Judges 17-18

*“What happens without a King?”*

**Scripture:** Judges 17:1-18:31

**Memory Verse:** *“I am the Lord your God….you shall have no other gods before*

 *me.”* Exodus 20:3

**Lesson Focus:** God is our King and the one who we obey.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Page, Work sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: “God is My King” Necklace

**Introduction:** “Who is the King? Trivia

1. Who is King of England? (Queen Elizabeth)
2. Who is King of the Jungle? (Lion)
3. Who is the King of the United States? (we do not have one, we have a president)
4. What was the man’s name that fought a giant and then later became king? (David)
5. Who was the first king of Israel? (Saul)
6. Who has the name “KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS? (Revelation 19:16 – Jesus)

**Bible Lesson:**

 **Judges 17:1-5:** “*The beginning of Idol worship”*

 √ Who is the man in the story? (Micah)

 √ What did he confess to his mother? (that he stole her silver)

 The annual wage in those days was 10 shekels of silver – so the amount that he stole was significant.

 √ Why do you think that he confessed? (he was afraid of her curse)

 √ How did his mother respond to him?

 She blessed him

 She dedicated it to the Lord

 She had a carved image made

√ Is having a silver image made what God would want her to do? Was she really dedicating it to the Lord?

 √ How did Micah respond to the idol?

1. Made a shrine for the idols
2. Dedicated one of his sons to be a priest for the idol

Idol worship often starts with something “religious.” The mother took something that was valuable to her (1,100 pieces of silver) and dedicated that money to the Lord. But then she had it made into a image.

√ Do you think that was what God wanted her to do with the silver?

√ How could she have dedicated that money to the Lord?

 **Judges 17:6-13:** *“The Result of Idol Worship”*

 Judges 17:6

√ What are the two facts stated in this verse:

1. No King
2. No Rules – everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

√ Do you think that it is a bad thing to do what is right in your own eyes? Why is it such a bad thing? Do we always make wise choices?

“Doing “right” in our own eyes, means that we do not have any laws to follow?

√ Why were laws created? (to give us safe boundaries)

√ What would happen if your parents never had any rules in the house? If they never told you “no” or disciplined you?

When we “do what is right in our own eyes” then we live for ourselves. We are selfish human beings and we not only leave others out of our lives, we leave God out also.

√ Where did God give us the rules to live by?

1. 10 commandments (Exodus 20)
2. The Bible

Our United States Forefathers made the laws of the United States mainly by looking at the Bible.

The First commandment is *“I am the Lord your God….you shall have no*

 *other gods before me.”* Exodus 20:3

God’s #1 Rule - is that He alone is God. We are not to worship anything else. We are not to make images of gods and worship them. God wants to have the first place in our hearts.

Israel at this time did not have a physical king, but they did have an eternal King and they chose not to follow Him.

 **Judges 17:7-13**

 Teahers: Tell the story – do not read all of these verses.

The rest of Judges 17 tells the story of another man. He was a young man and he was a Levite and from the family of Judah. He was traveling and said that he would stay wherever he could find a place to stay. He comes to the house of Micah in Ephraim and Micah ask him to stay and to be a father and a priest to him. Micah told him that he would pay him, and provide clothing and food and shelter. The Bible tells us that the young man was “content” to take Micah up on his offer.

√ Do you think that this was a wise move for this young man? Why or why not? (They had idols in the house)

√ Why did Micah want this young man to be a priest in his own house? (Judges 17:13 – because he wanted God’s blessing) He thought if he had his own priest then he would be safe and God would bless him.

Does God bless us because we deserve it?

**Judges 18:1-31**

 Teachers: Tell the story – only read select verses.

Judges 18:1

 Facts that we learn from this verse:

1. No King
2. The tribe of Dan wanted an inheritance (they wanted land)

(They had been given land in the south, near the tribes of Benjamin and Judah. But they were unable to defeat the Canaanites dwelling in their territory. So they wanted new land and an easier way to live. They want to make a mass migration to the very northernmost part of Israel. This will turn out to be a huge mistake for the tribe of Dan. In the northern part of Israel they will become and weak and idolatrous tribe.

So the tribe of Dan sends out 5 spies and they stay in the house of Micah. While they are in his house they hear the young priest talking and recognize by the sound of his voice that he is one of them. They ask him a question?

Judges 18:5-6

So the five spy’s continue on and find good land that they want to take over. So 600 hundred men head out to take the land and while they were on their way they came to the house of Micah. So they went into his house and took his idols and they asked the priest to come with them. They fought and took the land.

 **Judges 18:30-31:**

 √ What did they set up in the new land?

 √ Do you think this is something that God wanted?

**Conclusion:**

1. Micah went to a lot of trouble to have his own priest and his own idols. Did he lose them in the end? Do you think that these things made Micah closer to God?
2. Did the tribe of Dan need to go to a new land? Did that help them? Did they do what is right in their own eyes?

How you live your life is an act of worship to God. God wants you to love Him the most and to not have any idols that replace Him in our heart.

Is God #1 in your life? Are you seeking His face through worshiping Him? What steps could you make this week to make God the King in your life?



**GOD**

**KING**

**IS MY**