

## Handout 5-D

## The Cycle of Sin in Judges

A central theme in the Book of Judges is the recurring cycle of sin that runs throughout its chapters. The cycle illustrated below shows the pattern: (1) Israel falls into sin and idolatry, and does “what was evil in the sight of the LORD” (Jgs 6:1); (2) God allows his people to fall into bondage as a consequence of their disobedience; (3) realizing the errors of their ways, Israel cries out to God for help; (4) God raises up a judge to rescue them; (5) Israel is delivered from their oppressors; (6) peace is restored in the land and Israel again serves the Lord; and then the cycle repeats.

To see a simple illustration of the cycle, read about a judge named Othniel in Judges 3:7–11. Now read about Ehud in Judges 3:12–30. Paraphrase the passages that reflect each of the six steps into the diagram below.

