JUDGES

Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Boaz from the books of Judges and Ruth

Author: Eleanor Delport

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There was no king

in Israel

at that time

all the people did

just as they pleased

Judges 17v6

SESSION 1
DEBORAH

Big idea: When God's people cry out for help, He answers and raises up a deliverer/champion/judge to save them.

Introduce the kids to the story wheel and the cycle of stories in the book of Judges.

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5-9 years

SESSION 1: DEBORAH

WELCOME

INTRO

Use the Bible timeline to help the children see where they are in the overall story of the Bible.

The Bible is a collection of books that together tell the story of how God created the world and made human beings to be His children and know His love. Very early in the story, however, people turned away from God's good plan and chose to run from God. God is like a loving father, who keeps searching out His children and rescuing them so they can come home to Him. The whole Bible points to God sending His Son Jesus to come and rescue us.

The book of Judges comes early in the story of the Bible, after God has chosen a people group called the Israelites to be shine His light in the world and has rescued them from Egypt and brought them into the promised land with leaders called Moses and Joshua. Joshua was good and wise and loved God, but after he died, the Israelites started to forget about God and turn from Him again.

BIBLE STORY – JUDGES 4, DEBORAH Use the story wheel (see explanation) as a prop to help tell the different stages of the story or use it to recap the main parts of the story once you have acted it out.

CHAMPION CHALLENGE – Target Practice

SNACK AND PRAYER - God always helps us when we turn to Him. Pray that God would help you with any challenges you face this week.

MEMORY VERSE

We are going to learn this Bible verse.

There was no king in Israel at that time; all the people did just as they pleased Judges 17v6

EXPLORE THE STORY / PLAY OUTSIDE / CRAFT

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STORY WHEEL

The book of judges goes round a story cycle several times becoming more and more extreme with each rotation leading to a desperate need for a king that will rescue them from their enemies and also deliver them from the evil of their own sin.

Step 1: Blessing. Joshua led the people into the promised land and while they turn to God, they have rest, food, water, peace and blessing

Step 2: After a while, the people forget that blessing comes for Yahweh, the God of Israel and they sin against God and turn to worship false gods called idols

Step 3: The consequence of turning away from God is that they lose the blessings that He gives them. They experience famine, drought, war and death

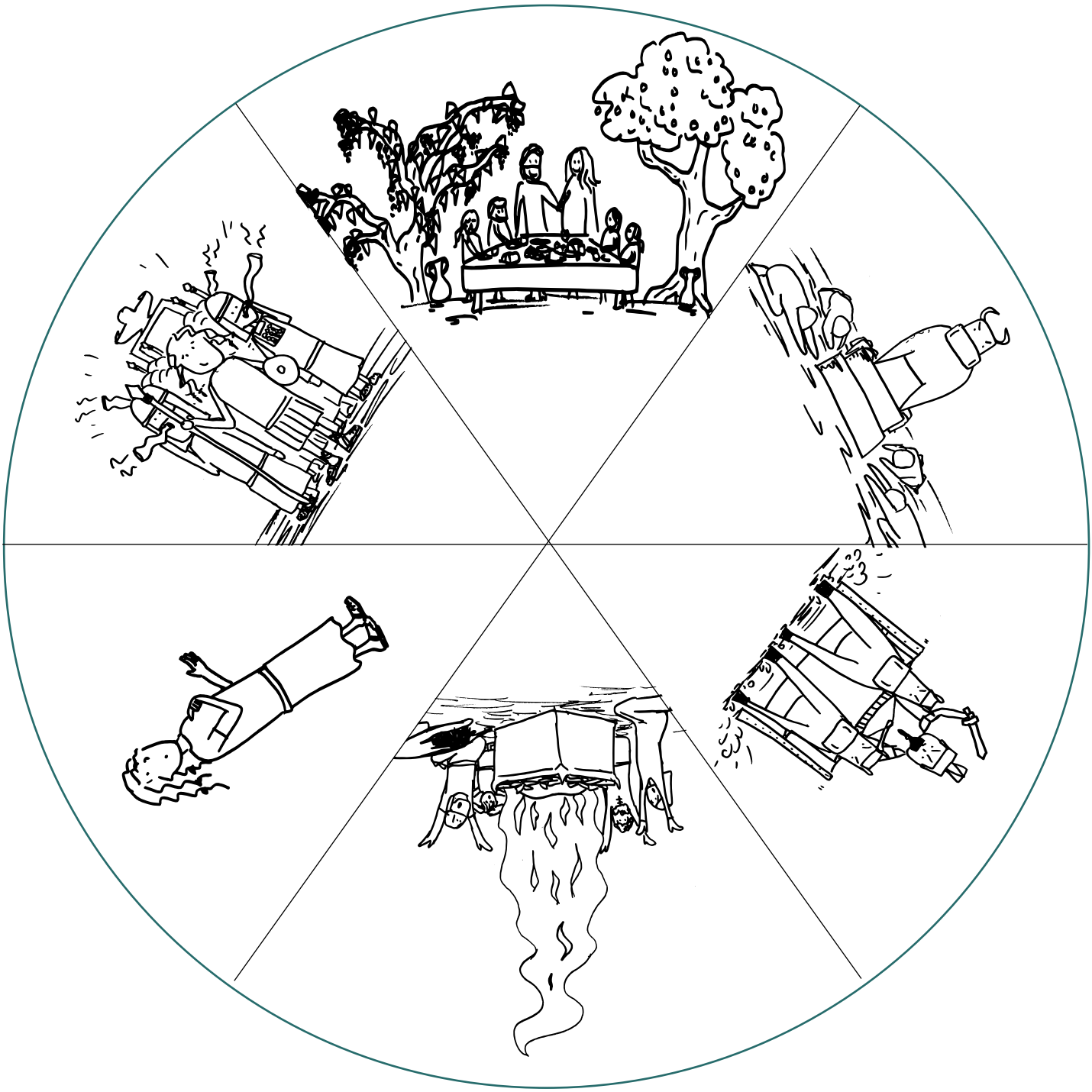
Step 4: Eventually the people of Israel or a particular tribe turn back to God in prayer, crying out for rescue

Step 5: God sends a rescuer, a champion called a judge

Step 6: the champion or judge delivers them from their enemies and they return to step 1

Step 1: they have peace and blessing for a time

This cycle repeats throughout the book and a similar cycle can be found, though not in a military form, in the book of Ruth, with Ruth and Boaz being the champions that bring Naomi back into the blessing of God. The book of Ruth is “at the time of the Judges” and leads to David, the king Israel is waiting for, being born. This series will go through the stories of Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Jephthah and Ruth and Boaz and is intended to lead either into the series on David, Samuel or one of the Gospel series.



5-9 years

STORY: DEBORAH

Use the story wheel to help you tell the story or use it to recap the story after you have read it or acted it out.

Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land. Joshua and his generation had seen God do amazing things like bringing the walls of Jericho down and fighting against Israel's enemies with hailstones from heaven, but eventually Joshua and his generation died and people forgot that it was only by God's help and blessing that they had come to live in the promised land.

People started to turn to other idols and worshipped false gods. They did all kinds of evil. God had warned them that, if they turned from Him, instead of receiving rain and a good harvest and peace in their lands, they would have drought, famine and war. They did not listen to this warning and a terrible army came against them.

The Israelites were being ruled over by Jabin king of the Canaanites and he had a fearsome army commander, slippery snaky Sisera. Sisera had 900 chariots and all the Israelites were afraid of him. Finally, they cried out to God for help.

God helped them by raising up a judge called Deborah. She sat beneath a palm tree was a prophetess, which meant that she talked to God and shared what God said with others. Whenever the Israelites needed wise judgement, they would come to her for help.

One day, God told Deborah to call for a man called Barak. She told Barak "God says to take 10000 men with you to Mount Tabor. God will draw Sisera and all of his chariots and troops out to meet you in battle and God will give Sisera and all his army into your hand."

Barak was not sure about the plan. He said to Deborah, "if you go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." Deborah said she would go with him, but he would get no glory from the victory. God would give the honour of killing Sisera to a woman instead.

They went up to Mount Tabor with 10000 troops as the Lord had commanded. When Sisera heard that Barak was at Mount Tabor, he summoned his 900 terrifying chariots and his enormous army to fight the Israelites, but God went before Barak and they crushed Sisera's army.

Sisera ran away from the battle field and came to the tent of a lady called Jael, who was related to Moses' brother-in-law. She pretended to help slippery snaky Sisera, but she tricked him and killed him.

The Israelites fought against the rest of King Jabin's army and destroyed them. The Israelites had rest for 40 years while Deborah was the judge, prophetess and champion of Israel.

Deborah led the Israelites in singing a song of victory and worship to God.

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5-9 years

CHAMPION CHALLENGE: TARGET PRACTICE

Equipment:

2 Beanbags, 12 plastic cups, cones to mark the arena, score board

1. Divide into two teams and line up at starting lines
2. Balance 6 upturned cups opposite each team as targets stacked with three on the bottom, then 2 on the next row, then 1 on top
3. Stand one teammate (this could be a leader or an older child) behind the cups as a backstop
4. Count 1, 2, 3, Go! On Go! The first child from each line takes their teams bean bag and throws it at the cups
5. The backstop throws it back and the next person has a turn
6. When all the cups are knocked down, mark one point for the team, restack the cups and let the children to continue to take turns throwing beanbags. You could get the backstop to restack the cups and/or a leader could help them
7. At the end, the team that has had their cups restacked the most times, because they have knocked all 6 down, wins the game

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5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a a hill, an army, musicians

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why do you think the Israelites turned from God?
2. Why do you think they turned to Him?
3. What did God do to rescue them?

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DEBORAH SANG TO THE LORD CRAFT: SHAKER

You could use yoghurt pots, rice, tape, paper and stickers to make and decorate a shaker to praise the Lord

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SESSION 2
GIDEON

Big idea: God can be trusted, tests increase faith

Gideon struggled to believe that God could be trusted so he tested God. God wanted Gideon's and the Israelites' faith to grow, so He tested them too.

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5-9 years

SESSION 2: GIDEON

INTRO

Story wheel, Deborah recap

ACTIVITY = testing the water (jug), swimming practice

Test to see if can be trusted, practice test to get better in a skill

BIBLE STORY = Gideon Judges 6 and 7

GAME = joust

SNACK AND STORY WHEEL AND PRAYER = Prayer to trust God when tested. Lord's prayer. Also if anyone Is afraid of water/swimming, pray for breakthrough.

MEMORY VERSE

There was no king in Israel at that time; all the people did just as they pleased Judges 17v6

PLAY OUTSIDE/EXPLORE THE STORY

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GIDEON STORY

While Deborah, the judge and prophetess of Israel was alive, the land had peace for forty years, but after she died, the people forgot about Yahweh again. They turned to the Baals, the false gods that the neighbouring tribes worshipped. They did evil in the sight of the Lord and, just as the Lord had warned them, He allowed trouble to come upon them. This time it was from Midianites. Swarms and swarms of Midianites who invaded the land of Egypt with their camels like swarms of locusts. They ruined crops, killed herds of sheep and donkeys, stole anything they found and the people of Israel were so afraid that they hid in caves in rocks and no one went out to fight against the invaders.

Baal was being no help at all! Yahweh was waiting. Yahweh is the true God who made Heaven and earth. He is Father, Son and Spirit. The Son of God, we know by the name Jesus. Yahweh had chosen the Israelites to be His treasured possession on the earth and show others who the one true God is and now He was waiting for them to turn around and return to Him. At last! The people of Israel began to cry out to the Lord for help.

As soon as they did, God sent them a prophet to remind them of why they are in the mess they were in. He told them "The Lord says, 'I brought you up from the land of the Egyptians and defeated all of your enemies. I warned you not to worship other gods, but you did not listen."

Then the angel of the Lord went to a threshing floor and found a man called Gideon hiding and afraid.

"The Lord is with you mighty warrior!" The angel of the Lord said.

"Who me?? You must have the wrong guy! If God is with us, why are we in such a mess!" Gideon replied. Do you think Gideon knew who He was talking to?

"Go in the strength you have and save Israel. Am I not sending you?" said the angel of the Lord.

"How can I? We are a weak family."

"I will be with you and will strike down the Midianites."

Gideon must have started to realise who was talking to him by this point because he asks the for a sign from God and asks the angel to wait there while he goes and prepares an offering for him of

GIDEON PAGE 2

goat, unleavened bread and broth. The angel of the Lord waits, tells Gideon to put the food on a rock, then touches the rock and flames flash up all around it. The angel of the Lord and all of the food suddenly disappear.

Well now Gideon was terrified! “I have seen God’s face! Help!” He thought.

God said to Him, “Peace be with you.” Gideon worshipped God

The first task God wanted Gideon to do was to tear down the altar of Baal, build an altar to Yahweh and sacrifice one of His father’s bulls on it. Gideon was so scared that he did it at night time. In the morning, the towns people wanted to kill him but his father said, “if Baal is the true god, let him kill Gideon himself.”

Then the Midianites swarmed again and settled at Mount Moreb. God told Gideon to go, so he blew his horn and gathered thousands of people from the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali. There were about 32000 men gathered, but Gideon was scared. He asked God for another sign that He really was going to help Gideon.

Gideon put a fleece of wool on the ground and said to God, “if the fleece is wet and the ground dry in the morning, I will know you are with us.” God did as Gideon requested. Gideon was still scared though, so he asked for a third sign. “Now let the fleece be dry and the ground wet.” God graciously did as Gideon asked. Gideon believed God was going to help them.

Now it was God’s turn to test Gideon. “Gideon, you have too many people. If you go out with a big army, the Israelites will think it was their big army that saved them. Tell anyone who is scared to go home.”

Gideon did so. 22000 men went home.

God said, “10000 is still too many. While the men drink water, separate the ones that bring the water to their mouths from those who kneel down and drink.”

Gideon did so. God chose the group of just 300 men.

GIDEON PAGE 3

During the night God told Gideon to get up and go, but He said "If you are still scared, take your servant with you and sneak down to the camp and hear what they are saying. Then you will be encouraged."

Gideon was scared, so he crept down to the camp with his servant and they overheard two people talking. One said, "I have had a dream, where a barley loaf suddenly rolled into this valley and a huge tent was overturned." The other man said, "oh no! This means God is giving the Midianites into the hands of Gideon!"

Gideon was delighted! He worshipped and thanked God and went back up to his 300 men and made a battle plan.

They took jars with torches in them and trumpets and surrounded the camp. On Gideon's signal, they smashed the jars and cried out "for the Lord and for Gideon!". The Midianites woke up in a panic and started attacking one another! They fled the valley and Gideon called out the rest of the tribes to pursue their enemies.

The Ephraimites joined in and killed two of their kings. Gideon went on an exhausting race to catch the other two kings. Finally, the Midianites were defeated.

Afterwards the people of Israel said to Gideon "be our King!" but Gideon refused. He told them God was their king, but they could give him a gold earing each from their plunder. They were happy to do this and Gideon took the gold and made it into a golden ephod, which is a robe a priest wears. He set it up in Ophrah, Gideon's home town and it became a snare to his family and the people, because the people began to worship the golden ephod instead of Yahweh.

God gave the people of Israel peace for 40 years while Gideon was judge of Israel, but as soon as Gideon died, the people turned away from the Lord and back to the Baals.

5-9 years

CHAMPION CHALLENGE: JOUST

Equipment:

Foam noodles or pipe cladding, cone or upended empty plastic bottle or cup on a round ended post, like a wicket or something with a foam ball shoved on top for health and safety (please do not have the children run at a sharp post. It could be a chair if nothing else suitable), cones to mark 2 parallel jousting runways, score sheet/scoreboard

1. Divide into two teams and line up at starting lines at opposite ends of the runway as you would in a joust.
2. The first child from each line gallops forwards with a foam noodle under their arm and tries to knock the cone/bottle/cup off the post and onto their opponent's side of the jousting arena. Whoever succeeds scores a point for their team
3. The children gallop to the end and back to the start to give the next pair the noodles
4. Keep score and the team with the most points at the end wins
5. Important rule: No head shots! Noodles only to be used on the cup, not people

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SESSION 3
SAMSON

Big idea: The judges show us we need a better judge...Jesus!

Samson's life was filled with violence and poor choices, but in his death, he gave up his life to defeat the enemies of God's people, pointing forwards to what Jesus would achieve on the cross.

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5-9 years

SESSION 3: SAMSON

INTRO

Recap using the story wheel and the cycle of the judges

BIBLE STORY = Samson from Judges 13-16

GAME = water bomb shotput contest

PRAYER = Thank God that Jesus defeated our enemies at the cross

MEMORY VERSE

There was no king in Israel at that time; all the people did just as they pleased Judges 17v6

CRAFT – Samson destroys Dagon's temple

PLAY OUTSIDE/EXPLORE THE STORY

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STORY WHEEL INTRO

The book of judges goes round a story cycle several times getting worse and worse with each rotation, leading to a desperate need for a king that will rescue God's people from their enemies and also deliver them from the evil of their own sin.

Step 1: Blessing. While the Israelites trust in God, they have rest, food, water, peace and blessing

Step 2: After a while, the people forget that blessing comes from Yahweh, the God of Israel and they sin against God and turn to worship false gods called idols

Step 3: The consequence of turning away from God is that they lose the blessings that He gives them. They experience famine, drought, war and death

Step 4: Eventually the people of Israel or a particular tribe turn back to God in prayer, crying out for rescue

Step 5: God sends a rescuer, a champion called a judge

Step 6: the champion or judge delivers them from their enemies and they return to step 1

Step 1: they have peace and blessing for a time while the judge that fears God rules over the Israelites

As the book cycles round these steps, the people's rebellion becomes worse and the judge that God gives them reflects the attitude of the people. So, towards the end of the book, the judges make shockingly bad decisions and yet God in His mercy still uses them to help rescue the Israelites. It leaves us realising that they need an entirely new kind of king/judge/ruler though. Someone who will follow God with their whole heart and free us from our sin as well as our enemies.

SAMSON'S STORY

(Paraphrase of Judges 13-16)

As the Israelites lived through the time of the judges, the situation became darker and darker. No matter how many times God rescued them, they still forgot about Him and turned to the gods of the nations around them, like Dagon, the Philistine god. God allowed the Philistines to rule over the Israelites and after 40 years, the Israelites turned back to God and prayed for help.

God sent an angel to an old couple who could not have children and promised them a son. The angel of the Lord told them that the boy must never drink alcohol, never eat anything unclean and never cut his hair. They had the boy and named him Samson. God gave him supernatural strength, but, like the Israelites around him, he made terrible decisions in his life.

One day he ate honey from inside a dead lion and tricked his parents into eating it too. That was definitely unclean! He married a Philistine woman and the Philistines used her to trick Samson. Samson was so angry that he murdered many Philistines, burnt their fields and ended up hiding in a rock. Another time he killed 1000 Philistines with just a donkey's jawbone. Then he fell in love with another Philistine woman who tricked him into telling her the secret of his strength. He said "if you cut my hair, I will lose my strength." When Samson was asleep, she had his head shaved and the Philistines captured him and took him to the temple of their god, Dagon.

Samson had made many poor choices. His life was a mess, but in his death, God was going to win a great victory.

The Philistines tied Samson between two stone pillars in Dagon's temple. They humiliated him and mocked the God of the Israelites. Samson stretched his arms wide to feel the temple pillars and prayed that God would give him strength one last time. With a mighty heave, he pushed over the stone pillars of Dagon's temple and the whole temple came crashing down, destroying the enemies of God's people and the temple of Dagon.

The Bible says that Samson destroyed more of the enemies of God's people in his death than he had done in his life.

Does that remind you of what Jesus did on the cross? Jesus was completely good. He never deserved to die, but He gave up His life. He was captured, mocked and humiliated like Samson. With His arms stretched wide, he chose to die, so that the enemies of God's people, Satan, sin and death, would be defeated and we could have freedom and eternal life.

5-9 years

CHAMPION CHALLENGE: SHOTPUT WATER BOMB

Equipment:

Water bombs

1. Challenge 1: Children take turns throwing a water bomb like a shotput. See who can throw it the furthest

2. Challenge 2: Set a target. The children try to hit the target with their water bomb shotputs

Alternatively, you could use bean bags or try to knock down targets

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5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a temple, pillars, a man with long hair, a rock, a donkey's jawbone

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. What had God chosen Samson to do?
2. Why did Samson give up his life?

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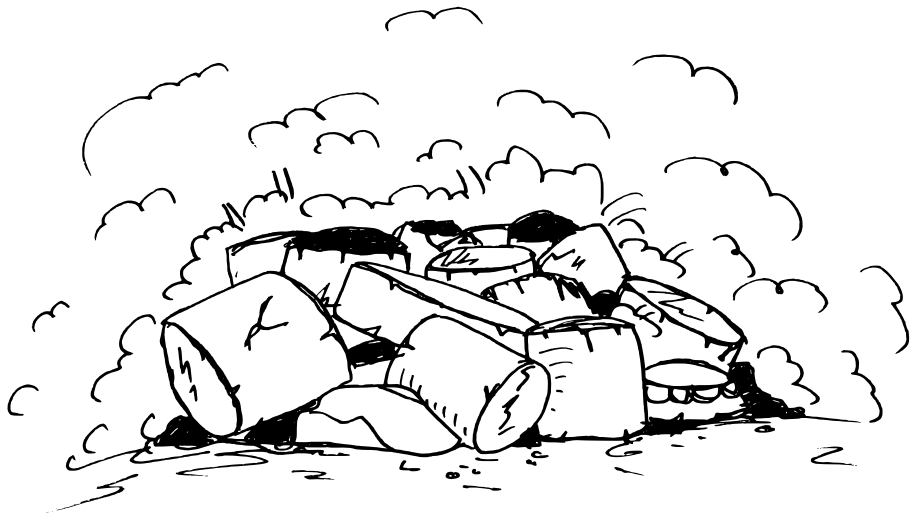
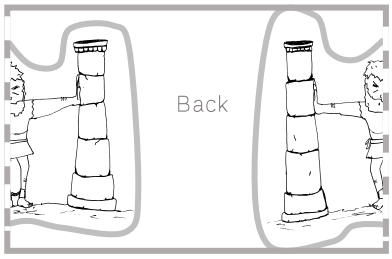
Then Samson prayed to
the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me.
Please, God, strengthen me just once more”
Judges 16v28a



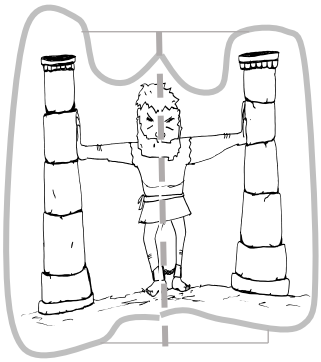
CRAFT SAMSON DESTROYS DAGON'S TEMPLE

Colour in the craft and cut around the solid grey line

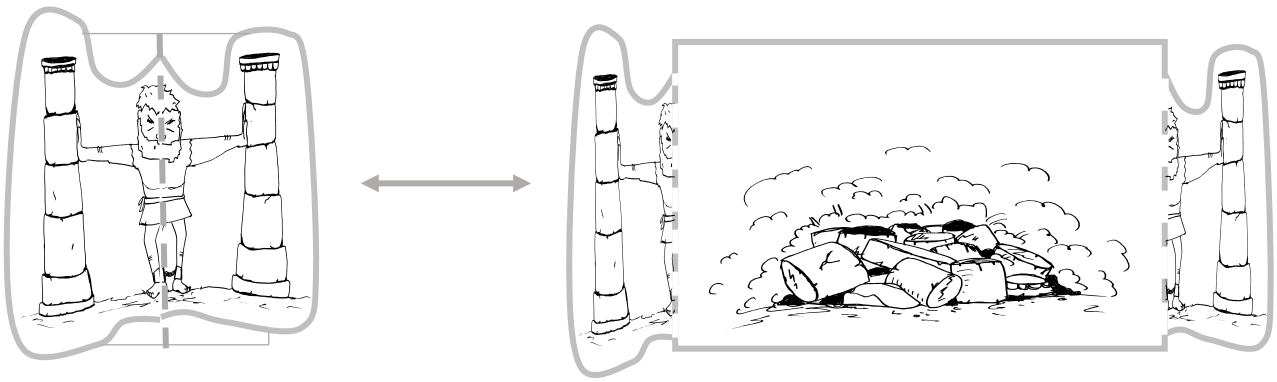
Fold the two end flaps back along the dotted grey line



Then fold them forwards again to meet in the middle and flatten the box behind the picture of Samson, making two creases



Then you can switch between a picture of Samson pushing and the temple falling down



SESSION 4 RUTH AND BOAZ

Big idea: God has a plan to redeem His people

Even though the time of the judges was crazy and unstable, God still had a plan running through it all. It would lead to the King after His own heart, David, being born and eventually to Jesus from the line of David, who would redeem the whole world.

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SESSION 4: RUTH AND BOAZ

INTRO AND MEMORY VERSE

Recap using the story wheel and the cycle of the judges, attention test and timeline (see notes)

MEMORY VERSE

There was no king in Israel at that time; all the people did just as they pleased Judges 17v6

BIBLE STORY – Ruth

GAME – gleaning

REFLECTION AND PRAYER (in groups)

CRAFT – You can use up any leftover crafts from previous weeks or create a picture of Ruth and Boaz with wheat to stick on

PLAY OUTSIDE/EXPLORE THE STORY

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INTRO

The book of judges has been going around and around a cycle of people turning away from God, getting into trouble, turning back to God and God rescuing them. The way they sin is getting worse and worse as the book goes on and why are they losing their way? What is our memory verse?

There was no king in Israel at that time; all the people did just as they pleased Judges 17v6

Yet despite all of this cycling around and spiralling out of control, God is doing something in the background.

Attention test https://youtu.be/vJG698U2Mvo: Have a look at this video and count how many passes the people in white make. Did you see the gorilla??

It's hard to pay attention to everything that is happening. While one story is going on, there is a whole other story unfolding. That is a bit like what was happening in the time of the judges. While there was war and famine, difficulty and victory, there was another story unfolding in the town of Bethlehem.

We are going to come across this word today:
Redeem: to buy something back. (Redeem has many meanings, but this is the meaning in our story)

If we have sinned and turned away from God, the giver of life, we are choosing to go over to death, but God wants to buy us back and give us a future. How did Jesus buy back those who believe in Him? He died on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Our story today is going to point us forward to Jesus, our **redeemer**.

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NAOMI, RUTH AND BOAZ – PAGE 1

During the time of the judges, there was a famine in Israel. People did not have enough to eat and they thought they would die. If there was a famine, which part of the story cycle do you think they were in?

“There’s no food here in Bethlehem!” thought Naomi and her husband Elimelech. “Yahweh our God must have abandoned us. We will have to move with our boys to Moab and make a life for ourselves there.”

“This is great! We have food here and here are two beautiful ladies to marry our sons. Everything is fantastic!” thought Naomi. But then something tragic happened. Her husband died and a few years later both of her sons died as well.

“What am I going to do?” thought Naomi. “My life is full of sorrow. I should never have come to this place. I hear there is food in Bethlehem. Maybe if I go there, someone will take pity on me and I will live. I must tell my daughters-in-law that I am going back.”

“Orpah! Ruth! Life here is full of tragedy. I am going back to Bethlehem. I am so sorry that my sons did not give you children. I have nothing more that I can offer you. Please go back to your fathers and make a new life for yourself.”

Orpah went back, but Ruth refused to leave.

“No Naomi. I will go with you. Wherever you will go, I will go and your God will be my God.”

“But my God has made my life sad, Ruth!”

“Still, I am staying with you and I will trust in the God of Israel.”

So, Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem. They went to Naomi’s old home and her old field. There was nothing useful growing on it, because it had not been farmed for years.

“Naomi, I am going to find food. I will look for a field to harvest in,” said Ruth one day.

“Ok Ruth, but be careful.”

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NAOMI, RUTH AND BOAZ – PAGE 2

Ruth went out and found a field that was being harvested. She was picking grain from the edge of the field. Yahweh, the God of Israel had commanded His people to leave the very edges of the field to let poor people collect grain there, because God cares for the poor. They called this gleaning.

As the day went on, the owner of the field saw her and asked his workers, "who is that young lady who has gleaned from the early hours until now?"

"It is Ruth, who came back from Moab with Naomi."

"Naomi! Why she is a relative of mine and if she needs help, I am to redeem her according to the Law God gave to Moses. Make sure you treat her well. I will speak with her."

"Ruth! Welcome. I am Boaz. Please, harvest with the women on this field and do not go to another field. I have told the men not to harm you. Come and eat with us and whenever you are thirsty, drink from the water jars we have filled."

Ruth was surprised!

"Why are you being so good to me? I am from a different tribe," She asked.

"I have heard how you helped Naomi and are loyal to her. You left your homeland to stay with her. You have come to the God of Israel for protection and I pray that He will reward you for everything you have done."

Ruth was overjoyed! Boaz even told his workers to sprinkle extra grain on the ground so that she could pick it up.

When she went home that evening, Naomi was shocked!

"Wow! So much grain! May God bless the man who took care of you today! Who was it?"

"Boaz! He was so kind to me. He said he had heard that you had come back and that I was helping you and he wanted to help too."

NAOMI, RUTH AND BOAZ – PAGE 3

“Ruth, Boaz is a relative of mine! In the Law God gave to Moses, if someone is so poor that they need to sell their field, their house or their sons or daughters to work for another person, their nearest relative must try and buy them back. We call that relative a redeemer, because they buy back or redeem what was sold. Boaz is our nearest relative. He is a good man. Perhaps he will marry you and redeem the field that belonged to my husband’s family and bring us children so that my husband’s name will not die out.”

When Ruth asked Boaz if he would redeem her, he was surprised!

“You are beautiful and could have married any of the young men of Israel, but you are not just thinking of your own happiness, but of Naomi’s happiness and the honour of Naomi’s husband’s family. You are a truly noble woman. I will speak with the other relatives and elders of the town and settle the matter today.”

Boaz did settle the matter. He gained agreement among all of the elders of the town that he would marry Ruth and they blessed her saying “may you be as fruitful as Leah and Rachel, who brought forth the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Ruth and Boaz had a baby called Obed and Naomi was overjoyed. Although her family had given up on God and gone to Moab, God redeemed them and gave them new life.

Obed was the father of Jesse and Jesse the father of David, who would one day be King.

Even though there was chaos in the time of the judges and everyone was doing whatever they felt like because there was no king, there was still two people faithful to God, Ruth and Boaz and through them, God was writing a different story. He was going to bring about a King who would draw the nation of Israel back to Himself and through that King, He would bring about another King, King Jesus, who would one day redeem the whole world.

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GAME: GLEANING

Equipment:

Straw(s) or wheat and two buckets – best played outside

1. Lay straw or wheat around the edge of a big rectangle
2. Divide into two teams
3. Everyone line up at one end of the field
4. When you say go, everyone has to collect straw as quick as they can and stack it in their team's bucket at the end of the field
5. The team with the most wheat in their bucket when it has all been collected wins the game

Alternatively, you could use bean bags or try to knock down targets

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REFLECTION AND PRAYER

There are many stories in this world that tell us what is going on. The news tells us from a particular viewpoint. Your schools, churches, friends, social media, etc. tell us from another viewpoint.

What would you say are some of the big events happening in the world/school/home at the moment?

Even though all these things are happening, God is still writing His story through it all. What is God doing at the moment? What point in history are we in?

God has sent His son Jesus to redeem the world. Jesus has gone up to Heaven as the risen and reigning King of Kings. God has sent His Spirit to all who put their trust in Jesus so that we can have power to live a life that follows Him. We are waiting for the return of Jesus, the conquering King who will one day redeem all of creation. Whatever else is happening in the world, we can be certain that God is bringing everything towards the point in history when King Jesus will return and make all things right.

Thank God that whatever is going on in the world, God still has a plan to redeem all of creation and for Jesus to return as the true King

Pray that we will trust God even when life seems up and down and that we will be able to see His story unfolding in the world.

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5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray, duplo on another and wheat on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a field, a house, a wedding scene

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. How did Ruth trust in God?
2. How did Boaz redeem Ruth and Naomi?

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