Judges 10

“True Repentance!”

**Scripture:** Judges 10:1-18

**Memory Verse:** *“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* Luke 15:10

**Lesson Focus:** God desires our “true” repentance.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring page, Work Sheet

Craft: 1st and 2nd Grade: True Heart – Chenille wire heart

1. Give each of the kids a chenille wire
2. Tell them to shape their wire into a heart.
3. Attach string to the heart so that they can wear it around their necks
4. Tell them that God know our hearts and He want us to give our hearts to Him.

**Introduction:**

 **Ask the kids:** Have any of you ever said that you were sorry and you really weren’t?

 What kind of things are we usually not sorry for?

 Why do we say we are sorry?

Usually we say that we are sorry because we do not want to get into trouble. Today we are going to talk about truly being sorry before God.

**Bible Study:**

 **Judges 10:1-5**

 **Judge Tola – judged 23 years**

 **Judge Jair – judges 23 years**

During the life of the Judges, Israel stayed true to God. They had peace. But the pattern of forgetting God and following after false idols seems to keep coming back.

 **Judges 10:6**

 √ What did the people do? (they did evil in the sight of the Lord)

 √ What evil did they do? (they served idols)

 √ Who did these idols belong to? (the nations around them)

 √ What does the word “forsook” mean? (to give up)

So when it says that they “forsook” the Lord, that means that they gave God up for false gods. They turned their back on God.

√ Why do people forget God?

* They were influenced by the people around them
* They wanted to be like everyone else

√ Do you ever feel like that? Do you ever want to be like everyone else?

√ What kind of things or ways have you wanted to be like everyone else?

God knows that we are easily influenced. That is why He has given us His Word, so that we can stay close to God.

Romans 12:2 says, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

In this verse there is stuff that we need to do and stuff that we don’t do.

What should we NOT do?

* Do not be conformed to this world

√ What does “conform” mean? (to become like)

**Illustration:** Take a piece of playdoh and shape it into a shape. As you shape the playdoh tell the kids that you are conforming this lump of dough into the shape that you want it. This verse is telling us to not let the world shape you into it’s mold.

√ What does the world want you to look like?

1. Live for yourself – make yourself happy
2. Selfish - Prideful
3. Powerful
4. Beautiful
5. Rich
6. Not-religious
7. To not follow rules and regulations or morals
8. No right or wrong
9. No truth
10. The Bible is just a good book
11. Jesus is just a good man or teacher

What should we do?

Our minds transformed –

√ What does it mean to be transformed? (It does not mean a transformer.) To be transformed is to change, to become like Jesus. We are transformed when we believe and we allow God’s Word to change us. Our minds and hearts have to change. Only when we change can we know the “will of God.” When we study God’s Word it changes us. We see how God wants us to live and to believe. It helps me to not sin and to follow Jesus. It renews us over and over again. We need it every day.

**Small the Idol illustration:**

We need to smash our idols that get in the way of us following God.

Use the playdoh and form some idols that we follow…TV - music…clothes…sports…let the kids come up and smash the idol. Tell the kids that we are to make sure that we don’t let these things become the most important things in our lives.

In the book of Judges we see the people of Israel following God as they follow a good leader or judge. But then when the leader dies, they forget and start following the people around them. The world has a strong pull and if we allow it to it will always pull us away from God.

The people of Israel forgot God and followed the idols and wrong living of those around them.

 **Judges 10:7**

√ How did the Lord react to Israel? (He was angry and he gave them over to the countries around them.)

 **Judges 10:8**

√ How where the people of Israel treated by the nations around them?

* They were harassed
* They were oppressed for 18 years

**Judges 10:10-14**

 √ What did the people of Israel do? (they cried out to God)

 √ What did they tell God?

1. We have sinned
2. We have forsaken our God
3. We have served the Baals

√ How did God respond?

1. I already delivered you once from all of these nations
2. You have forsaken me and served other gods
3. Let these gods save you

**Judges 10:15-16**

 √ How did the Israelites respond to what God said?

1. We have sinned
2. God you can do to us whatever seems best to you
3. They put away their false gods and idols’
4. They served the Lord

God saw their true repentance

See before when the people of Israel cried out to God and said that they had sinned, they had not changed on the inside. They still had their fake gods in their homes. God saw that their hearts where not right. God is always here for us, but it will not know sin and He wants a truly repentant heart when we sin.

√ What does it mean to repent? (to go the other way – to turn away from)

√ Do you ever say that you are sorry for something, but then go and do the same thing again? When we ask God for forgiveness of our sin, then we need to change and ask God’s help to change and not keep sinning.

How important is repentance?

Luke 15:10 says, “*Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Repentance is a change of heart to follow after God. It is recognizing our sin separates us from God. It is confessing our sin and repenting of our sin.

**Conclusion:**

Why do we drift away from God?

 How does the world pull us away?

 How can stay close to God?

 How important is “true repentance”?