

go GROUPS

STUDENT DEVOTIONAL UNIT 8

Name:

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UNIT 8: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Session 1: The First Judges Judges 3



Sunday, March 30

What is
repentance?

Repentance is turning
away from sin and
turning to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

Monday,
March 31

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ In the book of Joshua, we saw that God had been faithful to keep all of His promises. He defeated the Israelites' enemies and gave them the Promised Land. Last week, we learned that before Joshua died, the Israelites promised to obey God and worship Him alone.
- ▶ BUT, rather than live as God's chosen and holy people who were set apart for His glory, the Israelites began to worship idols. In the book of Judges, we will see a cycle repeat itself over and over. The people did what was evil. So, God brought consequences on them because of their sin. They became slaves and served a foreign king. Then the people cried out to God. So, God raised up a judge to rescue His people, and they had rest for a time.



Read Judges 3:5-11

- ▶ What did the Israelites do to disobey and dishonor God?

- ▶ God was angry! What consequence did He give the Israelites?

- ▶ God is also full of grace! Who saved Israel? How long did they have peace?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read the first example of this cycle. The Israelites did evil by forgetting God and worshiping the gods of the foreign people. God sold them to a foreign king for 8 years. Then God sent a judge, Othniel, to save them and the Israelites had peace for 40 years.



Read Judges 3:12-15

- ▶ Once again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. What was their consequence this time?

- ▶ How long did they suffer under the rule of the foreign king?

- ▶ Who did God send to deliver the Israelites? What was unique about him?

Wednesday,
April 2

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ Rather than live as God's chosen and holy people like they promised, the Israelites began to worship idols. In the book of Judges, we will see a cycle repeat itself over and over. The people did what was evil. So, God brought consequences on them because of their sin. They became slaves and served a foreign king. Then the people cried out to God. So, God raised up a judge to rescue His people, and they had rest for a time.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the Israelites again did evil in the eyes of the Lord. They were subject to Eglon, king of Moab for 18 years. But then God sent Ehud to deliver them.



Read Judges 3:16-23

- ▶ How does verse 17 describe Eglon, king of Moab?

- ▶ What did Ehud do to Eglon, king of Moab?

- ▶ There are some crazy things in the Bible! Why do you think Ehud was able to overpower the king so quickly?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Ehud was able to trick the king and kill him with his sword. God gave Ehud the opportunity to overpower the king because God was showing grace to His people!



Read Judges 3:24-30

- ▶ How did Ehud get away after he killed the king?

- ▶ What did Ehud the Israelite army do next?

- ▶ How long did the land have peace this time?

Friday,
April 4

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Ehud got away because the servants of the king thought he was going to the bathroom, but he was actually dead! This is a crazy, but true story in the Bible!
- ▶ Today, we will read only one verse, but it describes another judge of Israel.



Read Judges 3:31

- ▶ Who came after Ehud?

- ▶ Who did he save Israel from?

- ▶ Deep thinking question: Why do you think the Israelites stayed in this cycle of doing evil...receiving consequences...then needing a judge to save them...then having rest in the land... then doing evil again?

Judges of Israel

I B O I H W W V E X X O L S W B W
J Y K C U Q O V L R A G M A H S E
Q K I M Z N M P I F E X L F F M L
S X F V W Q Y Z H W I L E U M A S
P C M P O U U O I B Z A N N O Z Z
F N I C R V B C F L D V G H F K K
E O N O D G W V K T T U O J W S G
H D L O R C M V G E Z U L K A E X
O B I U L R D E B O R A H P V I K
T A N S Q E N P G H G P Z U Z K R
H I O O K S Z O M L O R E Z O H I
N Q A F E N C Z S C Z H H M I W D
I O H T U D R J G M P M K M Y L U
E T K O X U I A F O A C S V C G H
L O I L N T K G E T I S A J U T E
P P H A H T H P E J B K P Y X H Y
K Y S A X Q L K F J Y Q U A P D X

Jephthah

Deborah

Shamgar

Othniel

Samuel

Samson

Gideon

Abdon

Ibzan

Elon

Jair

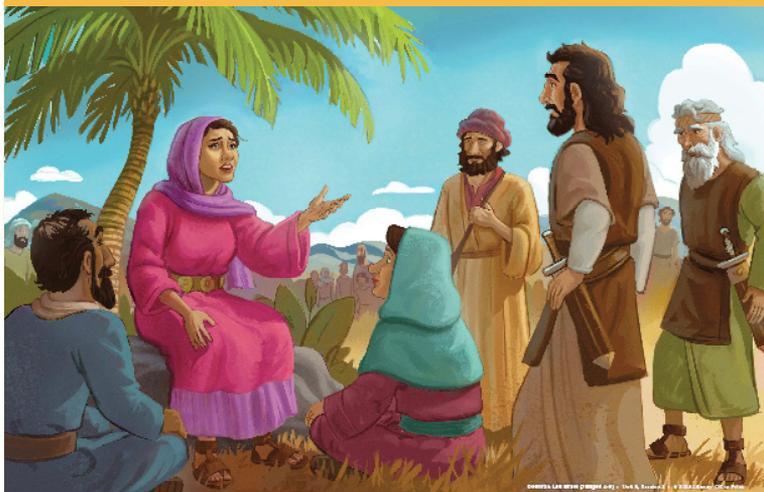
Tola

Ehud

Eli

UNIT 8: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Session 2: Deborah Led Israel Judges 4-5



Sunday, April 6

What is
repentance?

Repentance is turning
away from sin and
turning to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."



Before you read...

- ▶ The people of Israel continued to sin against the Lord, suffer the consequences of their sin, promise to follow God, but then turn from Him and sin again. But God remained faithful and sent judges to help lead the people and rescue them from their enemies.
- ▶ Last week, we read about three different judges who served Israel, Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. This week we will read about how God used Deborah to encourage Barak and lead God's people to victory over their enemy.



Read Judges 4:1-5

- ▶ Once again, the Israelites have done evil in the eyes of the Lord. Who did the Lord sell them to this time?

- ▶ How long did it take the Israelites to cry out to God?

- ▶ What did Deborah do for the Israelites? (verse 5)

Tuesday,
April 8

SESSION 2



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that because the people did evil again, God sold them to Jabin, a king of Canaan. It took the Israelites 20 years before they cried out to God for help! At that time, Deborah served the Israelites by helping them decide their disputes.



Read Judges 4:6-10

- ▶ What did Deborah tell Barak to do?

- ▶ Did Barak obey her and the Lord? Read carefully!

- ▶ Who will the Lord hand Sisera over to?



Before you read...

- ▶ The people of Israel continued to sin against the Lord, suffer the consequences of their sin, promise to follow God, but then turn from Him and sin again. But God remained faithful and sent judges to help lead the people and rescue them from their enemies.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Deborah told Barak that the Lord would give Sisera and the army into his hands. But, Barak did not want to go without Deborah. Because he did not completely obey the Lord, God would hand Sisera over to a woman.



Read Judges 4:12-17

- ▶ Who defeated Sisera's army?

- ▶ How do you think Deborah knew the Lord would give Sisera into the hands of Barak?

- ▶ Who escaped from Barak and his army?

Thursday,
April 10

SESSION 2



Before you read...

- ▶ The people of Israel continued to sin against the Lord, suffer the consequences of their sin, promise to follow God, but then turn from Him and sin again. But God remained faithful and sent judges to help lead the people and rescue them from their enemies.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the Lord defeated Sisera's army, but Sisera escaped to the tent of Jael, a woman.



Read Judges 4:18-22

- ▶ What did Jael give Sisera?

- ▶ What did Jael do to Sisera?

- ▶ Remember verse 9? Who did God give Sisera over to?



Before you read...

- ▶ The people of Israel continued to sin against the Lord, suffer the consequences of their sin, promise to follow God, but then turn from Him and sin again. But God remained faithful and sent judges to help lead the people and rescue them from their enemies.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that a woman named Jael tricked Sisera into resting in her tent and then she killed him. This fulfilled what God told Deborah and Barak, that Sisera would be handed over to a woman. God always keeps His promises!



Read Judges 5:1-3, 31 (or read all of chapter 5 for a challenge!)

- ▶ What did Deborah and Barak do once Sisera and King Jabin's army were defeated?

- ▶ Who truly defeated Sisera and King Jabin's army?

- ▶ Deep thinking question: Who can God use to accomplish His purposes?



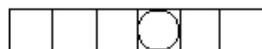
Deborah Was a Judge in Israel Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

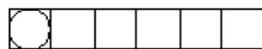
MORTS



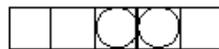
SIPERA



AANANC



KABAR



WORDS



BORHAED



What did Sisera have that scared the Israelites?

He had 900

UNIT 8: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Session 3: Gideon Led Israel Judges 6-7



Sunday, April 27

What is
repentance?

Repentance is turning
away from sin and
turning to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Monday,
April 28

SESSION 3



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we are returning to the book of Judges. The book of Judges reminds us that sin is ugly and leads to terrible consequences. It also teaches us that all people need a Savior because we are all stuck in our sin. We've seen how God sent judges like Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, and Deborah to save His people from the consequences of their sin. Yet after these judges died, God's people would turn away from Him again and worship idols.



Read Judges 6:1-6

- ▶ AGAIN the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord. Who did He give them over to this time?

- ▶ What did these people do to the Israelites?

- ▶ How long did it take before the Israelites cried out to the Lord?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that God gave the Israelites over to the Midianites. They ruined the Israelites' crops and ravaged their land for 7 years before the Israelites cried out to God for help!



Read Judges 6:11-16

- ▶ Who is the new mighty warrior that the Lord chose to save Israel?

- ▶ What does verse 15 tell us about this warrior?

- ▶ How will this warrior defeat the Midianites?

Wednesday,
April 30

SESSION 3



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that God chose Gideon to save Israel from Midian. But Gideon was the weakest and least powerful in his family. However, nothing is impossible when the Lord is with you!



Read Judges 6:33-40

- ▶ How many different groups of people did Gideon ask to join him to fight the Midianites?

- ▶ What did Gideon ask God to do to prove to Gideon that God really chose him to defeat the Midianites?

- ▶ Why do you think Gideon wanted to test God like this? Did God do what Gideon asked?



Before you read...

▶ This week, we are returning to the book of Judges. The book of Judges reminds us that sin is ugly and leads to terrible consequences. It also teaches us that all people need a Savior because we are all stuck in our sin. We've seen how God sent judges like Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, and Deborah to save His people from the consequences of their sin. Yet after these judges died, God's people would turn away from Him again and worship idols.

Yesterday, we read that Gideon summoned five groups of people to join his army! Then, he tested God by asking Him to put dew on a fleece and then to put dew on the ground and keep the fleece dry. Gideon seemed afraid, but God showed that He was with him!



Read Judges 7:2-8

▶ Why did God want Gideon to have less men?

▶ How many men did Gideon end up with?

▶ Where does victory come from?

Friday,
May 2

SESSION 3



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that God wanted Gideon to fight with only 300 men so that they would know that victory comes from God alone!



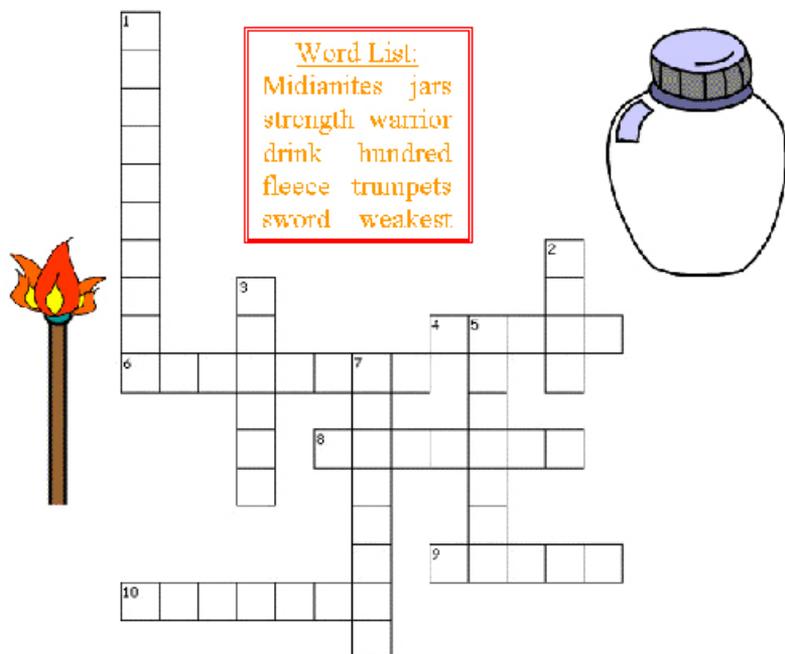
Read Judges 7:16-24

- ▶ What did Gideon and his men do when they had surrounded the Midianite camp?

- ▶ What did the Lord cause the Midianites to do?

- ▶ Why do you think God chose a weak warrior in Gideon and gave him only 300 men to fight the Midianites?

Gideon Crossword



Across

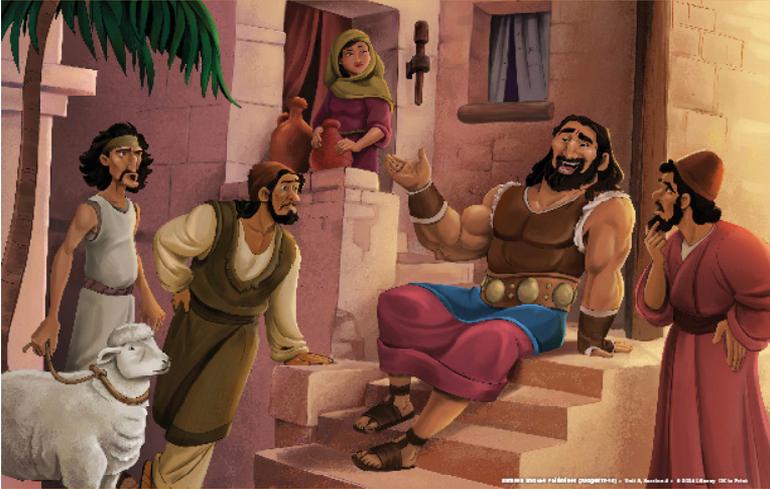
- The Israelite army chanted: The ____ of the Lord and of Gideon.
- It was God's ____ that won the battle for the Israelites.
- The army started out being thousands and ended up being three ____.
- The army got smaller after God asked Gideon to watch the men do this.
- Gideon thought he was the ____ in his clan, but God didn't see him that way.

Down

- These were the people that God helped Gideon defeat.
- The army carried trumpets and broke these to scare the Midians.
- Gideon wanted to see if this was wet and the ground was dry.
- When the angel approached Gideon he called him a mighty ____.
- There was no fighting. The army blew these and scared the Midian's away.

UNIT 8: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Session 4: Samson and the Philistines Judges 13-16



Sunday, May 4

What is
repentance?

Repentance is turning
away from sin and
turning to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."



Before you read...

- ▶ In the book of Judges, we have seen God's people rebel against His commands and suffer the consequences of their disobedience. Even when His people rebelled, God remained faithful and sent judges to rescue the Israelites from their enemies. Do you remember the names of the judges God sent?
- ▶ This week, we will see how God gave Samson strength to rescue His people from the Philistines.



Read Judges 13:1-5

- ▶ Who did the Lord deliver the Israelites to this time? For how long?

- ▶ What did the angel of the Lord tell the woman NOT to do?

- ▶ What was the boy set apart for?

Tuesday,
May 6

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ This week, we will see how God gave Samson strength to rescue His people from the Philistines.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that an angel of the Lord appeared to a woman and told her not to drink wine or any other fermented drink and not to eat anything unclean because a son would be born to her who would be set apart to deliver Israel from the Philistines.



Read Judges 13:24-14:7

- ▶ Who was with Samson? (verse 25)

- ▶ Who wanted Samson to have a Philistine wife? (verse 4)

- ▶ What did Samson tear apart?
Who gave him the strength to do that?



Before you read...

- ▶ In the book of Judges, we have seen God's people rebel against His commands and suffer the consequences of their disobedience. This week, we will see how God gave Samson strength to rescue His people from the Philistines.
- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the Lord wanted Samson to marry a Philistine woman so that He could use Samson to destroy the Philistines. The Spirit of the Lord was with Samson and gave him great strength.



Read Judges 16:4-9

- ▶ Who did Samson fall in love with?

- ▶ Why was she trying to trick him?

- ▶ What is the actual source of Samson's strength?

Thursday,
May 8

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah who was secretly working with the Philistine leaders. She wanted to trick him into telling her what made him so strong, but Samson did not tell her the truth. Delilah tried to trick Samson two more times and he lied to her two more times!



Read Judges 16:15-22

- ▶ What answer did Samson give Delilah this time? Was it the truth?

- ▶ What was the real reason Samson lost his strength?
(Hint: It was not his hair. Read verse 20 again.)

- ▶ What did the Philistines do to Samson?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Samson finally told Delilah the truth and the Philistines shaved Samson's head while he was asleep. His strength left him and they gouged out his eyes and put him in prison.



Read Judges 16:23-30

- ▶ What did the Philistines do once they had captured Samson?

- ▶ What did Samson ask the Lord to do?

- ▶ Where did Samson's strength come from? Where does our strength come from?

God's Strong Man: Samson

"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines." Judges 13:5 (NLT)



The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 12-9-15-14 _____
- 16-15-23-5-18 _____
- 2-12-5-19-19-5-4 _____
- 19-1-13-19-15-14 _____
- 19-20-18-15-14-7 _____
- 4-5-12-9-12-1-8 _____
- 14-1-26-9-18-9-20-5 _____
- 7-18-5-23 _____
- 8-1-9-18 _____
- 19-5-3-18-5-20 _____

LION	POWER	BLESSED	SAMSON	STRONG
DELILAH	NAZIRITE	GREW	HAIR	SECRET

UNIT 8: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Bonus Session: Jesus' Triumphal Entry Matt 21, John 12



Sunday, April 13

What is
repentance?

Repentance is turning
away from sin and
turning to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Monday,
April 14

BONUS SESSION



Before you read...

- ▶ For the next two weeks we will take a break from reading Judges and focus on Easter. We like to pause and focus on Jesus coming to the earth as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' death and resurrection is recorded in the New Testament section of the Bible, but as we learn every week, we can see Jesus throughout the entire Bible. Ever since sin entered the world, people have needed a Savior.
- ▶ We will begin this week with the account of Palm Sunday. We will see how the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King, but they did not see Him as the Savior of the world. Before we read about Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem, let's take a look at what an Old Testament prophet said about Jesus' coming.



Read Zechariah 9:9-10

- ▶ What will the King be riding on when He comes to the people?

- ▶ What will the King proclaim when He comes?

- ▶ Where will the King rule when He comes?



Before you read...

- ▶ We will begin this week with the account of Palm Sunday. We will see how the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King, but they did not see Him as the Savior of the world. Yesterday, we read from the prophet Zechariah, who proclaimed that the King would come riding on the foal of a donkey to proclaim peace and rule everywhere.



Read Matthew 21:1-5

- ▶ What animal did Jesus ask his disciples to go get?

- ▶ Verse 4 says this took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet. Who was the prophet?

- ▶ Why do you think God chose this animal for Jesus to arrive on in Jerusalem?

Wednesday,
April 16

BONUS SESSION



Before you read...

- ▶ We will begin this week with the account of Palm Sunday. We will see how the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King, but they did not see Him as the Savior of the world. Yesterday, we read that it happened just as Zechariah predicted, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey.



Read Matthew 21:6-9

- ▶ How many people saw Jesus enter Jerusalem on the donkey?

- ▶ What words would you use to describe how the crowd felt about Jesus?

- ▶ The word Hosanna means "save now." Who or what do you think the crowd wanted Jesus to save them from?



Before you read...

- ▶ We will begin this week with the account of Palm Sunday. We will see how the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King, but they did not see Him as the Savior of the world. Yesterday, we read that a large crowd saw Jesus ride into Jerusalem. The crowd was shouting “Hosanna in the highest” which means ‘save us.’
- ▶ Mark, Luke, and John also wrote about Jesus’ triumphal entry to Jerusalem. We are going to read what John said happened next.



Read John 12:16

- ▶ Did the disciples understand what was happening when Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem?

- ▶ When did they realize and understand?

- ▶ What does it mean “after Jesus was glorified?”

Friday,
April 18

BONUS SESSION



Before you read...

- ▶ We will begin this week with the account of Palm Sunday. We will see how the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King, but they did not see Him as the Savior of the world. Yesterday, we read that the disciples did not understand what was happening until after Jesus was glorified, meaning after He died, was resurrected and returned to heaven.

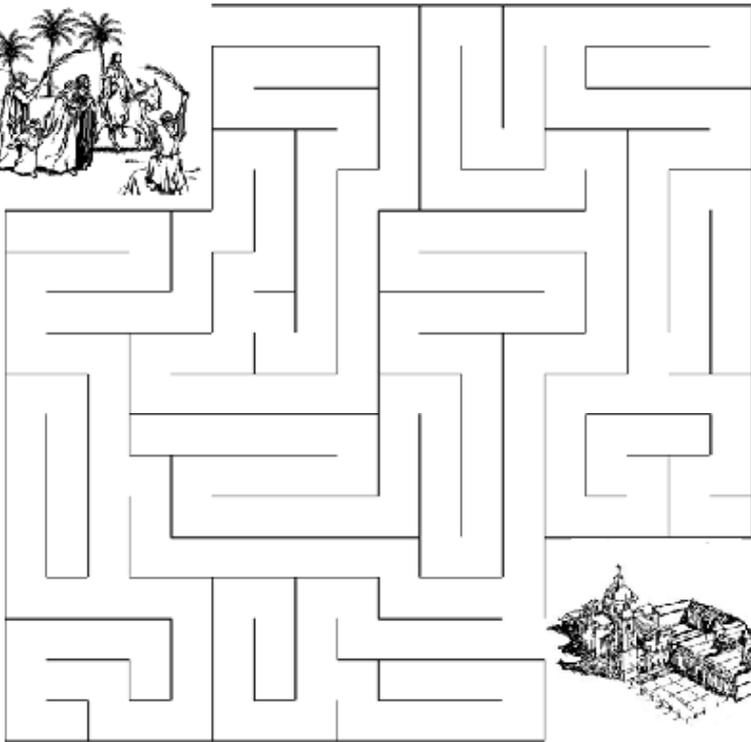


Read John 12:17-19

- ▶ What miracle did Jesus do that caused people to want to see Him?

- ▶ Were the Pharisees happy about the crowd of people following Jesus?

- ▶ It says the crowd continued to spread the word about Jesus. We are still telling about Jesus even today. What would you tell a friend about Jesus?



Follow Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Matthew 21:9

UNIT 8: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Bonus Session: Jesus Saves Us From Our Enemies



Sunday, April 20

What is
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Repentance is turning
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Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.”



Before you read...

- ▶ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell about Jesus' death and resurrection. We are going to read from each of those four books this week.
- ▶ We will begin reading after Jesus' triumphal entry in Jerusalem when he was arrested and put on trial. The governor, Pilate, handed Jesus over to be crucified.



Read John 19:16-22

- ▶ How many people were crucified with Jesus?

- ▶ What did the sign say on Jesus' cross?

- ▶ Deep thinking question: Why did the chief priests protest about the sign?

Tuesday,
April 22

BONUS SESSION



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read from the book of John that Jesus was crucified with two others. Pilate placed a sign on Jesus' cross that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews."



Read Luke 23:32-43

- ▶ What did the first criminal say to Jesus?

- ▶ What did the second criminal say to Jesus?

- ▶ The second criminal's statement is one of the most important details about Jesus...He did nothing wrong. He never sinned. Why did Jesus, who was perfect, have to die on the cross?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read from the book of Luke that one criminal insulted Jesus while the other one recognized that Jesus was perfect and did not deserve death. Jesus told the second criminal that he would be with Jesus in paradise!



Read Mark 15:33-39

- ▶ What did Jesus cry out from the cross?

- ▶ What did they try to give Jesus to drink?

- ▶ Read verse 38 again. Back in January we read about the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. This curtain that was torn was the curtain between those places. Deep thinking: How could it have been torn from TOP to bottom? Why is this curtain tearing important?

Thursday,
April 24

BONUS SESSION



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read from the book of Mark that when Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. This is the curtain that separates the Holy Place with the Most Holy Place that we just learned about back in January. The tearing of the curtain showed that Christ had entered heaven for us so that we too may now enter God's presence.



Read Matthew 27:57-66

- ▶ What did Joseph do with Jesus' body?

- ▶ What women were there at the tomb?

- ▶ Why did Pilate want there to be guards at the tomb?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read from the book of Matthew that a man named Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth and placed it in a tomb. Pilate ordered there to be guards at the tomb so that the disciples would not come and steal Jesus' body.



Read Matthew 28:1-10

- ▶ What did the angel at the tomb tell Mary and Mary?

- ▶ How did the women feel when they heard this news?

- ▶ How do YOU feel about this news?



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