

Lesson 6: Tola and Jair – the 7th and 8th Judges

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Judges 10 – Tola and Jair
- 2) See that this time God had enough but was yet still compassionate
- 3) Learn that the Israelites this time removed their false gods

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for idea

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Map of Oppressors and Later Judges – one for class to share
- Judges Charts and Answer Key– (from previous class)
- Tola and Jair Activity Sheet – one per student
- Israelites Cry Out Activity Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Blank sheet of paper – one for class to share for Name that Answer Clue Game
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - 30 small items (Cheerios, Baby Carrots, etc.) | 30 pieces for each child or to share as class |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

Say to students:

Today we are going to continue to study the book of Judges.

What did we study last week? Let students raise their hands and answer. Abimelech was the 6th judge although he was chosen by the people and not God. He was evil and killed his 69 other brothers and only one escaped. When he fought against his own people a few years later – a woman killed him by dropping a millstone from a tower onto his head.

Does anyone have any questions from last week? Answer if you are able, if not tell the students you will get an answer and let them know next week and then make sure you do 😊

2) Tola and Jair the 7th Judges – with Judges Map and Chart

20-25 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

*Have map of Judges ready to show class as you read.

Today we are going to learn about the next two judges of the Israelite people.

Have you ever had someone ask for help again and again and yet never learn from their mistake and kept needing your help? Maybe you know someone in school who always gets in trouble and doesn't learn to stop. Maybe you know a family member who is like that. Would you get frustrated having to deal with someone who always wants your help, yet never bothers to fix their own problem? Yes!

Let's all turn to Judges Chapter 10 and can I get volunteers to read 4 verses each from Judges 10:1-16?

Thank the volunteers for reading and then show them the map of Judges – point to Tola and Jair's area and show what area they judged from.

Discussion Questions:

Who was the 7th Judge? Tola

What does it say about him in Judges 10:1-2? Not much! But Tola lived in the mountains and judged after Abimelech. There are no oppressors recorded during this time.

How long did he judge for? 23 years.

Hand out Judges Chart to each child – they should be half way completed by now. Remembering that younger students get the chart mostly filled in and the older students will need to fill in their chart themselves.

So what will we write under Judge 7? Tola

Under length of rule what will we write? 23 years

What is a fact we can write about him? He lived in the mountains or not much is written about him

Who were oppressing the Israelites at that time? No one is listed

How long? No time mentioned – leave it blank

Now on to Jair. What number of judge was Jair? The 8th

How long did he rule? 22 years

What was special about him or what facts do we know to write in our chart? He had 30 sons!

Were there oppressors listed at this time? No.

So we will leave oppressors and time of oppressors blank.

When the Israelites sinned again and worshipped false gods – who did God send in verse 7? The Philistines and Ammonites

What did the Israelites do this time to say sorry? They cried out to God.

Did he respond right away? No, he said they should go to their false gods and ask them for help!

God was frustrated with the Israelites. They always asked Him for help, yet as soon as He helped them – they would turn back to their sins and cause more trouble. They weren't learning!

Should we learn from our mistakes? Yes

Why? So we don't repeat them and to ensure that we don't make God so frustrated that He stops helping us.

What did the Israelites finally do to get God to help? They actually put away and got rid of their foreign false gods.

Did God feel bad for them? Yes

What "false gods" can we have today? Let students answer. **Some people today believe in science that states there is no God but that the world was created by accident, some other people who believe in God but are not worshipping God according to His Word the Bible and instead they are following other's wrong beliefs. What about watching bad tv shows? – is that a form of a false god? Or paying attention or giving adoration to something other than God? What about video games that might be inappropriate? Do you think God is pleased with that?**

What can we do to make sure we only serve God? Let students answer. Idea is to worship Him only – make sure you go to church instead of doing other things and make sure that you believe and follow God and stand up for Him when other's ask or mention God or the Bible.

We need to be careful not to have false gods like the Israelites did. Things that take us away from God or that we put our trust in, instead of putting our trust in God. IF we do have these things in our lives, we need to get rid of them like the Israelites finally did.

What will happen if we get rid of any false gods in our lives? God will hear us and help us!

3) Tola And Jair Activity Sheet

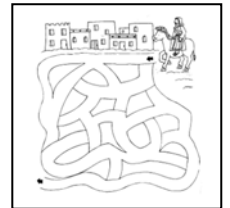
15-20 minutes

Say, **"To help us remember about Tola and Jair – we are going to do an activity sheet."**

Hand out one sheet to each student with crayons. Read each section and go through it as a group so that all students can hear the words being read.

Start with the maze, then the matching section and then move down to the verse and ask students to figure out what each picture represents – look the verse up in the Bible to make sure they get it right.

Finally, if time let them draw a picture that will help them remember Tola and Jair judging Israel.



4) Israelites Cry Out Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet per student. Read the instructions aloud, hand out crayons and help students as needed to finish the page.



5) Optional: Name that Answer Clue Game

10 minutes

Form two teams – make sure younger and older students are placed together so that the younger ones can receive help from the older students.

Tell the teams that you are going to name a topic. You will then ask Team 1 how many clues they think they need to guess the answer. For example say, **"The topic is the book of Judges. How many clues do you need to guess the answer?"** A representative from Team 1 will talk to his or her group and tell you how many clues they need from 1-6. Team 2 then gets a chance to try and answer in fewer clues by making a lower bid. Ask them if they think they can.

Have the teams bid until one of the teams decides it can't go any lower. That teams will get to try and name the answer!

Read aloud the number of clues underneath the answer without saying what the answer is (See list below) that the lowest team bid. If the team can guess the answer, it scores a point. (Have a sheet of paper to write down each team and how many points they collect). If the answer isn't right, the other team has a chance to answer and may ask for one more clue.

In the next round, start the bidding with Team 2. Continue until you've gone through all your answers and topics. The team that scores the highest wins!

Answers:

Jair

Clues

1. Lived in Gilead
2. Judge
3. Ruled 22 years
4. Was a man
5. Had 30 sons
6. He gave them 30 donkeys

Judges

Clues

1. Found in Judges
2. There were 13
3. Some were good, some not
4. One was a woman
5. Most were chosen by God
6. Military leaders

Deborah

Clues

1. Prophesized
2. Judge
3. Sang a song
4. Worked with Barak
5. Helped fight the Canaanites
6. The only woman

Israelites

1. Rebelled against God
2. Worshiped idols
3. Cried out to God
4. Were oppressed
5. Had 12 tribes
6. People of God

Abimelech

1. Was number 6
2. Judge
3. Evil
4. Called a king
5. Fought with Shechem
6. Was killed by a millstone

Ehud

1. Gave 80 years of rest
2. Called by God
3. Fought the Moabites
4. Used a dagger
5. One of the first judges
6. Left-handed

6) Optional - Snack: Cheerios, Baby Carrots, etc. (make sure there are 30 pieces)

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **Today we studied Tola and Jair. Can anyone remember how many sons Jair had? 30! There are 30 pieces for each of you (or to share) to help you remember that Jair had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys and ruled 30 towns!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember any of the names of the judges while snacking or see how many books of history they can name.

7) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

Judges - *to the tune of the Alphabet song or the ABC....song*

Name the Judges who went to war
Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar
Deborah, Gideon, and Abimelech
Tola, Jair and Jephthah
Ibzan, Elon and Abdon
The last Judge was Samson

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, help us as we study Your perfect Word in the Old Testament to understand it, use it and see the examples of faithful people that followed You. Help us to remember that Your commands are important and need to be followed to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help us all too always love You with our whole heart, mind, strength and soul!

Help us this week as we go from our church family – we pray that you will be with us and our families, help us share the good news of Your love to every one we meet and help us to remember to pray and study the Bible every day.

Thank you for the book of Judges that shows us that we still need to be faithful, even if everyone else around us is not. Help us to see that we should pray for our leaders.

We pray for those who could not be here today. We pray you will bring them back safely next week.

Thank you God for Your love, thank you for Your Son Jesus, thank you for caring for us and providing such a beautiful world for us to live in, and thank you for giving us Your Word – the Bible so we can know how to live and learn what pleases You. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!