

Weekly Opening — October 5–11, 2026 •

God Meets Us Before We Are Ready

Word in Rhythm™

Annual Theme: God's Unchanging Hand

Quarterly Theme: The Hand That Establishes

Week 6: Judges — God Meets Us

Sunday School Lesson: [Judges 13:1–7, 24–25, KJV](#)

Lesson Emphasis: God Provides Leaders Called to Specific Tasks

Memory Verse — Judges 13:5, KJV

“For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

Some circumstances arrive before we have any opportunity to choose them. We do not choose the family into which we are born, the conditions surrounding our beginnings, or every responsibility that eventually finds us. Yet God can meet us within those circumstances and prepare us for work we could not have anticipated.

This week, we enter a household where the future appears closed. Manoah's wife is barren. Israel lives under Philistine oppression. Then the angel of the LORD announces a child whose life will carry a particular calling. Before Samson can speak, decide, or demonstrate strength, God speaks concerning his purpose.

God's initiative precedes Samson's ability. His calling begins with the Lord's word, and his preparation begins through his mother's obedience. The story invites us to consider how we receive responsibilities, restrictions, and circumstances we did not choose—and whether we will make room for God to form us within them.

The announcement also contains a word we must hear carefully: Samson will **begin** to deliver Israel. His assignment is real, but it is not the whole story. As we study, we will distinguish the gift of a calling from the faithfulness required to live it.

Our Journey Under The Hand That Establishes

Our quarterly journey continues through these weeks:

- **Week 1 — The God of Jacob**
- **Week 2 — God the Deliverer**

- **Week 3 — The Hand That Preserves**
- **Week 4 — September 21–27**
- **Week 5 — September 28–October 4**
- **Week 6 — Judges: God Meets Us**

We have been learning to recognize God’s hand in creation, covenant, deliverance, preservation, and the ordering of life with Him. This week brings that recognition into the circumstances of a particular family. The God who works among nations also meets people in their homes.

The Sunday School Reading Journey

Our daily Sunday School readings continue through [Leviticus 14–27 and Numbers 1–4](#). We will encounter cleansing, atonement, holiness, appointed seasons, release, covenant accountability, and the responsibilities of serving near God’s dwelling.

These readings ask how a people among whom God dwells should live. They also deepen our understanding of Jesus Christ: the cleansing we need, the atonement we cannot provide for ourselves, and the holiness into which grace calls us.

The accompanying readings from **Psalms 24–28** will receive their own attention. We will listen to their questions, petitions, and declarations: Who may stand in God’s holy place? Who will teach us His paths? Where do we find confidence when fear rises? How do we wait upon the LORD?

Each Psalm has something to say before we consider its relationship to the other readings.

The Chronological Reading Journey

The chronological track continues through the opening ministry of Jesus:

Day	Chronological Reading — KJV
Monday	Matthew 4; Luke 4–5; John 1:15–51
Tuesday	John 2–4
Wednesday	Mark 2
Thursday	John 5

Friday	Matthew 12:1–21; Mark 3: Luke 6
Saturday	Matthew 5–7
Sunday	Matthew 8:1–13; Luke 7

We will watch Jesus withstand temptation, call disciples, meet people across social boundaries, forgive sins, heal, and teach the life of His Kingdom. We will attend to each passage in its own setting and recognize connections with our other readings where Scripture supports them.

Samson's announced birth points toward deliverance that will begin through him. In the Gospels, we meet Jesus, whose saving mission reaches its fulfillment through His cross and resurrection. Our attention will move from the preparation of a flawed deliverer toward the faithful Savior in whom we abide.

Entering the Week

Each Daily Reading will serve as our front porch, opening the day and preparing us to listen. The devotionals will shepherd the heart; Cathedral Notes will provide memorable structure; Expanded Exegesis will uncover the context and connections that equip us to study and teach. At night, the NightCap will help us remember what we have received.

Come into this week with one question:

How might God be preparing me to serve Him within circumstances I did not choose?

We may not understand every circumstance. We can still listen for His word, receive His grace, and obey the instruction He has made clear.

This week's posture: Lord, meet me where I am, and form me for what You have entrusted to me.