

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 8- Week of February 24th



A Few Good Men...And Women

"Bringing The Story Home" is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life.

Timeless Truth: Spiritual compromise can be overcome by turning back to God.

Bible Basis: Judges 2: 7-8, 4 and 16

Key Verse: [Samson] said, "Lord and King, show me that you still have concern for me. God, please make me strong just one more time."---Judges 16:28

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday school class your child or children attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your family understand how following God's commands is one way we can stay safe.

Get The Point: *Preschool:* God helps those who turn to him. I can depend on God.

Elementary: God helps those who turn to him. I can depend on God.

High School & Middle School: God calls us to be different...even set apart. By His grace we are to live that way.

Table Talk:

Preschool/Elementary

- Why did God have to raise up judges such as Deborah and Samson? (Because the Israelites weren't following God.)
- How does this show God's love? (God gave Israel a second chance—actually lots of chances—to come back and follow Him. He didn't give up on the Israelites.)
- How does God show His love to us today? (By sending His Son to die for our sins; by forgiving the bad things we do and allowing us to have a relationship with Him.)
- God gave Samson great strength. What are some gifts God has given you?
- How can you use these gifts to help others follow God?

Middle/High School

- When God allowed the Midianites to rule over His people and treat them badly, he raised up Gideon to get the Israelites back on track (Judges 6-8). What kind of man was Gideon? (He was the least important person in his weak family.)
- Gideon wasn't popular, strong or a natural leader—he didn't even trust God at first and made God prove himself. What does this tell you about God?
- Gideon raised an army of 32,000 men, but only 300 went to attack the Midianites. Why?
- How would you like to be more like Gideon? Does he have any character traits that you wouldn't want to emulate?

Living Faith: Break your family into two teams. Gather masking tape, a package of 100 straws, and several eggs. Work in teams to create a casing that will protect an egg when it is dropped. Each team may only use tape and straws. When you've finished your designs, proceed outside & see which egg protector works the best. You may need to get a ladder to stand on, as the eggs will all be dropped onto a hard surface from the same height. The losing team (whose egg broke) must clean up the mess. What was the purpose of this game? Explain that the Israelites followed God as long as Joshua and the elders lived (Judges 2:7). God's people were like the egg surrounded by the protective casing of God's commands. The casing protects the egg. Without protection, the egg breaks. Chapter 8 of The Story shows what happened to the Israelites after they strayed from God's commands by worshipping idols and following the world's customs instead of God's. God loved His people and cared for them, even though they strayed, but they still had to suffer consequences for their actions. Ask these questions:

- **Could the egg survive the fall without the protection of the straw casing?**
- **What are some ways that God's Word gives us protection?**
- **Why is it important to know and follow God's commands?**
- **What happens to us when we decide to get outside the protection of God's commands?** (We sin, repent of our sin, receive God's grace and forgiveness, and also receive consequences for our sin.)

Prayer Time: *Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the commands that you have given us as rules for our lives. When we stray, send us those who might aid us as your judges of old. Most importantly, thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ who kept the Law perfectly on our behalf, so that, believing in Him, we might come to Everlasting Life. Amen.*