

The Story of Abimelech – A Sequencing Activity

Judges 9

Cut out the strips. Place them in the right order. Check your answers with the Answer Page. Once the strips are in the correct order, glue them to a piece of paper. Then read the story aloud.

The people of Shechem gave Abimelech 70 shekels of silver (LOTS of money). He used the money to hire worthless men to join his gang.

Gideon refused to become king over the Israelites.

Abimelech and his gang killed all but one of the 70 sons of Gideon. Only Jotham survived.

Jotham told a parable to the people of Shechem about some trees who wanted a king.

In Jotham's parable, the first tree the trees asked to be their king was the olive tree, but the olive tree refused to be their king.

Gideon died.

In Jotham's parable, the second tree who asked to be their king was the fig tree, but the fig tree refused to be their king.

Finally, in Jotham's parable, the trees asked the bramble to become king over them. The bramble said it would become their king and invited them to come and take shelter under its shade.

The people of Thebez went and hid in the tower in the middle of their city.

At the end of his parable, Jotham told the people of Shechem that Abimelech, who was like the bramble, would turn against them and burn their city, and that they would come to hate him.

Sure enough, the people of Shechem soon began to hate Abimelech, for he was a terrible king. They decided to make a man named Gaal, their new king.

In Jotham's parable, the third tree the trees asked to be their king was the vine, but the vine also refused to be their king.

Abimelech decided that he should be the next king and persuaded the people of Shechem to make him their king.

The people of Shechem ran and hid in a great tower in the middle of their city.

Abimelech, knowing he was dying, asked his armorbearer to kill him, because he didn't want to be known as a man who was killed by a woman.

Abimelech heard that Gaal was the new king, and he came with his army to fight against Shechem. He started killing everyone.

Abimelech decided to build a fire all around the tower to kill the people of Thebez.

Abimelech took wood and built a huge fire all around the tower, and so killed everyone in the tower.

Next, Abimelech went to battle against a town called Thebez.

While Abimelech was building this fire, a woman dropped a millstone on his head and crushed his skull.

Answers for The Story of Abimelech – A Sequencing Activity

1. Gideon refused to become king over the Israelites.
2. Gideon died.
3. Abimelech decided that he should be the next king and persuaded the people of Shechem to make him their king.
4. The people of Shechem gave Abimelech 70 shekels of silver (LOTS of money). He used the money to hire worthless men to join his gang.
5. Abimelech and his gang killed all but one of the 70 sons of Gideon. Only Jotham survived.
6. Jotham told a parable to the people of Shechem about some trees who wanted a king.
7. In Jotham's parable, the first tree the trees asked to be their king was the olive tree, but the olive tree refused to be their king.
8. In Jotham's parable, the second tree who asked to be their king was the fig tree, but the fig tree refused to be their king.
9. In Jotham's parable, the third tree the trees asked to be their king was the vine, but the vine also refused to be their king.
10. Finally, in Jotham's parable, the trees asked the bramble to become king over them. The bramble said it would become their king and invited them to come and take shelter under its shade.
11. At the end of his parable, Jotham told the people of Shechem that Abimelech, who was like the bramble, would turn against them and burn their city, and that they would come to hate him.
12. Sure enough, the people of Shechem soon began to hate Abimelech, for he was a terrible king. They decided to make a man named Gaal their new king.
13. Abimelech heard that Gaal was the new king, and he came with his army to fight against Shechem. He started killing everyone.
14. The people of Shechem ran and hid in a great tower in the middle of their city.
15. Abimelech took wood and built a huge fire all around the tower, and so killed everyone in the tower.
16. Next, Abimelech went to battle against a town called Thebez.
17. The people of Thebez went and hid in the tower in the middle of their city.
18. Abimelech decided to build a fire all around the tower to kill the people of Thebez.
19. While Abimelech was building this fire, a woman dropped a millstone on his head and crushed his skull.
20. Abimelech, knowing he was dying, asked his armorbearer to kill him, because he didn't want to be known as a man who was killed by a woman.