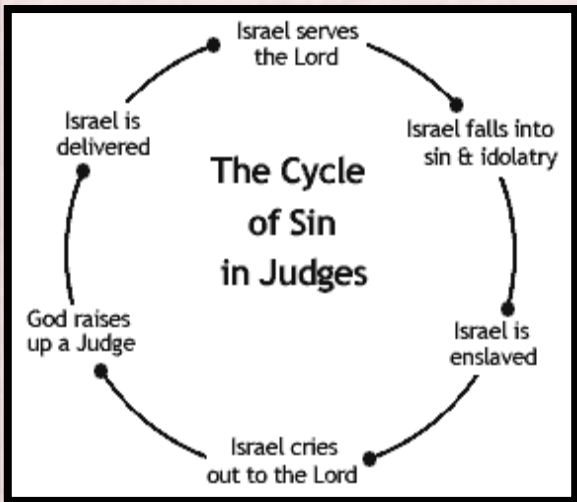


# J U D G E S

## The message of JUDGES = Breaking the cycle of SIN

There is a repeated cycle throughout the entire book – a cycle of sin, bondage, repentance, devotion, followed by sin and bondage again. Israel would follow the Lord when there was a leader (a judge) who reminded them of the ways in which they should walk, but when the Judge died; the Israelites wandered off following other gods and their own desires. God would then allow an enemy of Israel to conquer the people so that, through desperation (unfortunately) they would again look to Him.



**ACTIVITY:**  
Now put your own name in where 'Israel' is mentioned and see if it is still true!.

Obviously God doesn't raise up judges today to rescue us like He did for Israel so many years ago. But God does still use Christian friends, leaders (priests) and speakers to draw us back to Himself.

### Monday: Read 3: 1-7

- 1.) Which nations did the lord leave in the land? (Hint: v3)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) Why did the lord leave these people in the land?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) In verse 7 it states **"...the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the lord..."**  
What did they do?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) **Reflection:** Put yourself in the shoes of the children of Israel! Think of anything that you may have done that was 'evil in the sight of the lord'. What did you do about it? Did you feel bad? Did you go and have confession?

### Tuesday: Read 3:8-12

- 1.) How did God punish the children of Israel for their evil? (v 8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) For how many years were the Israelites in the hands of this king? (v 8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) Whom did the lord raise up to be their deliverer (First Judge)? (v 9)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON:** The Lord only raised up a judge to deliver them after he had HEARD THEIR CRY! God will never FORCE himself into your life. It is only when you cry out to Him and ask Him for help that He will intervene! If you let Him- He will move His Mighty HAND and shape ALL aspects of your LIFE. The only person stopping Him from doing this is YOU!!!

>>**God's POWER is near to the man who cries out from his heart.**<<

- 4.) For how many years was the First Judge leading the people? (v 11) \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday 3: 12-16**

Here we see the same cycle of SIN repeat itself. After the death of the first Judge, "...the children of the Lord AGAIN did EVIL in the sight of the Lord..."

1.) Which king did the Lord strengthen this time to defeat Israel? (v 12)

\_\_\_\_\_

2.) For how many years did the children of Israel serve this King? (v 14)

\_\_\_\_\_

3.) Again, the children of Israel cried out to the lord! Who did the lord raise up to deliver them? (Second Judge) v 15

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday 3: 16-31:**

1.) What is a unique characteristic about this second Judge? (Hint: has something to do with his hands)

\_\_\_\_\_

2.) What is characteristic about this king? (Hint: has something to do with his body) \_\_\_\_\_

3.) What did this second Judge make himself? (Hint: It is a weapon!)

\_\_\_\_\_

4.) Describe the weapon and where this judge placed it?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Friday 4: 1-23**

The endless cycle continued; once again the Israelites became corrupt, and when they turned back to The Lord, He provided them with a deliverer, in this case a prophetess who merely provided The Lord's instructions to the fighting men.

1.) Which King did the lord allow to take over this time?

\_\_\_\_\_

2.) For how many years did the this king harshly oppress the children of Israel?

\_\_\_\_\_

3.) Who is the Third Judge? (Hint: She was a prophetess, a Judge and a military leader)

\_\_\_\_\_

**"...for the lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a women..." 4:9**

4.) Complete the verse **"...the hand of the children of Israel grew \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_ king of Canaan, until they had \_\_\_\_\_ him." (4:24)**

**HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THE ENEMY???**

We read that Ehud made for himself a two-edged sword which he plunged into the belly of the king! So what instruction is there in this passage for you and me? And no, making weapons and taking the law into our own hands wasn't what I was thinking! Our double-edged sword is not man-made but has been given to us from above. Heb 4:12 *'For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit..'* Our sword is the word of God! And finally, we see from this passage in Judges that the enemy is defeated as the double-edged sword is thrust into the enemy's side. For us, (and especially when trials arise) this means using the word of God as Jesus did to defeat the enemy in the wilderness. It means declaring the truth of the word, declaring the promises of God. It means renewing your mind with its truth when the arrows of doubt from the enemy flood in. Submit yourself to God, resist the enemy (with the use of your sword!) and he will flee from you!

