

Grandma's favorite Bible stories ©: Ehud, the left handed hero

Judges 3:12-30

Once there was a group of people – a LOT of people, who were called Israelites.....

God gave Israel special laws. These laws kept them safe and healthy (IF they followed them!) These laws helped the people to remember that they belonged to God and were supposed to follow God and His ways.

Israel often did **not do as they were told!** But, God always loved them and because He loved them, He would always do something to get them back to following Him.

This story is about one of those times.

It was during the time of judges. Judges were rulers in Israel. They were to help the country do what was right, but the people of Israel did whatever they wanted to do...and they did lots of evil in the sight of the Lord! They forgot the Lord their God. They decided to follow fake gods ... idols! This made God very angry. He knew this would REALLY get them into bad troubles, and He knew there ARE no other gods... so God had a plan. He got Eglon, the King of another country called Moab, to come with his army and capture Israel and make them his slaves. And he did capture them and for 18 years, Eglon kept them as slaves. After a long time, Israel finally cried out to God (the true God) for help! After 18 years, they came back to God. So, God heard them and raised up a hero to save them. It was a left-handed man and his name was Ehud.

Now, one day, it came time for Israel to pay taxes to King Eglon, they decided to send Ehud to deliver the money. Ehud made himself a dagger. It was a double-edged dagger about 18" long. He took that dagger and fastened it under his clothes onto his right thigh. Ehud brought other men who helped carry the large sum of coins to the King. When they arrived in the city of Gilgal, they had to take their taxes and put it at the feet of the stone statues that the Moabites worshipped. Israel had been doing this for the whole 18 years! God was not worshipped there!

When the men were finished, Ehud sent his men away and went over to King Eglon and said "I have a secret to tell you, O King!"

The King said "SILENCE!"

Then, everyone left and the King went to his private "cooling" room. (This was a special room for the King where breezes blew and cooled him off after a hot day) Ehud bravely entered into the room where the King was sitting and said, "I have a message from God for you!"

The King, who was a VERY fat man, slowly stood up from his seat. Ehud, in one smooth, sudden move, reached for his dagger with his left-hand, pulled it out and lunged forward, quickly thrusting the dagger into

the King's belly! The King was so fat that Ehud lost his dagger inside of the King's belly—even the handle went in after the blade and the fat closed over the blade so he could not even pull the dagger back out! It made the King's guts all fall out!

Ehud escaped! He went out through the porch, shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked the doors.

When, King Eglon's servants came to check on the King, to their surprise, the doors were locked! So, they looked at each other and said, "Oh, He is probably going to the bathroom in there." So, they waited.

And waited.

They waited so long that they got embarrassed about it because the King still had not opened the doors. So, they finally took the key and opened the doors...and there was their Master and King on the floor!! The King was dead!

Meanwhile, our hero, Ehud, ran to the mountains and blew a trumpet made from a ram's horn. All of Israel heard it and came. Ehud gathered the people and said "Follow me! For the Lord has delivered your enemies into your hands!" He led them into battle against Eglon's huge army of strong soldiers. **AND ISRAEL WON!**

Not one of Eglon's soldiers escaped! Israel had killed all 10,000 of them! They were FREE! They were no longer slaves! All because of the left-handed man's faith in God and his courage to deliver his people from the evil King.

Israel once again followed the Lord and everything was peaceful and safe in Israel for the rest of Ehud's life –and for the rest of his children's lives. And, God blessed the nation for returning back to Him.