

What Is a Judge? | Book of Judges

What does the word “judge” mean to you? Perhaps “judge” brings to mind making judgments about others, or a person who judges in a court of law. The judges in the Word were heroes for the Lord. They answered the Lord’s call to serve by bringing people back to Him when they had gone astray.

Judges were men and women who brought *judgment* on Israel’s enemies. They fought battles that restored peace in the land. While some judges, like Gideon, led an army, others, like Samson, fought alone. Deborah judged sitting under a palm tree while the commander of the army, Barak, fought against the enemies. Judges settled local problems that did not involve all of Israel. One problem Israel faced was hunger, because other people were stealing their food. Another problem was military oppression. They had to pay their enemies lots of money in taxes.

Write the qualities of a judge around the picture below.

