

=UNUSUAL BIBLE STORIES=

Lesson 1
Left-Handed Folks

Scripture: Judges 20:14-17

Objects to have:

A ball and a bat or a stick

Pictures of military men

A picture of a gun with a bayonet on the end of the gun

A picture of a cannon

A picture of a naval ship

A picture of a fighter plane

A picture of a sword, or a model of a sword

A hair, in an envelope (don't pull it out of your head in front of the children)

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Put a ball on the floor. Have a stick or a bat in your hand. Call one pupil up front with you and give him the bat. Instruct him to push the ball with the bat and to make the ball roll to a place which you have pointed out. Carry the ball back to him, and tell him to put the bat in his other hand, and to make the ball roll to that same spot again. Have some conversation about the fact that the second time he was not as able to make the ball go where he wanted it to go. Point out which is his right hand and which is his left hand. Have the class hold up their right hands and then their left hands. Ask them which hand they use for writing or for picking up objects or for throwing balls. Instruct the children that some people are left-handed and that most people are right-handed. Ask the right-handed children what they would do if their right hands were broken or hurt so badly that they could not use them for a while; vice-versa for the left-handers. Lead the children to decide that they would have to work very hard to learn to use the other hand. Thank the pupil for helping you; put down the ball and the bat.)

(Pick up your Bible.) I am going to tell you a very unusual Bible story today. It's about some soldiers who had to work extra hard to learn to fight in wars. Our story comes from here. (Show the children Judges chapter 20. Put down your Bible.)

Telling the story:

In a certain city were many men who belonged to the army. (Show pictures of men in the military.) It is important to have military services in our country. In the United States of America, our country, we have an army and a navy, a marine corps, paratroopers, air force, and so forth.

Men in the army are called soldiers, and they fight on the land. The soldiers carry guns; sometimes there are bayonets on the ends of the guns. (Show the picture of the gun with the bayonet in place and explain the reason for the bayonet.) Some of the soldiers stand behind huge cannons and shoot those cannons. (Show the picture of the cannon.) The men in the navy are called sailors. The sailors fight from ships. (Show the picture of a naval ship.) Some of the military men are in the air force. (Show the picture of a fighter plane.) They fly airplanes and fight from the airplanes.

We have an army and a navy and a marine corps and flying fighters so that we can keep away countries who want to take over the United States of America. We would not want foreign soldiers to come into our country and kill our people. If they ever start coming to shoot their guns and drop their bombs, we should not just let them come! If they start flying their airplanes into our country, we should send our military to fight them and keep them out.

In the Bible story for today there was an army. There were thousands of men in the army. In our Bible story the soldiers did not have guns; men had not thought of guns yet. The soldiers had swords. (Show the picture or the model of the sword.) The edges of the swords were very sharp. If the enemy came close to the soldiers who had the swords, the soldiers could use the swords to kill the enemy soldiers.

In the army that we are talking about today were some extra-brave young men. There were seven hundred of these extra-brave men.

Let's pretend that I am one of those seven hundred soldiers. Here I go out to battle: I have on my uniform; I am carrying my shield in my left hand and my sword in my right hand. Here I am in battle. There are enemies all around me. ("Swing" your sword.) There, I got one. I've taken care of another. Another enemy has come toward me! He has hit me with his sword! Ohhh, my right hand has been hurt. It's hurt so badly that I cannot hold the sword. Medic, please help me back to the hospital tent. I cannot fight any longer.

Here I am, in the hospital tent. "Doc, how is my right hand? Is it hurt badly? I am right-handed; everything I do with my hands is done mainly with my right hand. Without it, I cannot hold my sword and fight again."

The medic says, "I'm sorry, soldiers, but you will never use that hand again. It is hurt too badly." Ohhh, what will I do? I'm needed to help defend my country! I want to get back into the fight just as soon as I can. (Stop and look at your left hand.) But, this left hand is still good—it has not been hurt. (Open and close that hand.) I can use this hand. I know; I will practice with my left hand until I can use it just as well as I could ever have used my right hand. In fact, I'll practice with it until I can use it better than I could use my right hand.

That is what the seven hundred young men did. They worked and worked and worked until they could use their left hands just as well as they used their right hands. They worked even more than that. (Take out the hair from the envelope and hold it up.) See this hair? It's so thin that maybe you can't see it very well, maybe not at all. The seven hundred men who were learning to swing a sword with their left hands got so good that if they were to throw a stone at this hair, they could hit it.

There may be something that is very hard for you to do. Maybe for someone else it is very easy to do. Do you know what the Bible tells us about that? In II Corinthians 12:9, it tells us that whenever there is something that is very hard for us to do, then Jesus can help us to do it.

(Open your Bible to II Corinthians 12:9.) II Corinthians 12:9 tells us, "...*for my strength is made perfect in weakness....*" Whenever there is something hard for us to do, we should trust Jesus to do it through us. God may someday tell some of our Sunday school boys to be preachers. God may tell some of you to be missionaries. God tells all of us to tell those around us how they can be saved. We need His power to help them to understand that they are sinners and that they need to ask Jesus to be their Saviour. School may be very hard for you. Ask Jesus to help you to learn in school. Nothing is easy for us to do right. Ask Jesus to help you to do whatever you need to do. No person can do what he or she should do without help from Jesus. Let's ask Jesus to help you.

What did the right-handed men have to do in order to be able to use their left hands? They needed God's help, and then they had to work and work and work. God will not use lazy people to do His work. But, if people want to work for God and do right, then He will give them the strength and the power to do the work and to live right.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: II Corinthians 12:9, "...*for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*"