

Sunday School Lesson, October 25, 2026

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Lesson—Religious But Not Righteous¹

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

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Disowned between God's will and human desires.
2. Understand more about God and ourselves.
3. Follow God faithfully.

Why This Lesson Matters: We can discern between God's will and human desires by learning more about God and ourselves so that we can follow him faithfully.

Key Verse: *“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (Judges 17:6, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. When Personal Desire Is Mistaken For God's Will (*Judges 17:1-6*)
3. Faith Shaped By Convenience Rather Than By Obedience (vv. *18:18-19*)
4. Living without God is our true guide (v. *18:27*)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Micah: From the tribe of Ephraim. He oversaw a domestic altar for his family compound (*bet ab*).

Danites: The tribe of Dan is one of the tribes of Israel descended from Bilhah, the servant of Jacob's wife Leah. They were still attempting to establish their own territory at this time. Their ambition to acquire territory precipitates the conflict in the story.

Levites: A tribe of Israel descended from Leah and Jacob/ Israel. They held a special role among the tribes of Israel, as they were designated as priest and did not receive an allotment of territory like the other tribes.

Micah's Mother: A wealthy Israelite woman who dedicated a significant amount of money to create an idol for the worship of the Lord in her family compound.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Dedicated

Ephod

Returned

Shrine

Teraphim

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Historically, chapters 17—18 in judges occur during a time of decentralized leadership in Israel. Each tribe managed its own affairs, and there was little shared religious accountability. Historically, these chapters function as critique rather than endorsement. The repeated refrain everyone did what was right in their own eyes signals spiritual failure. The story reveals how religious symbols and leadership can be misused when obedience is neglected.

These chapters and judges describe a period of time where deep moral confusion reigned in Israel. Without centralized leadership, each tribe governed itself, and religious practice became fragmented. Micah's household reflects this disorder. He desires God's blessings, yet his actions show misunderstanding of God's law and covenant (Beldman, 181-183).

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Today we learned that there is absolutely nothing that can substitute or replace for God's wisdom and insight through the power and presence of his Holy Spirit speaking to us and guiding us on a daily basis. This sobering lesson underscores just how important it is to seek discernment that is rooted in the Bible, the church, and respect for our neighbor. When God's word guides faith, obedience leads to life, clarity, and trust in God's purposes.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we
have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*