

=UNUSUAL BIBLE STORIES=

Lesson 1

Left-Handed Folks

SCRIPTURE: Judges 20:14-17

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the class what a “southpaw” is. Then ask them to name as many southpaw pitchers as they can name—that is, left-handed baseball pitchers. Then ask the class how many left-handed folks are present. Ask them to discuss the problems they face because of being left-handed. Then, tell the class that the lesson today is about 700 left-handed people.

INTRODUCTION: There have been many famous fighting units in the history of the world. There were the giants of Frederick the Great, the Highlander Raiders who were called “the ladies from Hell,” Roosevelt’s Rough Riders, the Princess Pat Regiment of Canada, and of course, the unique fighting forces of our country—troopers, submarine corps, Green Beret, etc.

In I Chronicles 12:2, we have an unusual fighting group—a group that was ambidextrous. They could throw with either arm.

However, in Judges 20:16, we have the most unusual of all—700 men in one regiment chosen for one reason: They were left-handed. Let us notice some interesting things about these left-handed men, as we study the first lesson in our new series, “Unusual Bible Stories.”

- I. THEY OVERCAME HANDICAP. The word “left-handed” implies something more than just being left-handed. It implies that these men had once been right-handed. Their right arms or hands had been wounded in battle, and they could no longer be used. When the right arm was wounded, the soldier was rendered helpless, for the soldiers fought with swords and spears. These men could have been discharged; they could have gone home, but they would not! They overcame their handicap. In fact, the Bible says they worked so hard at overcoming their handicap that they could throw with their left hand and, using a stone, hit a hair! Think of such fabulous control! Now picture these men, having to throw with their left hands. (Teacher, ask the right-handed people to act like they are throwing left-handed.) Think how hard it would be to learn to throw left-handed after being right-handed all of one’s life.

Teacher, have the class discuss people who have overcome handicaps and become successful—people in the Bible like Moses, who could not talk well; Paul, who had eye trouble and a speech impediment, no doubt; people in religious history like Christmas Evans, who had one eye; and Fannie Crosby, who was blind; people in secular history like Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf. Then ask the class to give the names of some people whom they know who have overcome handicaps to be successful.

- II. THESE MEN WOULD NOT BE STOPPED. Somebody has said, “The test of a man’s character is what it would take to stop him.” Here are some men who would not be stopped. They would not be discharged. They would not quit. They kept on going in the face of adversity.
- III. THESE MEN USED WHAT THEY HAD. They did not have two good arms, so each used the one good arm he had. Think of the people in the Bible who had little but used it for God: the widow who had little money but gave more than them all as she gave her two mites, which was all that she had; Shamgar, who had only an ox-goad but used it to slay 600 Philistines; Moses, who had only a rod but used it to part the Red Sea and get water from a rock; the little lad who had just a lunch basket with five loaves and two fishes but gave it to Jesus and fed 5,000 people.

Teacher, discuss with the class their talents. One can sing, another can play the piano, another has a good business mind, another is a mechanic, another is an electrician, another makes good grades in school. Whatever one has, he ought to offer it to God and use it to God’s glory.

IV. THESE MEN OFFERED NO EXCUSES. Well they might have offered excuses, but this they did not do! They realized there was a battle on, a war to be fought, a job to be done; and so they dedicated themselves to the doing of this task. They did not try to rationalize or excuse themselves. They didn't say, "We do not have enough talent," "We feel someone else could do a better job," "We are too busy," "We are not gifted," "We don't have the 'gift of gab,'" etc. Instead of offering excuses, they worked and worked and worked and worked. Because of their weakness, they became stronger.

V. THESE MEN HAD SOME RARE QUALITIES.

1. Loyalty.
2. Courage.
3. Patriotism.
4. Perseverance.
5. Preparedness.

Teacher, talk a while about each of the above qualities. Talk about who had them, such as the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego, Daniel, etc. Talk about patriotism and about being loyal to one's country. Sing the National Anthem and stand as you do. Give the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Talk about how wonderful it is to be an American. Then discuss preparedness. Talk about going to a Christian college and preparing one's self for life.

CONCLUSION: These men had qualities that should be incorporated into our lives and the lives of our young people. Stress them very strongly in the lesson for Sunday.