Jeanette

Dear Teachers,

The lessons for the summer months will be on Judges. In going over my notes from the workshop I found a few helpful principles:

Pray much:

A. With your group

- B. With the one you serve with or the one who served the previous week
 - C. Pray alone to seek a burden and inspiration.

Plan much:

- A. In preparing, fellowship with others on yourlevel whenever possible for ideas, common burden and to be coordinated
 - B. Determine the burden of the lesson
 - C. Research the points

Consider the age(s) of the children and their capacity for understanding

A. In working on these lessons please note there is a lot of material for each lesson. After you pray carefully consider how much to share with your level.

LESSON ONE - Judges 1 & 2

INTRODUCTION TO JUDGES

Judges is a book of history of the children of Israel after they inherited the good land. It is a dark

MV: Joshua 24:15 Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, either the gods from across the River, whom your fathers served, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE JEHOVAH.

I. Joshua's final charge to Israel. (Joshua 2:21-22; 21:43-45)

A The children of Israel did CHOOSE God and SERVE God while Joshua was alive. Remember v Joshua 21:43 - 45 "So Jehovah gave Israel all the land that He had sworn to give to their fathers; and they possessed it and dwelt in it. And Jehovah gave them REST all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And no one among all their enemies could stand before theme-Jehovah delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of all the good things that Jehovah had spoken to the house of Israel; all came to pass." (Use map)

1. Reuben, Gad (chose their portion of land)

2. Manasseh was the only tribe with land on the east side and their other half was on the west side 3. Judah and Ephraim

4. Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan

But these 12 tribes of Israel LOST their REST because they did not drive all the inhabitants out of

1. They rebelled against God and began to serve other gods.

2. They fought among themselves, and were full of sin.

C. God allowed the nations to fight against Israel, and He did not drive their enemies out of the land

II God raised up God-fighting judges. (Judges 2:16 - 22; Acts 13:19-20)

A. When Israel repented of their sins God would listen to their prayers and would deliver them through the hand of a God-fearing judge.

B. But when each judge died, they repeated their rebellion against God and sinned by not obeying God's word; this cycle happened many times and went on for 305 years.

C. God used the nations to TEST Israel, whether they were willing to SERVE the Lord and fully

CONCLUSION:

Because they CHOSE God they were able to enter the Good Land.

2. But now they needed a life of FIGHTING for God daily in order to keep out of trouble and fully

3. We want to be full of BOLDNESS and GAIN Christ at any cost.

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LESSON TWO - Judges 4 & 5

DEBORAH - PROPHETESS AND JUDGE

MV: Judges 5:12 Awake! Awake, Deborah! Awake! Awake, speak forth a song! Arise, Barak; And lead captive your captives.

- I. The children of Israel suffered a LOSS due to their doing evil again in the sight of God. (Judges 4:1-3; 3:30)
 - A. This put an end to 80 years of REST in the land.
 - B. The Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan.
 - 1. Jabin had a strong army with 900 chariots of iron whose captain was Sisera.
 - 2. He ruled Israel in a cruel way for 20 years.
- II. The children of Israel CRIED out to God for help. (Judges 4:3-6)
 - A. They cried unto the Lord.
 - 1. They were frightened of Jabin's army.
 - 2. They were controlled and ruled over in an unjust way.
 - B. Israel came to Deborah for help.
 - 1. Deborah was a prophetess and judged Israel at that time.
 - a. A prophet speaks for God.
 - b. A judge is one raised up by God to deliver Israel out of the hand of their enemies.
 - 2. She received God's leading for Israel and was faithful to speak God's word.
- III. The children of Israel gained the VICTORY by following God's speaking. (Judges 4:6-7, 8-12, 18-22, 23-24; 5:2, 31)
 - A. Deborah spoke God's instructions to Barak.
 - 1. Barak was to take 10,000 men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulur to mount Tabor.
 - 2. The Lord would draw Jabin's army, led by Sisera to the river Kishon and then deliver them into the hand of Barak.
 - B. Barak did what God had commanded with a condition.
 - 1. He agreed to go IF Deborah went with them; Barak said to Deborah, "If you will go with me, I will go; BUT if you do not go with me I will not go."
 - 2. Deborah immediately said, "I will SURELY go with you. However there will be no glory for you on the journey you are taking, for Jehovah will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman."
 - 3. So Barak went up with 10,000 men and Deborah.
 - 4. Heber the Kenite told Sisera where Barak had gone, and Sisera gathered his chariots and army and went to the river Kishon.
 - 5. The Lord delivered Jabin's army into the hand of Barak and only the captain, Sisera escaped.
 - C. Deborah's prophesy was fulfilled through Jael, the wife of Heber.
 - 1. Jael took Sisera into her tent and when he asked for water she gave him a drink of milk and then she covered him.
 - 2. As Sisera slept, Jael took a tent peg and hammer and went secretly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went through into the ground; for he was sound asleep and exhausted, so he died.
 - D. God subdued Jabin the king that day because the people willingly offered themselves to God. And the land of Israel had REST for 40 years.
 - E. Deborah and Barak praised the Lord in song for the victory. (avenging of Israel)

- 1. Because Israel CRIED OUT to the Lord, God rescued them from their enemy Jaban.
- 2. Deborah relied on God for wisdom and was faithful to SPEAK for God.
- 3. We want to be bold and OBEY God at any cost.

LESSON THREE - Judges 6

THE LORD'S CHOICE OF GIDEON

- MV: Judges 6:11 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him and said to him, Jehovah is with you, valian
- I. The children of Israel suffered a LOSS due to their doing evil again in the sight of God.
 - A. This was after 40 years of rest after defeating Jabin.
 - B. The Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for 7 years of trouble.
 - 1. Because of the Midianites the children of Israel made dens in the mountains and caves.
 - 2. After they had planted their crops, the Midianites came to destroy their crops and animals.

II. The children of Israel CRIED OUT to God for help. (Judges 6:6-10)

- A. They cried to the Lord because of the Midianites.
- B. The Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel.
 - 1. To remind them of all that He had done for them.
 - 2. To tell them that they had not obeyed His voice.

III. The Lord promised to be WITH Gideon in fighting against Midian. (Judges 6:11-24)

- A. The Angel of Jehovah (Christ Himself) came to speak with Gideon.
 - 1. He questioned the angel about why God had let trouble come to them.
 - 2. Gideon was told that he would save Israel from the Midianites, even though he felt he wasn't qualified. He said, that his family was the poorest in Manasseh, and he was the least in his
 - 3. He wanted proof of the angel. (a sign)
 - a. Gideon prepared a present for the angel.
 - b. The Angel of Jehovah accepted the offering, touching it with His staff and fire consumed
 - c. Then Gideon realized it was the Angel of Jehovah and said, "O Lord Jehovah I have seen the Angel of Jehovah face to face. Then Jehovah said, Peace be to you, do not be afraid;
 - d. Then Gideon built an altar there unto Jehovah God.

- Because Israel CRIED OUT to Jehovah, God was coming to their help.
- Gideon was CHOSEN by Jehovah his God to help Israel.
- 3. We want to be full of boldness and FOLLOW God at any cost.

LESSON FOUR - Judges 6

GIDEON'S FIGHTING FOR THE LORD

MV: Judges 6:27a So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and DID as Jehovah had told him.

- I. Gideon was chosen by God to defeat the Midianites. (Judges 6:25-32)
 - A. God instructed Gideon to take a bullock, destroy Baal's altar and cut down the grove by it.
 - B. He was told to build an altar to God and sacrifice in that same place, burning it with the wood from the grove.
 - 1. Gideon along with ten men servants did as the Lord said that night because he was afraid of the men of the city.
 - 2. The next day the men of the city came looking for Gideon.
 - 3. His father, Joash stopped the men by telling them to let Baal plead for himself, if he were really a god.

II. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. (Judges 6:33-35)

- A. Then all the Midianites and Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.
- B. The Spirit of Jehovah clothed Gideon and he blew the trumpet for battle.
- C. Gideon sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, and they came up to meet Gideon..

III. Gideon asked the Lord for a sign. (Judges 6:36-40)

- A. Then Gideon said to God, If You will save Israel through my hand, as you have said, I will put a fleece of wool on the floor.
 - 1. If dew be on the fleece only and it be dry on all the ground around it, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand.
 - 2. He rose up early the next morning and it was just like he spoke.
- B. Then Gideon spoke again to God, Let not you anger burn against me, and I will speak only this one time. Allow me to make this test. Let it be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.
 - 1. And God did so that night, for it was dry on the fleece only and there was dew on all the ground.
 - 2. God proved Himself to Gideon.

- 1. Gideon was prepared by God to fight for Israel.
- 2. Gideon OBEYED the Lord's word.
- 3. We want to be full of boldness and OBEY God's word at any cost.

LESSON FIVE - Judges 6 & 7

THE VICTORY OF GIDEON'S ARMY

- MV: Judges 7:15 And when Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he worshipped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, Arise, for Jehovah has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.
 - I. God allowed the enemy (Midianites & Amalekites) to trouble Israel. (Judges 7:12)
 - A. They were like grasshoppers for multitude.
 - B. Gideon and all the people that were with him, rose up early and pitched their tents beside the well of Harod.
 - C. The Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.
 - D. The stage was set for a big battle with Gideon because he had knocked down the altar of Baal, the god of the Midianites and the Amalekites.

II. The Lord APPEARED to Gideon saying you have too many men gathered to fight. (Judges 7:2-15)

- A. The Lord wanted to decrease the number of men. (Otherwise Israel would think they had won the battle by themselves without God.)
 - 1. Gideon proclaimed that whoever was fearful and afraid should return home. (22,000 left and 10,000 stayed)
 - 2. God said there were still too many men so He told Gideon:
 - a. to bring them to the water to test them,
 - b. to set aside those who LAP water, (with the hand to the mouth)
 - c. everyone who bowed down upon their knees to drink water he sent home.
 - 3. God told Gideon He would save Israel by the 300 men that lapped water.
- B. God also told Gideon to go with his servant Purah and hear what the enemy dreams.
 - 1. They went and heard the dream and its interpretation.
 - 2. Gideon worshipped God.

III. The Battle (Judges 7:16-23)

- A. Gideon divided 300 men into three companies of 100 each.
 - 1. They were to carry a trumpet in their right hand and an empty pitcher with a torch in it with their left hand.
 - 2. They would surround the enemy on three sides.
 - 3. Then Gideon said, Look at me and do the same, when I blow my trumpet, then blow your trumpets all around the camp and say, "For Jehovah and for Gideon."
- B. So Gideon and his 300 men at the middle watch (12 midnight) surrounded the enemy.
 - 1. When Gideon blew his trumpet, each one blew their trumpet and broke their pitchers allowing their torches to light the night and they cried out, "A sword for Jehovah and for Gideon!"
 - 2. Gideon's army stood their ground and all the enemy camp ran off and fled.
 - 3. The Midianite army was so confused and frightened that they killed each other with their swords in the camp. This was Jehovah's doing.

- 1. Because Gideon OBEYED the Lord's word, he brought victory to Israel over their enemies.
- 2. His 300 men were very brave and obeyed Gideon and followed him.
- 3. We need to be full of boldness and OBEY the Lord's word at any cost.

LESSON SIX - Judges 13

THE BIRTH OF SAMSON

MV Judges 13:24 And the woman bore a son, and she called his name Samson. And the boy grew up, and Jehovah blessed him.

I. Samson's parents lived during a hard and evil time because: (Judges 13:1-2)

- A. The children of Israel were captured and they lived under Philistine rule for 40 years.
- B. They were from the tribe of Dan, one of the least among the tribes
- C. His mother was barren, having no children

II. Samson's parents were God-fearing people who DESIRED a son and SOUGHT God how they should raise him. (Judges 13:3-14)

- A. One day the Angel of Jehovah (who was Christ Himself) appeared to Samson's mother.
 - 1. He told her that she would bear a son.
 - 2. Also he said that the child would be a Nazarite (one separated to God from the womb).
 - 3. Thus she must be careful not to:
 - a. drink wine or strong drink,
 - b. eat any unclean thing,
 - c. cut or shave Samson's hair.
 - 4. He told her that her son would begin to deliver the children of Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.
- B. Samson's mother told Manoah, Samson's father what the Angel had said, and described Him as being "awesome" (wonderful).
 - 1. Manoah believed the Angel of Jehovah, and SOUGHT Him and PRAYED so that he might KNOW HOW TO RAISE UP THIS CHILD.
 - 2. Manoah's prayer was heard and the Angel came back to Samson's mother again and she ran and told Manoah to come right away.
 - 3. The Angel repeated His warning about what she should not do.

III. Samson was born. (Judges 13:24-25)

- A. He grew up and the Lord blessed Him.
- B. The Spirit of Jehovah (the power of Jehovah) began to move upon Samson.

- 1. God blessed Samson's parents with a son (Samson) who began to deliver the children of Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.
- 2. When God spoke to them, they obeyed God's word even though they were frightened because they knew they had seen God face to face.
- 3. We want to be bold and OBEY God's word at any cost, just like Samson's parents.

LESSON SEVEN - Judges 14 to 16

SAMSON BEGAN TO DELIVER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE PHILISTINES

MV: Judges 13:5 For you are going to conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for he will be a Nazarite to God from the womb; and he will begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

- I. Samson began to judge Israel in the days of the Philistines. (Judges 13:1; 15:20; 16:31)
 - A. The Philistines were ruling over Israel.
 - B. Samson judged Israel for 20 years.
- II. The Spirit of Jehovah came again and again upon Samson to begin to DELIVER the Children of Israel. (Judges 14:5,6a, 19; 15:11a, 14-15)
 - A. The Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon him and he tore a lion apart with his bare hands.
 - B. The Spirit of Jehovah came upon him mightily and he killed 30 men of Ashkelon.
 - C. When 3,000 men of Judah bound him and delivered him to the Philistines, the Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon him and he:
 - 1. broke loose from his bonds,
 - 2. killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey.
- III. The. Spirit of Jehovah strengthened Samson one last time. (Judges 16:4-20, 21-30)
 - A. Samson fell in love with Delilah and was tricked by her.
 - 1. She cut his long hair.
 - 2. This caused his strength to be gone.
 - 3. The Lord departed from him.
 - B. The Philistines captured him.
 - 1. They blinded him by putting out his eyes.
 - 2. They bound him and put him to work in prison.
 - C. The lords of the Philistines gathered to rejoice and offer a sacrifice to their god Dagon because they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand."
 - 1. Three thousand men and women including all the lords of the Philistines were gathered on the roof of the house looking on to make sport of Samson.
 - 2. Samson was brought out of prison and he asked a boy to put his hands on the two pillars which support the house.
 - 3. Samson CALLED on Jehovah and prayed that the Lord would strengthen him once more so that he might take vengeance on the Philistines for both his eyes.
 - 4. Samson cried "let me die with the Philistines!" And he pulled mightily on the pillars and the house fell upon all the people.
 - 5. So the dead whom he killed at his death was more than those whom he killed during his entire life.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Samson was chosen to begin to DELIVER the Children of Israel out of the hands of the Philistines.
- 2. The Spirit of Jehovah was with Samson and he killed thousands of God's enemies.
- 3. We need to CALL ON THE LORD and OBEY Him at any cost.

SUMMER LESSONS 1993

thongs - bow strings

- 10/2e

weare hair into loom

RUTH - RETURNING TO GOD TO BRING FORTH CHRIST

LESSON EIGHT - RUTH 1-4

NAOMI RETURNED

- MV: Ruth 1:6 Then she rose up with her daughters-in-law in order to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that Jehovah had visited His people by giving them food.
- I. Naomi's husband Elimelech took his wife and two sons and left Bethlehem, the city of David, in the tribe of Judah, a choice place in the promised land of Israel, and went to dwell in the land of Moab.
 - A. The Moabites were heathen people who practiced idolatry and were rejected by God.
 - B. God's chastisement came to the house of Elimelech, and he died.
- II. Naomi suffered the LOSS of the good land, her husband and her only two sons becoming a widow with no heir. (Ruth 1:1-5)
 - A. After Elimelech died, their sons Mahlon and Chilion took Moabite wives, named Orpah and Ruth.
 - B. After about ten years both of Naomi's sons also died.
 - C. Naomi was left destitute as a widow with two daughters-in law in a foreign country.
- III. Naomi desired to RETURN to God's people in the land of Judah because she had heard that the Lord had visited His people. (Ruth 1:6-22)
 - A. As Naomi rose up to return to the land of Judah, she encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their own mother's house.
 - B. Orpah was persuaded to go back to her people but Ruth was determined to go with Naomi.
 - C. Naomi returned to Bethlehem and Ruth went with her.
 - D. Naomi, [her name meaning my pleasantness] now called herself Mara [meaning bitterness] and acknowledged her loss saying, I went out full, but Jehovah has brought me back empty.

IV. Naomi's seed is RECOVERED through Boaz and Ruth.(chapters 2-4)

- A. Naomi advises Ruth in her dealings with her kinsman, Boaz.
 - 1. Naomi gave permission to Ruth to go to glean [collect little by little] in the fields.
 - 2. When Naomi found out it was Boaz's fields, one of their kinsman, she told her to continue to go only to that field to glean, and Ruth did this through the barley harvest and the wheat harvest.
 - 3. Naomi had a DESIRE for Ruth to find a resting place [a home] so she gave instructions how Ruth should go that night to Boaz at the threshing floor.
 - 4. Boaz listened to Ruth and desired to carry out his responsibility as a kinsman.
- B. Naomi is given an heir through Boaz and Ruth's marriage.
 - 1. Her grandson Obed is to Naomi a RESTORER of her life.
 - 2. Naomi took the child that was born to Ruth and nursed him.
 - 3. Obed was the father of Jesse, the father of David, the ancestor of Christ.

- 1. Because Naomi RETURNED to God and His people and admitted her POOR condition, the Lord RESTORED her seed.
- 2. We need also to RETURN TO GOD and SEEK TO BE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE at any cost.

RUTH - RETURNING TO GOD TO BRING FORTH CHRIST

LESSON NINE - Ruth 1-4 RUTH CHOSE

- MV: Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said, Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.
 - I. Ruth LOST her husband and CHOSE to leave her father and mother and her native land for the good land of Israel. (Ruth 1:4-7)
 - A. After ten years her husband died because of God's chastisement.
 - B. Her Mother-in-law Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem in the promised land of Israel.
 - C. Her sister-in-law Orpah chose to go home to her family in Moab.
 - D. But Ruth chose to remain with Naomi and go to Bethlehem, Naomi's homeland.
 - II. Ruth had a strong DESIRE to go with her mother-in-law, Naomi. (Ruth 1:14-chapter 2)
 - A. Ruth's promise to Naomi was:
 - 1. I will go where you go,
 - 2. Wherever you dwell, I will dwell,
 - 3. Your people will be my people,
 - 4. Your God will be my God.
 - B. After they came to Bethlehem, because they were poor, Ruth gleaned in the fields for grain to eat, thereby exercising her right to partake of the rich produce of the inheritance of God's people.
 - III. Ruth by her faithfulness in CHOOSING, entered into REST in her marriage with Boaz. (Ruth chapters 3 & 4)
 - A. She worked in the fields of Boaz a mighty man of wealth.
 - B. She was recognized by Boaz as a hard worker who had come to trust in God.
 - C. She was taken by Boaz as his wife by his redeeming her inheritance.
 - D. She became an ancestor of Christ mentioned in the genealogy in Matthew 1:4

- 1. Ruth's LOSS became a gain due to her strong DESIRE to be with Naomi and her CHOICE of God and His kingdom.
- 2. The marriage of Boaz and Ruth brought forth a son, Obed an ancestor of David the King and of Christ.
- 3. We should be like Ruth and CHOOSE God and His kingdom at any cost.

RUTH - RETURNING TO GOD TO BRING FORTH CHRIST

LESSON TEN - Ruth 1-4

BOAZ REDEEMED

MV: Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

I. The kind of person Boaz was: (Ruth 2:1)

- A. Boaz's name means "In him is strength".
- B. He was a close relative [kinsman] of Naomi's deceased husband Elimelech, and he was rich in wealth and generous in giving beyond what was expected of him in helping the poor. (Lev. 19:9-10).
- C. He was high in morality, pure in conduct, and wise in decision. (Ruth 3:8-14)
- D. He was faithful in keeping God's ordination regarding the redeeming of the inheritance. (Lev. 25:25; Deut. 25:5-10)

II. Boaz DESIRED to help Naomi and Ruth.

- A. He allowed Ruth to glean in his fields, even among the sheaves. (Chapter 2
- B. He desired to carry out Ruth's request and fulfill the part of a kinsman to Naomi and Ruth. (Chapter 3)

III. Boaz carried out his plan to REDEEM the land and the widow Ruth to produce the needed heir to BRING FORTH CHRIST. (Ruth 4)

- A. As the kinsman of Mahlon, the dead husband of Ruth, he purchased the land that belonged to Mahlon and took Ruth as his wife to produce a son.
 - 1. Boaz went to the gate of Bethlehem where the nearest kinsman came and Boaz presented the matter of the inheritance to him.
 - 3. The kinsman was unable and unwilling to redeem the land and take Ruth as his wife.
 - 4. Boaz stepped in to as the next nearest kinsman to claim his right to redeem the land and take Ruth as his wife.
 - 5. Ten of the elders of the city witnessed and blessed the transaction.
- B. Jehovah BLESSED Boaz and Ruth with a son, Obed from whom CHRIST CAME.
- C. Boaz was a type of Christ.
 - 1. As a man rich in wealth and generous in giving he typifies Christ whose riches are unsearchable and who takes care of God's needy people with his bountiful supply.
 - 2. As the kinsman-redeemer he typifies Christ in redeeming the church and making the church His counterpart for His increase.

- 1. Naomi suffered LOSS through the death of her husband, but she RETURNED to her country.
- 2. Ruth was a SEEKER and through her CHOOSING she found REST for both herself and Naomi.
- 3. Boaz carried out the plan to REDEEM [PURCHASE] the land and Ruth, which brought REST to Naomi and Ruth and BROUGHT FORTH an heir.
- 4. We want to be full of boldness and SEEK GOD at any cost.