



JOURNAL PAGE

Key Passage:  
For the wages of sin is death,  
but the free gift  
of God is eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

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Unit 9 • Session 1

## THE PEOPLE KEPT SINNING

Judges 2

### WHAT IS THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN? THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN IS DEATH.

God had led the Israelites into the promised land. God made a covenant with them, saying, "I will keep My promises, but this is what you must agree to: Never make a covenant with the people living in this land. Tear down their altars to their false gods."

But that's not what happened. After Joshua and the older generation of Israelites died, the Israelite children grew up and did not remember God. They did what was evil.

The Israelites fell into a cycle of sin. First, the Israelites would disobey God and worship the false gods of the people living around them. They'd forget about the one true God. God would grow angry. He would let an enemy king take over the Israelites, and the people would have to serve the king. They would suffer greatly.

Then the Israelites would remember how good they had it when they loved and obeyed God. They would cry out to Him, "Save us!" God wanted the people to love and obey Him, so He would raise up a leader from the Israelites to deliver them from their enemies and rule as a judge. The people would obey God as long as the judge was alive.

But when the judge died, the Israelites would turn away from God and the cycle would begin again: Sin, oppression, repentance, rescue, obedience, and then back to sin. This is the story of the Book of Judges.

Christ Connection: The judges saved the people from the consequences of their sin, but not the cause of it. God's plan was to one day send a true Deliverer—Jesus, His own Son—to be the King of His people. Jesus saves people from sin forever.

**My child has completed the Christ Connection on his/her own and has discussed it with me:**

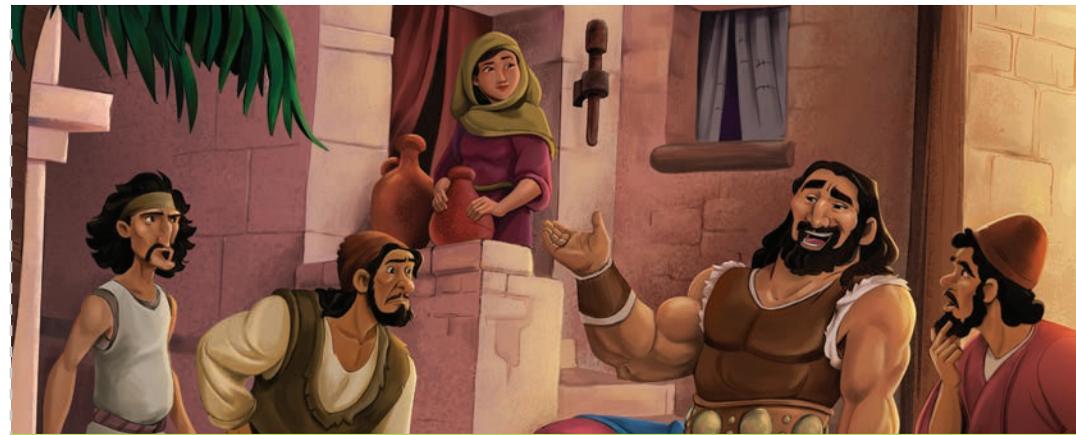
**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



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Unit 9 • Session 2

## GOD USED SAMSON

Judges 13-16

### WHAT IS THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN? THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN IS DEATH.

The Israelites were stuck in a pattern of ignoring God, being attacked by enemies, and then calling out to God to rescue them. God let their enemies, the Philistines, rule over them.

One day, the angel of the LORD spoke to a man and his wife. They would have a son, and their son would save God's people from the Philistines. God had special instructions for their son: He should never cut his hair.

The couple named him Samson. God made Samson strong. Samson decided he wanted to marry a Philistine woman. Samson and his parents went to meet her. Along the way, a lion jumped out and Samson killed the lion. Later, bees made honey in the lion's body.

Samson told a riddle to a group of Philistines at the wedding. The Philistines could not figure it out. They asked Samson's bride for help. She told the men the answer. Samson was angry, and he left without his wife. Samson ran away to another city, where he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines gave Delilah money to help them find out.

Samson told Delilah, "If you cut my hair, I will be weak." A Philistine came and cut his hair. The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.

The Philistines made Samson stand between two pillars in their temple. God strengthened Samson. Samson pushed on the pillars and collapsed the temple. Samson and everyone in the temple died.

Christ Connection: Samson's sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson's story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life.

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