
INDUCTIVE STUDY CURRICULUM
STUDENT GUIDE

OLD TESTAMENT/*Book of*

JUDGES

Judges
INDUCTIVE STUDY CURRICULUM

© 2008 Precept Ministries International. All rights reserved.

This material is published by and is the sole property of Precept Ministries International of Chattanooga, Tennessee. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation, and are used by permission.

Enrichment word definitions are taken with permission from Merriam-Webster, Inc. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. 10th ed. Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster, 1996, c1993.

Precept, Precept Ministries International, Precept Ministries International The Inductive Bible Study People, the Plumb Bob design, Precept Upon Precept, and In & Out are trademarks of Precept Ministries International.

1st edition
Printed in the United States of America

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRO TO INDUCTIVE STUDY.....	5-8	UNIT FIVE.....	
UNIT ONE.....		Who Rules You?	
From Victory to Defeat		<i>Lesson One</i>	119
<i>Lesson One</i>	11	<i>Lesson Two</i>	121
<i>Lesson Two</i>	13	<i>Lesson Three</i>	123
<i>Lesson Three</i>	15	<i>Lesson Four</i>	125
<i>Lesson Four</i>	19	<i>Lesson Five</i>	129
<i>Lesson Five</i>	25	<i>Lesson Six</i>	131
<i>Lesson Six</i>	27	<i>Lesson Seven</i>	133
<i>Lesson Seven</i>	29	UNIT SIX.....	
UNIT TWO.....		Pursuit of Pleasure	
Dying to be Free		<i>Lesson One</i>	143
<i>Lesson One</i>	37	<i>Lesson Two</i>	145
<i>Lesson Two</i>	39	<i>Lesson Three</i>	149
<i>Lesson Three</i>	43	<i>Lesson Four</i>	151
<i>Lesson Four</i>	47	<i>Lesson Five</i>	155
<i>Lesson Five</i>	51	<i>Lesson Six</i>	157
<i>Lesson Six</i>	53	<i>Lesson Seven</i>	161
UNIT THREE.....		UNIT SEVEN.....	
Leaders and Volunteers		Chaos and Corruption	
<i>Lesson One</i>	61	<i>Lesson One</i>	177
<i>Lesson Two</i>	63	<i>Lesson Two</i>	179
<i>Lesson Three</i>	65	<i>Lesson Three</i>	183
<i>Lesson Four</i>	67	<i>Lesson Four</i>	185
<i>Lesson Five</i>	69	<i>Lesson Five</i>	187
<i>Lesson Six</i>	73	<i>Lesson Six</i>	189
<i>Lesson Seven</i>	75	<i>Lesson Seven</i>	191
UNIT FOUR.....		<i>Lesson Eight</i>	195
From Ordinary to Extraordinary		<i>Lesson Nine</i>	199
<i>Lesson One</i>	87	APPENDIX.....	209-
<i>Lesson Two</i>	89	<i>Observation Worksheets</i>	211
<i>Lesson Three</i>	91	<i>At A Glance Chart</i>	291
<i>Lesson Four</i>	97	<i>Locations in Judges 1-3 Map</i>	293
<i>Lesson Five</i>	99	<i>Judges of Israel Chart</i>	295
<i>Lesson Six</i>	101	<i>My Insights on Leadership</i>	301
<i>Lesson Seven</i>	103	<i>About Precept Ministries</i>	305
<i>Lesson Eight</i>	105		

1. Inductive Bible Study - _____

2. There are _____ of Inductive Bible Study:

a. _____ - _____ ?

b. _____ - _____ ?

c. _____ - _____ ?

3. Tools of Observation

a. The _____ questions

b. Mark _____ and _____

c. Make _____

4. Tools of Interpretation

a. _____

_____ ! It rules interpretation.

b. _____

c. _____

5. Application

a. _____ - resulting in _____

From Victory to Defeat

The time of Joshua, the valiant warrior of God, was over. The Promised Land was won and the covenant God made with Abraham concerning the land was fulfilled. The book of Joshua records these final words of Joshua to the sons of Israel:

Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and said to them, “You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and have listened to my voice in all that I commanded you. “You have not forsaken your brothers these many days to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the Lord your God. “And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as He spoke to them; therefore turn now and go to your tents, to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan. “Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” – Joshua 22:1-5



Sadly, you will find as you begin the book of Judges that the sons of Israel did not obey Joshua’s **admonishment**.

The time period of the Judges is one of the darkest recorded in the history of Israel. And although it is a book seldom studied or taught, it couldn’t be more relevant for today. **Apathy** was rampant. Like a plague, it consumed the hearts of Israel. Murder, religious corruption, rape, homosexuality, war, terror, nation oppressing nation – were as common then as they are today.

As you discover the similarities between the times recorded in Judges and your own world you need to ask the following questions: What is apathy? What are the consequences to a nation, city, church or even a group of friends when no one stands up for what is right? How does God respond to an apathetic heart? What happens when there are no **absolutes**? And is there any hope for those who have given in to apathy’s deadly grip?

Although the book of Judges is a dark story of a people choosing to live in sin and rebel against truth you will also discover that this book tells the story of ordinary men and women God chose to accomplish the extraordinary. You will see what can happen when one man or one woman chose to follow God and bring freedom and light to a people

crushed by the weight of their choices. These are the stories of the Judges, individuals radically impacting the world in which they lived! What can happen in your world if you choose to follow God and become one of them – the extraordinary? And will you be the one that turns the tide of this generation?

To answer these questions you need to study the book of Judges. Whenever you open God’s Word, you are face to face with truth – unchanging, absolute TRUTH! The Bible is the only book that is called alive, active, and eternal. It is the only book inspired by God Himself. God desires to teach you His Word, to sit with you and reveal truth to you. Before you open His Word, you need to verbalize your need to be taught by Him! You need to express to Him your desire to not only know truth, but to handle it accurately and live it out effectively.

May your prayer for this course be like David’s, one of Israel’s greatest kings: “Teach me your way, oh Lord and I will walk in truth. Give me an undivided heart to fear your name!”

You can begin your study with the following prayer:

PRAYER
ONE ON ONE:

God, as I begin this study, I ask that You clearly show me both the severe consequences of disobedience and the unmerited blessing your mercy brings. I ask You to give me ears to hear and eyes to see what You want me to learn from the book of Judges. You are my teacher and I ask that You to evaluate my heart and reveal to me areas of my life that need to be transformed with truth. Show me what it means to live a life of great significance, not by the world’s standards, but by Yours alone.

As I learn about the ordinary men and women You used to accomplish extraordinary tasks in the work of Your kingdom, my prayer is that You will prepare me to deliver people from the darkness that envelopes those not enlightened by Your Word.

Father, I know that the enemy does not want me to know the truths of Your Word. I ask You to give me supernatural eyes to see the things he throws my way. Father, I ask You to protect me from the ways he works. God, do whatever it takes to keep me in Your Word. Give me the grace I need to live out the truths that I will see. Though the world around me is dark, I ask You to use this study to shine the light of Christ to my generation. I surrender to Your will for me as I open Your Word. Teach me how to live. Amen.

LESSON ONE

Judges

U-1, Lesson 1, Chapter 1

Indifference, unbelief, incomplete obedience – where do they lead? What do they cost? Are they worth it?

Our objective this week is to get a sense of the times of the Judges – the 340 to 360 years following the victories of Joshua. The historical and moral setting of this dark period in Israel’s history, along with the cause of this darkness, is captured for us in the opening and closing chapters of the book. Therefore, this is where you’ll focus your attention this week.

Observe Judges 1, which is printed out for you in the Appendix. Read the first chapter without pausing to figure it all out. Watch for a key phrase that is repeated several times from 1:21 to the end of the chapter.

Now read Judges 1 again and observe the following:



Mark all references to time or sequence of events with a clock like this: 🕒

Double underline in green any reference to geographical locations such as cities.

When you come to any verse that gives you a clue to the historical setting of this book, put a star beside the verse number.

When you discover the key repeated phrase, write it below.

Observation – Reading with a purpose. Interrogate the text as you read by asking the 5W and H questions. Once you have read it use the observation tools of marking key words and phrases and making lists to more clearly see what is said.

Historical Setting – By asking the 5Ws and H, you can get clues to the historical setting of the book. These clues reveal political, social, philosophical and religious conditions of the times.

Key Phrase – A key phrase is an important phrase that is repeated for emphasis either in the chapter or throughout a segment of the book or the entire book.

Using a 3x5 notecard make a list of key words and symbols you have used already. You will add to this card key words you discover in other chapters as we study Judges. Here's an example:

Historical Setting ☆
References to time ⌚
<u>Geographical Location</u>

Using the map “Locations in Judges Chapters 1–3” in the Appendix, locate and circle the cities, if possible, you double underlined when you marked geographical locations. Geography is important when you study the Word of God.



When studying Scripture, seeing exactly where cities or territories are located on maps help you establish context and understand the historical setting.

For example, can you see how many inhabitants were left in the land and why the constant exposure to their idolatry and culture became a snare and stumbling block for Israel? Keep this in mind as you continue your study.

What happens when you fail to drive out the inhabitants of the land? As you look further into the times of the Judges, you will see how the inhabitants' influences led Israel into sin and captivity. What are the “inhabitants” in your land? Are there sins you participated in before coming to Christ that you have not yet put to death? Have you allowed new “inhabitants” to settle? Have you allowed trappings of the world to take up residence in your life?

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

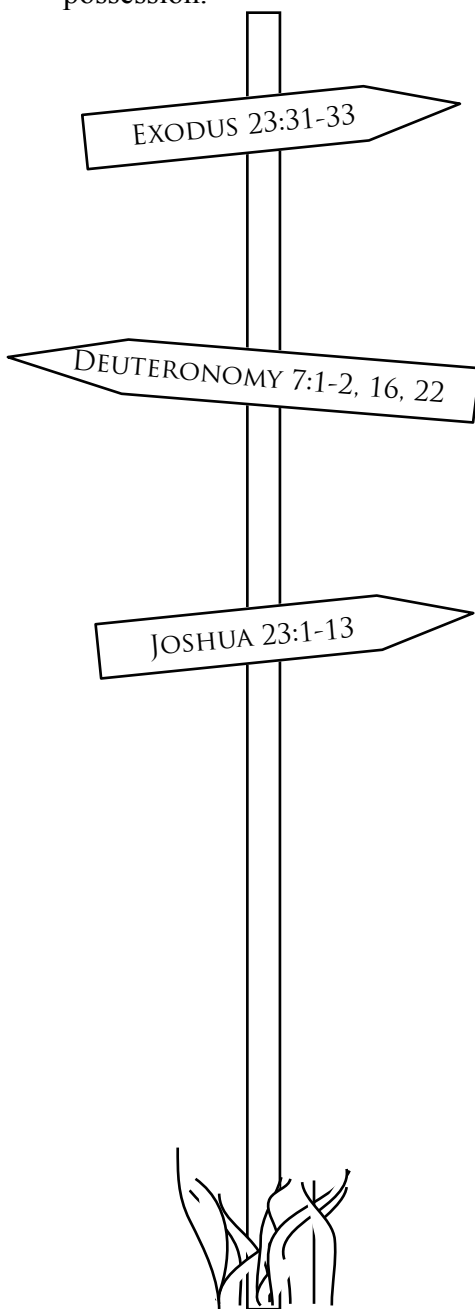
–John 2:15-16

LESSON THREE

Judges

U-1, Lesson 3, Chapter 1

The key repeated phrase in Judges 1 focused your attention on the fact that the children of Israel did not drive out the inhabitants of Canaan, but instead made them forced laborers. Interpret this action through the following scriptures. Note what you learn from them regarding the inhabitants of the land and what God told Israel to do with them. Remember, God promised Canaan to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob as an everlasting possession.



Cross-references - These are vital parts of interpretation - understanding what the text means. Other scriptures help clarify the meanings of passages you are studying.

Hint: You are trying to determine from these passages what God's instructions concerning the inhabitants of the land were. This will help you understand why the inhabitants were not driven out in Judges 1.

Based on your observations of Judges 1 and the cross-references, how would you describe Israel's condition in the days of the judges?

How would you describe the people's actions in chapter one?

If you already completed the Joshua study, you should remember the significance of Joshua 23. In his final words, Joshua reminds the children of Israel how God had warned them through Moses and Joshua, admonishing them to listen – to walk in obedience.

Has anyone, like your parents, grandparents, or someone close to you, ever warned you not to take a certain path – and told you what would happen if you did? Were they right? Did you listen or did you resent their counsel? Did you think you knew more than they? Did you despise their counsel? **Chafe** at their words? And what happened? Write out the situation and the result below.

Application is the "So what?" part of inductive Bible study. Practice asking yourself questions like,

"Joshua told the people what would happen if they did not drive out the inhabitants. They ignored him and suffered the consequences he promised... 'So what?'"

You should always ask yourself how understanding what you've seen in God's Word applies to your life right now!

Even though you have just begun your study of the book of Judges, what lessons have you learned that

you can begin to practice in your daily living?

If someone recorded your responses to God's instructions and warnings, what would they say? Have you been fully obedient, partially **obedient** or not obedient at all? Explain your answers.

Interesting beginning to your study on Judges, isn't it? If you already studied the book of Joshua you will remember the words of encouragement you read in today's lesson. How quickly the sons of Israel forgot God's warnings and instructions! Will you be as quick to forget what you learned from God's Word?

As you continue to study the book of Judges pay close attention to the consequences of Israel's forgetfulness and disobedience. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If you disobey God's warnings and instructions,, you too can expect consequences!


LESSON FOUR

Read Judges 2 to grasp the overall content of the chapter. Add the following key words and phrases to your key word bookmark and then mark each in its own distinctive color or symbol (some examples are provided):



any specific reference to the *land of Canaan* God gave Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and his twelve sons. If you want, color it blue and double underline it in green. (Mark specific references to this Promised Land the same way throughout your study of the Old Testament.)

the phrases *the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord* and the **synonymous** phrase, *they would turn back and act more corruptly*. References to “doing evil” is a very important phrase that you’ll want to mark throughout Judges.


judges (use a brown gavel like this ).

anger (color red).

nation (underline in brown and shade green).

die and death (with a black tombstone like this ).

test (underline in orange).

references to *not listening to the Lord* (with a green ear with a slash through it like this .

covenant (put a yellow box around it and color it yellow). Whenever you see *covenant* in your Bible, you should mark it for two reasons: first, because everything God does is based on covenant, and second, because God is the sovereign administrator of all covenants.

all references to time and geographical locations. You can double-underline locations with a green pen or pencil.

Also put a star next to any verse in this chapter that provides the historical context of the times and people of the events in Judges 1-2.

Marking significant words or phrases that are used throughout Scripture in consistent ways will help you quickly identify and compile information about those topics. You can simply scan through books you have studied and locate your distinctive marking for those words or phrases. Your diligence today will help you later.

Context – The environment or setting in which something dwells or is found. Look for verses that help you understand what is going on during this time period or why people are doing the things they are doing.

Check the map “Locations in Judges Chapters 1–3” in the Appendix to see where Gilgal and Bochim are located. Did you see why they named the place Bochim? The text tells you in verses 4 and 5. Write it out.



Hint: The word “so” in verse 5 can mean “therefore.” To answer this question think about what the people had been doing that “therefore” named the place.

How completely do you obey the Word of God?

How much does knowing God’s Word affect your obedience?

Are there commands you have not obeyed even though you knew them? List them below and then write down what happened after. Don’t hesitate; no one else needs to read them.

Take your list and tell God you failed to obey, you're sorry, and you confess it as sin. Then tell Him you want Him to free you from power the enemy has in your life resulting from your disobedience. Ask Him to fill every area of your being with His Spirit and tell Him that you will resist the enemy's temptation and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit – one moment at a time. You can write out your prayer below.



Do you realize that the chief source of failure in believers is their tolerance of partial obedience to the Word of God? When you fail to drive out the enemy completely, then "that sin" becomes whips in your side and thorns in your eyes. Sin becomes **tortuous**; its tenacity is unrelenting until we fall on our faces and cry out to God for deliverance, then rise to walk in obedience, vowing to give no further place of occupation to the enemy.

Victory is yours for obedience just as it was for Israel because God is a merciful God and a God of grace – grace that guarantees victory.

WHAT'S
YOUR
WORLD
VIEW?

WHAT IS OBEDIENCE? - PROJECT

For this assignment, you will need the following:

The chart on the next page

Interview at least three adults in your life (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher, pastor, etc.) and ask them to tell you what they would consider fully and partially obeying regarding the topics listed on the chart. Write their responses to each topic in the two columns.

After completing your interviews, read the verses listed for each topic and then below the chart describe full obedience concerning each topic.

OBEDIENCE TO...	FULL OBEDIENCE	PARTIAL OBEDIENCE
<p>GOD'S WORD CONCERNING...</p> <p>IMMORALITY <i>Ephesians 5:3</i></p> <p>WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT <i>Ephesians 4:29, 1 Timothy 3:11</i></p> <p>IDOLATRY <i>Exodus 20:3,4</i></p> <p>A BOSS AT WORK <i>Titus 2:9-10, 3:1,2</i></p> <p>GOVERNMENT <i>Romans 13:1-7</i></p>		

LESSON FIVE

Judges

U-1, Lesson 5, Chapter 2

After seeking God's insight and wisdom in prayer, read through Judges 2 and write *idolatry* in the margin of your Observation Worksheets next to verses that show idolatry among the Israelites. (The first one can be found in 2:11.)

What progression do you see in Judges 2:11-19 once the sons of Israel do evil in the sight of the Lord and serve the Baals? List it below.



When looking for a progression of events, look at the event that takes place first then leads to other events in the text.

Hint: The first event in this chapter is the sons of Israel doing evil in the sight of the Lord by serving other gods.

How do you see God responding in Judges 2:20-23, and why?

According to Judges 2:20-23, why were the nations not driven out by Joshua left behind?

What was the purpose of the test?

From what you learned in chapter 2, did Israel pass the test?

What do you think God would have done if they had passed the test?



Go back and mark every reference to *God* in this chapter. Then list below what you learn about Him.



The goal of Inductive Bible Study is to know God. As you observe the text, you always want to take time to think about and write out what you learned about God.

Now by asking the 5Ws and H, record what chapters one and two tell you with respect to the “who’s” of the times, what is happening, when it is happening, where it is happening, and why. Include the spiritual and **moral** climate of the times and any indication of how it happened. You will find a page at the end of this unit entitled “The Historical Setting of Judges” to record your insights... just the facts, nothing elaborate!

Now record the main theme or event covered in Judges 1 and Judges 2 on the appropriate chapter lines on the “Judges At A Glance” chart in the Appendix.



Wow! The nations which the sons of Israel didn't drive out became a test to them. Does this help you understand why Joshua didn't take all of the land God gave to the children of Israel? Joshua did his job completely! God wanted inhabitants left to see if the sons of Israel would follow Him even after Joshua was gone. Sadly, after Joshua and the elders died, the people forgot the work God had done for them - turning instead to serve other gods. What will you do when the godly influences of your parents, grandparents, pastors, and teachers are gone? When young people leave Christian schools or move away from parents, they often turn from God to serve other gods, forgetting the spiritual lessons they were taught. Will you?

LESSON SIX

Judges

U-1, Lesson 6, Chapters 17-19

Your assignment today is to read Judges 17–19 straight through simply as you would read several chapters of an interesting book. As you read:



Mark in distinctive ways the phrases *no king in Israel* and *every man did what is right in his own eyes*. These are first used in Judges 17:6 and are found in no other places in Judges apart from these final chapters.

Note below the major sin(s) exposed in each chapter.

Joshua 17

Joshua 18

Joshua 19

Pretty gross stuff! However, does it sound at all familiar? Pick up any newspaper from around the world and you'll see much of the same thing. Ignoring God's law and choosing to do what is right in the eyes of men has led to this kind of blatant immorality for ages! Knowing God's Word for yourself will teach you what the consequences of sin are... not only in your life, but also in your society. You don't have to be unaware – you can make the right choices!

LESSON SEVEN

Judges

U-1, Lesson 7, Chapters 20-21

Your assignment today is to read Judges 20-21 straight through just like you did in Lesson Six.



Continue to mark in distinctive ways the phrases *no king in Israel* and *every man did what is right in his own eyes*.

Note below the major sin(s) exposed in each chapter.

Judges 20

Judges 21

How do these final chapters help you understand the times of the Judges?

Do you see any parallels today? If so, what?

Finally, what is the most significant thing you learned in this first week of study that spoke to you personally?

Application – Bible study isn't just another academic class you take to help you get into a good college and then land a good job. It's time spent getting to know the one, true, living God. If you know what it says, understand what it means, and live out its truths, it will impact your eternity!! So think about questions like this one. Ask God what He wants you to learn during your diligent hours of study.

Great job!! You finished your first unit of Judges! Although spending a lot of time on observation is tedious, it is vital! How can you ever truly understand God's Word and accurately interpret its meaning without first carefully seeing exactly what it says? Religions and cults base some of their beliefs on false interpretations because they don't first see what the Bible is saying. You don't want to be deceived. You want to walk in truth. Serving God can only be done one way – His! Your hard work will keep you from being deceived and you will take what you see accurately and begin to walk in truth!

THE HISTORICAL SETTING OF JUDGES



ENRICHMENT WORDS

Absolutes – having no restrictions, exceptions, or qualifications.

Apathy – lack of feeling or emotion, lack of interest or concern.

Chafe – to feel irritation or discontent.

Idolatry – the worship of a physical object as a god, immoderate attachment or devotion to something.

Indifference – of no importance or value one way or the other, marked by a lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern for something.

Moral – of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior.

Obedient – submissive to the restraint or command of authority: willing to obey.

Relevant – having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand.

Synonymous – alike in meaning or significance, having the same connotations, implications, or reference.

Tortuous – marked by repeated twists, bends, or turns, marked by devious or indirect tactics.

