



# 4

## Israel Disobeys God



### Key Passages

- Judges 2:10–11, 2:14

### Lesson Focus

- God alone is to be worshipped.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will build the walls of Jericho with play dough then sing the song “God Told Joshua” as a review.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God’s Word**—Students will hear how the Israelites forgot about God, turned away from Him, and started worshipping idols instead.

**Song**— Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the Memory Verse Song. Refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.



### Activity 1: Worship God Alone

Students will look at pictures of things they love that could become idols in their lives and will repeat, “We should worship God alone!”



### Activity 2: Worship in Song

Students will learn two songs: “No One Like God” and “God Is Great.”



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse using the Memory Verse Flash Cards.



### Applying God’s Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### COME ON IN

- Review the song “God Told Joshua” from last week’s activity.
- Provide play dough to build the walls of Jericho.

- Play dough
- “God Told Joshua” lyrics on the Flip Chart Song Page or the back of this Teacher Guide



### CIRCLE TIME

- No special preparation necessary.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time



### WORSHIP GOD ALONE

- Print and cut apart the Things Children Love Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Things Children Love Pictures
- Bible



### WORSHIP IN SONG

- Practice the songs and hand motions on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lyrics to “No One Like God” and “God Is Great” found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- If you haven’t already done so, print, cut out, and color the Memory Verse Flash Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Memory Verse Flash Cards
- Tape or poster putty



### APPLYING GOD’S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson this week, please prepare your heart and mind by reading Joshua 23:14–16; Judges 1–3; and Colossians 3:4–6 (paying particular attention to the fact that in verse 5, covetousness is identified as a form of idolatry).

Our last lesson described the event of the miraculous conquest of Jericho. Israel, after that victory, endured the consequences of one man's disobedience when it was defeated at Ai, the next city God commanded it to conquer (Joshua 7). After dealing with the problem of this man's sin, Israel conquered Ai; and the principle that God would bless obedience and withhold blessing from disobedience was firmly demonstrated. The rest of the book of Joshua is the history of that generation's conquest of the land of Canaan, culminating in Joshua's description in chapter 23:14 that all of God's promises of blessing and guidance in the giving of the Promised Land were fulfilled.

Judges chapter 1 gives a summary of the last part of the land's conquest and the failure of Israel to completely cast out the idolatrous inhabitants. Judges 2:1–3 records the Angel of the Lord warning Israel that this failure would have bitter consequences: "they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you." Joshua's generation seemed to take the warning to heart; Judges 2:7 says that the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua and of the elders of that generation who outlived him. However, after that generation's death, the people became idolatrous and did not know the Lord nor the work that He had done for Israel (Judges 2:10). Their idolatry took the form of worshiping the gods of the conquered people whom Israel had not cast out in the previous generation. These gods were the Baals, usually thought to be gods of fertility and prosperity (Judges 2:11).

Israel's quick fall into idolatry may seem far removed from us. In our culture, there is little temptation to actually worship a Baal or to make an idol and bow down to it. The root of the Israelites' idolatry, however, was that instead of trusting and serving the true God, and devoting themselves to His great purposes, they chose to worship gods whose claim to deity lay in their willingness to serve the desires of the people. In this, we are much like the Israelites, and we are warned by Paul in the book of Colossians to "put to death" selfish and impure desires (Colossians 3:5). In this exhortation, we see the common ground of our own sin with the idolatry of Israel: cov-

etousness—selfish, sinful desire for what God has not given. And the Apostle Paul warns that "no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:5). If we aren't fighting this sin of covetousness—putting it to death—it's evidence that we may not be a true believer.

The rest of Judges 2 describes the anger of the Lord against Israel's idolatry and disobedience as He delivered them into the hands of the surrounding nations (Judges 2:14). But we also see the undeserved compassion that God exercised in raising up judges to deliver Israel from her enemies again and again (Judges 2:16). Judges 2:11–23 gives a broad, general description of the cycle that history records of Israel during the era of the judges. The recurring pattern included the Israelites turning to idolatry, angering the true God; God bringing consequences against them in the form of oppression by idolatrous nations; the Israelites crying out, "groaning" to God for deliverance from oppression; God showing compassion on them and providing a deliverer by way of a judge; and finally after regaining deliverance, Israel turning again to covetous idolatry, beginning the cycle anew. Clearly, this is not a highlight of Israel's history. As the book of Judges closes, the Lord gives insight into the Israelites' condition: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6).

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Note that the root of the Israelites' disobedience was always their failure to trust that the true God was caring for their best interests. Idolatry—including our bent toward putting pleasure, worldly possessions, and comfort before God—is never a matter of obedience alone. Idolatry reveals a heart that does not have faith and trust in God and all His purposes. Idolatry will put our selfish desires above the one true God. As we read Israel's history, although we see a stream of blessings for obedience and consequences for disobedience, the root issue is always faith. Would Israel trust that the true God is faithful to His promises and that His promises are the true prosperity of His people? Will we trust that the true God is faithful to His promises and that His promises are the true prosperity of His people? Whenever disobedience occurs, the answer to this question is no—whether we are talking of Israel or ourselves.

Luke 18:18–24—the account of the rich young ruler and Jesus—gives us a New Testament illustration of the struggle we often encounter between loyalty toward God and love for the world. Like the rich young ruler, we want the eternal life (and all the blessings) that God provides through Christ’s sacrifice, and yet we often have conflicting desires to hold onto the immediate blessings that we can obtain in this life. God does not demand of His followers that they avoid all worldly blessings, but He clearly commands them to value Christ and a life honoring Him to the extent that worldly blessings have no hold on our hearts. Our failure to be able to “let go” of worldly desires may keep us from Him (Mark 8:34–38). What our hearts trust and value will ultimately lead us to obey or disobey our Lord.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Holy and just Lord, you are gracious and so merciful. As I study the idolatry of the Israelites, help me to examine my own heart. Where there is any hint of something or someone in my life that comes before you, reveal it. In your mercy forgive me. And by the power of your Holy Spirit, help me get my relationship with you right, for you are all that matters. Help me to pass on the truth of this lesson to the children in my class. It is so easy to be entrapped by the things of this world. Give them the strength and discernment to avoid the sin of idolatry. Continue to open their eyes as we study your Word. I pray that each one of them would come to know you as the one true God of their life.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will build the walls of Jericho with play dough.
- They will sing the song, “God Told Joshua” as a review.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson’s focus. This will refresh the truths in your students’ minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his or her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let’s pray.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I’m sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today we will ask God for something. That is a prayer of supplication, or a “please” prayer. God cares about us and has promised to provide us with all we need.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.

**I'll start.** Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord, would you please . . . *(put your own personal prayer here).*

*Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.*

**Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.**

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **Who made you?** *God.*
- ? **What else did God make?** *All things.*
- ? **Why did God make you and all things?** *For His own glory.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? **Where is God?** *God is everywhere.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.*

## Bible Pass Around

► Use a sticky note to mark the first passage to be read.

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.** *Hold up your Bible.* **God's Word is true and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number** *(choose a number).* *You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student.* **As we say each number** *(or word)* **you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number** *(or word),* **whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready?** *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

*Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.* **Today our lesson comes from the book of Judges. Let's open the Bible to the book of Judges now! We are going to read from this book today.** *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is.* **Here it is in my Bible.** *Show the students where the book is. Have the student sit back down.*

The people at this time were serving the Lord. They had followed Joshua into the Promised Land and they remembered the great things God had done. God had helped them in so many ways. But Joshua was old and he died. The people buried him. Joshua had been their leader—a great leader. Joshua had loved God and obeyed Him. But things were changing.

Listen as I read from the book of Judges. Listen carefully and tell me what happened to the people after Joshua died. *Read Judges 2:10–11 emphasizing “did not know the Lord.”*

? Who did these people forget about? They did not know someone. Who was that? *Judges 2:10. The Lord.*

After Joshua died, the people forgot about the Lord and all the great things He had done for them. There was no one to lead the Israelites. The people didn't know God and didn't remember all the amazing things He had done.

The Bible tells us that God's children did evil in the sight of the Lord. They didn't want to pray to God alone. They started worshipping other gods.

? How many gods are there? *One!*

That's right. There is only one God. And He is the Creator of everything. And He wants everyone to worship and pray to Him alone! But the people in Israel did not love God anymore. And they started praying to and worshipping false gods. These gods were called idols. An idol is anything that we love more than God!

? Do you think that made the one and only true God happy? *No!*

? Was it right for them to pray to these false gods? *No.*

No! It wasn't right at all. The idols they were praying to were statues, pieces of stone or wood that someone carved. *Refer to the Flip Chart.* This is what the people were worshipping. But our God is the only true God. He is the God we read about in the Bible. *Hold up your Bible.* He created the whole world and everything in it and brought the Israelites all the way to the Promised Land. Any other god is not the true God. But God's people turned away from Him and started to worship and love these false gods.

? Well, I asked this before, but do you think that God got angry at the people? They were not worshipping Him at all. *Yes!*

Hmmmm. I think so, too. But let's see what the Bible says about it. Listen again very carefully. And you tell me if it sounds like God got angry! *Read Judges 2:14 emphasizing the “anger of the Lord.”*

? Was the Lord angry? *Yes!*

God was angry at the people. God wants His people to worship only Him. These people had sinned against God.

## Judges 2:10–11

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

## Judges 2:14

? How did they sin against God? What were they doing that made God angry? *Worshipping and praying to other gods.*

? What is sin? *Allow discussion.*

Sin is disobeying God—doing something He has told us not to do, or not doing what He has told us to do.

? How did God feel about the Israelites' sin? *Angry.*

? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* The people were worshipping idols. Could these idols answer their prayers? *No!*

? Was it right for them to worship idols? *No.* Was it sin? *Yes.*

? Was it right for them to love and pray to false gods? *No.* Was it sin? *Yes.*

? Who should we love and worship? *God. Our Creator.*

God is the one who made us, isn't He? And He wants us to worship and pray to only Him. He doesn't want anything else to take His place in our lives. God is the one that created us and loves us so much that He gave His own Son to die for sinners. If we believe and trust in Him we will live with Him in heaven someday. No false god or idol could ever do that!

? Who is God's Son who came to die on the Cross for sinners? *Jesus.*

Yes. Jesus is God's Son who came to earth as a man and died so that sinners could be saved! Only the one true God could do that. There are no other gods who can forgive sins and promise heaven to everyone who believes in them.

God wants us to love Him more than anything else in the whole world! Sometimes that is hard to do, but the more you get to know God, the easier it will be for you.

? Where can we find out about the real God? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* That's right. Right now you can learn about God by listening to others read to you from the Bible. Like me! And when you get older, and learn to read, you'll be able to read the Bible all by yourself. I hope someday the Bible becomes your very favorite book! And I pray that you will always love God more than anything else in the whole world!

## SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

OK. Everybody up. We are going to sing our Memory Verse Song. God wants us to worship Him alone! Let's worship Him right now by singing!  
*Sing the song together while marching around the room with instruments if desired.*

Great singing! I love memorizing God's Word. And you are doing really well at it. Now I want to show you some neat pictures I have. Let's go back to our tables—quietly! *Dismiss students to the tables.*



# Worship God Alone

## MATERIALS

- Things Children Love Pictures
- Bible

## INSTRUCTIONS

Show the children the Things Children Love Pictures. Follow the script below as you show each picture. Have the children repeat the answers after each picture. They can answer in different ways—shout, whisper, girls, boys, etc.

*I'm going to show you some pictures. I want you to tell me what they are and answer four very special questions. Ready? Hold up pictures one at a time.*

- ? What is this? *A swing set!*
- ? Should we worship our swing set? *No!*
- ? Hold up Bible. Who should we worship? *We should worship God alone!*
- ? And we can know about God from the \_\_\_\_\_! *Hold up Bible, have children shout "Bible!"*

- ? What is this? *A dog!*
  - ? Should we worship our pets? *No!*
  - ? Hold up Bible. Who should we worship? *We should worship God alone!*
  - ? And we can know about God from the \_\_\_\_\_! *Hold up Bible, have children shout Bible!*
- Continue this same pattern with all 12 of the pictures.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Show the Things Children Love Pictures again. You know all of these wonderful things are gifts from God. God wants us to enjoy them. God gives us everything we have! He is our Creator and the only true God. That is why we should worship and pray to Him alone. We should never love what we have—what God gives us—more than we love God. That is not right! God alone is to be worshipped.



# Worship in Song

## MATERIALS

- Lyrics to “No One Like God” and “God is Great” are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide

## INSTRUCTIONS

We're going to gather around and worship God by singing some songs about Him. I'm going to teach the words to you. Ready?

*Think of fun ways to sing. For example: Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.*

*Gather students in a circle and teach the lyrics and hand motions for the songs. Recite each line, allowing students to repeat until it becomes familiar. Spend some time singing and worshipping God together using hand motions, clapping, marching, etc.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God wants us to love Him, pray to Him, and worship Him alone. The more we know about God, the easier that will be. He is great; there is no one like Him. You can learn more and more about how great God is by reading the Bible! It tells you all you need to know. The more you know about Him the more you will want to praise Him, pray to Him, and worship Him alone!



# Memory Verse Review and Activity

**Joshua 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times.*

## MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flash Cards
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's use our flash cards for a game. I'm going to stick the cards up here on the wall. Every time I stick one up, we'll say the word.

*Using tape or putty, stick each card, in order, up on the wall within easy reach for students. Have students repeat each word after you as you stick the cards up.*

Great! Now say the whole verse with me.

**Ready?** *Recite the verse again, pointing to each card on the wall.*

Okay, now I'm going to make it tricky.

**Watch. I'm going to take away a card!** *Take away one card.*

**Can we still say it? Let's try.** *Recite the verse. Take away another card and recite. Choose students to come up and take away a card, reciting after each card is taken away.*

Great job, everybody!

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God promised Joshua that He would be there with him and help him. It's so easy to be afraid or nervous about things every day. God promises His children that He will always be with us wherever we go, like He promised Joshua. He will give His children courage and strength so they don't have to be afraid or dismayed. God tells us these things in His true Word, the Bible.



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review the lesson with the children while enjoying the snack for the day.*

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* God alone is to be worshipped. We should love Him more than anything else in our lives. Today we learned that the Israelites forgot about God. They turned away from God and worshipped and prayed to false gods—or idols. God alone is to be worshipped. He is the Creator of everything—He deserves our love and worship.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God has given us lots of wonderful things. Things we really like, right? And God wants us to enjoy the blessings He gives us. But He is our Creator and the only true God. And we should never love the things God has given us more than we love God!

The more you get to know who God is, the more you will want to worship only Him! Ask someone to read the Bible to you. Come to church. Talk about God with your family. You will see, He is a great God and you should worship only Him.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Thank God for the things He's given us and pray that we will never love our things more than we love God.
- Pray that God will give us hearts that truly love Him.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## JOSHUA 1:9

*(To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")*

Shout . . . Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and of good cou-ur-age,

*(Mary had a little lamb.)*

Do not be afraid,

*(Little lamb,)*

Nor be dismayed,

*(Little lamb.)*

For the Lord your Go-od is—

*(Mary had a little lamb.)*

With you wherever you go.

*(Its fleece was white as snow.)*

Shout . . . Joshua 1:9!

## GOD TOLD JOSHUA

*(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")*

God told Joshua,

*(Row, row, row your boat,)*

"Walk around the walls."

*(Gently down the stream.)*

Round and round and round and round—

*(Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily;)*

And Joshua obeyed.

*(Life is but a dream.)*

God told Joshua,

"The priests should blow their horns."

Too-ta-too-ta-too-ta-too—

and Joshua obeyed.

God told Joshua,

"I will fight for you."

Jericho's walls came tumbling down,

Like only God could do!

*Think of fun ways to sing. For example:*

*Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction.*

*Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out!*

*Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.*

## GOD IS GREAT

*(To the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot")*

*With hand motions.*

When we read the Bible, we learn of God—

*(I'm a little tea pot short and stout.)*

*Open hands like a book, point to head, point up.*

No one will ever be like Him.

*(Here is my handle, here is my spout.)*

*Shake head, "no," holding hands palm out, moving them back and forth.*

He is oh, so great. So great He is!

*(When I get all steamed up, hear me shout!)*

*Point upward with both hands.*

I just have to praise His name!

*(Tip me over and pour me out.)*

*Clap with the rhythm.*

## NO ONE LIKE GOD

*(To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")*

*With hand motions.*

There is no one like our God, no there's not!

*(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!)*

*Shake head to say, "no," point finger and move side to side.*

*Clap, clap.*

There is no one like our God, no there's not!

*(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!)*

*Shake head to say, "no," point finger and move side to side.*

*Clap, clap.*

For His ways we cannot know,

*(If you're happy and you know it,)*

*Point both index fingers to the head; shake head.*

In all things His greatness shows.

*(Then your face will surely show it.)*

*Spread arms out wide.*

There is no one like our God, no there's not!

*(If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.)*

*Shake head to say, "no," point finger and move side to side.*

*Clap, clap.*