

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT I THEME
LACKING LEADERSHIP AND A MORAL COMPASS

LESSON TOPIC

DO NOT CONFORM TO THE WORLD

UNIFYING TOPIC

Radical Commitment to God's Way

LESSON PASSAGE

Joshua 24:18-27

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Joshua 23--24

LESSON TEXT

- I. Joshua's Admonition (Joshua 24:18-20)
- II. The Covenant Renewed (Joshua 24:21-24)
- III. The Stone Set as Witness (Joshua 24:25-27)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. (Joshua 24:14b, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Joshua reminded the Israelites of God's faithfulness throughout their long history and urged them to make the radical choice to serve God rather than the world.

LESSON AIM

In today's lesson, Joshua calls Israel to give their full and undivided allegiance to Yahweh. This was no casual agreement or polite acknowledgment. Joshua demanded a radical, wholehearted commitment—a decisive choice to serve the Lord with integrity, loyalty, and covenant faithfulness in a world filled with competing options.

LIFE AIM

Life will always present moments that demand difficult choices, and those decisions reveal both our beliefs and the condition of our hearts. Israel's faith was anchored in God's covenant with Abraham, and Joshua reminded them of God's unwavering faithfulness while urging them to choose wisely, even though many tempting alternatives surrounded them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT

To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

CHOOSING BADLY

UNIFYING TOPIC

God Works Despite Evil

LESSON PASSAGE

Judges 2:6-15

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Judges 2

LESSON TEXT

- I. Faithful Beginnings and Fading Memory (Judges 2:6-10)
- II. The Cycle of Idolatry and Consequence (Judges 2:11-13)
- III. God's Righteous Response (Judges 2:14-15)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.
(Judges 2:11, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Though presented with many opportunities to follow God's way, the people of Israel chose disobedience. They were forced to face the consequences of defeat and distress in enemy-occupied territory.

LESSON AIM

Cycles reveal themselves through repeated patterns. While not all cycles are harmful, those that oppose God's Word carry serious spiritual consequences. Today's lesson examines Israel's recurring cycle of unfaithfulness and the profound impact such patterns have had on them and future generations.

LIFE AIM

Life is shaped by the decisions we repeatedly make. Patterns reveal the true origin and impact of our choices—whether they are life-giving or destructive. Israel's story demonstrates how recurring seasons of unfaithfulness warrant consequences and offers every believer a powerful lesson about the importance of consistent obedience.

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LESSON TOPIC

A HERO WHO'S NOT A HERO

UNIFYING TOPIC

God Works Through Ehud

LESSON PASSAGE

Judges 3:15-23, 30

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Judges 3

LESSON TEXT

- I. An Unlikely Deliverer Rises (Judges 3:15-17)
- II. Courage and Compromise (Judges 3:18-23)
- III. Peace and Restored Freedom (Judges 3:30)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded. (Judges 3:15a, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Despite their unfaithfulness in following God's way, God was faithful in raising judges to rescue Israel from the immediate threat they faced from their enemies.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson reveals how God often accomplishes His purposes through unexpected methods and unlikely individuals, highlighting a moment when an ordinary person was divinely empowered to rise beyond physical limitations and become a deliverer and national hero for God's people.

LIFE AIM

If you were to ask most individuals, many of them could easily identify at least one thing about themselves that they would change if they could. Although some conditions are unchangeable, they should never be used to doubt God's ability and willingness to use His people, even with limitations. When one has faith in the Lord, there are no conditions that God cannot work through.

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LESSON TOPIC

RELIGIOUS BUT NOT RIGHTEOUS

UNIFYING TOPIC

God's Works Are Not Forgotten

LESSON PASSAGE

Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Judges 17--18

LESSON TEXT

- I. Religion without Relationship (Joshua 17:1-6)
- II. Compromise Spreads (Joshua 18:18-19)
- III. False Security and Forgotten Works (Joshua 18:27)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes. (Judges 17:6, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

God's faithfulness is infinite, yet the people consistently fell back into religious impurity and lawlessness instead of keeping their covenant promises to God.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson outlines one of the most important conversations the Church must address thoroughly. As we look at the difference between religious appearance and true righteousness, Scripture will illuminate the importance of making this distinction and the dangers of not knowing it.

LIFE AIM

Growing up in a religious environment can be a blessing, but only when one's relationship with God is not replaced by ritual. Today's lesson examines how empty religious practices dishonor God and create space for idolatry and spiritual compromise, calling believers back to authentic devotion to the Lord.

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