

▶ LESSON 2.2: DEBORAH, GIDEON, SAMSON

STUDENTS STUDIED:

- » Judges 2; 21:25
- » Judges 4
- » Judges 6–8
- » Judges 13–16; Ephesians 6:8–10

STUDENTS MEMORIZED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING VERSES:

- » Hebrews 11:30–31*
- » Joshua 24:15
- » Judges 2:10

Students Learned the Following Definitions:

PROPHETESS: a woman God calls to carry messages between Him and His people

THE BOOK OF JUDGES: (in Hebrew, *shophetim*) “First the judges deliver the people; then they rule and administer justice.”⁹

NAZARITE VOW: one anyone could make voluntarily to consecrate themselves to God. Stipulations included not eating nor drinking anything that came from the vine, not cutting their hair and staying away from dead bodies.¹⁰ Samson’s vow was unique because God chose it for him, for the entirety of his life, and Samson broke every single rule before he died (Judges 14:8–10; 16:19).

LESSON 1	LESSON 2	LESSON 3	LESSON 4
Students learned about the sin-sick period of the judges in Israel.	Students examined Deborah’s life.	Students studied Gideon’s life.	Students considered Samson’s life.
They considered what caused the people of God to fall away from their relationship with Him and how every judge points us to Jesus, the only one who can heal our sin-sick hearts.	They explored what it looks like to serve the Lord when no one else will, and in culturally unexpected ways.	They learned how God draws near to us in our fear and insecurity and defines us by who we can become through Him in faith.	They discovered God can use anything and anyone to accomplish His will — even ungodly judges such as Samson and sinners saved by grace, like us.

IDENTITY INSIGHT:

I am faithless and incapable of lasting change on my own. Jesus is the only one who can heal my sin-sick heart. He makes me strong to overcome any obstacle and live in obedience to His call.

Students circled which verse they chose to memorize.

HEBREWS 11:30-31*

JOSHUA 24:15

JUDGES 2:10

DISCUSSION

► SHARE

Read Judges 2:6–10 as a group. Explain that the Hebrew word *yada'* is translated in verse 10 as “know” — a **personal and experiential** kind of knowing God, not just knowing **about** Him.¹¹

Tell students how the *yada'* knowledge of God has affected your walk with Jesus. When did faith in God become real for you?

► ASK

Remind students how each judge had a personal experience with God. Ask students to share their experiences with God. For example, “How do you live counterculturally in high school?”

► ACT

Discuss different forms of spiritual discipline, why they are important and how a student might practice them in their lives.

Encourage students to identify one area of spiritual discipline they can work on this week to grow in their relationship with the Lord.

TEACHING NOTES:
