

September 10, 2000

Judges 1:1-3:4

Early Childhood

JDG01EC

The Israelites Disobeyed and Started on a Sin Cycle.

**Materials I Need:**

**Memory Verse:**

Two- and three-year-old verse: Judges 2:12: They disobeyed the Lord. . .and worshipped idols.

Four- and five-year-old verse: Judges 2:12: They forsook the Lord. . .They worshipped various gods of the peoples around them.

**Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:**

1. **Did the Israelites go to build homes in their new land of Canaan?** (Yes.)
2. **Did the Israelites obey God and smash the bad idols?** (The Israelites obeyed a little bit and smashed some of the idols, but they did not get rid of them all.)
3. **Were the Israelites afraid of the Canaanites who had strong, iron chariots?** (Yes. They forgot that God is stronger than iron chariots.)
4. **Did God punish the Israelites when they disobeyed a little bit?** (Yes. God knows that even a little bit of sin hurts us.)
5. **Let's say the different parts of the sin cycle.** (Sin--hold your fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.)

**Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:**

1. **Did the Israelites obey God when they went to build homes in the land of Canaan?** (No. God told the Israelites to drive every Canaanite out of the towns and smash every bad idol. The Israelites did not fully obey.)
2. **Why didn't the Israelites obey God fully?** (The Israelites were afraid of the iron chariots and left some of the Canaanites in the towns. They forgot that God is stronger than iron chariots.)
3. **What happened to the Israelites when they disobeyed God and got in a sin cycle?** (God punished the Israelites by letting their enemies fight against them and win.)
4. **Let's say the different parts of the sin cycle.** (Sin--hold your fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.)

**Key for symbols:**



This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.



This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.



This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

**Background Information for Teachers**

**Introduction to Judges**

**a. Theme: Failure Through Compromise**

Unlike the book of Joshua which featured the victorious conquest of the Promised Land of Canaan, the book of Judges is filled with continual failure through spiritual compromise. Due to Israel's rebellion

against God, the nation plunges into a 350-year period of spiritual and national deterioration. Soon, a five-stage cycle of sin develops where the nation falls into sin (sin); God disciplines them with foreign oppression (suffering); the nation cries out in repentance (supplication); God raises up a deliverer (salvation); peace is restored (silence). This five-step cycle is repeated a total of seven times in the book.

(Background Information, continued)

**b. Title: Judges**

The name of the book is the Hebrew word *Shophetim*, which means "judges, rulers, deliverers." The book is titled after the judges God raised up to restore the tribes of Israel from their oppressors. They generally fulfilled a military and civil function and were different from kings because they did not form dynasties. They were local, tribal leaders and not leaders over the 12-tribe federation. Unlike the time of Moses and Joshua, Israel had no organized government during this time. There are a total of either 12 or 13 judges mentioned in the book (Barak is mentioned in Hebrews 11:32 as a judge, but omitted from the book of Judges).

**c. Authorship: Samuel (probable author)**

The Jewish Talmud identifies Samuel as the author although it is not actually mentioned in Judges. Samuel was most likely a contemporary during the latter time of the events in the book. If Samuel did in fact write Judges, it is likely that he wrote it after compiling oral and written source material. His prophetic ministry clearly fits the moral commentary of Judges, and the consistent style and orderly scheme of Judges point to a single author.

**d. Date: ca. 1050-1000 B.C.**

It is clear from two verses (18:31; 20:27) that Judges was written after the ark was removed from Shiloh. It is also noted that the repeated phrase, "In those days Israel had no king" (17:6; 18:1; 21:25; cf. 19:1) points to a time after the monarchy of Saul, but before the divided kingdom. It also had to have been written prior to ca. 1004 since the Jebusites are mentioned in 1:21. David removed the Jebusites from Jerusalem around that time in 2 Samuel 5:5-9. With these facts in mind, Judges may have been written during the early days of the kingship of Saul.

**e. Historical Background**

The events described in the book of Judges occurred after the conquests of Joshua in ca. 1398 B.C. (cf. 2:6-9). The writer describes a time when no king ruled the land (cf. 17:6; 18:1; 21:25). Therefore, since the monarchy was established ca. 1043 B.C. with Israel's first king, Saul, the book covers a 350-year span of idolatrous rebellion against God.

**Synopsis**

In Joshua's final message to the nation, he challenged Israel to cling to the Lord and to remember His laws for the purpose of obedience (Josh. 23-24). After his death (ca. 1398 B.C.), the nation of Israel was ruled by the elders (older men) of each tribe. The land had been divided amongst the 12 tribes and there still remained some enemies within each tribe's land that needed to be conquered. God had commanded the nation to utterly drive out all the Canaanite peoples (Josh. 23:5, 13), to remain faithful to God's laws (Josh. 23:6), and to avoid their idols by refraining from intermarriage (Josh. 23:7, 12). The purpose of completely driving out every single Canaanite was to protect the nation from the idolatrous practices of these wicked people. By allowing them to stay, God knew that His people would be tempted to worship their gods, and thus, compromise!

In the opening chapters of Judges, we see the failure on the part of the tribes to fully obey God's command to drive out the peoples living in their land. (These two chapters serve as a general summary of the entire period of Judges.) Judah was commissioned first to drive out the inhabitants and to serve as an example to the rest of the tribes. Even though they did destroy a majority of the Canaanites, there still remained pockets of peoples. Their failure was not due to the fact that God was not with them; it was because of their lack of trust in God to do what He said He would do.

Slowly but surely, little compromises began. As Judah failed to wipe out all the people in their territory, the other tribes followed suit. One after another allowed remnants of God's enemies to remain in their land (1:22-36). Instead of destroying the Canaanites and completely driving them all out, they disobeyed God and compromised. Some of the tribes even used them as slaves (1:28). This is not what God had told them to do (2:1-2)!

God came to them as "the angel of the Lord" and rebuked the nation for their rebellious disobedience. He told them, "You have disobeyed me. Why have you done this?" As a result, God promised to punish the nation by removing His presence from them. The ungodly nations they failed to remove would become "thorns" in their sides and their gods would become traps for them. They would now endure the loss of God's blessings upon them, even though in the end, God would remain faithful to His promise to the nation (2:1).

**(Background Information, continued)**

Sure enough, just as the Lord said would happen, the nation forsook God and began to worship the foreign, wicked gods of the Canaanites! The practices involved with the worship of these gods were utterly evil and God's anger burned hot against His people. He punished them by allowing military invasions from other nations. In desperation, the Israelites cried out to God and realized that God was their only real hope. The Lord, in His great mercy, raised up special military judges who delivered the tribes from bondage. But as soon as the judge died, the nation went back to their wicked ways and turned after the foreign gods. The people acted more corruptly than their fathers did and their sinfulness caused them to grow more stubborn towards the Lord. As their hearts grew harder towards God, the Lord waited longer to deliver them within each cycle.

This five-stage cycle of failure through compromise can be summarized as follows:

- a. Rebellion ~ the nation falls into sin
- b. Regret ~ God disciplines them with foreign oppression
- c. Repent ~ the nation cries out in repentance
- d. Restoration ~ God raises up a deliverer
- e. Rest ~ peace is restored

**Application: Compromise Leads to Conflict and Chaos**

One of the prominent lessons we can learn from Israel's failure is the subtle, yet dangerous result of spiritual compromise. When we begin to "cut corners" with God's commands, we will inevitably face conflict and chaos due to our disobedience. Solomon said that it is the little foxes that eventually spoil the vineyard (Sol. 2:15). This is true in our Christian lives as well! Sometimes those sins that are difficult to see will cause our lives to be spoiled, and we will, like Israel, forfeit the blessings of God in our lives.


As you think about your relationship with God, are there areas of compromise that you are clinging to? Remember that even one sin can cause our fellowship with God to be hindered! Whatever those sins are, confess them now before God allows the conflict and chaos to come!


**Hook:**


- House Building Center:** Provide some blocks for the children that they don't usually use from another classroom or from home. Encourage them to build houses and make a city. Have them name what the buildings represent (school, bank, post office, church, etc.). In today's Bible Adventure, we'll learn that the Israelite people were ready to move into the land of Canaan and build homes and cities for their families.
- "Asherah Pole" Play Dough Center:** Have the children form the play dough into a shape as tall and thin as they can. Then have them smash the pole flat with their hands. We will learn in today's Bible Adventure that God wanted the Israelites to move into the land of Canaan and to smash the tall poles that people were worshipping in that country. God wanted people to only worship Him.
- Metal and Coin Center:** Before class, glue pennies, nickels, quarters, and other coins to a few pieces of cardboard. Let the children see what copper, silver, gold, and other types of metals look like. Put a white piece of paper on top of the cardboard. Let the children rub a pencil or crayon over the top of each coin so that the pattern of the coin appears on the paper. Talk about how the Canaanite people made these metals into ugly idol statues that they worshipped instead of the one, true God.
- "Watching the Israelites Move into the Land of Canaan" Center:** Fill two small white dishes with water and add a few drops of vegetable oil to one. Tell the children that the dishes of water represent the land of Canaan. The Israelites are represented by the food coloring. Put a few drops of food coloring into the dish with only the water and show how the Israelites were told to move into


all of the land and push out the people that were already there (clear water). Then add a few drops of food coloring into the other dish and explain that the Israelites went into the land but didn't push out all the people. The oil drops on the water represent the pockets of Canaanites that stayed in the land of Canaan with the Israelites. In today's Bible Adventure, we'll learn that the Israelites did not completely obey God when they moved into the land of Canaan. They were told to push out all the people who lived there because those Canaanite people did not worship the one true God.


---


 **Puzzle Center:** Provide several age-appropriate puzzles for the children to work on. Talk about how the pieces of the puzzle are planned so they fit together to make a complete picture. In today's Bible Adventure, God has a plan to help His people, the Israelites. He plans to send the Israelites a strong leader called a judge.

 **Help Me with this Job!** Engage the children in helping you do different things that you have been asked to do. Each time, give up and only do half of a job. Emphasize that this is something we have been asked to do and do it until it is done right. Following are some examples: Color half of a picture. Put only half of the crayons away in the cupboard. Pick up half of the blocks. Put on half of the sweater! Put half of the dishes away in a box or cupboard. Wash half of the window. Take out half of the trash.

 **Jug Coloring:** Let children use markers or crayons and color whatever they want on plastic quart milk jugs. Use these for the Half-Way Bowling game given below.


 **Half-Way Bowling:** If you don't have a child's plastic bowling set, use plastic quart milk jugs and a ball. Set up the jugs and ask the children to stand behind a masking tape line and roll the ball. Tell them you are going to play this the wrong way first. You are going to knock down only half of the jugs. Then play it correctly and aim to knock down all of the jugs.

 **Israelite Head Bands:** Either staple two strips of construction paper together and size it to fit each child or tear a strip of fabric and tie it on each child's head. They will wear these head bands for the Review Trip given below.

 **Israelite Review Trip Around the Room: (JDG01ECGF6, JDG01ECGF7, JDG01ECGF8, JDG01ECGF9, JDG01ECGF4, and JDG01ECGF3)** Place several review pictures on the wall to discuss as you make your way along the masking tape trail on the floor. Pictures that could be used are:

1. God's people were the Israelites, and God had given them freedom from Pharaoh with Moses as their leader. **(JDG01ECGF6)**
2. God led the Israelites by day and by night. **(JDG01ECGF7)**
3. God sent manna and quail to feed the Israelites. **(JDG01ECGF8)**
4. Moses couldn't take the Israelites into the Promised Land. God's new leader of the people after Moses died was Joshua. **(JDG01ECGF9)**
5. Joshua told the Israelites that God wanted them to go into the land and get rid of all the people who worshipped idols. He said to never marry a Canaanite or let their children marry them. **(JDG01ECGF4)**
6. When the Israelites saw the Canaanites and their big chariots, they got afraid and did not obey God's commands. **(JDG01ECGF3)**

This is where our Bible story starts today.

 **Coloring Jacob's Sons: (JDG01ECGF10)** Write the names of the sons on your sheet. Let the children color their sheets while you talk to them about the names of the sons. Ask them to try to say the names with you. Tell them that these are the names of the Israelites in our Bible story today who are going to build their houses in the land God had promised them.

---



**Book:**  
**Presentation Ideas -**

- Color and mount the **JDG01ECGF1, JDG01ECGF2, JDG01ECGF3, JDG01ECGF4, JDG01ECGF5,** and next week's **JDG02ECGF1** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save the pictures and use them for review throughout the four Judges lessons.
- Bring construction tools again today because the Israelites were going to build homes in their new land.
- Use the following hand motions throughout the Bible Adventure and throughout the morning: Sin--hold fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.
- Waiting in Tents: (JDG01ECGF14)** Tape small GF14 tents on the land east of the Jordan River where the Israelites were waiting. Tape GF14 houses in each section of Canaan as you talk about the different family groups building homes in the different sections of land.
- "The Bible" Finger Play:**  
The Holy Bible is God's Book.      *(Form book with hands.)*  
Let's open it and see  
Where He tells us of His love.  
He loves you, He loves me.      *(Point to others, point to self.)*
- Joshua Gives Instructions:** Have one teacher dress up like Joshua and come into the room, giving the Israelites God's instructions for them as given to Moses. These were instructions for them to follow as they began to build their houses in the Promised Land. The Israelites were to get rid of all the idols and do the whole job, not half of a job. When Joshua leaves the room, explain to the children that Joshua died soon after he gave those instructions. God gave the leadership of the Israelites to elders of the twelve Israelite family groups. They didn't have a king to rule them. They had elders to help them do what was right. This is where the Bible Adventure begins to take place.

### **Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-**

Today, we will begin a new book of the Bible called Judges. *(Have the children say "Judges" as they bring down one of their fists into the palm of the other hand. This hand motion represents a gavel in a court room. It will be the symbol we use whenever we talk about the book of Judges.)*

*(Show the JDG01ECGF1 picture.)* The Israelites were God's people, and He loved them. God told the Israelites they could go build homes in the land of Canaan. *(Point to your tool belt.)* The Israelites were anxious to begin. The problem was that there were people called Canaanites living in those towns, and those Canaanite people loved to worship bad idols.

*(Show the JDG01ECGF2 picture.)* This is like a bad idol in the towns of Canaan. God told the Israelites, "Get rid of all the Canaanites who love the bad idols. Smash the bad idols. Don't worship any idols. Obey My words."

*(Show the JDG01ECGF3 picture.)* The Israelites obeyed God and went to build their homes. They drove out the Canaanites in many cities. They smashed their idols. But, the Canaanites who lived on the flat plains of Canaan had big, strong iron chariots. The Israelites were afraid of the people with strong chariots. It was hard to fight against the iron chariots, and the Israelites gave up trying to smash their bad idols. The Israelites obeyed a little bit, but they disobeyed a little bit. Even a little bit of disobeying is wrong. *(Have the children say "Sin cycle" as they put one fist straight up in the air.)*

*(Show the JDG01ECGF2 picture again.)* Because the Israelites did not obey God exactly as He had said, but left some of the bad idols in the towns, sad things began happening. When the Canaanites went to worship the idol at the Asherah pole, the Israelites wanted to go, too. The Israelites forgot about God's words and disobeyed. Sin cycle! *(Have the children say "Sin cycle" as they put one fist straight up in the air.)*

*(Show the JDG01ECGF5 picture.)* It hurts to fall off a bicycle or tricycle, doesn't it? God knows that disobeying hurts us much more than falling off a cycle. God punished the Israelites so that they would start obeying. God punished the Israelites by letting the Canaanites in the towns fight with them, and by letting the big enemies win the fights. The Israelites became more and more sad as God let their big enemies fight with them and win. *(Have the children say "Punished" as they slap one of their hands.)*

*(Show next week's JDG02ECGF1 picture.)* "Please," cried the Israelites to God. "Please help us, God! We're sorry; we were wrong to disobey." *(Fold your hands in a pleading position.)* The Israelites repented and wanted to obey. *(Have the children say "Repent" as they fold their hands in prayer, raising them toward the sky.)*

When the Israelites cried out to God, He forgave them and sent a judge, a strong leader, to help the people obey God's words. *(Have the children say "Rescue" as they bring down their arm like a gavel.)*

God wants us to obey our moms and dads the first time they ask. God wants us to obey every time, not just sometimes. We don't want to get in a sin cycle of disobeying.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us be careful to obey everything You tell us in the Bible. We don't want to get in a sin cycle by disobeying You. Help us obey our parents the first time they tell us to do something. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-**

Today, we will begin a new book of the Bible called Judges. *(Have the children say "Judges" as they bring down one of their fists into the palm of the other hand. This hand motion represents a gavel in a court room. It will be the symbol we use whenever we talk about the book of Judges.)*

*(Show the JDG01ECGF1 picture.)* The Israelites were in the land of Canaan, ready to go to the different towns where they would build their homes. *(Point to your tool belt.)* They were eager and ready to begin. The problem was that there were people called Canaanites living in those towns, and those Canaanite people worshipped bad idols.

*(Show the JDG01ECGF2 picture.)* In every town in the land of Canaan, there was at least one Asherah pole where people bowed down and worshipped an idol. The Canaanites prayed at the Asherah pole and worshipped there. They didn't love and worship the one, true God.

God told the Israelites, "Drive out all the Canaanites from the cities. Smash their idols. Don't worship any idols. Don't marry someone who worships idols, and don't let your children marry a Canaanite because they will make you want to disobey My words. If you obey everything I have told you, you will be happy."

*(Show the JDG01ECGF1 picture again and point to the different towns.)* The men of Judah were the first ones to go build homes in their new land. They took the city of Jerusalem and smashed the idols. They went south and took the town of Hebron. They obeyed God and smashed the idols. They took Gaza and the area by the Mediterranean Sea. The Lord was with the men of Judah. He was giving them the land as He had promised.

*(Show the JDG01ECGF3 picture.)* There was a problem, however. The Canaanites who lived on the flat plains of Canaan had big, strong, iron chariots. The men of Judah were afraid of the people with strong chariots, so they gave up trying to drive them out. The Israelites did not obey God's command fully. They obeyed half-way. *(Sing the first verse of "Can We Take the Land?" from the "Look" Song section.)*

The men of Judah gave up trying to push all the Canaanites out, and they didn't smash all their idols. Uh-oh! The Israelites forgot that God is stronger than chariots. They disobeyed, and disobeying starts a sin cycle. *(Have the children say "Sin cycle" as they put one fist straight up in the air.)*

*(Show the JDG01ECGF1 picture again and point to the different sections.)* The men of Manasseh went to their towns *(point to the map)* and drove out some of the Canaanite people, but not all of them. They said that some could stay and be their slaves. *(Sing the first verse of "Can We Take the Land?")* Uh-oh! Was that full obedience to God's command, or half-hearted obedience? The Israelites disobeyed, and disobeying starts a sin cycle. *(Have the children say "Sin cycle" as they put one fist straight up in the air.)* When a person disobeys even a little bit, and doesn't say he's sorry or start obeying, he goes on a sin cycle.

The men of Ephraim didn't drive out all the Canaanites. *(Have the children say "Sin cycle" as they put one fist straight up in the air.)* The men of Zebulun didn't drive out all the Canaanites. Sin cycle! *(Have the children say "Sin cycle.")* The men of Asher left some Canaanite people. Sin cycle! *(Have the children say "Sin cycle.")* The men of Naphtali left Canaanites in their towns. Sin cycle! *(Have the children say "Sin cycle.")* The men of Dan didn't drive out all the Canaanites, and they didn't break down their idols. Sin cycle! *(Have the children say "Sin cycle.")*

*(Show the JDG01ECGF4 picture.)* Because the Israelites did not obey God exactly as He had said, but left some of the Canaanites in the towns, sad things began happening. When the Canaanites went to worship the idol at the Asherah pole, the Israelites started to think about the fun they might have bowing down to the ugly idol statue, too. "If we bow down to these idols," thought some of the Israelites, "we can

do whatever we want. We won't have to listen to God or obey Him." The Israelites forgot about God's words and wanted to do things their own way. Sin cycle! *(Have the children say "Sin cycle.")*

Soon the Israelite men were asking the Canaanite women to marry them. Uh oh! Sin cycle! They disobeyed a little, and then disobeyed more. Before long, all the Israelites were worshipping at the Asherah pole rather than worshipping the true God as He had said.

*(Show the JDG01ECGF5 picture.)* It hurts to fall off a bicycle or tricycle, doesn't it? God knows that sin and disobeying hurt us much worse than falling off a cycle. God loved the Israelites so much that He would not allow them to continue in sin. God punished the Israelites so that they would stop sinning. God punished the Israelites by letting the Canaanites in the towns fight with them, and by letting the big enemies win the fights. The Israelites became more and more sad as God let their big enemies fight with them and win. *(Have the children say "Punished" as they slap one of their hands.)*

*(Show next week's JDG02ECGF1 picture.)* "Please," cried the Israelites to God. "Please help us, God! We're sorry; we were wrong to disobey." *(Have the children say "Repent" as they fold their hands in prayer, raising them toward the sky.)* It is called repentance when we want to stop sinning and start obeying. *(Have the children say "Rescue" as they bring down their arm like a gavel.)* When the Israelites cried out to God, He forgave them and sent a judge *(bring down the gavel hand)*, a strong leader, to help the people obey God's words.

In the next few weeks, we will learn about several men who were judges of the Israelites. The judges helped the people obey God and get off the sin cycle. When the Israelites stopped sinning and started obeying God, the Canaanites stopped fighting with them and winning. God gave peace in the towns.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help me be careful to obey everything You say in the Bible. I don't want to get in a sin cycle by disobeying You. Help me obey my parents the first time they tell me to do something. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Look:

- Aim Questions:** Spell out the word "help" on four pieces of paper and write the appropriate question on the back of each letter. Scramble them and set them out on the floor. Call for a letter and answer each question. Line up the letters to spell "help" which is what God would give the Israelites. God's plan was to send a strong leader, called a judge, to help the people obey God's words.
- Paper Plate Wheel & Stickers: (JDG01ECGF11)** Assist the children in dividing a small paper plate into four sections by gluing yarn on the lines you have drawn on them. Provide stickers for the children to put in each section by copying the GF11 page onto 1" x 2 5/8" laser labels. Let them color around the edges of the paper plate. Tape a craft stick to one edge to use as a handle. Talk about the sin cycle the Israelites got into by disobeying God.
- Sin Cycle Booklet: (JDG01ECGF12)** Let each child make a booklet by folding the GF12 page in fourths so that page number one is the cover page. Talk about the sin cycle and how the Israelites disobeyed God. Sing the song to remind the children that it is not good to disobey God.
- "The Israelites Entered Canaan" Drama:** Send three or four leaders outside to represent the areas of the country of Canaan. Have them stand in predesignated areas with something to represent their false gods. The teacher will explain to the class that they are the Israelites who were told to chase all of the people out of the land of Canaan and to destroy the false gods (idols) that the Canaanite people worshipped. The teacher will then lead the class outside and up to the first Canaanite (leader). Have the teacher say, "Our God has given us this land." The leader answers, "We live here and worship our own gods (idols)." He points to a pile of boxes or blocks that he worships. The teacher then asks one of the students to chase the Canaanite out of town, which he does. Someone is then chosen to knock down the false god in that city. The class moves to the next Canaanite and repeats the process. But one Canaanite is big and strong and the teacher does not assign anyone to chase him away and no one tears down the false god of that Canaanite. Instead the teacher acts afraid and reasons that it wouldn't hurt to just leave one Canaanite standing. The class moves away. The teacher explains that it was the beginning of sad things for the Israelites because they did not get rid of all of the Canaanites like God had instructed them to do. They had only disobeyed God a little bit but God had to punish them and they no longer won all of their battles with the Canaanites.
- Memory Verse:** Divide the class into three groups and separate them so they are close but identified.

Teacher: What did the Israelites do wrong? (*They disobeyed the Lord.*) (Assign these words to one group to say.)

Who is the Lord? (*The God of their fathers.*) (Assign to another group.)

What did God do for the Israelites? (*He had brought them out of Egypt.*) (Assign to the last group.)

Repeat with the children standing while they say their parts. Do this several times. Put it all together and add Judges 2:12 at the end.

**Complete Weed Removal:** Prior to class, mark off an area of the yard (with rope) around the church that would be reasonable for the children to weed. Give them instructions to weed it completely and show them what the weeds look like. Compliment them on obeying instructions completely when done. This was not what the Israelites did so they ended up in the sin cycle.

**Snack Discussion:** Enjoy the snack on the newly weeded area. Talk about doing complete jobs when asked. Discuss the weed job, times they are asked to come home from a friend's house but stay a little longer, go into the street when asked to never cross the street, or do a halfway job of putting their clothes, toys away, or dishes off the table. Serve the cone part of an ice cream cone, discussing doing something halfway. Then give the children ice cream for their cones.

---

**Cycle Leg Motions:** Move your legs while sitting on a chair as if riding a tricycle or bike. (If this is too hard, have them move one leg at a time!) Ask the children to move their legs as long as you are talking about the sinful things the Israelites did while they were on the sin cycle. Keep the legs moving as long as they are sinning! Review as follows:

The Israelites were asked to drive out the Canaanites. OOPS! They only do half of a job. (*Repeat this several times as more Israelites do the same.*)

The Israelites did whatever they wanted. OOPS!

The Israelites married Canaanite women. OOPS!

The Israelites began to worship their ugly idol statues. OOPS!

God had to punish the Israelites for disobeying. OOPS!

The Israelites were sad because they were punished.

The Israelites had regret and repented.

The Israelites cried out to God, "Please help us, God. We have disobeyed. We are wrong." (*Quit moving your legs and fold your hands in prayer.*)

God forgave the Israelites and sent a judge to help them. (*Bring down your fist like a gavel.*)

The judge helped the Israelites obey. (*Walk in place in front of chairs; swing arms.*)

**Sin Cycle Bike:** Bring a small bicycle or tricycle to class. Add a pennant or sign that says "Sin Cycle." Tape signs on the wheels indicating "Rebel, Regret, Repent, and Rescue," discussing the meaning as you go. This is one cycle we don't want to go on!

### Songs:

**Sin Cycle** (*tune: "Frere Jacques"*)  
Sin was punished; sin was punished. (*Raise one fist straight up to the sky.*)  
"Help," they cried; "Help," they cried. (*Fold your hands in a prayer position.*)  
Go-od sent a ju-udge; Go-od sent a ju-udge. (*Bring down your fist like a gavel.*)  
Peace outside; peace inside. (*Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.*)

**Judges 2:12 Memory Verse Song for 2's & 3's** (*tune: "Farmer in the Dell"*)  
They disobeyed the Lord; they disobeyed the Lord.  
Judges two twe-elve says,  
"They disobeyed the Lord."

**Judges 2:12 Memory Verse Song for 4's & 5's** (*tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"*)  
They forsook the Lord; they worshipped various gods  
Of the peoples around them.  
Judges two-o twelve.

**Can We Take the Land?** (*tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"*)  
Can we take the land? Can we trust the Lord? (*March with your arms.*)  
Chariots are way too strong. (*Flex your muscles.*)  
We will just give up. (*Relax your body in a slump.*)

Can we take the land? Can we trust the Lord? *(March with your arms.)*  
God is bigger; God is stronger. *(Flex your muscles.)*  
We will not give up. *(Sit up straight and breathe deeply.)*

**Sin Cycle for Older Children** *(tune: "Supercalafragalistic")*

The sin cycle begins with sin  
Then comes the sufferi-ing.  
Supplication cries for help,  
Salvation God will bri-ing.  
The silence is a time of peace when God's Word is obe-eyed.  
Let's not get in the sin cycle, then we won't be afraid.

Rebellious sin, it brings regret when punishment begi-ins.  
Repentance next; we must confess; there will be sorrowing.  
But when we cry to God for help, the rescuing begi-ins.  
Let's not get in the sin cycle, for sadness it will bring.

**Be Not Dismayed**

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.  
God will take care of you, Through every day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.



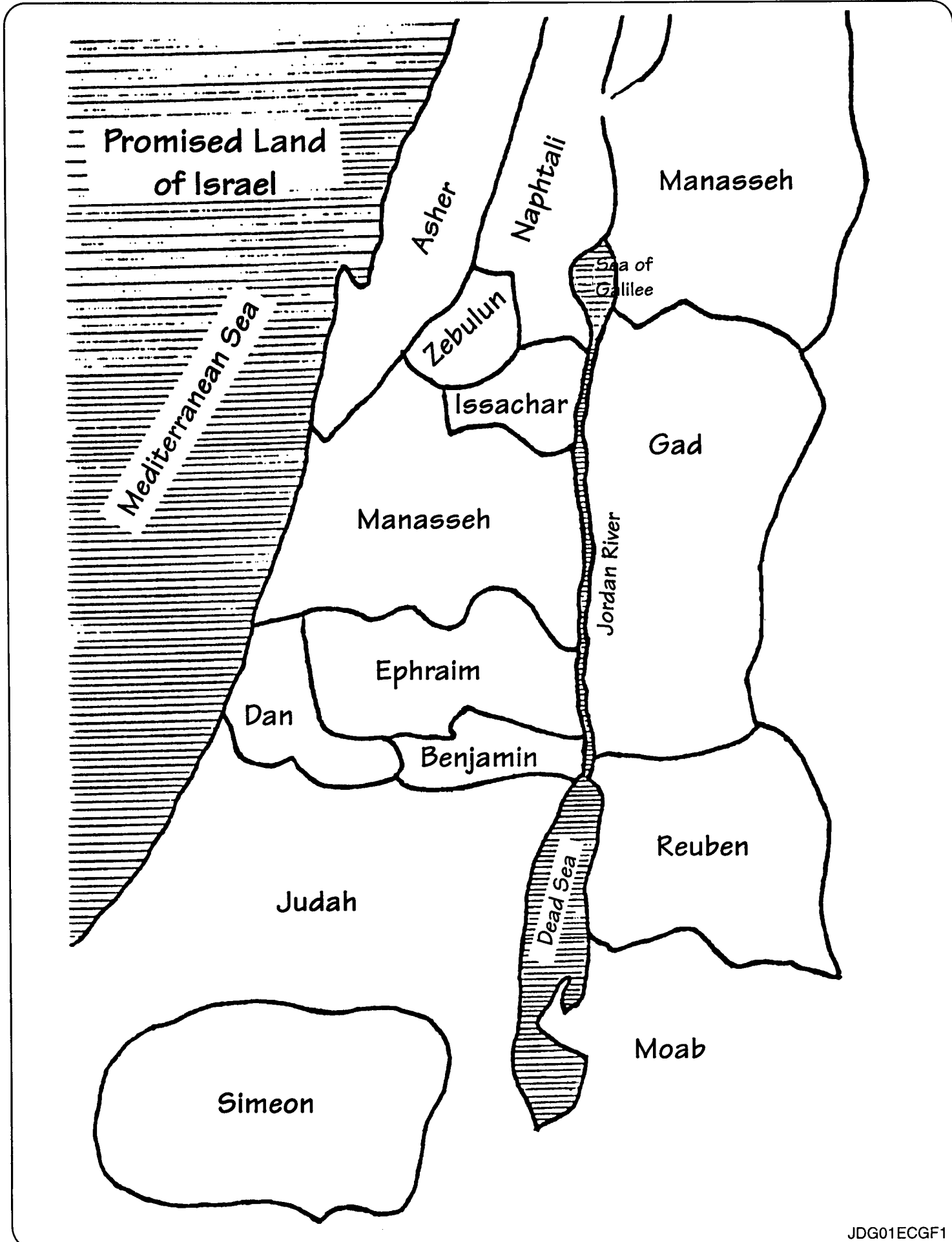
**Took:**

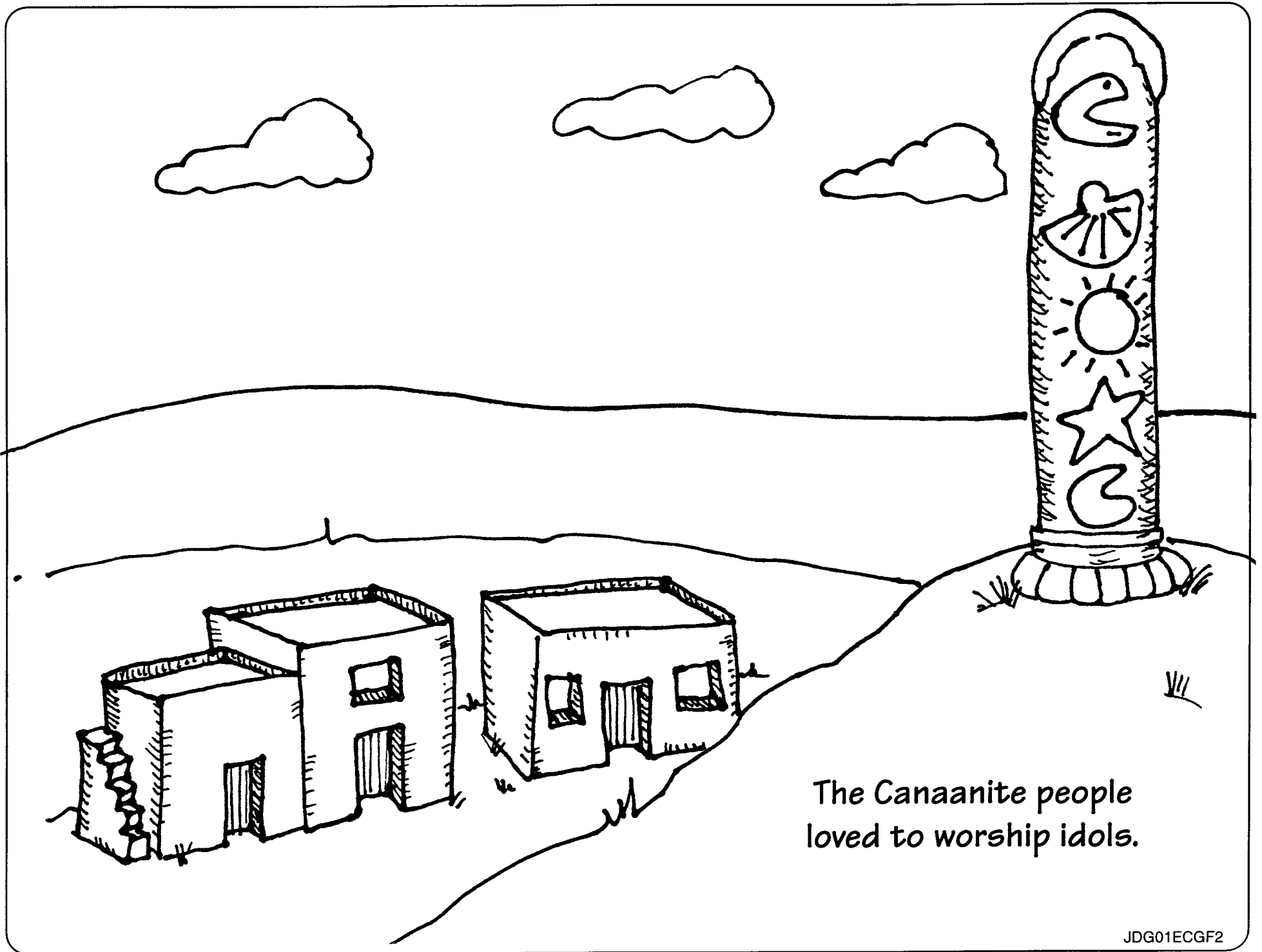
**Memory Verse Necklace: (JDG01ECGF13)** Copy the GF13 memory verse and sin cycle squares on cardstock. Cut out and punch holes as indicated. Let the children lace these onto a piece of yarn before adding cereal or macaroni to make a necklace. Review the memory verse by singing the songs.

**Sin Cycle Craft Page: (JDG01ECGF15)** Follow the instructions on the GF15 page to make a good craft reminder for the children. Be sure that you spend time reviewing the different parts of the sin cycle so that the children can tell their parents what they learned.

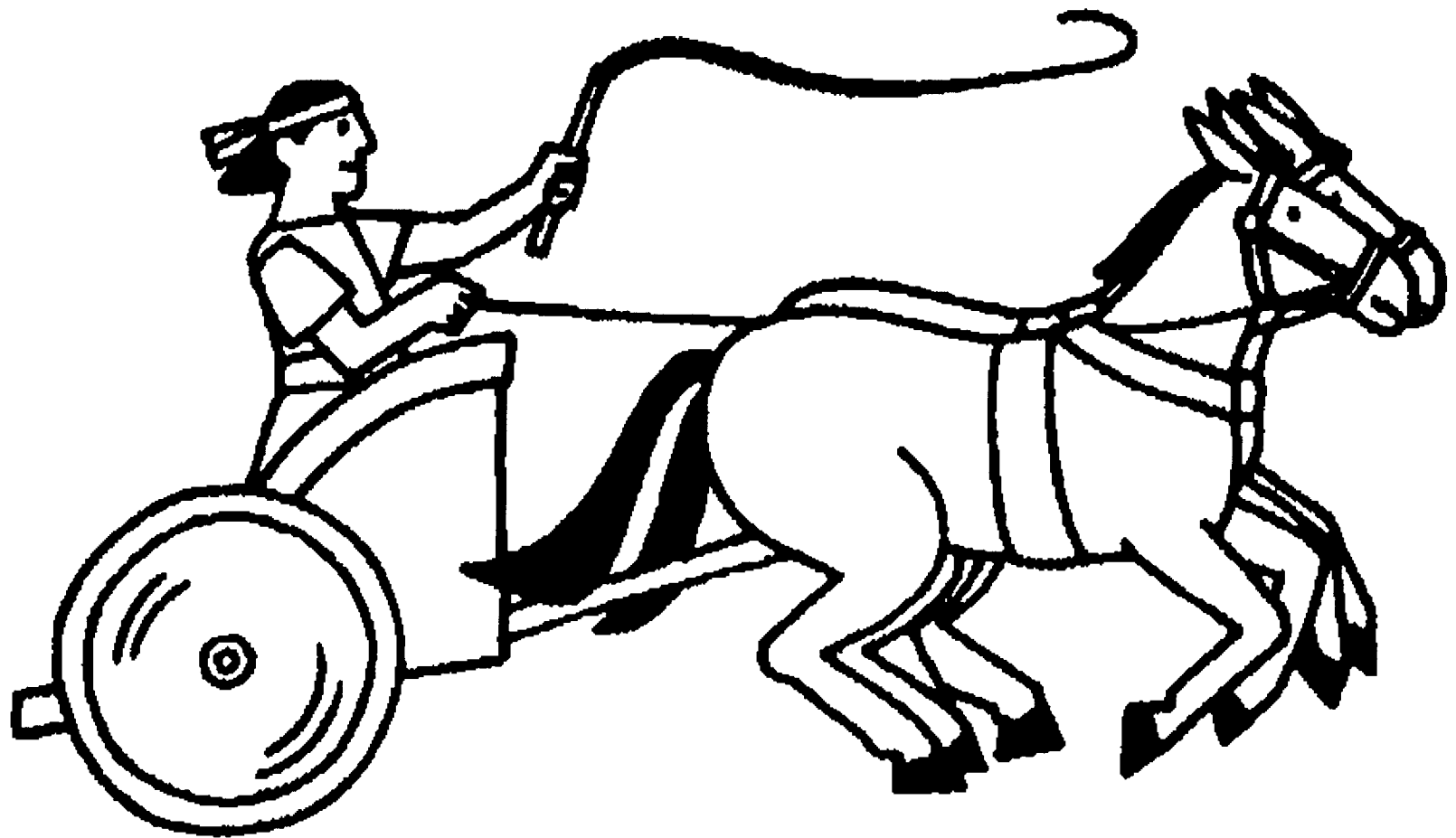
**Judges Booklet: (JDG01ECGF16)** Give each child a piece of construction paper folded in half so that it ends up being 6 inches by 9 inches. Give each child four ziploc sandwich bags. Fold over the bottom pleated edges of the bags before stapling them to the inside of the construction paper cover of the booklet. Let the children glue the GF16 words and picture onto the front and back covers of their booklets as shown in the sample. (A gavel, representing a judge, could be made from a popsicle stick and glued on the front cover of the booklet. The popsicle stick could be cut into two pieces, one piece that is 1 1/4" long for the head of the gavel.) Each of the next four weeks of our Judges study, the children will put small pictures and objects that relate to the lesson in the corresponding baggie.

**Preschool Page for Parents: (JDG01ECPPP)** Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.

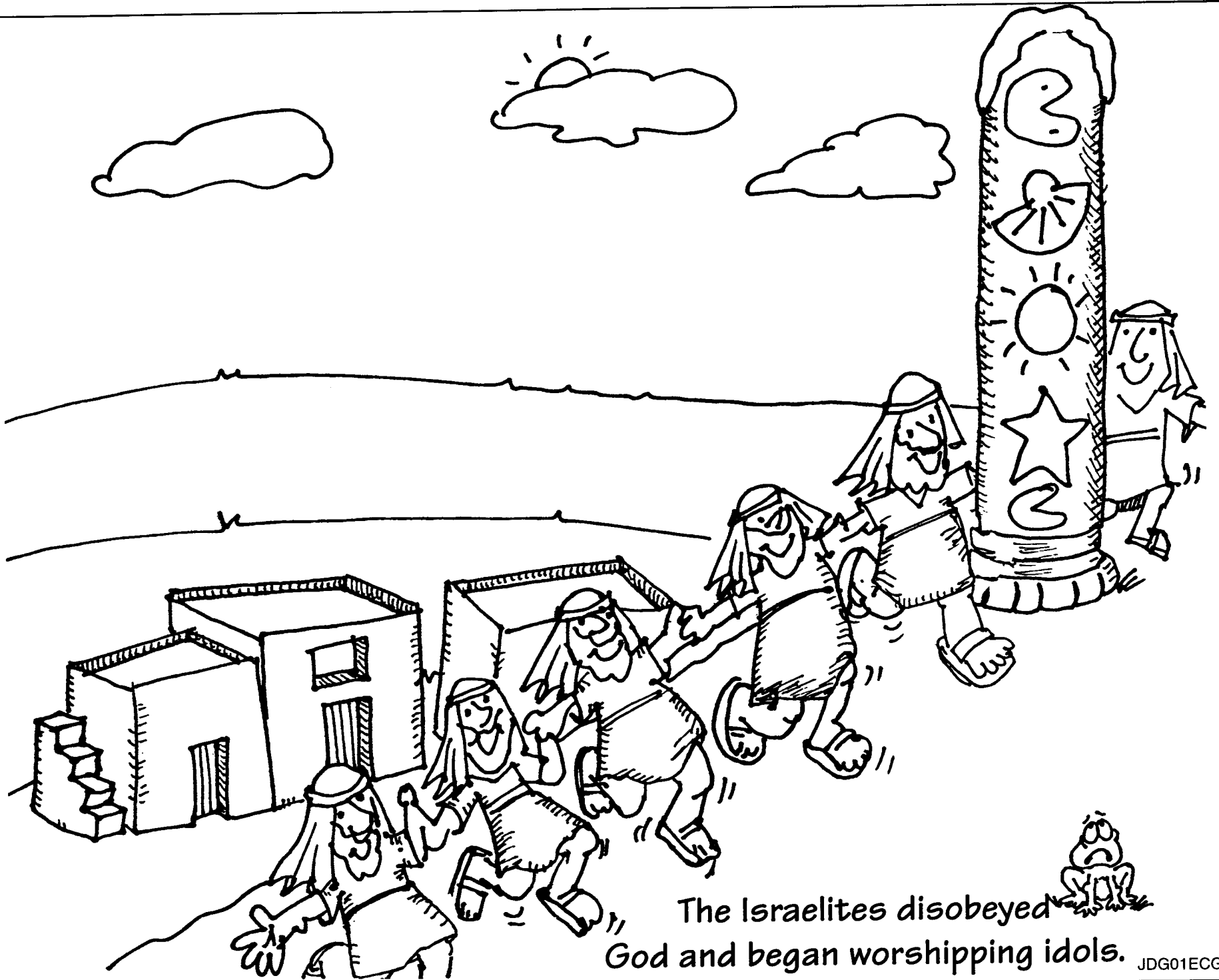




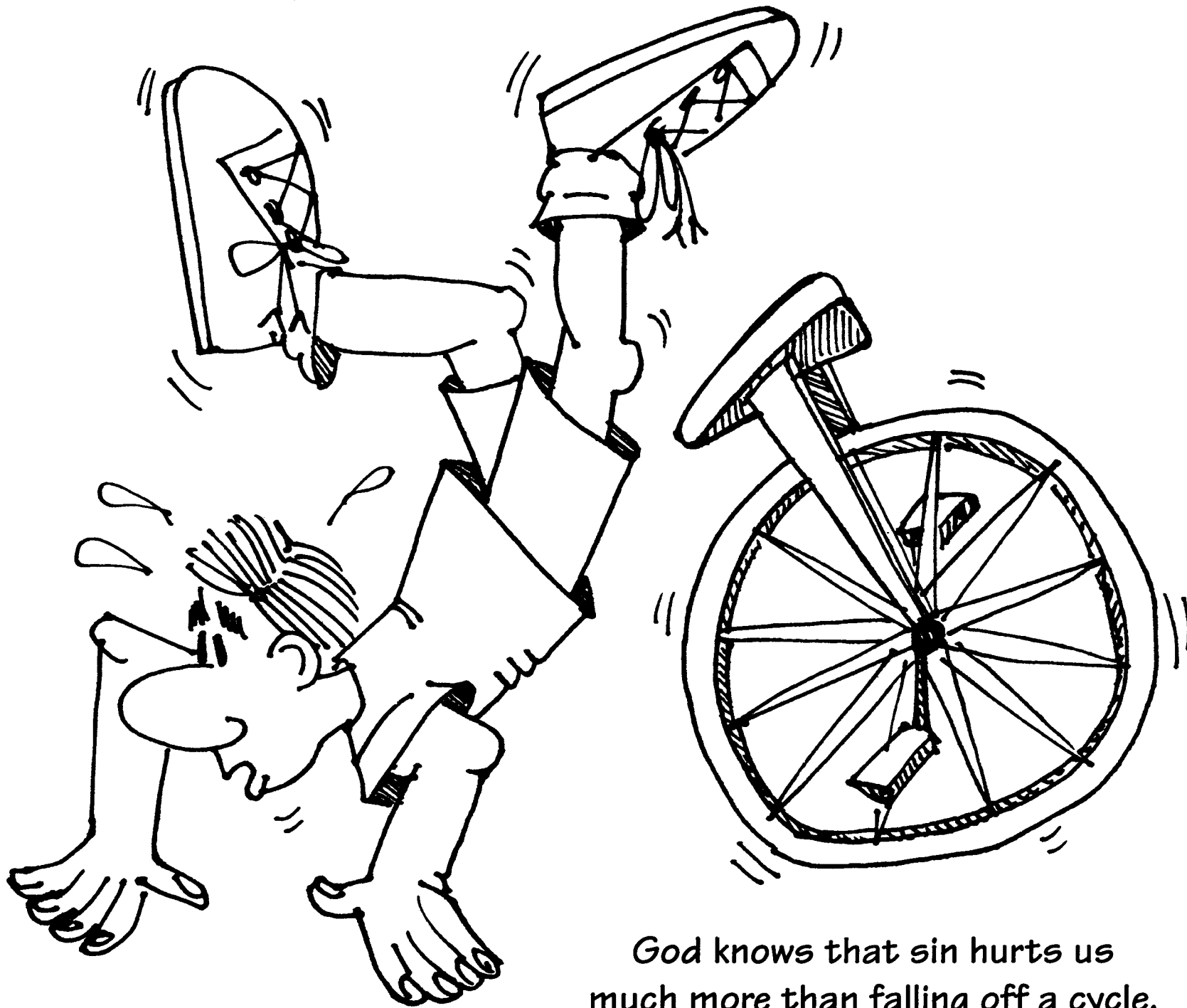
The Canaanite people  
loved to worship idols.



The Israelites were afraid of the Canaanites' strong, iron chariots.



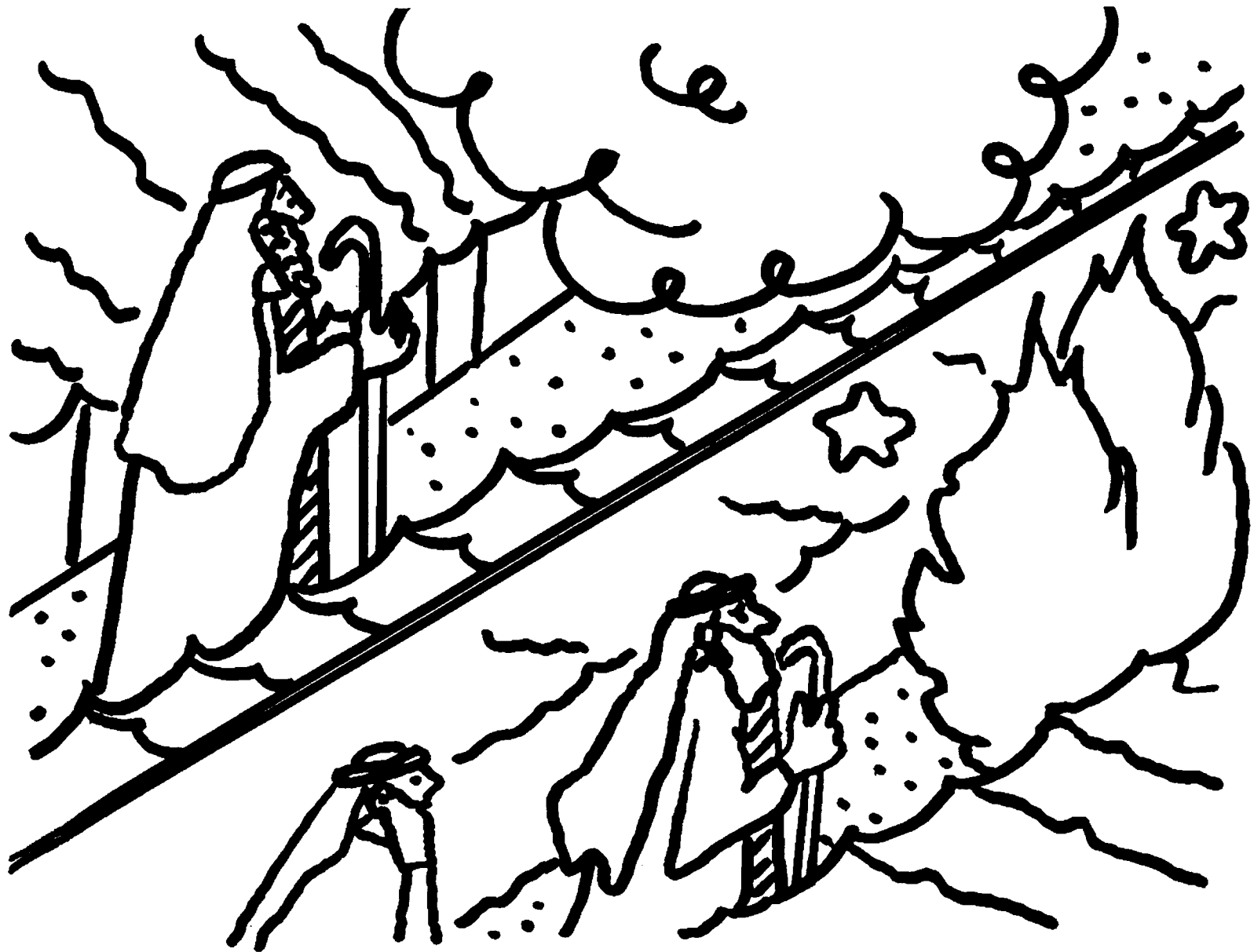
The Israelites disobeyed  
God and began worshipping idols.



God knows that sin hurts us  
much more than falling off a cycle.



The Israelites were *God's* people. He loved them very much.

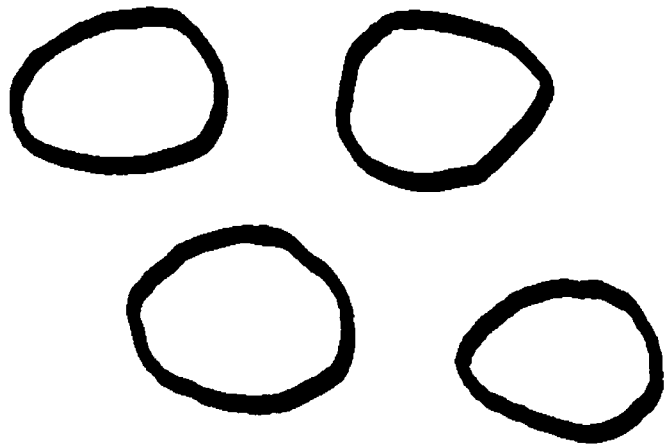
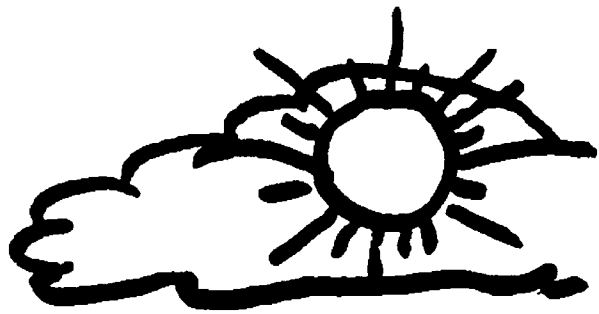


### Exodus Song

(tune: "Oh, Dear What Can the Matter Be")

Our God parted the Red Sea, oh,  
Our God parted the Red Sea, oh,  
Our God parted the Red Sea  
To keep all the Israelites safe.

God led the Israelites by day and by night.



### Exodus Song

(tune: "Oh, Dear What Can the Matter Be")

God gave manna and water, oh,  
God gave manna and water, oh,  
God gave manna and water  
He provided for all their needs.

God sent manna and quail to feed the Israelites.



Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land.



God blessed Jacob with a large family of twelve children.

Sin Punished Repent

Sin Punished Repent

Sin Punished Repent

Sin Punished Repent

Sin Punished Repent

Sin Punished Repent

Sin Punished Repent

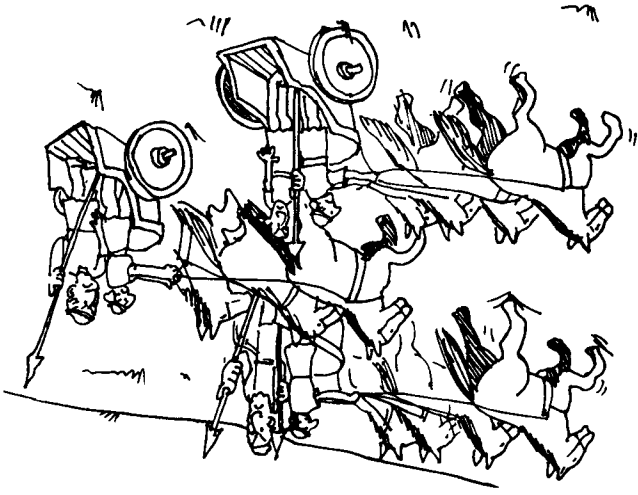
Rescue Rescue Rescue

Rescue Rescue Rescue

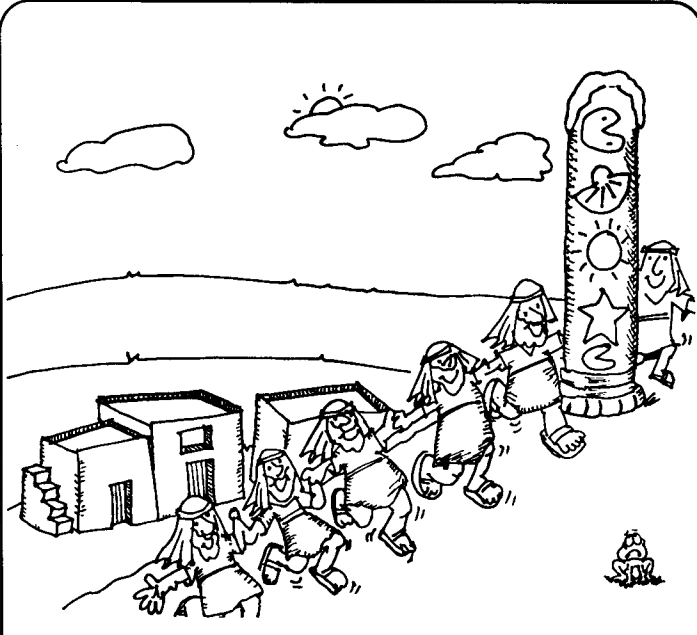
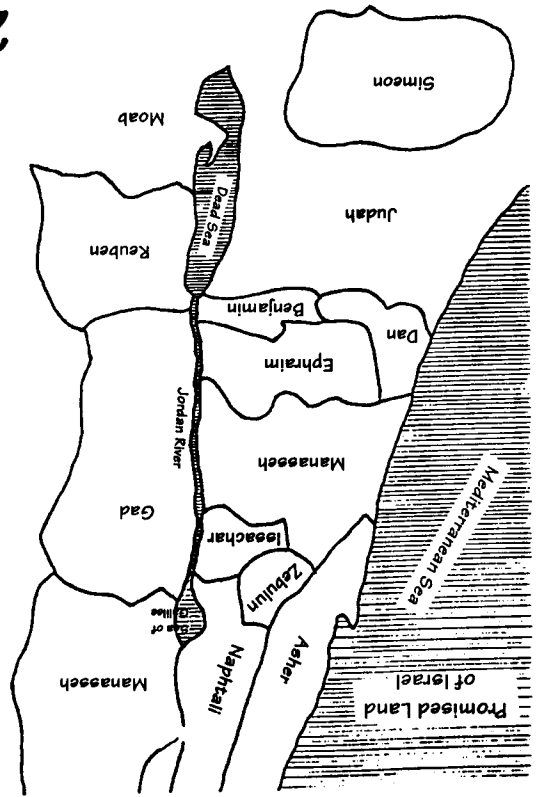
Rescue

3.

The Israelites were afraid of the Canaanites' strong, iron chariots and did not fully obey God.



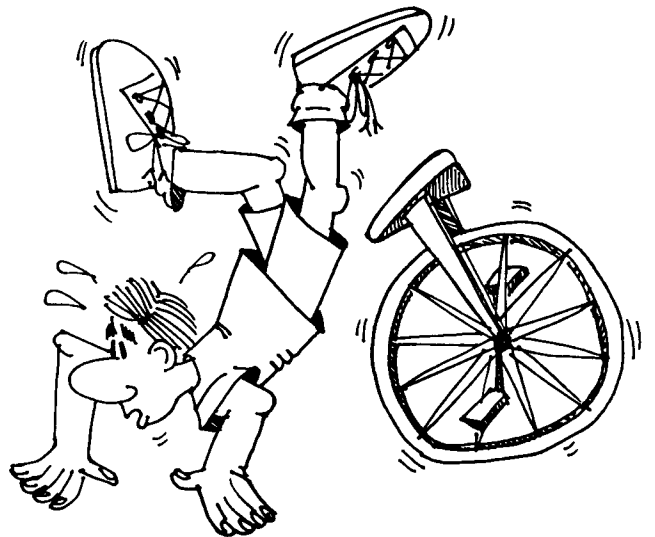
2.



Judges 2:12, Memory Verse Song  
(tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

They forsook the Lord  
And worshipped various gods  
Of the peoples around them.  
Judges two-o twelve.

4.



Sin Cycle

(tune: "Frère Jacques")

Sin was punished; sin was punished.

(Raise one fist straight up to the sky.)

"Help," they cried; "Help," they cried.

(Fold your hands in a prayer position.)

Go-od sent a ju-udge; Go-od sent a ju-udge.

(Bring down your fist like a gavel.)

Peace outside; peace inside.

(Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.)

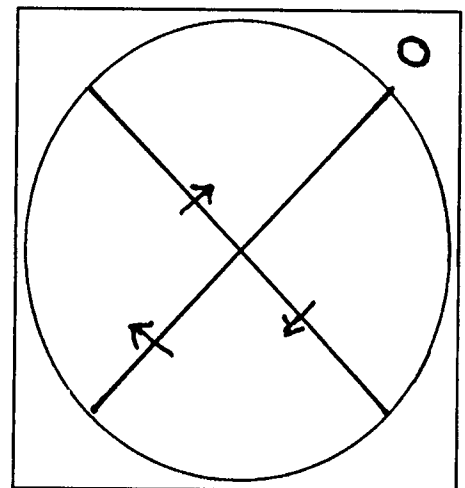
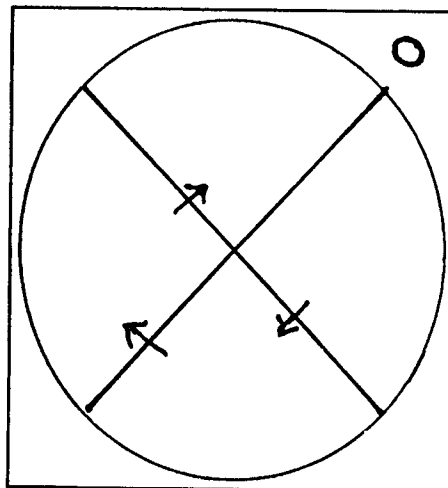
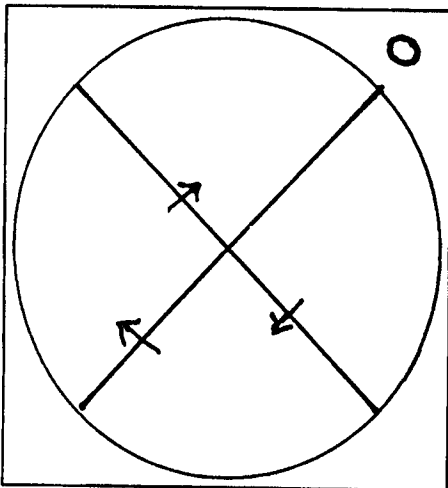
1.

# Memory Verse Necklace

They disobeyed  
the Lord, the God of  
their fathers,

They disobeyed  
the Lord, the God of  
their fathers,

They disobeyed  
the Lord, the God of  
their fathers,

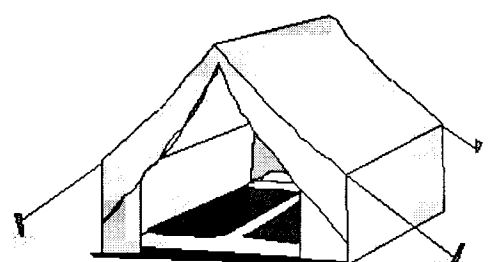
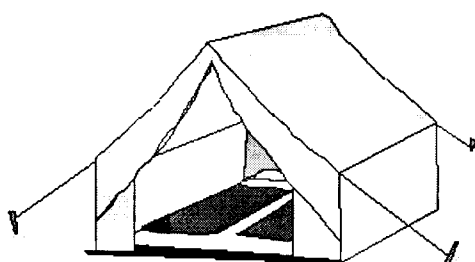
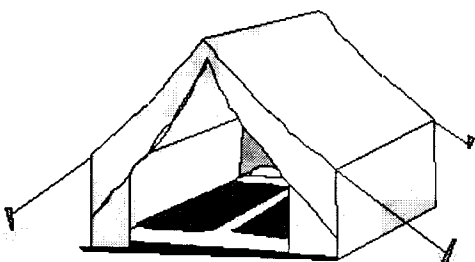
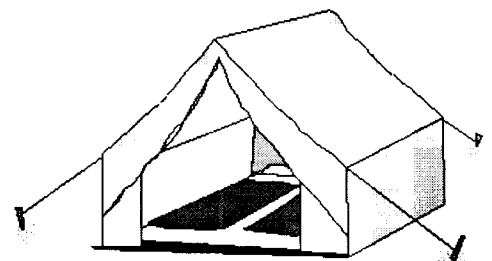
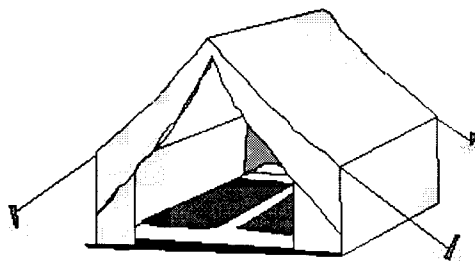
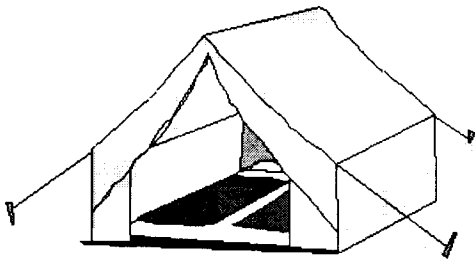


Who had brought  
them out of Egypt.  
Judges 2:12

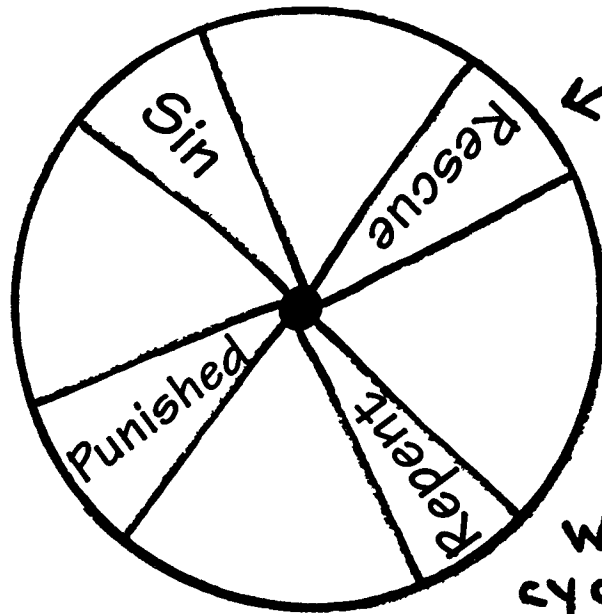
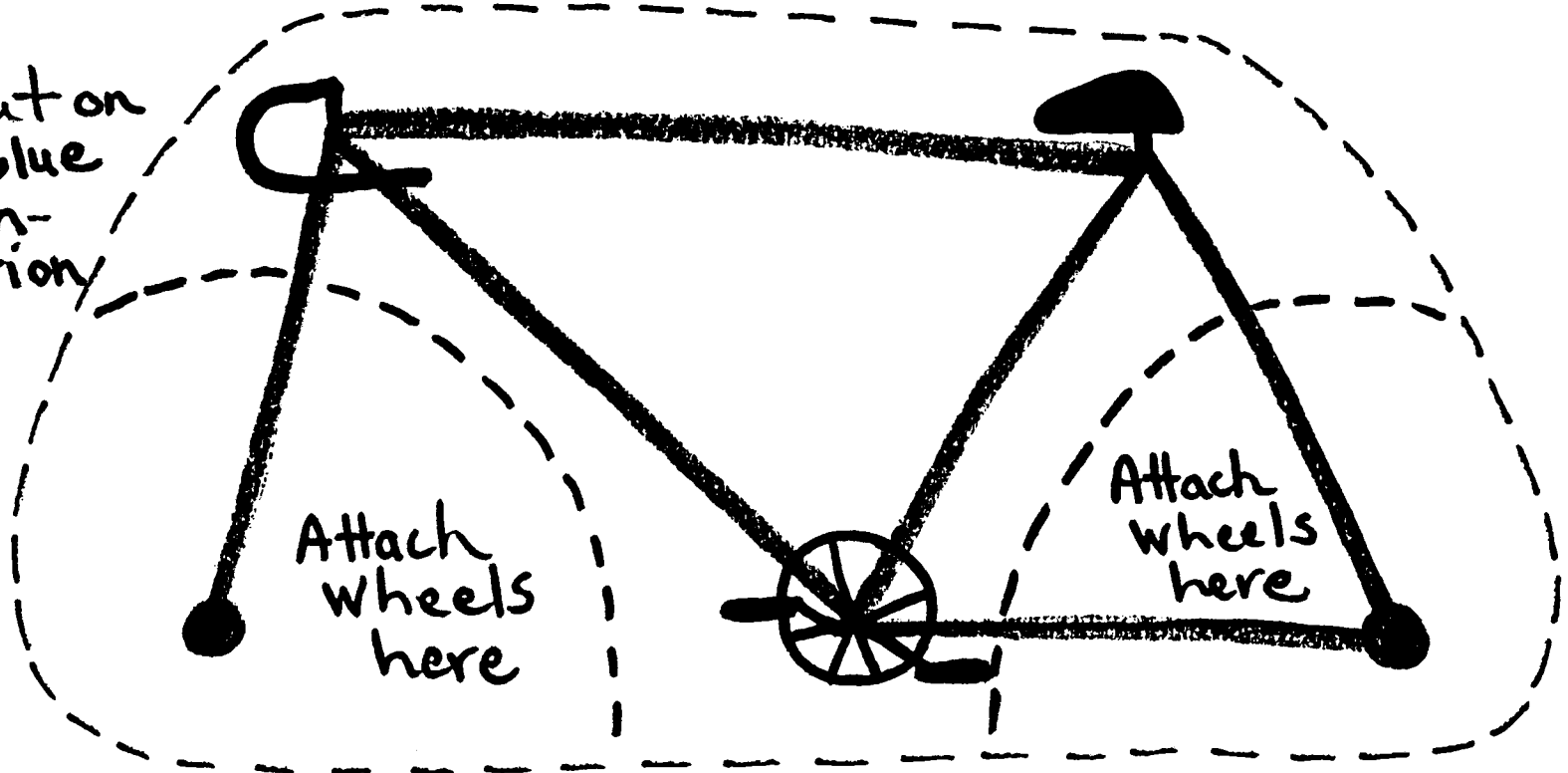
Who had brought  
them out of Egypt.  
Judges 2:12

Who had brought  
them out of Egypt.  
Judges 2:12

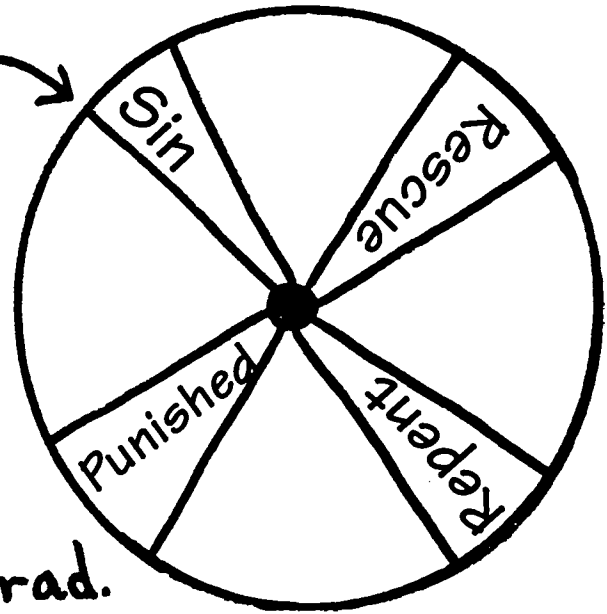
# Houses and Tents for the Large Butcher Paper Map



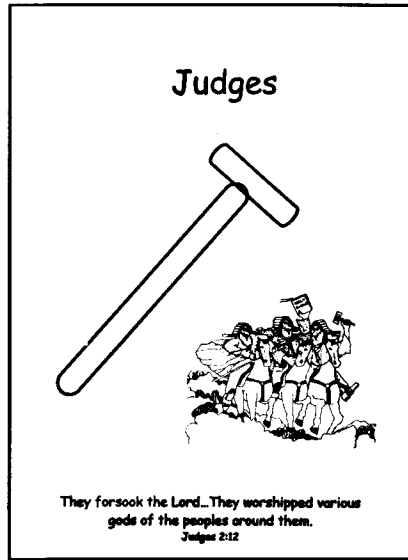
Cut out on line. Glue to construction paper.



Cut out and glue to paper plate.



Attach wheels to cycle with brad.



Sample  
Booklet



# Judges Judges

They forsook the Lord...They worshipped various gods of the peoples around them.  
Judges 2:12

They forsook the Lord...They worshipped various gods of the peoples around them.  
Judges 2:12

# PPP

Preschool Page for Parents  
Extended Bible School Training in the Home

September 10, 2000  
Judges Chapters 1 to 3:4



## This is what I learned today!

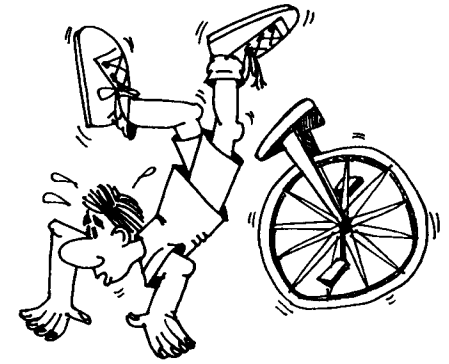
Today we learned that God's people, the Israelites, moved into the land of Canaan. But there were people already living there who worshipped false, ugly idols. God told His people to destroy the idols, but the Israelites didn't fully obey. Their disobedience started them on a **sin cycle**. God punished the Israelites by allowing the Canaanites to win some of the battles. The Israelites felt regret and cried out to God for help. When the Israelites stopped sinning and started obeying, God sent a judge to deliver them.

### Today's Memory Verse:

**2's & 3's: They disobeyed the Lord...  
and worshipped idols. Judges 2:12**

**4's & 5's: They forsook the Lord...  
They worshipped various gods of the  
peoples around them. Judges 2:12**  
(tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boaf")

**Stay off the  
sin cycle.  
It hurts!**



Do different activities with cycles and wheels this week. Use your imagination and have a good time. As the family is having fun on wheels, talk about the sin cycle that is not fun. Sin hurts us much worse than falling off a cycle.

See how many different kinds of circles you can find. Sing the Sin Cycle Song over and over as you play with wheels.

**Save this paper in a notebook for review.**

#### Sin Cycle

(tune: "Frere Jacques")

**Sin was punished; sin was punished.**

(Raise one fist straight up to the sky.)

**"Help," they cried; "Help," they cried.**

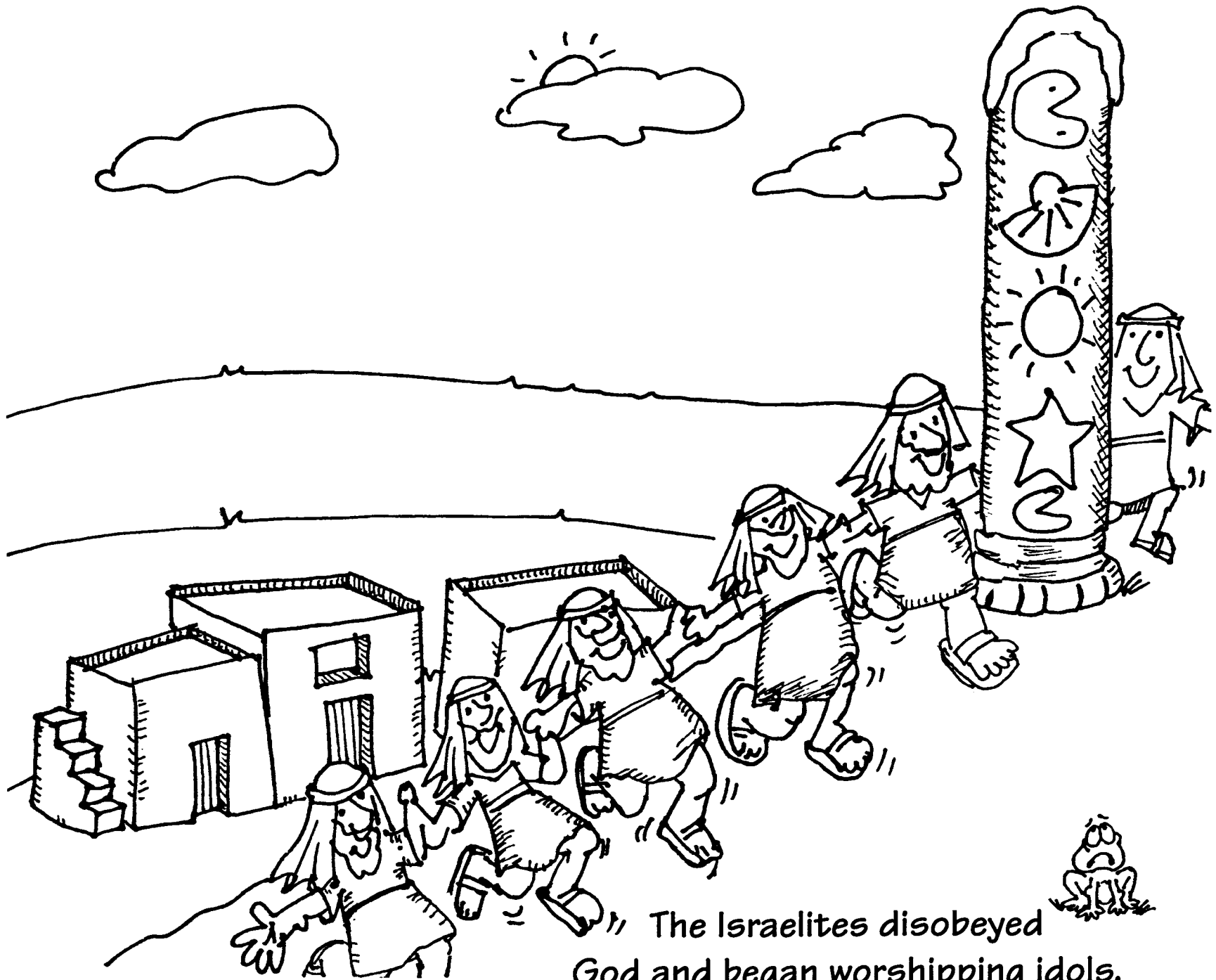
(Fold your hands in a prayer position.)

**Go-od sent a ju-udge; Go-od sent a ju-udge.**

(Bring down your fist like a gavel.)

**Peace outside; peace inside.**

(Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.)



The Israelites disobeyed  
God and began worshipping idols.