

LESSON THREE

LESSON NOTES FOR STD VI

JOSHUA AND THE JUDGES. – The Turning Wheel

AIM :**General:**

1) To introduce the period of the Judges: a period of adjustment, and to introduce the six major judges Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephtah, Samson as leaders who delivered the people from their enemies, and led them to God.

2) To show how a pattern repeated itself over and over during this period:

① **Turning away from God.** ②**Troubles.** ③**Repentance.** ④**Deliverance.** ⑤**Peace**

3) To help the children realise that God is like a compass on life's boat.. , unless we remain with Him, our life is in trouble. When we turn to Him in repentance, He is quick to save us.

Personal: To help the children identify which 'God' they are following (popularity, comfort, etc.) and to decide to put Jesus before it.

STARTER: (10mins)

(Give the children a copy of the cartoon strip [Xerox and cut out from attached sheet] and ask them to draw the last picture- to show what they think the girl did next. After the children have done this, let some come up and show their sketch explaining what they have drawn. Now bring out:)

The girl most probably, would change her pony tail to be like the other girls.

- When we are new to a group, or school or neighborhood, it is difficult for us... we have to adjust to the new surroundings and people... we feel like behaving like everybody else.

Lets see what happened to the Israelites when they settled down in the land of Canaan.

INPUT: (20mins)

Before we look at the Bible, lets find out when this period was:

- It was about 1200 - 1000 BC. [Write on black board] How many years ago was that?

[More than 3000 years ago.]

- Lets find out now what Joshua did after his battles, before he died...

Look at chapter 13 of Joshua.,.

[He divided the whole land between the 12 tribes of Israel, and then he died.]

- Can you tell me some of the tribes' names? [Write on black board- Reuben, Gad, Judah etc]

- Now what happened... did the Israelites drive out all the people who were living in the land, or not?

Look at Judges 1 : 27 onwards...

[They did not drive them out but they lived there together.]

So now like the girl in the pony tail, they had to adjust to the people living there...from being shepherds, moving from place to place, they had to be farmers... The temptation came to leave God and start worshipping the gods of the people there- Baal, Asherah, etc Lets read about it-

Read Judges 2: 11 - 19

◆ Can you see a kind of cycle, going round and round?

Draw wheel on black board-

Let's try and fill in the cycle/ wheel-

(With the help of the children, fill in the 5 stages in the wheel!

At stage II ask-

◆ Does God really make people suffer and send enemies to attack [No. God is always a God of love and kindness. But when we turn away, we place ourselves out of His protection and help. The people of those days felt God was against them.]

At stage IV ask-

- How did God save the people from their enemies ? [By giving them leaders or 'Judges' as they were called. The 6 most important were Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson. They were like 'heroes' who led them to fight against those who were troubling them. They also helped the people to return to God.]
- For a while there would be peace and then once more, the people would turn away.

ACTIVITY: 'WHO IS OUR GOD ?' (10 mins)

[Give out activity sheets, and let the children work in pairs. Allow a few children to share their explanation which they have written down (Some children find it difficult to express themselves in writing. Allow them to just discuss and then share their ideas.)

Bring out:

- Many of us make `Gods' Out of money, power, popularity,(having friends) etc.
- `Making a God' means giving all the importance to it- putting it first, and doing anything for it.
- When we do this, we are going from the true God, and are like a sailor with no compass. We soon land trouble. None of these 'Gods' can save us, or give us real happiness and peace.

PRAYER: (10 mins)

Form a prayer-circle around a crucifix and two bowls. In one bowl, place a number of chart-paper crosses, in another bowl, slips of paper or 'idol-shaped' papers: Ask the children to think what 'God' they are tempted to serve Let them write the name on the 'idol' paper.

In a prayerful atmosphere, they tear their `idol' and put the pieces in one bowl. They then pick up a cross and hold it. Simultaneously they sing: **I Have Decided to Follow Jesus...** [The world behind me the cross before me.]

YOU WILL NEED: Good News Bibles. (full bible) / One activity sheet per child: Who is Our God / A crucifix, 2 bowls, chart paper crosses (If you have better crosses you could use them), `idol-shaped' papers.

