

Lesson 69

Israel Turns to Idols

Israel began a cycle of disobedience, punishment, and repentance.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Lesson Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and praise our great God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.
What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? The Ten Commandments.
What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? The Israelites.
Who were the Israelites? The descendants of Israel (Jacob).

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next. Pre-K Lesson follows.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In this lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua divided the land for each of the families, or tribes, of Israel. God let them move in and enjoy living in the cities that they didn't have to build and eating fruit from trees they didn't have to plant—they were already there!

Some of their enemies were still living in the land, so there were still some battles that had to be won. God helped Caleb fight the giants for his land in the hill country.

After the Israelites lived in the land of Canaan for a while, something happened, and it kept happening over and over, for many years—it was a cycle.

What does that mean, a cycle? Allow guesses.

I'm going to pass out some pictures to some of you to help us understand what "cycle" means.

Have Cycle Pictures, tape or poster putty, and instructions ready. Pass out the Cycle Pictures to several students. Use the Cycle Pictures and instructions to discuss the idea of a cycle (repeating the same actions over and over). Then continue with the lesson.

Israel's Cycle in Judges

Joshua stayed faithful to God for his whole life, and then he died at the age of 110. That's old! The Israelites followed the Lord, too, as long as Joshua and the other leaders were alive. But as the younger people grew up, they were not taught about God and all the miracles he had done. Sadly, they did not know or trust the Lord.

God still wanted them to obey his commandments. He had chosen the Israelites as his people and wanted them to worship him alone, to love him, and to serve him faithfully.

Other people who were living near the Israelites worshipped idols and false gods, and they invited the Israelites to worship their idols, too. And they did! Oh no! They turned away from the one true God who had helped them so much.

Judges 2:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read about it in the book of Judges. I'm going to read from chapter 2. Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. How did God feel when the Israelites worshipped these false gods? He was angry.

God was angry because of their sin. Because he is holy and just, God had to punish them. God brought enemies against Israel to attack them and come in and steal their food and all their things. It was awful! They were in terrible trouble!

Judges 2:16

But listen to this. Tell me what God did when the Israelites turned back to him and cried out for help. Read Judges 2:16.

Who would God raise up to save the people? Judges.

These judges weren't like a judge in a courtroom. They were leaders God chose to rescue the Israelites by fighting against their enemies. God was merciful, so he helped the judge save the people when they turned back to God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This happened over and over: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But, guess what! It didn't end there. Whenever God gave the Israelites peace and safety, they would forget what God had done for them and turn back to worshipping idols. This started the whole cycle again— round and round, over and over!

How many years do you think this went on? Any guesses? Write guesses on the board.

The Israelites kept doing these same things again and again, for about 300 years! Write 300 on the board.

Idolatry Today

Show the Lesson Illustration. Do you remember the Ten Commandments? The Israelites kept going back to their idols and forgetting about God. They were breaking the first two commandments. Let's read those. Read the text under the first two and repeat them together.

The Israelites were not putting God first; they turned away from him. And they were not worshipping the one true God like they should. They were bowing down to idols and worshipping false gods.

It was a terrible thing they did, wasn't it? But did you know that we can do the same thing? We have the same sin problem. We may not worship or bow down to statues like the Israelites did, but we can have idols if we're not careful. Whenever we make anything more important than God, it can become an idol, and we can end up breaking God's commandments, too.

Have items in a box ready to show.

Let's think about some idols we might have today. Who would like to help me? Choose volunteers to take the items out of the box one at a time. Discuss how each item could become an idol.

These things are not bad—God often blesses us with many of them. But we must be careful not to let them turn into something we care about more than we care about God.

This is a good lesson we can learn from the Israelites. In the time of the Judges, they let other things become more important than God. We don't want that to happen to us. So, let's ask God to help us be very careful to make sure God comes first in our lives every day.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In the last lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua divided the land for each of the families, or tribes, of Israel. God let them move in and enjoy living in the cities that they didn't have to build and eating fruit from trees they didn't have to plant—they were already there!

Some of their enemies were still living in the land, so there were still some battles that had to be won. God even helped Caleb fight the giants for his land in the hill country.

After the Israelites lived in the land of Canaan for a while, something happened—and it kept happening over and over, for many years. It was a cycle.

What does that mean—a cycle? Allow discussion.

I'm going to pass out some pictures to some of you to help us understand what we mean by the word cycle.

Have Cycle Pictures, tape or poster putty, and instructions ready. Pass out the Cycle Pictures to several students. Use the Cycle Pictures and instructions to discuss the idea of a cycle (repeating the same actions over and over). Then continue with the lesson.

Israel's Cycle in Judges

Joshua stayed faithful to God for his whole life, and then he died at the age of 110. The Israelites followed the Lord, too, as long as Joshua and the other leaders were alive. But as the younger people grew up, they were not taught about all the miracles God had done. Sadly, they did not know or trust the Lord.

God still loved them and wanted them to obey his commandments. He had chosen the Israelites as his people and wanted them to worship him, love him, and serve him faithfully.

Some of the people from Canaan were still living in the land. They worshipped idols and false gods, and they invited the Israelites to worship their idols, too. Then it happened—the Israelites began worshipping these idols, and soon they turned away from the one true God who had helped them so much.

Judges 2:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read from the book of Judges. I'm going to read from chapter 2. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

How did God feel when Israel worshipped these false gods? He was angry.

God was angry because of Israel's sin. Because he is holy and just, God had to punish them. God did not help Israel fight their enemies anymore. Instead, God brought enemies against Israel to attack them and come in and steal their food and all their things. It was awful! They were in terrible trouble!

Judges 2:16

But listen to this. Tell me what God did when the Israelites turned back to him and cried out for help. Read Judges 2:16.

Who would God raise up to save the people? Judges.

These judges weren't like a judge in a courtroom. They were leaders God chose to rescue the Israelites by fighting against their enemies. God was

merciful, so he helped the judge save the people when they turned back to God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This was a cycle that happened over and over: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But, guess what! It didn't end there. Whenever God gave the Israelites peace and safety, they would forget what God had done for them and turn back to worshipping idols. This started the whole cycle again—round and round, over and over!

How many years do you think this went on? Any guesses? Write guesses on the board.

The Israelites kept doing these same things again and again, for about 300 years! Write 300 on the board.

Judges 3:7

I'm going to read about the very first judge God chose to lead the people. Listen for the parts of the cycle on the Lesson Flip Chart. Read Judges 3:7.

Refer to picture #1 on the Lesson Flip Chart. The people of Israel did what in the sight of the Lord? Evil.

Who did they forget? The Lord their God.

Refer to the picture in the cycle on the Lesson Flip Chart as you discuss each verse.

Judges 3:8

Then what happened? Listen to the next verse . Read verse 8.

How did God feel about this? He was angry.

Yes. God loved Israel and wanted them to obey him. So when they disobeyed, he punished them—not to be mean but to help them learn that they should not sin so they would turn back to him.

Refer to picture #2 on the Lesson Flip Chart. This time, God punished Israel by sending the king of Mesopotamia to come and take over. How long did this king rule over Israel and make them serve him? Eight years.

Judges 3:9

Now let's hear about the next part of the cycle. Listen to this verse. Read verse 9.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

What did the people finally do? Who did they cry out to? The Lord.

Refer to picture #3 on the Lesson Flip Chart. Israel cried out to the Lord. That means they prayed and asked God for forgiveness and help. That was

what God was waiting for.

Refer to picture #4 on the Lesson Flip Chart. God raised up a judge, or deliverer. What was his name? Othniel.

This first judge God raised up was Othniel. God chose Othniel to go to war against the king of Mesopotamia. Othniel led the Israelites in battle, and God helped them win again!

Refer to picture #5 on the Lesson Flip Chart. After that, Othniel led Israel for 40 years of peace and rest.

But was that the end of it? No. This went on for 300 years, over and over again.

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Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 149.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help.

Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions
Three chairs set out for bases
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

- Review Questions
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that

question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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Bible Version

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