

**MAIN POINT:**

Follow God: He Makes a Way

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"I will guide you and teach you the way you should go. I will give you good advice and watch over you."*  
Psalm 32:8

**BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:**

After Joshua and the people of his generation died, God's people stopped following God. They started worshipping other gods, false gods. Because of their disobedience, God allowed them to be taken over by other nations so that their hearts would turn back to Him. When the Israelites kept turning from God, God didn't want to leave them there. He wanted to help them so that's why He sent judges to lead them. This time was known as the time of the judges. There were lots of different judges and they served as leaders to their people. If you read the book of Judges, you'll notice a pattern. The Israelites would turn away from God and sin, God would send a judge to turn them back to Him, and then they would follow God for a little while. Then that judge would die and they would turn away from God again. Over and over the pattern continued for more than 400 years! But over and over, God made a way for His people to come back to Him, because He desired a relationship with His people. The time of the judges ended when the people told God they wanted a king like other nations had. God was going to give them a King someday. That is what He had promised when He promised to send Jesus. And then God would make a way for His people to have a relationship with Him forever.

**WATCH IT**

Find the lesson video on our website: <https://cchurch.ca/childrens-online>

**DO IT → JUDGES TRADING CARDS**

**Supplies:**

- Judges trading cards (1 set per child)
- Pencil crayons

**Activity Instructions:**

- Print and cut out cards. Have your child colour their cards as desired.

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### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Do this section with your child while they are colouring their cards.

- 1. Take a look at your trading cards. Which judge is your favourite judge and why?** (You like their name, they have a cool story, they reigned the longest, etc. Share your opinion too!)
- 2. Have you ever been stuck in a cycle where you keep making the same mistake over and over? God uses the Holy Spirit, and wise people in our life to show us ways out of our sin and mistakes. He wants us to choose wisely! Share a situation when someone helped you make a wise choice that helped you not continue a cycle of sin.** (Parent taught you to deep breathe and calm down when you're feeling full of rage and yelling. God reminded you that you needed to ask before you took something that wasn't yours. Teacher helped you tell the truth instead of choosing to lie.)
- 3. God used the judges to help Israel make wise choices, by being the leaders over them. We can help others make wise choices too, when we help them choose the right way, which is God's way. What are some situations where you can be a leader to help someone else get out of a cycle of sin?** (When you see someone being mean to someone else, you can stand up for the person who's being picked on, and be their friend. When your friends are gossiping about someone, you can encourage them to only say positive things, like something they like about that person.)

### **FAMILY PRAYER:**

**Dear God, thank You that You make a way. Thank You that You can help us make wise choices. Thank You that You have given us the Holy Spirit and other people who can show us Your way. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### **OFFERING:**

Our offering for the months of July to September is going to a partner church in SE Asia to help farmers with micro-farming of chickens and frogs.

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**Elion**  
Judges 12:11-12



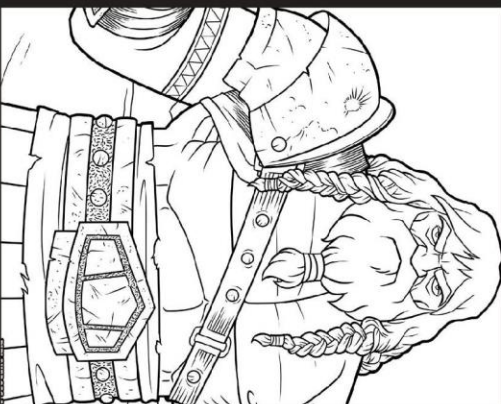
**Jair**  
Judges 10:3-5



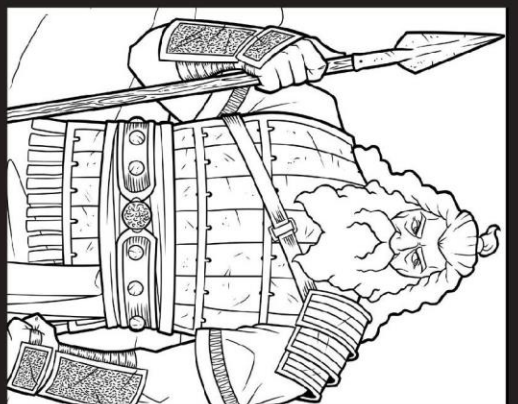
**Abdon**  
Judges 12:13-15



**Jephthah**  
Judges 10:6-12:7



**Samson**  
Judges 13-16



**Ibzan**  
Judges 12:8-10

## Shamgar

### Did you know?

There's only one verse about him

He struck down 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (an ancient cattle prod)

An oxgoad is basically an 8 foot wooden rod with a metal spike on the end

## Ehud

### Did you know?

His name means "where's the glory?"

Was a skilled left-handed warrior

Deceived King Eglon's guards to sneak a sword into the king's chamber, said he had a "secret message" for the king, plunged his sword into the king's belly fat, the king's servants thought he was in the bathroom, and in the confusion, Ehud's army conquered the king's army

The land was in peace for 80 years

## Othniel

### Did you know?

He was Israel's first judge

He was related to Caleb, one of the 12 spies sent into Canaan

When he ruled, the land was in peace for 40 years

## Toia

### Did you know?

From the tribe of Issachar and his grandfather was named Dodo

Lead Israel for 23 years

The Bible says that Toia "rose to save Israel," but we don't know what they were saved from

## Gideon

### Did you know?

One of the most important and well-known leaders

There are more verses about him than any other judge

Tore down idols to the false god Baal so was also called Jerubbbaal

Led Israel to war against the Midianites with an army of 22,000 men, but God chose just 300 of the men and they won the battle by making noise so that the other army got confused and fled

The land had peace for 40 years

## Deborah

### Did you know?

The only female judge

Was also a prophetess

Her name means "honey bee"

She freed the Israelites from King Jabin and then wrote The Song of Deborah to celebrate what God had done, and it's probably one of the oldest passages in the Bible



## **Ibzan** Did you know?

The Bible doesn't mention Ibzan fighting any battles or winning against any enemies

He led Israel for 7 years

He had 30 sons and 30 daughters and he made them marry people outside of his tribe, probably to try to extend his influence

He was buried in Bethlehem

## **Jephthah** Did you know?

Was driven out of his home land of Gilead by his half-brothers

When his brothers were in trouble, they called him back because he was a mighty warrior

Made a foolish vow, saved the Israelites, then did something terrible and sacrificed his daughter because of his vow

Won the battle against the 42,000 men of Ephraim and then led Israel for 6 years before he died

## **Jair** Did you know?

He had 30 sons

The 30 sons rode on 30 donkeys

The 30 sons controlled 30 towns called the "towns of Jair"

Led Israel for 22 years

## **Samson** Did you know?

God told him not to cut his hair, and that the Spirit of the Lord would make him very strong

He struck down 1000 Philistines using the jaw bone of a donkey

Was tricked by Delila to cut his hair, and then lost his strength

God gave him back his strength, he ripped out the pillars of the temple, and it collapsed, killing 3000 Philistines as well as Samson

Led Israel for 22 years

## **Abdon** Did you know?

Abdon's name means "formed on the roof" and the ending suggests "service"

Led Israel for 8 years

Had 40 sons and 30 grandsons who rode 70 donkeys

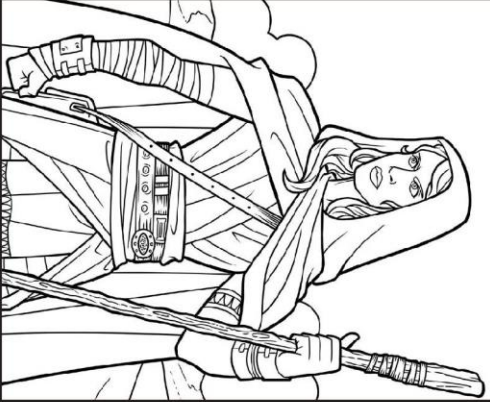
## **Elon** Did you know?

Elon's name means a type of tree, either "oak" or "terebinth"

He led Israel for 10 years

From the tribe of Zebulun

The Bible says the least about him as a judge



**Deborah**  
Judges 4:1-23



**Othniel**  
Judges 3: 7-11



**Gideon**  
Judges 6:1-8:28



**Ehud**  
Judges 3:12-30



**Tola**  
Judges 10:1-2



**Shamgar**  
Judges 3:31