



BASED ON JUDGES 3:12-30

LEFT-HANDED RESCUE



AN EHUD
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
FOR AGES 11-14

How to Use This Book

Welcome to an adventure where YOU step into Ehud's sandals.

How it works:

- Start at Section 1
- Read each section carefully
- When you reach a choice, decide what YOU would do
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending.

Some paths lead to compromise, some to fear, and some to courage and freedom.

Tips:

- You can read this alone or as a group (vote on choices together).
- Try different paths to see how the story changes.
- Pay attention to what happens when Ehud listens to God's call versus when he plays it safe.
- Keep a Bible open to Judges 3:12–30 as you read.

Remember: God used a left-handed, unexpected deliverer to rescue His people.

Oppressed Again

Section 1

You are Ehud, a Benjamite, known as a left-handed man. Your people, Israel, have turned away from God again, and God has allowed King Eglon of Moab to conquer the land.

For eighteen years, Israel has been forced to serve this heavy, powerful king. Taxes are high. Shame is heavy. People grumble, complain, and sometimes cry out to the Lord—but life goes on in chains.

One day, the leaders choose you to bring a tribute (a kind of tax-gift) to King Eglon. It is dangerous but important. On the outside, you look like just another messenger. Inside, you feel a growing fire: this cannot go on forever.

You begin to wonder: could God use someone like you to change this?

What do you do?

- If you decide to just deliver the tribute and come home, staying out of trouble, go to **Section 2**.
- If you quietly begin to prepare for something more, crafting a plan as you go, go to **Section 3**.

Playing It Safe

Section 2

You carry the tribute with the others, bow before Eglon, and present everything required. You keep your head down, avoid eye contact, and say only what is expected.

Nothing changes.

You go home alive, but the people stay under Moab's thumb. Life continues in quiet misery. You tell yourself, "*At least I didn't make things worse,*" but in your heart you know you also didn't make them any better.

END 1 – “Safe but Still in Chains”

The Hidden Dagger

Section 3

Before you leave home, you make a double-edged sword and hide it on your right thigh. As you travel, you feel its weight and the weight of what it could mean.

When you see Eglon's wealth and your people's fear, the plan in your mind suddenly feels real—and dangerous. If you fail, you die. If you succeed, you start a war.

What do you do?

- If you decide God wouldn't really ask you to risk this much and shove the plan down, go to **Section 2**.
- If you decide that costly obedience is still obedience and you keep the plan alive, go to **Section 4**.

Turning Back Alone

Section 4

You send the others home and walk back alone. The closer you get, the more you realize that if this goes wrong, people won't say "*Ehud was brave*"—they'll say "*Ehud was reckless and crazy.*"

Inside the palace, you can feel the eyes of guards who could easily kill you if they sense anything off. No one will understand your choice until after it works—if it works at all.

What do you do?

- If you decide you'd rather be seen as "wise and calm" than risk being judged as reckless, go to **Section 5**.
- If you decide you'd rather obey God and be misunderstood than stay safe and respected, go to **Section 6**.

Words Without Action

Section 5

You say, “*I have a secret message for you, O king,*” and then you give him some vague, harmless words—perhaps advice about ruling wisely or a warning about rumors of rebellion.

Eglon listens, shrugs, and dismisses you. You walk out alive, heart pounding with what you almost did.

On the way home, the weight of your unused dagger presses against your thigh like a question: “*What did you come back for?*”

You return to your people with empty hands and a heavier heart. The oppression continues.

END 2 – “Almost a Deliverer”

The Strike

Section 6

You strike Eglon, lock the doors, and walk out. Your heart is pounding; you've crossed a line you can't uncross.

As you escape toward the hills, you realize you could disappear now—save yourself, survive the chaos, and let someone else deal with the fallout. Or you can blow the trumpet and publicly attach your name to this rebellion, risking failure, blame, and your own death.

What do you do?

- If you decide to vanish into safety and hope “someone else” will lead, go to **Section 7**.
- If you decide freedom is worth putting your life and reputation on the line, go to **Section 8**.

Secret Hero, Silent People

Section 7

You blow the trumpet only once, half-heartedly, then slip into the hills and hide. A few close friends may hear the story, but most people do not.

Without a clear call to action, Israel stays scattered and afraid. The shock of Eglon's death causes chaos, but the Moabites reorganize and tighten their control.

You saved yourself and struck a blow, but without leading others, the victory fades and the people remain mostly bound.

END 3 – “Strike Without Freedom”

The Call to Fight

Section 8

You blow the trumpet loudly. Your voice rings out: *“Follow me, for the Lord has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands!”*

Men begin to gather from the hills. Word spreads quickly: Eglon is dead. God has raised up a deliverer. Something is happening.

You lead the people down and seize the fords of the Jordan, the crossing places so the Moabites cannot escape or bring reinforcements. A battle erupts. About ten thousand strong, able-bodied Moabite men fall—none escape.

That day, Moab is subdued under Israel’s hand. The land has peace for eighty years.

You are not just a man with a hidden dagger anymore. You are a judge, a deliverer God used to set His people free.

Still, you know your story could have gone differently at many points.

END 4 – “Leader of Freedom”

A Different Beginning

Section 9

Imagine if, before any tribute mission, you had heard the cries of your people and simply shrugged. “*This is just how it is,*” you might have said. “*God must be fine with us staying under Moab.*”

You never sharpen a sword. You never volunteer. You never even agree to carry tribute. You avoid all risk. Years pass. Generations grow up only knowing slavery. Your name fades into history as just another Israelite who did nothing.

God still saves His people eventually—but not through you.

END 5 – “The Name No One Remembers”

All the Endings

Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – “Safe but Still in Chains”**
 - Doing nothing is still a decision, and “safe” can quietly cooperate with injustice.
- **END 2 – “Almost a Deliverer”**
 - Good intentions without follow-through can still leave people stuck.
- **END 3 – “Strike Without Freedom”**
 - Real courage keeps going past the first bold moment and invites others into the change.
- **END 4 – “Leader of Freedom”**
 - God often uses people who accept both the cost of obedience and the responsibility of influence.
- **END 5 – “The Name No One Remembers”**
 - God’s plans will still move forward—but you can miss the joy of being part of them.

Challenge: Can you find all 5 endings? Try different paths and see how Ehud's choices changed everything!

Five Truths You Can Carry

- **TRUTH 1: Doing nothing is a choice.**
 - When you see something wrong and stay silent, you are still making a decision about whose side you're on.
- **TRUTH 2: Obedience often feels costly before it feels heroic.**
 - Most of the time you won't feel like a "Bible hero"—you'll feel scared, awkward, or misunderstood when you do the right thing.
- **TRUTH 3: Partial courage brings partial freedom.**
 - Starting to do the right thing but backing out halfway usually helps a little but leaves a lot of people still stuck.
- **TRUTH 4: God can use what makes you "different."**
 - Ehud's left-handedness looked like a weakness, but it became the exact way God worked through him; your quirks and limits can become tools in God's hands.
- **TRUTH 5: Real leadership is serving at a cost.**
 - Blowing the trumpet meant Ehud put his life and name on the line for others; leading like Jesus means risking comfort so others can taste freedom.

Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

1. Which ending did you get first, and how did it make you feel?
 - a. Did it feel like a win, a loss, or something in between? Why?
2. Where do you see fear driving Ehud's choices in the weaker endings?
 - a. What does fear sound like in your head in real life?
3. "Almost a Deliverer" shows Ehud turning back but then backing down.
 - a. When have you started to do the right thing but pulled back at the last minute?
4. Why is END 4 ("Leader of Freedom") different from END 3 ("Strike Without Freedom")?
 - a. What does that say about acting alone vs. leading others?
5. Ehud's "left-handedness" made him seem less threatening but became his advantage.
 - a. What is one thing about you that feels like a weakness that God could turn into a strength?
6. In Judges, Israel keeps cycling through sin → slavery → crying out → rescue.
 - a. Where do you see similar cycles in your own life or in your world?

Prayer

Lord God,

Thank You for the story of Ehud and how You used someone unexpected to set Your people free. Help me see the places where I've been "safe but still in chains," where fear or comfort keeps me from stepping into what You're asking me to do.

Give me wisdom to prepare quietly, courage to take lonely steps of obedience, and love to lead others toward freedom and not just act for myself. Show me how the parts of me that feel "left-handed" or different can actually be tools in Your hands.

Teach me to hear Your call, to move when You say move, and to trust that You are bigger than any Eglon in my life. Use my life in ways that point people to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Created for ages 11-14 | Based on Judges 3:12-30



Contact

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Step into Ehud's sandals as a left-handed messenger sent to a brutal king. Along the way, you will face choices between fear and courage, secrecy and leadership, comfort and calling.

Inside, you'll:

- walk through multiple possible endings
- discover wisdom for making risky decisions
- be challenged to let God use even your "weaknesses" to bring freedom in your world.

Scripture basis:

Judges 3:12-30

Recommended age:

11-14

"Again the Israelites cried out to the Lord, and he gave them a deliverer—Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite."

Judges 3:15

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