.
3. Explain why you think that the man waited for four months to go and get his concubine back from her father.

The man did not want to stay in the city of Jebus because the people of that city were not from the nation of Israel. As a result, the man decided to go on to the city of Gibeah that belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. When the man and his concubine reached Gibeah, they sat down in the street to spend the night because no one invited them to spend the night with them. Finally an old man that lived in Gibeah invited the man from Mount Ephraim to stay at his house. The old man said that he would be glad to have them stay with him since he had originally lived at Mount Ephraim.

4. Read Judges 19:1-30 and write what the men of Gibeah told the old man to do with his visitor.

5. Explain why the Levite from Mount Ephraim decided to just sit down in the street and spend the night in the street.

6. Explain why you think that the old man finally invited the Levite to come and stay at his house for the night.

Here we see that the men of Gibeah wanted the old man to bring out the man that was spending the night at his house. The men of the city of Gibeah wanted to have homosexual relationships with this visitor. The old man realized that it would not be proper to do such a thing to a man that was visiting their city. However, this was not because he had strong standards of right and

wrong. He just did not want disrespect to be shown to his visitor by the men. Instead the old man offered a different suggestion that was just as evil. The old man said that his daughter was still a virgin. He suggested that the men take his daughter and the concubine of the visitor and do to the two women as they chose.

7. Read Judges 19:1-30 and write how the other men of Gibeah reacted to the words of the old man.

8. Explain how the old man in Gibeah showed that he did not have godly moral values or any real sense of what is right and wrong.

9. Explain why you think that the old man was more concerned about showing disrespect than he was about the virginity of his own daughter.

When the visitor brought his concubine out to the men of the city, they decided to use her to satisfy their sinful lusts. That night the men of the city of Gibeah took the concubine and sexually abused her throughout the night. Finally as it began to get light in the morning the men of Gibeah left the woman. The woman came to the door of the house and died near the door. Her husband was filled with anger when he saw what the men had done to the woman. Then he took her body home and cut her body into twelve pieces and sent one piece to each tribe. He asked each tribe to decide what should be done with the men of Gibeah because of their sin.

10. Read Judges 19:1-30 and write what the man said about the deed that had been done by the men of Gibeah.

11. Explain what you learn about the terrible moral condition of the men of the city of Gibeah.

12. Explain why you think that the man cut his concubine into twelve parts and sent one part to each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

All of the men of Israel gathered together to discuss what should be done to the men of the city of Gibeah. Then the man told the other men of Israel exactly what had happened to his concubine. After the men of Israel heard the story, they said that they would not return to their homes until the men of Gibeah had been punished. All of the men of Israel were in agreement that this was the thing that should be done because of the sin of the men of Gibeah. Then the men of the other tribes asked the men of the tribe of Benjamin to deliver the evil men that had done this terrible deed so that they could be judged.

13. Read Judges 20:1-25 and write what the men of Benjamin did when they heard the request of the other men of Israel.

14. Explain why the men from all of the tribes of Israel decided that this sin was so evil that it must be judged.

15. Explain why you think that people can become so evil in their thoughts that they would commit this kind of sin.

Instead of delivering the guilty men to the men from the other tribes of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin decided to fight to protect the evil men of Gibeah. Here we see a real picture of the sinful heart of man. The men of Benjamin preferred to protect the evil men even though they knew that those men were guilty. Today many people also try to protect those who have done evil so that the evil individuals will not be punished. However, the Lord promises that judgment will come against every sin one day. People either have to make the choice to accept the payment of Christ for their sin or they will pay for their own sin by receiving eternal judgment.

16. Read Judges 20:1-25 and write which tribe the Lord said should be the first tribe to fight against Benjamin.

17. Explain why the men of the tribe of Benjamin decided to protect the evil men of the city of Gibeah rather than deliver the guilty men to be punished.

18. Explain why you think that many people would rather protect those who commit great sin rather than allow them to be judged for their sin.

The Lord said that the tribe of Judah should be the tribe that led the fight as Israel fought against the tribe of Benjamin. The first two days it looked like the tribe of Benjamin would be able to protect itself from the other tribes of Israel. In fact 40,000 men of the other tribes of Israel were killed during those first two days. After the losses of the first day, the men of Israel prayed to the Lord and asked Him if they should fight any more. The Lord told the men of Israel to fight again. When the Lord gives us a job to do, the Lord wants us to complete what He has called us to do.

19. Read Judges 20:1-25 and write how many men of Israel were killed by the men of Benjamin on the second day of the battle.

20. Explain why it is important to complete any work that the Lord gives us to do as we serve Him.

21. Explain why you think that the men of Benjamin were able to kill so many of the men of the rest of the tribes during the first two days of the battle.

After the losses of the second day, all of the men of Israel went to the house of God. There they spent the day fasting, praying and offering sacrifices to the Lord. Here we see the reason why Israel did not have victory the first two days. As long as the people had sin in their lives, the Lord would not use them to judge the sins of others. That was why it was important that they spent time praying and confessing their sins before they fought against Benjamin any more. After confessing their sins, the men of Israel asked the Lord if they should go and fight against Benjamin a third day. Because the people had confessed their sins, the Lord promised that He would give them victory over the tribe of Benjamin the next day.

22. Read Judges 20:26-48 and what the Lord promised Israel that He would do the next day.

23. Explain why it was important for the men of the other tribes to repent and confess their sin before they tried to judge the sin of the men of the tribe of Benjamin.

24. Explain why it is important for all people to confess their own sins before trying to deal with the sins of others.

The third day the men of Israel sent part of the men against the city of Gibeah. However, the rest of the men waited in an ambush. When the fighting started, the men of Benjamin thought that they were going to win another great victory. As a result, they started to chase the men from the other tribes of Israel. After the men of Benjamin had been drawn away from the city, those hiding in ambush near the city went into the city and set the city on fire. Suddenly the men of Benjamin realized that they were surrounded. There was no way for them to escape. Almost all of the men of the tribe of Benjamin were killed.

25. Read Judges 20:26-48 and write how many of the men of the tribe of Benjamin escaped.

26. Explain why the men of Benjamin had become overconfident after winning the battles on the first two days.

27. Explain why you think that pride will always come to those who are depending on themselves for victory.

Over twenty-five thousand men of the tribe of Benjamin were killed in the battle that one day. Only six hundred men escaped. These men escaped by fleeing to the wilderness and hiding. Then the men of Israel went and killed all of the people of Benjamin that remained in the land. They even killed the animals of the tribe of Benjamin. All of the cities of the tribe of Benjamin were burned with fire. Nothing escaped this judgment except the six hundred men that had fled and were hiding. Again we are reminded of the fact that sin must be judged.

28. Read Judges 20:26-48 and write to what place in the wilderness the six hundred men of the tribe of Benjamin fled.

29. Explain why the men of the other tribes killed all of the people, burned all of the cities and killed all of the animals of the tribe of Benjamin.

30. Explain why you think that this complete judgment of the tribe of Benjamin was necessary.

Although judgment was necessary, the men of Israel were filled with sorrow as they thought of the fact that one tribe of Israel had been destroyed. Here we see that their sorrow was for the loss of one tribe rather than sorrow for sin. As a result, the people did not return to the Lord. However, the rest of the men of the Israel decided that they must do something to keep the one tribe from being completely destroyed. Since the men of Israel had sworn that they would not give their daughters to the remaining men of Benjamin, they decided to get the young women from one city as wives for the men of the tribe of Benjamin.

31. Read Judges 21:1-25 and write what city was destroyed to provide wives for the men of Benjamin.

32. Explain the difference when people have sorrow for the loss of something and when they have sorrow for sin.

33. Explain why you think that the men of the other tribes of Israel had sworn that they would not give their own daughters to the remaining men of the tribe of Benjamin.

The men of Jabesh Gilead had not come to fight against the tribe of Benjamin. As a result, the men of Israel decided to kill the people of Jabesh Gilead to provide wives for the men of Benjamin. Because the people of Israel failed to return to God, they did not ask the Lord what He wanted them to do. This led to the killing of many innocent people. All of the young women that were virgins in the city of Jabesh Gilead were saved alive to provide wives for the men of Benjamin. The rest of the people of that city were put to death. However, this still did not provide enough wives for the men of the tribe of Benjamin.

34. Read Judges 21:1-25 and write how many virgins there were in the city of Jabesh Gilead.

35. Explain why the men of Israel made the choice to kill the people of Jabesh Gilead instead of asking the Lord what the Lord wanted them to do.

36. Explain why you think that even many Christians just go ahead and make their own choices instead of praying and asking the Lord what He wants them to do.

Since there were two hundred men that still did not have wives, the men of Israel decided on another plan to provide wives for those two hundred men. There was a feast in Shiloh each year. During this time the young women of Shiloh would come out and dance. The two hundred men were told to go and hide in the vineyards of Shiloh. When the young women came out to dance, each man was to catch one of these young women and that woman would become his wife. In this way the other tribes provided a way for the men of Benjamin that remained to receive wives.

37. Read Judges 21:1-25 and write what the men of the other tribes said that they would do if the men of Shiloh complained.

38. Explain why the men of Israel felt that it was necessary for them to find a way to provide wives for the remaining men of the tribe of Benjamin.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

As we have studied the book of Judges, we have seen that it is a book of sin and failure. This book shows very clearly the terrible results of the failure of men to trust in the Lord for guidance and direction. Without guidance from the Lord, people will just live to please themselves. This is the same reason why we have so much sin and failure today. Most of the people of the world do not ask the Lord to guide and lead them. Instead they follow a different form of guidance. People today are often guided in the same way as the people in the time when the book of Judges was written.

40. Read Judges 21:1-25 and write how the people of that day were guided.

41. Explain why the book of Judges gives a very complete picture of what happens when people do not look to the Lord for guidance.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to look for wisdom and guidance from the Lord.

Now reread Judges 19:1-21:25 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 19

Ruth 1:1-2:23

We have just completed a study of the book of Judges. In that book we saw over and over again how the people of Israel turned away from the Lord and served idols. We saw that the people did the things that were right in their own eyes. However, there were a few of the people of the nation of Israel that did trust in the Lord during the time of the events in the book of Judges. We will meet some of those people as we study the book of Ruth. We will also learn how one individual from the nation of Moab became a part of the family of Christ even though the nation of Moab as a whole was completely shut off from the worship of the nation of Israel.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened to the family of Elimelech in the land of Moab.
- Tell about the choice that Ruth made in her life.
- Explain how Ruth showed her concern for Naomi.
- Explain how the Lord led Boaz to develop an interest in Ruth.

It is always a joy to read about people that served the Lord even when they were living in the middle of a very sinful nation. We see in the book of Ruth that there were those who did trust in the Lord even when most of the people of Israel were doing the things that were right in their own eyes. One family that trusted the Lord was the family of Elimelech. However, a famine came to the nation of Israel because of the sin of Israel and Elimelech took his family from the town of Bethlehem to the land of Moab in order to find food for his family. While the family was in the land of Moab, the two sons married women of Moab. The family of Elimelech lived in the land of Moab for ten years. During this time Elimelech died.

1. Read Ruth 1:1-10 and write who else died while the family of Elimelech was in the land of Moab.
2. Explain why it is very encouraging to see people live godly lives even when they are living in the middle of a very sinful nation.
3. Explain why you think that Elimelech chose to take his family to Moab when there was a famine in the land of Israel.

In addition to the death of the father, both of his sons also died while the family was in Moab. As a result, all three of the women were left as widows. This was a very sad thing for Naomi, the widow of Elimelech. It meant that she had lost her entire family. She had no one to care for her. During that time the other people would often take advantage of widows because they had no one to protect them. Naomi knew that this would be even more possible in a land where she was a foreigner. At the same time Naomi also heard some good news about the land of Israel.

4. Read Ruth 1:1-10 and write what the Lord had done for the nation of Israel.
5. Explain why it is often very difficult for a widow that has no family members to help her as she faces the problems of life.
6. Explain why you think that the people of the world are often quick to try and take advantage of widows and others without protection.

In her great sorrow at the loss of her family Naomi decided to return to the land of Israel since she had heard that there was now food in that land. As a result, Naomi started on her way back to the land of Israel. Her two daughters-in-law also started to walk with her. Naomi thanked them for their kindness and concern that they had shown by walking along the road with her. She also thanked them for the concern that they had shown to her two sons. However, Naomi suggested that the two women returned to the homes of their parents so that it might be possible

for them to find another husband. Naomi knew that the two women would be foreigners in the land of Israel and would have very little opportunity to marry again. It would be much more likely that they would have the opportunity to marry again if they remained in their own land.

7. Read Ruth 1:1-10 and write what Orpah and Ruth immediately said to Naomi.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the concern of Naomi for her two daughters-in-law as she thought about their future.
9. Explain why you think that Naomi suggested to her daughters-in-law that it would be easier for them to find another husband in their own land.

When Naomi told her two daughters-in-law to return home, the two women immediately said that they would go with her. Naomi then told them that she did not have any more sons to give to them as husbands. She said that they would not want to wait until some sons would become men even if she were able to remarry and have some additional sons. She told Ruth and Orpah that there would be no hope of marriage for them in the future if they returned to the land of Israel with her. She felt sorry for their sakes that she had no more sons to offer them.

10. Read Ruth 1:11-22 and write what Orpah did as she thought about the future after she heard the words of Naomi.
11. Explain why you think that it was important for Naomi to give each daughter-in-law a choice and not just expect them to go with her.
12. Explain why you think that Orpah made the choice to return to her own family and her own land.

Orpah made her choice. She decided to go back home and begin to worship the idols of her parents again. In this way Orpah gives us a good example of many people that claim to be Christians for a time. They say that they are Christians. However, when trouble or some form of persecution comes, they return to their old ways because their trust was never really in the Lord. When Naomi saw that Orpah had gone back to her false gods, Naomi then offered the same choice to Ruth. Ruth was now faced with a choice. She could choose to serve the idols of her parents or she could choose to serve the true and living God.

13. Read Ruth 1:11-22 and write the answer of Ruth when Naomi suggested that she return to the gods of her parents.
14. Explain why many people turn away from the Lord when they face some form of trouble or persecution.
15. Explain why you think that many people will claim to be Christians only as long as they feel that they are getting earthly benefits from claiming to be Christians.

Ruth had also made her choice. Even though she had no husband or family in the land of Israel, Ruth was going to serve the Lord. She was willing to suffer any tests that came. She wanted to be recognized as a part of the people of God. Ruth had decided that she was willing to live or die for the Lord. There was nothing that would stop her from serving the Lord. This is a beautiful example of the way that we should feel once we have made the choice to follow the Lord and ask Christ to become the master of our lives.

16. Read Ruth 1:11-22 and write what Ruth told Naomi about her desire to serve the true and living God.
17. Explain why Ruth was willing to choose to follow the Lord even if there were no earthly benefits from that choice.
18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the choice that Ruth made that day.

When Naomi and Ruth reached Bethlehem, everyone asked if this was the same Naomi that had left with her family ten years earlier. When Naomi heard the people speaking, she told them not to call her Naomi any longer. Instead she told them to call her Mara. Mara means bitter. Naomi said that she had gone out full and had come home empty. Her husband and both of her sons had died during the ten years that she was gone from the town of Bethlehem. The family

could have remained Bethlehem and God would have supplied their needs. However, they had chosen to meet their need in their own way by going to the land of Moab and Naomi felt that she had come home empty.

19. Read Ruth 1:11-22 and write when Naomi and Ruth arrived at the town of Bethlehem.

20. Explain why Naomi told the people to call her Mara since she had gone out full and had come back empty.

21. Explain why you think that Christians often feel like their lives are empty when they try to serve the Lord in their own strength.

Naomi and Ruth had nothing that they could call their own when they returned to Bethlehem. Ruth felt that it was her responsibility to care for Naomi. As a result, Ruth asked if it would be all right for her to go and glean in the barley field. To glean means to gather any pieces of grain that the harvesters had missed or dropped. This was the way that God had told the people of Israel to provide for the needs of the poor was by allowing them to glean in the fields by following the harvesters. When a person harvested a field, he was not to return for any grain that he had missed. Instead the missed stalks of grain were to be left for the poor.

22. Read Ruth 2:1-9 and write the name of the man that owned the field where Ruth began to glean.

23. Explain why it is important that God had provided gleaning as a way to provide food for the poor.

24. Explain why you think that the poor could have self respect if they worked to gather their own food rather than depending on others.

Although Ruth did not know it, Boaz was a relative of Elimelech. While the harvesters were working in the field, Boaz came to see the progress of the workers. When he arrived he saw a young woman that was a stranger gleaning in his field. Gleaning was very hard work so there was a respect by the people for those who gleaned. Boaz asked one of his servants to tell him who this young woman was that was working so hard to glean a little bit of barley. The servant answered that it was Ruth, the young woman that had returned from Moab with Naomi. The servant said that Ruth had worked hard all morning.

25. Read Ruth 2:1-9 and write what Boaz told Ruth not to do after he learned that she was the young woman that had returned with Naomi.

26. Explain why Boaz immediately began to ask questions when he saw Ruth gleaning in his barley field.

27. Explain why you think that the servant had noticed that Ruth had worked hard all morning as she had gleaned.

Boaz had been very impressed that Ruth would work so hard to care for the needs of her mother-in-law. However, something else had also happened to Boaz. That something else might be called love at first sight. Because of the respect and love that Boaz felt for Ruth, he immediately wanted to protect her from danger. Because of the terrible moral condition of the land of Israel during the time of the Judges, some of the men of Israel were quick to take advantage of a foreign woman. Boaz warned all of the men working in his field not to touch Ruth.

28. Read Ruth 2:1-9 and write what Ruth did when she heard that Boaz had warned the young men not to touch her.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the concern of Ruth for Naomi in these verses.

30. Explain why you think that Boaz made it very clear to all of the men working in his field that none of them were to touch Ruth.

When Ruth heard the kind words of Boaz, she immediately fell on her face in front of him. Ruth asked Boaz why he was showing such kindness to her. Boaz replied that he had heard about the way that Ruth had cared for Naomi since the death of her husband. Boaz had also

heard how Ruth had left the false gods of her land to come to the land of Israel because of her desire to serve the true and living God. He recognized the way that the Lord had worked in her life. Boaz knew that Ruth had made a complete break with her people in order to serve the Lord.

31. Read Ruth 2:10-23 and write what kind of a reward Boaz said that the Lord would give to Ruth for the choice that she had made.

32. Explain why Boaz told Ruth that he had heard about her choice to leave the gods of her fathers and come to Israel so she could serve the true and living God.

33. Explain why you think that Boaz also told Ruth that he had heard about her concern to care for Naomi.

Boaz also went on to tell Ruth to come and eat with his workers at meal time. Throughout this book, Boaz gives us a picture of Christ. Here we see a picture of the way that the Lord supplies our physical and spiritual needs as we trust in Him. Boaz also gave some additional instructions to his servants about Ruth. He told them to allow Ruth to glean among the sheaves and also to allow some extra handfuls of grain to fall on purpose so that Ruth could find them. That day Ruth gathered almost a bushel of barley which was considered a large amount for a gleaner.

34. Read Ruth 2:10-23 and write the first question that Naomi asked Ruth when she saw the large amount of barley that Ruth had gathered.

35. Explain why Boaz instructed his servants to let some handfuls of grain fall to the ground on purpose.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to supply the physical needs of Naomi and Ruth through the kindness of Boaz.

As soon as Naomi saw the large amount of barley, Naomi knew that someone was very interested in Ruth. It was impossible to gather such a large amount of grain through normal gleaning. Then Ruth told Naomi that she had been gleaning in the field of Boaz. Naomi then thanked the Lord for showing His kindness to them. She said that the Lord was showing His kindness to both the living and the dead. Today the Lord also shows His great kindness to us. He provides for both our physical and spiritual needs even when we do not realize how much He has done for us.

37. Read Ruth 2:10-23 and write what Naomi told Ruth to do for the rest of the harvest season.

38. Explain why Naomi realized the importance of giving thanks to the Lord for providing for her and Ruth.

39. Explain why you are thankful that you can also trust the Lord to supply both your physical and your spiritual needs.

Naomi also told Ruth that Boaz was a very close relative. This meant nothing to Ruth yet because she did not yet understand the customs and laws of the people of Israel. However, we will see that the fact that Boaz was a close relative becomes very important in our next lesson. Naomi also encouraged Ruth to continue gleaning in the field of Boaz just as Boaz had invited her to do. We see that Ruth was obedient to the words of Naomi and stayed in the field of Boaz. Here we see that Ruth had a great respect for the words of her mother-in-law and followed her instructions carefully.

40. Read Ruth 2:10-23 and write how long Ruth continued to glean in the fields of Boaz that harvest season.

41. Explain why Naomi encouraged Ruth to follow the instructions of Boaz and continue to glean in his field.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to receive counsel and instruction from those who can give you wise counsel.

Now reread Ruth 1:1-2:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned

from these chapters.

Survey of Joshua, Judges and Ruth

Lesson 20

Ruth 3:1-4:22

In our last lesson we learned how Ruth chose to leave her own people and go with Naomi to the land of Israel because she had chosen to serve the Lord. When they reached the land of Israel, Ruth worked very hard gleaning in the fields to help Naomi. One who saw this concern of Ruth for Naomi was Boaz. At the same time Boaz fell in love with Ruth but had no way to show his interest in her. However, Ruth did not know the customs of Israel but Ruth had to show that she was willing to marry Boaz because she was a widow and he could not propose to her until she showed that she was willing to marry him. Our lesson today will show us Ruth did this in the proper way.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how Ruth showed Boaz that she was willing to marry him.

Explain what Boaz did once he knew that Ruth was willing to marry him.

Explain the meaning of the shoe covenant.

Explain how the faith of Ruth was rewarded.

Boaz had invited Ruth to continue to glean in his fields until the end of the harvest. Now the end of the harvest had come. Since Ruth did not know the customs of Israel, she did not know that the actions of Boaz indicated that he was interested in marrying her. However, since she was a widow, Boaz could not propose until Ruth indicated that she was willing to marry him. As a result, Naomi told Ruth the proper way to indicate to Boaz that she was willing to marry him. Naomi said that Ruth should go the place where Boaz was winnowing his barley that night. However, Ruth was not to let Boaz know that she was there until he had lain down.

1. Read Ruth 3:1-13 and write what Naomi told Ruth to do once Boaz had lain down for the night.

2. Explain why it was important for Naomi to explain to Ruth how she could show Boaz that she was willing to marry him.

3. Explain why you think that Naomi waited until the end of the harvest season to suggest to Ruth what to do.

Ruth agreed to do exactly as Naomi had told her to do. The threshing floor was a place where all of the people gathered to thresh their crops together. Then they would all sleep right at the threshing floor. Naomi had instructed Ruth and told her what to do when Boaz lay down for the night. Once Boaz had lain down, Ruth followed the instructions that Naomi had given her. Ruth went and uncovered the feet of Boaz and lay down next to his feet exactly as Naomi had told her to do. Nothing happened until midnight. Then Boaz moved and felt someone at his feet. Boaz was very surprised when he realized that someone was lying at his feet and immediately asked a question to find out who was there.

4. Read Ruth 3:1-13 and write the question that Boaz asked in order to find out who was at his feet.

5. Explain why it was important for Ruth to uncover the feet of Boaz in a public place like the threshing floor where all of the people were gathered.

6. Explain why you think that Boaz was very surprised when he realized that someone was laying at his feet at the threshing floor.

Ruth told Boaz who she was and then told Boaz the reason why she was laying there at his feet. Ruth reminded Boaz of that fact that she was a near kinsman (a close relative). She also told him to spread his skirt over his handmaid. By this statement Ruth was telling Boaz that she was willing to marry him. He had a responsibility as a close relative and she was willing to allow

him to fulfill that responsibility. In the law it said that if a man died a close relative was to marry the wife and raise up children for the relative that had died. Boaz was filled with joy when he heard that Ruth was willing to marry him and allow him to raise up children for his relative that had died.

7. Read Ruth 3:1-13 and write what Boaz said would be the one thing that might prevent him from marrying Ruth.

8. Explain why the request of Ruth for Boaz to raise up children for Elimelech filled Boaz with great joy.

9. Explain why you think that it was important for Israel to have a way that the family of Elimelech could be carried on even though he and his sons had died.

Boaz told Ruth that there was only one problem that could prevent him from marrying Ruth. He said that there was one relative that was even closer to the family of Elimelech than he was. As a result, Boaz said that he would talk to this closer relative the next morning. That closer relative had the first right to marry Ruth. Boaz promised that he would marry Ruth if he could get that closer relative to give up his right to marry Ruth. Here we see that the way was being prepared for Ruth to marry Boaz. He had shown by his actions that he wanted to marry Ruth. Now Ruth had informed Boaz in the proper way that she was willing to marry him.

10. Read Ruth 3:1-13 and write what Boaz promised Ruth that he would do to fulfill his responsibility as a close relative.

11. Explain why it was important for both Ruth and Boaz to show in the proper way that they were willing to marry.

12. Explain what lessons you learn about the responsibility of a close relative from these verses.

After Boaz and Ruth had talked, she lay down at his feet again. Early the next morning she got up so that she could return to the house of Naomi. Boaz again spoke to her and gave her a small present to take with her for Naomi. This small present was also a promise to Ruth that Boaz would do his part and talk to the closer relative and give that closer relative the opportunity to give up his right to marry Ruth. That would make it possible for Ruth and Boaz to get married. As a small present, Boaz gave Ruth some of the barley that had been threshed the previous evening.

13. Read Ruth 3:14-18 and write how much barley Boaz gave to Ruth to take as a present to Naomi.

14. Explain why Boaz wanted to give Ruth a small present to take to Naomi when she returned home that morning.

15. Explain why you think that Boaz chose to also send a message to Naomi by giving Ruth a present to take to her mother-in-law.

The amount of barley that Boaz gave to Ruth was twice as much as he had been able to gather in an entire day of gleaning in the field. In fact it was about all that she could carry because it was nearly two bushels. Naomi was waiting to see what had happened the previous night. She was eager to hear what Boaz had said to Ruth when Ruth came home. Ruth quickly told Naomi what Boaz had said to her. After Ruth had finished telling Naomi the words of Boaz, Ruth showed Naomi the barley that Boaz had given her. Then Naomi knew that Boaz would do exactly as he had said that he would do that day to find out if he could get Ruth as his wife.

16. Read Ruth 3:14-18 and write what Naomi told Ruth to do as they waited to see what would happen that day.

17. Explain why Naomi knew that Boaz would do exactly what he had said he would do when she saw the gift that he had sent to her.

18. Explain why you think that Naomi was eager to hear what had happened while Ruth was at the threshing floor.

Naomi knew that it would be easy for Ruth to get nervous and worried as she waited to see

what would happen when Boaz talked to the relative that was a closer relative. There was always the possibility that the other relative would say that he would marry Ruth. However, Naomi told Ruth not to worry because Naomi knew that the Lord would guide Boaz as he made every possible effort to get the closer relative to give up his right to marry Ruth so that Boaz could marry her. Here we also see the reason why we do not need to get nervous or worried when we do not know what is going to happen. The Lord is the One that is in control of all things. We can trust the Lord to work out all of the situations that face us in our lives.

19. Read Ruth 3:14-18 and write what Naomi said that Boaz would not do until he had received an answer.

20. Explain why Christians do not need to get nervous or worried when they have their trust in the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that we should follow the advice of Naomi and not worry when we see problems facing us and we do not know what will happen.

As soon as everyone got up and began to move around, Boaz went to the gate of the city to wait for the closer relative to come to the gate. Soon the closer relative came along and Boaz said that he wanted to talk to him. Boaz also asked ten of the men who were leaders of the city to talk with them. Boaz began by reminding the men of the land that had belonged to Elimelech and Naomi. The man that was the closest relative had the right to redeem (buy back) this land because he was the closest kinsman (relative). Boaz told the relative that one or the other of them needed to be the kinsman-redeemer and redeem the land that had belonged to Elimelech.

22. Read Ruth 4:1-12 and write what the closest relative said when he was told that one of them should redeem the land.

23. Explain why Boaz told the closer relative that one of them needed to be the kinsman-redeemer and buy back the land that had belonged to Elimelech.

24. Explain why you think that Boaz went to the city gate early in the morning to talk to the close relative.

The relative said that he would redeem the land. Then Boaz reminded the relative that he would have another responsibility if he bought the land of Naomi. In addition to the land belonging to Naomi, the right to the land also belonged to Ruth. Boaz told the close relative that if he chose to redeem the land, he would also have a responsibility to marry Ruth and give her a family to possess the land. Suddenly the close relative realized that he was not able to redeem the land. That would destroy the right of inheritance of his own family. In order to redeem the land, a man had to be both willing and able to redeem the land. The close relative was willing to redeem the land but he was not able to redeem it because of his own family and inheritance.

25. Read Ruth 4:1-12 and write what the relative told Boaz to do since he could not redeem the land.

26. Explain how this gives us a picture of our Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who was both willing and able to redeem us from our sin.

27. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that Christ was both willing and able to redeem you from your sin.

In order to show that he was transferring his right to redeem the land to Boaz, the close relative took off his shoe and gave it to Boaz in front of the leaders of the city. By doing this the relative was making a shoe covenant with Boaz. That shoe covenant meant that the land would belong to Boaz and to the family of Boaz as long as that family continued to exist as a family even if it continued to exist for hundreds of years. The family of the close relative could never take the land from the family of Boaz.

28. Read Ruth 4:1-12 and write what the witnesses said about the fact that they were witnesses of what Boaz said that he would do.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the responsibility of a kinsman-redeemer.

30. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that a shoe covenant was to be in effect as long as either of these men had descendants.

This particular event is very important for us because of the fact that it gives us a picture of the fact that Christ is our Kinsman-Redeemer. In order to pay the penalty for our sin, Christ had to be willing to be our kinsman (close relative). That is why Christ became a man. In addition, Christ also had to be able to pay our penalty. That is why it was necessary for Christ to be God. As the God-man Christ was both willing and able to pay the penalty for our sin on the cross by shedding His blood. No other person could meet both qualifications to pay the penalty for our sin. Even if some man would have been willing to pay the penalty for our sin, he could not have done it because he was also a sinner and would have had to pay for his own sin.

31. Read Ruth 4:1-12 and write what Boaz promised that Ruth would be to him.

32. Explain why it was absolutely necessary for Christ to be both God and man in order to pay the penalty for our sin.

33. Explain why you are thankful that Christ was willing to become a man so that he could become your Kinsman-Redeemer.

In front of the leaders of the city, Boaz promised to redeem the land of Elimelech. He also promised to take Ruth as his wife. In addition, Boaz also promised to raise up a family for the dead so that their name would not be cut off in the nation of Israel. The leaders of the city said that they were witnesses of the fact that Boaz had agreed to be the kinsman-redeemer. The leaders of the city also asked the Lord to bless Ruth and Boaz and give them a wonderful family. The Lord heard the blessing of these leaders and showed His kindness to Boaz and Ruth.

34. Read Ruth 4:13-22 and write what the Lord gave to Boaz and Ruth to show His kindness to them.

35. Explain why the leaders of the city asked the Lord to bless Ruth and Boaz and give them a wonderful family.

36. Explain why you think that it was necessary to have the leaders of the city serve as the witnesses of the fact that Boaz was going to become the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth.

Naomi was also filled with joy as she saw the way that the Lord had provided her with a family. The other women of the area also spoke to Naomi of the blessing that the Lord had given to her. Here we also see the faithfulness of Ruth was rewarded. Because Ruth chose to serve the Lord instead of idols, the Lord gave her a family. From that family came the second king of Israel named David. It was also from her family that Christ came. In every way Ruth enjoyed great blessings because she chose to put God first in her life.

37. Read Ruth 4:13-22 and write the name that was given to the son of Ruth.

38. Explain why it is important to know that God chose to include Ruth in the family from which Christ came.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about putting the Lord first from the life of Ruth.

We also learn some other wonderful lessons from the life of Ruth. Because of the earlier sins of the nation of Moab, God had said that the nation of Moab was never to enter into the temple of the Lord. However, the sins of the nation were not held against one individual that chose to serve the Lord. God is willing to forgive any individual that will come to Him. In order to show that forgiveness, the Lord caused Ruth to be included in the family of Christ. This teaches us that the Lord will always show great love to all that come to Him in true faith.

40. Read Ruth 4:13-22 and write the name of the great-grandson of Ruth.

41. Explain why it is important to understand that God is willing to forgive any individual that will come to Him in repentance and faith.

42. Explain why you are thankful to know that God is willing to accept every single person that will come to Him in repentance and faith.

Now reread Ruth 3:1-4:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.