

## Lesson 1

## Judges 1:1-2:19

### The Failure of Israel to Completely Drive Out the People (ch. 1)

1. Which two tribes cooperated in driving out some of the Canaanites?
2. What happened to Adoni-Bezek? What statement did he make about what God had done to him? (vv. 6-7).
3. What offer did Caleb make and who took him up on it?
4. Why was Judah unable to drive out the inhabitants of the lowland? (v. 19).
5. What key phrase is repeated throughout verses 21-36? What trouble would this cause Israel in the future?

### Angel Announces Judgment (2:1-5); Passing of Joshua's Generation (2:6-10); Apostasy After Joshua (2:11-15); Role of Judges (2:16-19)

6. In what way had Israel disobeyed God?
7. According to v. 3, what would be the consequences of their disobedience?
8. How long did Israel serve the Lord?
9. What happened after this period in which they served the Lord?
10. This generation did not know the Lord, so whom did they serve instead?
11. How did the Lord react to their idolatry?
12. Whom did God use to deliver His people from their enemies?
13. What attitude did Israel have toward these deliverers?
14. At what point would Israel revert to their corrupt ways?

## **Lesson 2**

## **Judges 2:20-3:31**

### **Enemy Nations Left as a Test for Israel (2:20-3:6)**

1. Give two reasons why God left these enemy nations within the land of Canaan.
2. Read the commandment given to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 7:3. Did they keep this commandment?

### **Early Judges (3:7-31)**

3. Who is listed as the first judge? From whom did he deliver the Israelites?
4. Where did we read about him before?
5. When did the children of Israel begin to do evil again?
6. Who became the next judge? From whom did he deliver the Israelites?
7. Briefly tell the story of how Ehud killed King Eglon.
8. How did Ehud rally the troops after he killed King Eglon? How many men of Moab did they kill?
9. How long did the land have rest after Moab was subdued?
10. Who became a judge after Ehud? What great feat did he perform?

## **Lesson 3**

## **Judges 4-5**

### **Deborah (ch. 4)**

1. When the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, how did He punish them?
2. Why did the children of Israel cry out to the Lord?

3. Where was Deborah's "office"? (vv. 4-5).
4. In addition to being a judge, Deborah was also a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Under what condition did Barak agree to go up against the army of Sisera?
6. How many men did Barak take with him?
7. "For the Lord will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman" (v. 9). Can you identify this woman?

### **Deborah and Barak's Song of Victory (ch. 5)**

8. To whom did Deborah and Barak give credit for victory? Give some verses to support your answer.
9. Read vv. 12-18 carefully. Which tribes helped in this battle and which ones did not?
10. Complete the following statement, "But let those who love him...."

## **Lesson 4**

## **Judges 6:1-7:8**

### **Oppression by the Midianites and Humiliation of Israel (6:1-6); The Prophet Rebukes Israel (6:7-10); Call of Gideon (6:11-32); Gathering of Armies (6:33-35); Signs of God's Presence (6:36-40)**

1. How did the Midianites oppress Israel?
2. Why was Israel being oppressed, according to the prophet? (vv. 8-10).
3. What was Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appeared to him?
4. The angel of the Lord tried to assure Gideon that the Lord was with him. Why did Gideon find that hard to believe?
5. What sign convinced Gideon that it was actually the angel of the Lord speaking to him?
6. What did Gideon have to do before carrying out the task he was given?

7. How did Gideon summon the troops? (vv. 33-35).
8. What further assurance did God give Gideon?

### **Gideon's Army (7:1-8)**

9. Explain how Gideon's army was reduced in size?
10. Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon's army? What lesson would be taught by this battle?

## **Lesson 5**

## **Judges 7:9-8:35**

### **Assurance of Victory (7:9-14); Attack on the Midianite Camp (7:15-23); Ephraim's Part in the War (7:24-8:3)**

1. How many were in the army of the enemy? (7:12; 8:10).
2. How does God provide Gideon with assurance of victory?
3. Describe the strategy used in defeating the Midianites.
4. What was Ephraim's part in this battle?

### **Pursuit of the Enemy (8:4-21); Gideon's Last Days (8:22-35)**

5. Is there any indication as to why the men of Succoth and Penuel would not help Israel?
6. How were Succoth and Penuel punished?
7. What was Gideon's life like after the defeat of the Midianites?

## **Lesson 6**

## **Judges 9-10**

### **Abimelech Made King (9:1-6); Jotham's Parable (9:7-21); Downfall and Death of Abimelech (9:22-57)**

1. What did Abimelech do to his brothers? Did any survive?

2. Explain why Jotham accused the men of Shechem for the death of his brothers (v. 18). Did they actually do the killing? See vv. 4, 23-24.
3. Who is the bramble in Jotham's parable or fable?
4. How was Shechem punished for its part in the murder of Jerubbaal's sons?
5. How did Abimelech meet his death?

**Tola (10:1-2); Jair (10:3-5); Israel's Misery (10:6-18)**

6. What reason is given for Israel's troubles?
7. What two nations were oppressing Israel at this time?
8. Why did God say, "I will deliver you no more"? (v. 13).
9. What brought God to the point where "His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel"? (v. 16).
10. What did the leaders of Gilead meet to discuss?

**Lesson 7**

**Judges 11-12**

**Jephthah Made Head of Gilead (11:1-11); Jephthah's Negotiations with the Ammonites (11:12-28); Jephthah's Vow and Victory Over the Ammonites (11:29-40)**

1. With what request did the elders of Gilead approach Jephthah?
2. What was Jephthah's immediate reaction? (v. 7).
3. Under what condition then did Jephthah agree to fight? (vv. 8-10).
4. What reason did the Ammonites give for their invasion of Israelite territory?
5. List some of the arguments Jephthah made to support Israel's claim to the land east of the Jordan.

6. What vow did Jephthah make? Did he fulfill this vow?

**War Between Gilead and Ephraim (12:1-6); Death of Jephthah (12:7); Ibzan (12:8-10);  
Elon (12:11-12); Abdon (12:13-15)**

7. What was Ephraim's complaint?

8. How did Jephthah respond to the complaint?

9. What significance did the word "Shibboleth" play in this confrontation between Gilead and Ephraim?

10. Who judged Israel after Jephthah? How many children did he have?

11. Who was the next judge and for how long did he judge?

12. Who followed Elon?

## **Lesson 8**

## **Judges 13-14**

### **Birth of Samson (ch. 13)**

1. According to v. 5, Samson would be a Nazirite. Explain what that means, using this passage and others from the Old Testament.

2. How many children did Manoah and his wife already have?

3. According to v. 6, what plans did God have for Samson?

4. What was Manoah's prayer to God concerning this promised son?

5. What question did Manoah ask the Angel of God about their promised son? (v. 12).

6. Of what was Manoah afraid? What did his wife say to reassure him?

### **Marriage of Samson (ch. 14)**

7. Whom did Samson want for a wife?

8. How did Samson's parents react to this desire?
9. What happened when a young lion came up against Samson?
10. What riddle did Samson pose to the Philistines? How did they solve the riddle?
11. What did Samson say to these men when they gave him the answer to the riddle?
12. What happened when the "Spirit of the Lord came upon" Samson?
13. To whom was Samson's wife given?

## **Lesson 9**

## **Judges 15-16**

### **Samson and the Philistines (ch. 15)**

1. Why did Samson get upset with the Philistines?
2. How did Samson express his anger? (vv. 4-5).
3. What did the Philistines do to Samson's wife and her father?
4. What was Samson's reaction?
5. How did Samson explain his actions toward the Philistines? (v. 11).
6. How did Samson kill 1000 Philistine men?
7. How did God provide water for Samson?
8. How long did Samson judge Israel?

### **Samson's Downfall and Death (ch. 16)**

9. What offer did the lords of the Philistines make to Delilah?

10. Describe what Delilah went through before she was finally able to get the truth out of Samson.
11. When the Philistines were finally able to capture Samson, what did they do to him? (v. 21).
12. What happened to Samson's hair while he was in prison?
13. Describe how Samson died.

## **Lesson 10**

## **Judges 17-18**

### **Micah's Idols (17:1-6); Micah's Levite Priest (17:7-13)**

1. What plans did Micah's mother make for the silver that he returned?
2. What philosophy of life guided Israel at this time? (v. 6).
3. What was the young Levite looking for?
4. What offer did Micah make to the Levite and did the Levite accept?
5. Why was Micah now sure that the Lord would be good to him?

### **Capture of Laish by the Danites (ch. 18)**

6. How did men from Dan come in contact with Micah and his priest?
7. What information did they seek from Micah's priest? (v. 3).
8. For what reason did they want the priest to inquire of the Lord?
9. What did the men from Dan take from Micah's household?
10. How was Micah's priest persuaded to go along with the men from Dan?
11. What new name was given to the city of Laish?

## Lesson 11

## Judges 19-21

### The Cause of the Benjamite War (ch. 19)

1. What did a “certain Levite” take for himself?
2. According to v. 2, what did this concubine do “against him”?
3. Did he go after her?
4. Describe the terrible incident that took place in Gibeah. Can you recall an incident similar to this one? See Genesis 19:1-11.
5. What dramatic action did the Levite take toward this concubine? Why did he do this?

### War With Benjamin (ch. 20)

6. Was an effort made to settle the dispute without war?
7. What were the sizes of the two opposing forces? (vv. 15-17).
8. Did Israel with its superior numbers easily defeat Benjamin? Describe what happened.

### Aftermath of the War (ch. 21)

9. What rash vow did Israel make concerning Benjamin that they later regretted?
10. In what two ways did they decide to solve the problem created by this vow?

## Lesson 12

## Ruth 1-2

### Sojourn in Moab (1:1-5); Naomi and Ruth (1:6-18); Return to Judah (1:19-22)

1. When did the events of the book take place?
2. Identify the following people: Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion and Ruth.
3. Why did Elimelech take his family to Moab?

4. How did Ruth react when Naomi pleaded with her to return to Moab?
5. Why did Naomi say, “Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara”? (v. 20).

### **Gleaning the Field of Boaz (ch. 2)**

6. How did God provide for poor people? Besides this chapter, read Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-22.
7. Who was Boaz and how did he treat Ruth?
8. What reason did Boaz give for treating Ruth favorably?
9. How did Naomi react when Ruth told her about Boaz?
10. Looking back over these two chapters, list some good characteristics revealed about Ruth.

## **Lesson 13**

## **Ruth 3-4**

### **The Part of a Kinsman or Close Relative (ch. 3) Helpful background passages: Leviticus 25:10, 13-17, 23-28; Deuteronomy 25:5-10**

1. What did Naomi want to do for Ruth? What was her plan to accomplish this?
2. What was Ruth asking Boaz to do in v. 9?
3. What was it about Ruth that so impressed Boaz? (vv. 10-11).

### **Ruth and Boaz Get Married (ch. 4)**

4. What was necessary before Boaz could marry Ruth?
5. What blessing did the people pronounce upon Ruth? (vv. 11-12).
6. What did the Lord give Ruth?
7. Who served as the child’s nurse?

8. Who named the child and what name did they give him?
9. What “famous” man descended from Ruth and Boaz?
10. Looking back over the Book of Ruth, list some good characteristics revealed about Boaz.