

# Weekday Bible School Series

## MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Fifth Grade

UNIT II

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS—JOSHUA TO DAVID



*Published by the*  
Christian Nurture Committee  
of Lancaster Mennonite Conference  
1951



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J. PAUL GRAYBILL, *Revision Editor*

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## General Introduction to Fifth Grade Course

*Men and Women of the Bible*, for fifth-grade pupils, was originally published in 1936 by the Summer and Weekday Bible School Committee under Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. It was printed in mimeographed form. A number of writers assisted in writing the lessons after the outline of lesson titles by J. Paul Graybill. Noah G. Good served as editor for the course. This course was remimeographed in 1940.

The Christian Nurture Committee of Lancaster Conference, succeeding the Summer and Weekday Bible School Committee, used the above course as basic material to provide courses of twelve lessons each to meet the current teaching needs. The former course was used by teachers only, but these twelve-lesson courses in printed form are prepared for both teacher and pupil use. Thanks are due to Anna Ruth Jacobs for revising the phraseology suitable for pupil use and revising the expressional work suitable for the same purpose. A number of lessons had to be added to complete all the units. We extend appreciation to a number of writers who assisted in writing these additional lessons.

The Junior I course for ten-year-old boys and girls is the first half of a study of Bible characters from the Old and New Testaments. Children of this age like to see truth in action. They also like to make comparisons of right and wrong in lives that have already been lived. Boys and girls will learn not only from a character that has made a success of his life, but, by way of contrast, from one that has failed to live up to right principles. Such characters have been selected for study in this course that are generally not so familiar from use in the Sunday school. But the study of their lives yields many valuable lessons for youth. While the lessons are biographical, yet they are chronologically arranged so that there is a continuous thread of narrative from one lesson to the other, particularly in the Old Testament. This course should help to increase interest in further Bible study on the part of the boys and girls.

The Junior I course is comprised of characters from Cain to David in the Old Testament. Junior II is planned around the characters from Solomon to the end of the Old Testament. Characters from the New Testament have also been included in both courses. Junior III follows these two years of character study with the doctrinal study of the life of Christ, the sum of all true character.



## Lesson I

# The Gibeonites

## JOSHUA 9

### *Aim and Presentation*

In this lesson about the Gibeonites we will learn the Biblical attitude toward deceit and lying. The reward for dishonesty and untruthfulness can be seen in our lesson. The men about whom we will read did not lie with the intent to be mean, nor to deprive Joshua of something; but because they were afraid of Joshua and his people and their God. It is evident from this lesson that it is wrong to tell or act a lie even when fear is the only motive for doing so.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

- I. Joshua and his people become widely known.
  1. Many kings heard of them—v. 1
  2. They gathered together to fight—v. 2
  3. Gibeonites heard of the conquest of Jericho and Ai—v. 3
  4. They heard that God would give the land into their hand—vv. 3, 4
  5. They feared for their lives—v. 24
- II. The Gibeonites plot to deceive Joshua and his people
  1. They worked wilily—craftily or deceitfully—v. 4
  2. They pretend to be messengers from a far country—v. 4
    - a. Old wine bottles, moldy bread, old and worn clothes (acting a lie)
  3. They lied to Joshua
    - a. About their country—v. 9
    - b. About their journey—vv. 12, 13
    - c. About their food
    - d. About their intentions—vv. 8, 11
- III. How Joshua and his people were trapped
  1. They did not take counsel of God—v. 14
  2. They accepted of the visitors' food and their story—v. 14
  3. They entered into a league or agreement with them—v. 15
  4. They bound the pledge with an oath in the name of God—v. 15
- IV. Who suffered on account of this deceit
  1. The Israelites
    - a. Could not destroy the cities as God commanded them because they were bound by the promise not to—vv. 15-19
    - b. Had to permit enemies to live among them—vv. 19, 20

## 2. The Gibeonites

- a. Should be servants always to saw wood and draw water—  
v. 23
- b. Shall be cursed—v. 23

On a map find Gilgal, the place where these men met Joshua, and the cities from which they came.

## *Topical Outline*

### Bible Teachings on Lying

- I. Source—The devil, the father of lies—John 8:44—leads men to lie—Acts 5:3
- II. God's attitude toward lying
  1. Forbids it—Ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:11
  2. Hates lying—Prov. 12:22; 6:16-19
- III. Attitude of God's children toward lying
  1. Hate it—Ps. 119:163
  2. Avoid it—Zeph. 3:13
  3. Pray that they may not do it—Prov. 30:8
- IV. Some Biblical examples of people who lied
  1. The devil—Gen. 3:4
  2. Cain—Gen. 4:9
  3. Joseph's brothers—Gen. 37:31, 32
  4. Gehazi—II Kings 5:22
  5. Ananias and Sapphira—Acts 5:5
- V. Rewards for lying
  1. Brings hatred of fellow men—Prov. 26:28
  2. Leads to other crimes—Hos. 4:1, 2
  3. No place in heaven—Rev. 22:15

## *Expressional Work*

- I. Let the teacher and class work together to make a brief outline of Bible history from the beginning to the time of this lesson.
- II. True—False Test
  1. The Gibeonites came from a very far country.
  2. The Gibeonites brought with them old bread and wore poor clothes.
  3. Joshua and the princes believed their false story.
  4. The people of Israel asked God for advice.
  5. God knew the Gibeonites were lying.
  6. Joshua was too clever for the Gibeonites.
  7. All the cities of the Gibeonites were destroyed.
  8. The Gibeonites were afraid of the Israelites and of their God.
  9. The Gibeonites became slaves of the Jews.
  10. A lie is all right if it does no one any harm.



## Lesson II

# The Six Cities of Refuge

JOSHUA 20

### *Aim and Presentation*

In this Old Testament history lesson we can see how God is merciful to men when mistakes are made. To enjoy God's blessings we must obey His plan. As you study this lesson, compare the plan of refuge cities with God's plan to save man from sin. On a map study the location of the cities of refuge.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

Joshua 20—God provides a plan to save murderers.

- I. Who was included in the plan?
  1. A man who kills another by mistake—v. 3
  2. Not for intentional murderers—v. 3
- II. To whom was the plan presented?
  1. First to Moses—v. 2
  2. Again to Joshua—v. 1
  3. Joshua to speak to people—v. 2
- III. Conditions of plan
  1. Six cities of refuge to be appointed—vv. 7, 8
    - a. Kedesh in Galilee
    - b. Shechem in Ephraim
    - c. Hebron in Judah
    - d. Bezer in Reuben
    - e. Ramoth in Gilead
    - f. Golan in Bashan
  2. Man to flee to city of refuge—vv. 3-6
    - a. If murder was not intentional—v. 3
    - b. When avenger tries to kill murderer—v. 5
    - c. Murderer to be given protection in city—v. 5
    - d. Murderer to be given fair trial—v. 6
    - e. Murderer to remain in city until high priest dies—v. 6
  3. Who included
    - a. All citizens—v. 9
    - b. All visiting strangers—v. 9

## ***Topical Outline***

### **Cities of Refuge—God Our Refuge**

#### ***For unwilling murderer***

Definite plan prescribed  
Plan by God  
Saved from death  
Completed by priest's death  
Life at home is restored

#### ***For repentant sinner***

Definite plan prescribed — John 3:16  
Plan by God—Isa. 44:21-23  
Saved from death—John 3:16  
Completed by Priest's death—John 3:16; Heb. 8  
Life with God is restored—John 3:16

## ***Expressional Work***

I. Make a map and show the locations of the six cities of refuge.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was the great leader to whom God first spoke of cities of refuge?
2. Who was the great leader who was to carry out God's orders about cities of refuge?
3. Was this plan for criminals?
4. Where could an accidental murderer in Jerusalem go?
5. Was a man who had killed safe if he left the city of refuge?
6. Did this plan take the place of court trial?
7. Why did he have to hurry to the city of refuge?
8. Why are the cities so scattered?
9. What other cities were located similarly?
10. Where is the sinner's place of refuge?

III. Complete the following story as you think it might have happened.

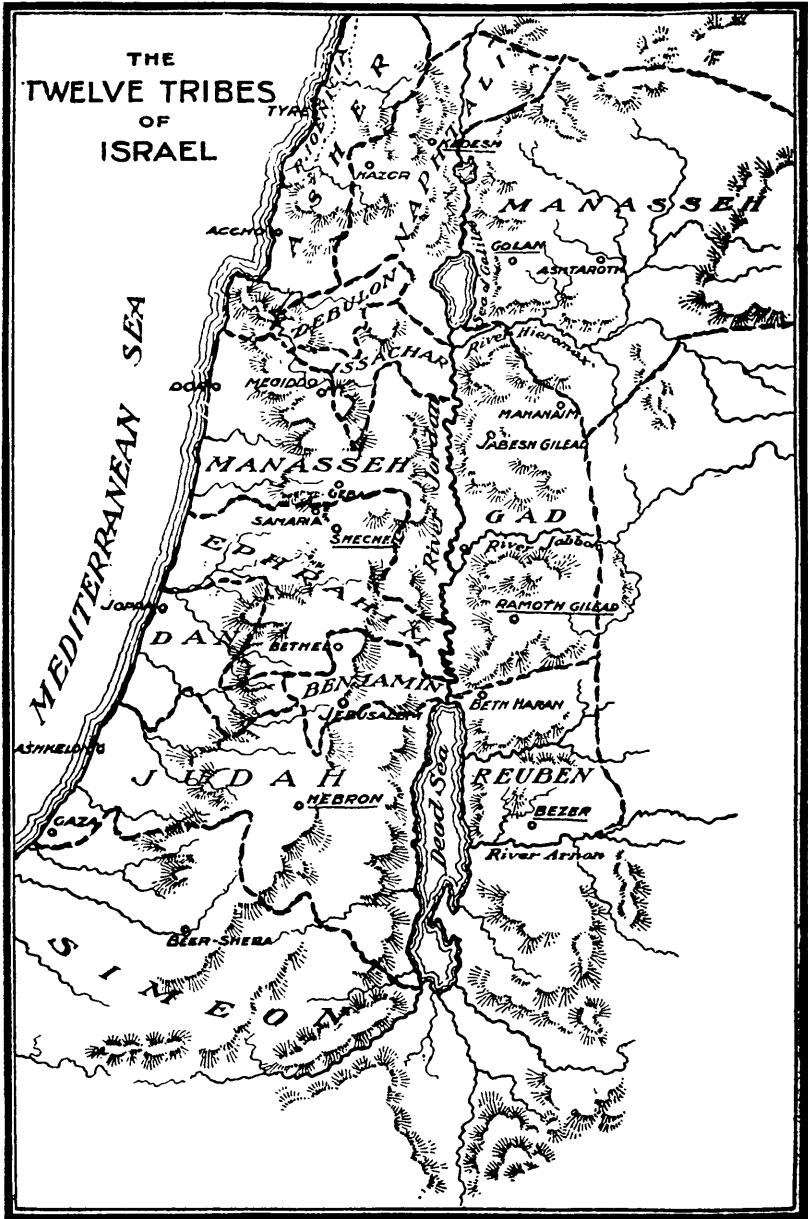
As you think about the ending, remember the cities of refuge.

Abner and Philip were in the woods cutting down great trees to build a new home for Abner and his family to live in. Near them in a heap of leaves was little Tamar playing with a few sticks she had gathered. One of the largest trees was just about to fall. Neither man thought of the little girl. How sad Abner looked when he suddenly realized that the falling tree had crushed his little daughter, so that she never lived again.

Poor father! He loved his child. For a moment he stood gazing sadly at the child's body; then his face turned red and angry. He said, "You, Philip, caused my child's death."

"No," said Philip, "neither of us could help it. It was an accident. My grief is as great as yours."

"Do not mock me," said Abner, very angrily; "I shall see that you pay for this according to the law of Moses with your life. I will kill you, because you killed my little girl."



Map of Palestine showing cities of refuge underscored.

## Lesson III

# What It Costs to Forsake God

JUDGES 2:1-10

### *Aim and Presentation*

This is a lesson on faithful obedience to God and the loss suffered by man when he leaves God.

This lesson can serve as a connecting link between the former lesson and the next. By reading Judges 1, 2, and 3 we can learn all the great events that form the setting for God's forsaking Israel after Israel forsook God.

A good, large map will help to show what people lived with the Israelites and how much greater would have been Israel's blessing if they had wholly obeyed God. Their children did not know God because they did not follow Him.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

Judges 2:1-10

- I. God had greatly favored Israel
  1. Sent His angel—v. 1
  2. God led them out of Egyptian bondage—v. 1
  3. God brought them to a wonderful "promised land"—v. 1
  4. God gave them the benefits of an everlasting covenant—v. 1
  5. God was to be their only helper—no leagues—v. 2
  6. God was to be their only God—v. 2
    - a. God gave them good leaders—v. 7
      - (1) Joshua
      - (2) Elders
- II. Israel failed to fully obey God
  1. Did not destroy all wicked enemies—vv. 27-36
  2. Did not continue to obey God after leaders died—v. 10
  3. Did not teach children about God—v. 10
  4. They forsake God—2:12
- III. Consequences of forsaking God
  1. God displeased—angel accused them—v. 2
  2. Their enemies to be an offense—v. 3
  3. The pagan gods to be a snare—v. 3
  4. The people were sad—they wept—v. 4
  5. Their children were not true to God—v. 10
  6. God's works forgotten—v. 10
  7. People fell into sin—v. 13
  8. God very angry with them—vv. 14, 15

## ***Topical Outline***

### **Obedience to God**

- I. God commands it—Deut. 13:4
- II. Christ was obedient to God—John 15:10
- III. Saints are obedient to God—I Peter 1:14; 1:2
  1. Willingly—Rom. 6:17; Isa. 1:19
  2. In all things—Deut. 28:14
- IV. Blessings for obedience—I Sam. 15:22; Luke 11:28
- V. Angels obey God—Ps. 103:20
- VI. The wicked disobey God—Neh. 9:17
  1. And are punished—Isa. 1:20; Rev. 20:15

## ***Expressional Work***

- I. Answer the questions in the following short quiz:
  1. Who led the Israelites out of Egypt?
  2. Who led Israel during the conquest of Canaan?
  3. Who led Israel after Joshua died?
  4. How did Israel fare as long as they obeyed God?
  5. How did their life change when they forsook God?
- II.—
  1. Make a list of the nations Israel met in Canaan and destroyed.
  2. Make a list of the nations Israel spared.
- III. Questions for discussion
  1. What evils did Israel fall into when they forsook God?
  2. What gods did they worship instead of God?

## Lesson IV

# How a Proud and Cruel Man Fared

JUDGES 9:1-6, 50-57

### *Aim and Presentation*

Although every word of the ninth chapter is a part of this lesson, only verses 1-6 and 50-57 are assigned for lesson work. To connect the story, read the events from verses 7 to 20.

In this story we have a man about whom we do not study so often. It is a striking example of a very cruel man reaping what he sowed. Although Abimelech was powerful and rich in this life, yet he was weak in character. He was victorious in his wicked deeds, but such victory does not show true greatness. It is a real adventure story with possibilities for many valuable teachings.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

Judges 9:1-6, 50-57

#### I. Apparent victory for a wicked man

##### 1. Plotting for unfair power

###### a. Enlists help of relatives—v. 1

(1) Visits with them—v. 1

(2) Gets them to speak for him—v. 2

(3) Makes them think they will have part in rule—v. 2

(4) Flatters them—v. 2

###### b. Uses unfair advantage to get all power for himself

(1) Deceived people give him money—v. 3

(2) He uses money to pay for power and crime—v. 3

(3) Loses all his real friends and becomes king—v. 6

##### 2. Abimelech gains many victories—vv. 7-49

##### 3. Abimelech's life of deceit ends by being deceived and overthrown

###### a. The people of his own city turn traitor

(1) Encamp in a tower

(2) Abimelech burns the tower and about a thousand subjects—v. 49

###### b. Abimelech attacks Thebez—v. 50

(1) Inhabitants flee to a tower—v. 51

(2) A woman throws a millstone on Abimelech's head—v. 53

(3) Abimelech is ashamed to be killed by a woman—v. 54

(4) Abimelech has a servant kill him with a sword—v. 54

c. Abimelech's murder punished by God with his death

(1) God cursed:

Abimelech—v. 56

The men of Shechem—v. 57

For their evil deeds—v. 57

Against Jotham—v. 57

## **Topical Outline**

### Deceit

#### I. Biblical teaching about deceit

1. God hates it—Ps. 5:6
2. It is same as lying—Ps. 119:118
3. It is human—Mark 7:22
4. It keeps from knowing God—Jer. 9:6

#### II. Admonitions against deceit

1. It is forbidden—Prov. 24:28; I Pet. 3:10
2. God's children to avoid it—Job 31:5
3. Avoid deceivers—Ps. 101:9
4. Ministers not to deceive—I Thess. 2:3; II Cor. 4:4
5. God will punish deceit—Ps. 55:23

## **Expressional Work**

### I. True—False Statements

1. We can sometimes deceive man, but God is too wise.
2. God punished Abimelech for his deceit.
3. It is good to oppose evil entirely.
4. God would have blessed Abimelech if he had dealt honestly with his brethren.
5. Abimelech was king of Jerusalem.
6. Abimelech was king of one of the cities of refuge.
7. There were twelve cities of refuge.
8. Abimelech lived north of Jerusalem.
9. Abimelech gave money to some wicked men to kill his cousins.
10. They killed every one of his cousins.

### II. Read the verses not used as part of the lesson text.

### III. Tell before the class the story told by Abimelech's cousin (vv. 7-21) about the trees.

### IV. Matching Test

- |              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Jotham    | _____ Brother of Abimelech            |
| 2. Gaal      | _____ Son of Ebed, enemy of Abimelech |
| 3. Zebul     | _____ Ruler of Shechem                |
| 4. Shechem   | _____ City                            |
| 5. Zalmon    | _____ Mountain                        |
| 6. Berith    | _____ A false God, Baal               |
| 7. Thebez    | _____ City near Shechem               |
| 8. Jerubbaal | _____ Father of Abimelech             |
| 9. Ophrah    | _____ His father's home               |
| 10. Gerizim  | _____ Mountain                        |



## Lesson V

# Micah and His Idols

JUDGES 17

### *Aim and Presentation*

This lesson and the one following present a picture of the internal religious condition of Israel at this time. Israel was not following the prescribed method of worship as given in the law of Moses. It was a semi-true worship. They seemed to worship God but did it through idols. The Levitical succession was lightly esteemed. Notice the time suggested for this story, 1406 B.C. These events happened before the earlier stories of Judges; likely about fifty years after settlement in Canaan. In Judg. 20:28, we find Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, still living. It was also before the time of the kings, before Saul, as is evident from the lesson text. Notice carefully the details of the lesson since it is one that is seldom studied.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

#### I. Micah and his home

1. Lived at Mt. Ephraim near Shechem—v. 1
2. His mother likely a widow—vv. 2, 3
3. Tried to worship God but through idols—v. 3
4. Micah stole but later confessed—vv. 3, 4
5. His mother was a devoted woman in some respects—vv. 2, 3

#### II. Micah and his house of gods

1. Micah's mother pays founder to make images—vv. 4, 5
2. Laxity to law shown by consecrating his own son as priest—not of Levites—v. 5
3. He hires another priest—Levite by name but not by tribe—vv. 7-11
4. This Levite with no assigned place becomes self-appointed—v. 9
5. Micah's attitude toward the law—did right when it was convenient—vv. 6, 13

#### III. Some lessons

1. The law largely ignored
2. People make their own form of religion
3. Their religion was formal

### *Expressional Work*

#### I. Discussion questions

1. What is true worship?
2. What are some things which may be idols to us?

II. In the following statements fill in the blank spaces with words selected from the following list of words and names:

Baal, image, golden calf, idols, true God, heathen, Levites, Samaritan

1. Jesus spoke with the \_\_\_\_\_ woman about true worship.
2. The Israelites were cursed for making the \_\_\_\_\_ while Moses was with God in the mountain.
3. The law of Moses told the people not to worship \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the times of Ahab the Israelites worshiped \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Moses broke the \_\_\_\_\_ and put it into the drinking water.
6. In Micah's home there were \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The people who conducted the worship services in the true worship were the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Jews learned to worship \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. God was displeased when the Jews turned to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. No \_\_\_\_\_ god can answer prayers.

## Lesson VI

# Moving to a New Home

JUDGES 18

### *Aim and Presentation*

This is indeed a thrilling story of adventure. The lessons to be learned from this story are by way of contrast for the things countenanced and practiced by the characters of the chapter, which are not commendable. The main body of the tribe of Dan had their inheritance already given them (Josh. 19:47, 48), but it was too small for them. We see also in Judg. 1:34 that the Ammonites drove them from the best part of their fertile land. This story is not a familiar one and should be studied carefully. The Lesson Text Outline will suggest the weak points in the moral and religious character of these people.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

Judges 18

#### I. Danites send five men to find more land

1. A trip of 125 miles
2. They stop at Micah's house at Mt. Ephraim—vv. 2, 3
3. These men seek God's blessing through idol worship—vv. 5, 6  
(They likely did not go to Shiloh to find God's direction before starting.)
4. They find a good location, easy to capture—v. 7
5. They report their find—vv. 8-10

#### II. Moving

1. About 2000 or 3000 people
2. The tribe condones idol worship—v. 14
3. They plan an attack on Micah's house—vv. 14-16
4. They are guilty of stealing, both the priest and articles of idol worship—vv. 17-19. (Note the moral and religious degeneracy.)
5. The priest himself sanctions thieving and idolatry and disloyalty for advantage—v. 20
6. Priest put in midst likely for safety—v. 20
7. Children and valuables put in rear for safety—v. 20
8. Danites show their lack of honesty, respect, and reverence—vv. 22-26

#### III. Possessing the land

1. They secure the land in a ruthless way—vv. 27-29
2. Jonathan, grandson of Moses (Manasseh), not of the family of Aaron, becomes a priest—v. 30

3. They set up a separate place of worship in Dan in opposition to and neglect of the rightfully established place of worship at Shiloh—v. 31; Josh. 18:1

Note: This may have prepared the way for I Kings 12:28-31.

### *Expressional Work*

I. Who or what are the following:

1. Tribe of Dan \_\_\_\_\_
2. Zorah and Eshtaol \_\_\_\_\_
3. Micah \_\_\_\_\_
4. Levite \_\_\_\_\_
5. Laish-Dan \_\_\_\_\_
6. Jonathan \_\_\_\_\_
7. Shiloh \_\_\_\_\_

II. Draw the journey of the Danites, marking the principal places.

## Lesson VII

# The Book of Adventures for God

JUDGES 1:1-20; 2:11, 21, 24, 25

### *Aim and Presentation*

This is to be an adventure story, showing that there were adventures and thrills aplenty in God's service at that time. In the various deliverances the people went forward in faith, often with only small resources, but God was always more powerful than the enemy. Notice carefully the remarkable victories of Gideon, Barak, Deborah, and Samson. Note the sad spiritual condition of the people. Follow the outlines provided. This lesson should accomplish two aims: to cause us to wish to steer away from the Israelites' mistakes, and to cause us to desire to fight for the Lord today in the conflict against evil.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

#### I. Israel takes the land—1:1-20

##### 1. Captures the following towns:

- a. Bezek—1:1-7
- b. Jerusalem—vv. 6, 7
- c. Hebron—given to Caleb—v. 20; Josh. 14:9
- d. Debir—Caleb's daughter given to the conqueror—vv. 12-15
- e. Zephath
- f. Gaza
- g. Askelon
- h. Ekron

#### II. Conditions in Israel at this time

1. Settled in inheritance—21:24
2. Had no kings—21:25
3. Did evil in God's sight—2:11
4. Served idols—Baalim—2:11

### *Topical Outline*

| <i>Reference</i> | <i>Oppressor</i>                     | <i>Deliverers and Judges</i> | <i>Time</i> |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 3:8-11           | 1. Chushan-rishathaim of Mesopotamia | 1. Othniel                   | 40 years    |
| 3:12-30          | 2. Eglon of Moab                     | 2. Ehud                      | 80 "        |
| 3:31             | 3. Philistines                       | 3. Shamgar                   |             |
| 4:1-24           | 4. Jabin of Canaan                   | 4. Deborah and Barak         | 40 "        |
| 6:1-8:35         | 5. Midian                            | 5. Gideon                    | 40 "        |

|            |                          |              |    |   |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------|----|---|
| 9:1-57     | No judge—a petty king    | 6. Abimelech | 3  | “ |
| 10:1, 2    |                          | 7. Tola      | 23 | “ |
| 10:3-5     |                          | 8. Jair      | 22 | “ |
| 10:6—12:7  | 6. Philistines-Ammonites | 9. Jephthah  | 6  | “ |
| 12:6-10    |                          | 10. Ibzan    | 7  | “ |
| 12:11, 12  |                          | 11. Elon     | 10 | “ |
| 12:13-15   |                          | 12. Abdon    | 8  | “ |
| 13:1—15:20 | 7. Philistines           | 13. Samson   | 20 | “ |

*Israel's faithfulness* vs. *God's faithfulness*

*Before This*

1. Brought them out of Egypt—Lev. 25:25
2. Gave them Canaan—Lev. 25:38
3. Made covenant with them
  - a. Blessing to obedient—Lev. 26:3-7
  - b. Judgment to disobedient—Lev. 14:1-7

*Now*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Younger generation knew not God—2:10                           | 1. Punished them—2:20-22                        |
| 2. Did evil and forgot God—3:7                                    | 2. Had compassion and delivered—3:9             |
| 3. Did evil after being delivered many times—3:12; 4:1; 6:1; etc. | 3. Delivered many times—3:15; 4:23; 10:16; etc. |

***Expressional Work***

- I. Recall stories of adventure for God in modern times (missionaries' stories, etc.) to tell to the class.
- II. Recite in concert several times the list of judges, punctuating it in three groups of four each.
- III. True—False Test
  1. The time of the judges was earlier than the time of Joseph.
  2. David was the last of the judges.
  3. During the time of the judges the Jews often forgot God.
  4. Deborah was a woman judge.
  5. Gideon was called by God to deliver Israel from the Midianites.
  6. Samson is best known for his great strength.
  7. God did not want the Israelites to have a king.
  8. When the Israelites obeyed God they had rest from their enemies.
  9. Samuel was the first king.
  10. The judges ruled Israel many years.

## Lesson VIII

# Boaz, a Rich and Godly Farmer

RUTH 2:1-7

### *Aim and Presentation*

This lesson gives us a picture of a righteous people in the midst of wickedness, rich but godly. Boaz had a worthy vocation, and his life was peaceful and happy and blessed in God. Review the story of the whole book. This story lends itself beautifully to word pictures—the scenes in the barley field, at the gate, etc. This lesson emphasizes Boaz, not Ruth or Naomi, showing how his character was revealed in even the small details of everyday living. It should give us a respect for character and a desire to emulate such worthy ideals.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

#### I. The kind of man Boaz was

1. Farmer—v. 3
2. Rich
  - a. Man of wealth—v. 1
  - b. Owned fields—v. 3
  - c. Had servants—v. 5
3. Mighty—v.1
4. Godly—greeting to the reapers—v. 4

### *Topical Outline*

#### I. Setting

1. Time of the judges—1:1 (review previous lesson for conditions)
2. Places—Moab and Bethlehem—1:1

#### II. Characteristics of Boaz

1. Godliness
  - a. Believed in God—2:12
  - b. Obeyed God's laws—Lev. 25:25; Deut. 25:5
2. Kindness
  - a. To Ruth—2:8, 9, 14-16
  - b. To Naomi—3:17
3. Pleasantness and friendliness
  - a. Spoke to reapers (poor people)—v. 4
4. Unselfishness—2:8; 4:4
5. Punctuality—3:18; 4:1
6. Tenderness—called Ruth “daughter”—3:10, 11
7. Appreciation of good in others—2:11
8. Honesty—3:12

### III. How God rewarded Boaz

1. Gave him a good wife (godly, 1:16; kind, 2:11; better than seven sons, 4:15)
2. Gave him a son—4:13
3. Honored him by giving him part in the ancestry of Christ
  - a. Great-grandfather of David—4:17

### *Expressional Work*

- I. In two minutes, see who can compile the longest list of good characteristics of Boaz.
- II. Draw a bouquet of flowers. Write one virtue from the above list on each flower. Below it write in your own words a paragraph which tells how a life which embodies these graces is like a beautiful bouquet giving joy and fragrance to those around.



## Lesson IX

# The Rich Man Who Was Selfish—Nabal

I SAMUEL 25:2-17, 36-38

### *Aim and Presentation*

In this lesson are exposed the evils, dangers, and sorrows that go with selfishness, and what God thinks of it. It shows the blessings that attend unselfish sharing and the proper use of riches. Last week we studied about a man who must have been an unselfish boy. Today our lesson is about a selfish man whose name was Nabal.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

- I. The kind of man Nabal was
  1. Rich—v. 2
    - a. Had 3000 sheep and 1000 goats
    - b. Had possessions in Carmel—v. 2
    - c. Had servants—v. 7
    - d. Lived in prosperity—v. 6
  2. Churlish—v. 3 (ill-bred, surly, miserly, hard to manage)
  3. Evil—v. 3
  4. Scornful—v. 10
  5. Selfish—v. 11
  6. Unappreciative—vv. 14-17
  7. Rough spoken—v. 14
    - a. One could hardly speak to him—v. 17
  8. Controlled by Satan—v. 17
  9. Drunkard—v. 36
- II. How God punished Nabal
  1. Smote him unto death—v. 38

### *Topical Outline*

- I. Nabal's life in danger because of his meanness
  1. Saved by the prompt action of his good wife—vv. 18-35
    - a. The good often protect the evil
- II. Some New Testament teaching
  1. I Tim. 6:6-11—Love of money brings many *evils* and *sorrows*
  2. Mark 10:26, 27—Hard for a rich man to enter heaven
  3. Acts 20:33—Unselfish are blessed—rich or poor
  4. Eccl. 5:13
  5. Matt. 10:8b

6. Teaching by examples
  - a. Rich young ruler—Mark 10:17-22
  - b. Rich fool—Luke 12:16-21
  - c. Dives—Luke 16:19-26

### ***Expressional Work***

- I. Make a list of unselfish acts which you can do, or ways in which you can share.
- II. With cardboard, crayons, etc., make mottoes using a suitable verse from the lesson, such as Acts 20:35; I Tim. 6:10a, or Matt. 10:8b, and pictures to illustrate the verse or a point. The class may work together to make one large poster.
- III. Write the story of Nabal, leaving from five to ten blanks to be filled in. Keep your key on a separate paper. Exchange your story with someone else to be filled in.

## Lesson X

# David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

II SAMUEL 6:1-15

### *Aim and Presentation*

In this lesson we see the picture of David and a nation longing to have the ark of God back in its place. They took steps to bring about the return of the ark.

We want to notice some of the things about the ark. It was holy and not to be touched. It belonged in the house of God, in the most holy place. It had in it a few very sacred things. These are not mentioned in the lesson text, but are found in Ex. 25:10-22; Heb. 9:4.

We also want to observe how definitely God punishes disobedience as shown by Uzzah being immediately struck dead when he touched the ark contrary to God's command. On the contrary we want to see how God blessed the people of the house of Obed-edom for harboring the ark. This was because these people loved God.

It will be interesting to notice that I Sam. 6 also speaks of the ark. Our lesson is taken from II Sam. 6.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

David Brings the Ark Back to Jerusalem—II Sam. 6:1-15

- I. David longs for the return of the ark
  1. David seeks God's advice in matters of war—5:19
  2. Ark had been away for a long time—twenty years—I Sam. 7:2
  3. David desired the blessing of God's presence—v. 12
- II. David makes preparations
  1. Called many (3000) chosen men to help—v. 1
  2. Got ready a new cart—v. 3
  3. Had musical instruments to play on the way—v. 5
- III. David brings the ark to Jerusalem
  1. Abinadab and his sons drive the oxen and cart—vv. 3, 6
  2. David and his men make music—vv. 5, 14
  3. A sudden sad misfortune interrupts the journey
    - a. The ark nearly falls from the cart—v. 6
    - b. Uzzah touches it to hold it—v. 6
    - c. Uzzah died suddenly—v. 7
    - d. God was angry because of disobedience—v. 7
    - e. David was displeased and afraid—vv. 8, 9
    - f. Left the ark for three months with Obed-edom—v. 11

4. David heard of blessings upon Obed-edom—v. 12
5. He brings the ark the rest of the way—v. 12
6. Offers sacrifice—oxen and fatlings
7. Used correct methods to carry it this time—v. 13 (Lev. 4:5-15)

IV. David is happy to have the ark in Jerusalem

1. Brought it into the city with gladness—v. 12
2. Came with shouting and trumpets—v. 15

***Expressional Work***

- I. Use these references to answer the following questions: Ex. 25:10-22; Lev. 4:5-15; Heb. 9:4; and I Sam. 6.
1. Who was to carry the ark?
  2. How was it to be carried?
  3. Why was Uzzah killed?
  4. Did the ark prove a blessing to the Philistines?
  5. What did they hitch into the cart to bring the ark out of Philistia?

## Lesson XI

# David Deceived by a Wise Woman and a General

II SAMUEL 14:1–15:6

### *Aim and Presentation*

In this story we get another view of David's life. David won many victories, did many good deeds, but he had a son who caused him much sorrow. In this lesson we find how David had to banish his son and was led to restore him by the clever work of the woman of Tekoah and Joab. David, as a father, loved Absalom, and when he was urged to show Absalom kindness he could not resist. David had learned before that Absalom was not to be trusted, but he could not resist.

The lesson text is long and not all of the text can be discussed in detail, but the items which show how King David was deceived should be noticed. It will show us how easy it is to be deceived, and also how wicked it is to deceive.

To enjoy this lesson more, read chapters 6–14 of II Samuel. These chapters come between last week's lesson and this one.

### *Lesson Text Outline*

David Deceived by a Wise Woman and a General—II Sam.  
14:1–15:6

- I. King David longs for his son, Absalom
  1. He longed to go to him—13:39
  2. Joab noticed David's love for Absalom—v. 1
- II. David's sorrow suggests a plan to Joab
  1. Joab sees David's concern for Absalom—v. 1
  2. Joab plans to use a wise woman to work out a plan to deceive David—v. 2
  3. The woman is to *PRETEND* she needs help
    - a. Her husband dead—v. 5
    - b. Her two sons fought—one killed—v. 6
    - c. Her relatives demand the life of the other son—v. 7
    - d. David promises to take care of her and her son—v. 8
  4. The woman compares this story with David's family—v. 13
- III. David is overcome by flattery and yields to Joab and the woman
- IV. David suspects Joab as the author of the plan—v. 19

V. David is again made sad by Absalom's treachery

1. Absalom is allowed to return—v. 23
2. After a while Absalom and David meet—v. 33
3. Absalom gains power—15:1
4. Absalom seeks the throne by stealing the people's affection—15:6

***Expressional Work***

I. Short Quiz

1. Who was king in this lesson?
2. Who was the king's son?
3. Can you name another son?
4. Who was the king's general?
5. What was Absalom's appearance?
6. Why did Absalom leave the country?
7. Did the king hate Absalom?
8. In what way did Absalom try to dethrone his father?
9. Name all the things in this lesson that were dishonest and intended to deceive David.

II. In your notebook briefly tell the story of the lesson.

## Lesson XII

# Summary of Old Testament Characters

### II SAMUEL 7

#### *Aim and Presentation*

In this lesson we try to find some of the elements of character that were important in building up the nation. We must naturally also notice the influence on the nation when such elements were lacking.

The Jewish nation was a nation called upon to worship God only. When obedient to this they prospered almost beyond description. But too often in their prosperity they forgot God and went after the idolatrous goals of other nations.

As long as God's Word was kept before the people by faithful leaders, God blessed them. When the Word was lost and forgotten, they forgot God too, and lost this blessing.

After a short study of God's plan of blessing them for obedience to Him and His Word we study some characters as examples. In this way we review the course up to date.

#### *Lesson Text Outline*

##### Summary of Old Testament Characters—II Sam. 7

- I. God greatly blessed the nation
    1. Rest from all the enemies—v. 1
    2. The king lived in a house of cedar—v. 2
    3. God went with Israel (the nation) and with David
      - a. Wherever they went—v. 9
      - b. Made them a great name—vv. 9, 23
      - c. Gave them a place to live—v. 9
      - d. Promised freedom from affliction from the wicked—v. 10
  - II. The conditions necessary for blessing
    1. God had made His people know His Word—v. 21
    2. God knew His people—v. 20
    3. God redeemed the nation to make Him a name—v. 23
    4. God will chasten (punish) iniquity—v. 14
  - III. God's promise regarding David's kingdom
    1. His lineage should last forever—v. 13
    2. God's mercy will continue always—v. 15
- Examples* of men and women who illustrate God's blessing for obedience (review) or loss of blessings for disobedience
1. Blessings for obedience
    - a. Caleb—Lesson 11, Unit I

- b. Joshua—Lesson 12, Unit I
  - c. Judges—Lesson 7
  - d. David—Lessons 10, 11
2. Effect of disobedience
- a. Cain—Lesson 1, Unit I
  - b. The men of Babel—Lesson 4, Unit I
  - c. Liars—Lesson 1
  - d. Provision for murderers—Lesson 2
  - e. Abimelech—Lesson 4

### *Expressional Work*

- I. Choose a story from a previous lesson to tell to the class.
- II. Make a chart on the blackboard to show the relative time “distances” before Christ. If you allow two feet for one thousand years most of the important events and characters can be plotted.
- III.—
1. The man who killed his brother was \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. The baby who was hid in the river was \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The man who was sold by his brothers was \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ killed the giant with a sling and a stone.
  5. The strong man, \_\_\_\_\_, ended his life as a blind slave.
  6. \_\_\_\_\_ took the place of Moses after Moses died.
  7. The first king was \_\_\_\_\_.
  8. Ruth became the wife of \_\_\_\_\_.
  9. Moses’ brother was \_\_\_\_\_.
  10. Abraham’s son was \_\_\_\_\_.



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