

My Favorite Bible School Lesson

By: Ava Ivantsov

My favorite Bible school lesson was God's mercy to the Israelites despite their disobedience. It amazes me how God can be so merciful to Israel so many times.

For instance, God clearly told Israel not to worship idols, without exception. But Israel only obeyed for a time before turning away. God sends them a judge to lead them in the right direction, but after he dies, it's back to worshiping the famous Baal.

I was surprised that God was merciful to the Israelites even when they were just using Him. They would get in trouble because of their wickedness, ask Him for help (and He did), follow His statutes for a bit, and then decide they were bored and go on to worship Baal. He would send them judge after judge, warning after warning, but they were too stubborn to listen.

Looking back at our first lesson on judges, I was thinking, "The Israelites were so bad! God would be so merciful to them! But all they did was nod their heads and continue sinning!!" But in reality, we are equally as stubborn. For instance, though we don't have the problem of worshiping stone, gold, silver, bronze, or clay idols, we still

do struggle with other types of idols, but in a more modern way.

In my case, it would be technology. I can sit on YouTube for hours, wasting my life and time on things that barely benefit my life. And to be completely honest, I disobey my parents because of this idol of mine. My mom might say, "No more screen time," and I will agree. But as soon as she leaves, I will quietly go back anyway.

(sometimes)

Idols differ from person to person. For some of us, it might be video games or money, and so on. They don't have to necessarily be bad things, because I can use technology to make food, can play games to learn new skills, and I can use money to help the needy and the church. But if you would rather scroll, play, or earn instead of reading your Bible, spending time with God, or doing His will (in my case, it's obeying my parents), that's one of the signs that you have an idol.

When I do disobey, though, I ask for forgiveness, because the Holy Spirit convicts me. I still have not gotten rid of that bad habit completely, I know that God can help me overcome that sin and help me grow more in His Word.