

The Essential 100

A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

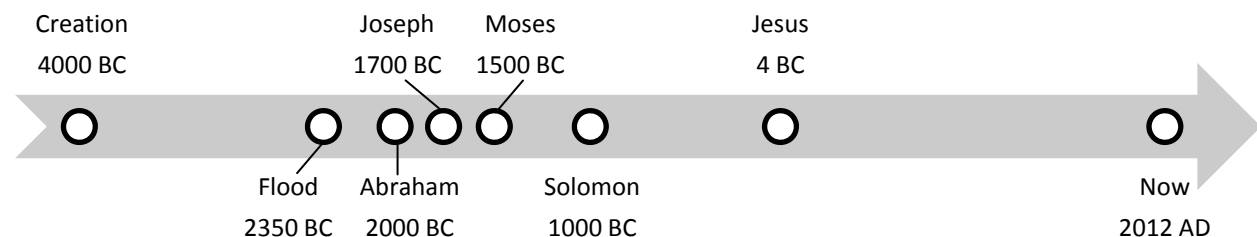
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit e100challenge.com. Our Sunday school website is stuartheights.org/sundayschool.

The Schedule: The Judges

This is our sixth five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, and the Law and the Land. Now we shift to the Judges.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
January 18	Israel's Disobedience	Judges 2:11-12	Judges 2:6-3:6	Jim Fleming
January 8	Deborah Leads Israel	Judges 4:4-5	Judges 4-5	Jim Fleming
January 15	Gideon Defeats the Midianites	Judges 7:7	Judges 6-7	Jim Fleming
January 22	Samson Defeats the Philistines	Judges 16:29-30	Judges 13-16	Barry Cole
January 29	The Story of Ruth	Ruth 4:13-17	Ruth 1-4	Lori Drake

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



For the first 2,500 years of the world's history, the patriarchs received revelation from God passed it on orally. In 1450 BC, the Law is given. After Moses and Joshua pass off the scene, judges administer leadership for Israel. The judges bridge the leadership gap between Moses and Joshua and the kings.

The Judges: Israel's Disobedience

Preview: Endangered Species

When Joshua and the elders who outlived him died (**Judges 2:7**), a depressing cycle in Israel's history began (**Judges 2:10-19**). The Israelites turned away from God, worshiped idols, and experienced disaster. Then, in desperation, they cried to God and he raised up leaders (judges here, kings and prophets later) to save them. However, the cycle of obedience and disobedience happened repeatedly.

Key thought: _____ generation matters (and has an impact for good or for evil)

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 2:6-3:6 (Author = Samuel?)

Judges 2

Death of Joshua

7-10 Why did they not know the Lord?

Israel's Unfaithfulness

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals [Baal worship would continue in Israel for another _____ + years.]

13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths [Baal was the male, Ashtoreth was the _____]

16-19 This paragraph is a _____ of the book of the **Judges**. **16 Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges** [judges, governors, vindicators, punishers, _____ leader] **who delivered** [saved, delivered, gave victory to] **them out of the hand of those who plundered them.**

Judges 3

1-4 Disobedience led to several hundred years of _____

Generations: Moses (mostly God) → Joshua (served God) → Elders (served God) → Children (_____ worship)

David Guzik: The continual cycle makes us less and less confident of man; but more and more impressed with the mercy and grace of God.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Passing the baton is _____-fold
2. Passing the baton must continue _____

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Clearly identify a person who is passing you a baton and clearly identify a person to whom you are passing a baton
2. My faith will help to _____ my children's faith (for good or for bad)