



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Teacher Page: Everyone Did What Was Right in His Own Eyes

Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27 (English Standard Version)

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Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27 in the English Standard Version as the reading text. New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy, which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes

Pronunciation Practice: The student can read along with the Scripture audio to practice English pronunciation with the teacher's help. The teacher may pause the audio after each verse or sentence so the student can repeat difficult words and phrases.

Lesson Resources

Scripture Text: Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27 ESV - Scripture Audio: Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27 ESV

The student may read along with the audio while the teacher pauses for pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: Micah and his mother used silver to make idols, Micah established a private shrine and priest, and the Danites stole his religious objects and priest before destroying Laish. The passage shows the disorder that followed when everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, sequencing events, describing choices and consequences, discussion, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: The student can identify the main people, objects, choices, and consequences and explain why Judges 17:6 is important to the passage.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while they study the ESV Scripture text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust the activities to fit the students' ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

Teacher Awareness

This passage includes idolatry, theft, betrayal, and violence against an unsuspecting people. Read it beforehand and decide how much detail is appropriate for your students. Keep the lesson focused on the biblical text, the choices people made, and the consequences of rejecting God's standard.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses to study and read aloud.
3. Ask what the assigned verses say and mean.
4. Put the principal events in chronological order.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along.
6. Review vocabulary and practice difficult pronunciation.
7. Use selected comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ Why do people need a trustworthy standard for right and wrong?
- ☐ Can a choice seem right to someone and still be wrong? Why?
- ☐ What may happen when everyone makes his or her own rules?
- ☐ Why are people sometimes tempted to take what belongs to others?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
uttered a curse	Spoke words asking for punishment or harm.	What had Micah's mother uttered?
dedicate	Set apart for a special or religious purpose.	What did the mother say she would dedicate?
carved image	An idol shaped by cutting or engraving.	What did the silversmith make?
silversmith	A craftsperson who makes objects from silver.	Who received the 200 pieces of silver?
shrine	A place used for religious worship.	What did Micah have in his house?
ephod	A special garment or object connected with worship.	What religious object did Micah make?
household gods	Small idols kept and worshiped in a home.	What did the Danites take from Micah?
unsuspecting	Not expecting danger or harm.	How does the passage describe Laish?

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ Where did Micah live?
- ☐ What had Micah taken, and to whom did it belong?
- ☐ What did Micah confess to his mother?
- ☐ What did his mother say she would do with the silver?
- ☐ How much silver did she give to the silversmith?
- ☐ What objects and religious arrangements did Micah make?
- ☐ What statement in verse 6 describes Israel at that time?
- ☐ What did the Danites take from Micah's house?
- ☐ What choice did the Danites offer Micah's priest?
- ☐ What did the Danites do when they reached Laish?

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ Why is the mother's plan to dedicate silver to the LORD by making idols a contradiction?
- ☐ Why is Judges 17:6 a key verse for understanding these events?
- ☐ What do Micah's and his mother's choices reveal about confused worship?
- ☐ How did the Danites appeal to the priest's self-interest?
- ☐ How does the passage connect false worship, theft, and violence?
- ☐ What warning do you hear in the phrase 'right in his own eyes'?

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a short answer, invite a fuller response: 'Can you tell me more?' 'Why do you think that?' 'What happened next?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Correct gently and model the sentence when needed.

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- ☐ Retell Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27 in your own words.
- ☐ Describe Micah and his mother using three complete sentences.
- ☐ Explain the phrase 'Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.'
- ☐ Describe the choice the Danites offered the priest and his response.
- ☐ Put these events in order: stolen silver, images, shrine, theft, Laish.
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: Why do people need God's standard for right and wrong?

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- ☐ Option A: Summarize Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27 in 6-8 sentences.
- ☐ Option B: Write a paragraph explaining why Judges 17:6 is important.
- ☐ Option C: Write the main events in chronological order.
- ☐ Option D: Write five sentences using these words: dedicate, silversmith, shrine, household gods, and unsuspecting.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

Micah returned the stolen silver, but his mother used part of it to make idols. Micah formed a private shrine and appointed a priest. Later, the Danites stole the religious objects, persuaded the priest to join them, and burned Laish. The passage shows the harm that followed when everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Remember

"When everyone does what seems right in his own eyes, false worship and selfish choices lead farther from God."

Final Question

What can this passage teach us about using God's truth, rather than our own desires, to decide what is right?