

Unit 9 • Session 1 Israel's Unfaithfulness

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 1–3

STORY POINT: God's people repeatedly turned from Him.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Paint stick sword

Provide each kid with a paint stick, some aluminum foil, and tape. Allow them to cover the top part of the paint stick with aluminum foil and hold it in place with tape. They can also wrap tape around the handle to act as a grip. Collect the swords and hold onto them until the end of the session.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Israelites do that angered God? (*forgot about His commands, worshiped other gods; Judg. 1:11-12*)
2. Did God abandon the people for their sin? (*No, He provided judges to rescue them when they repented; Judg. 1:16*)
3. Who were the judges we learned about today? (*Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar; Judg. 3*)
4. Why do you think the people kept turning from God? *Guide the kids to discuss the sin nature we are all born with. We naturally drift away from God. We think we know what is best for us, and we tend to distrust God. We cannot save ourselves.*
5. What makes Jesus different from the judges in the Old Testament? *Guide the kids to discuss the fact that Jesus is not just a man; He is also the Son of God. Jesus lived a perfect life and died for us to make the way to live with God. Jesus can change our hearts to repent, love God, and obey Him. The judges could not change people's hearts but only remind them of God's laws.*
6. How do we know God still loves us even when we sin? *Guide kids to discuss the fact that God sent His Son to die for sinners. Remind them that, in Jesus, God declares us righteous. Jesus' perfect obedience is given to us because He took on our sin. Our sin will not stop God's love. We repent because we love God, not to earn God's love. Sin is not best for us—God is.*

SAY • God's people repeatedly turned from Him. They did not have new hearts. The judges could not change their hearts. In Jesus, we have new hearts that want to repent, love God, and obey Him.

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS VIDEO:

Prompt kids to think about why sin has consequences even for Christians. Guide them to discuss how Jesus changes our hearts.