

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson One Hundred Ten: The Ark of the Covenant is Captured

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Exodus 25:21-22; I Samuel 4:1b-22; Psalm 78:56-64
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about the Holy Spirit
Learning Objectives: (1) The Ark of the Covenant at Shiloh was the visible sign of the Lord's presence in Israel. (2) The Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines. (3) Eli's sons died when the ark was captured. (4) Eli died when he heard that the ark was captured. (5) Due to the rebellion and idolatry of Israel, God "forsook his dwelling at Shiloh...and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe" (6) The Holy Spirit seals believers until Christ's return.
- Opening** Get students' attention by using a pre-planned silence signal.
Have students sit in rows or a semi-circle facing you.
Open in prayer asking God's blessing upon the time.
- Bible Facts** Materials: Song visuals &/or props as needed
5-10 minutes Strategies: Sing It with Hand &/or Body Motions as appropriate
Instructions: Ask students to help lead songs about the Bible & the Judges. Encourage students to think about what they are singing. Include actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Emotion Motions
Scripture: Exodus 25:21-22; I Samuel 4:1b-22; Psalm 78:56-64
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. As leader reads aloud, students make motions that portray the emotions depicted in the passage (distress, hope, fear, sadness, etc.). Leader guides students by introducing the emotion motions that will be used and by stopping occasionally to discuss the probable emotion and to allow students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #3 "Work of the Holy Spirit," add "Seal of Salvation"
10 minutes Strategy: Hand Action
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Instead of raising their hands to share, they perform another action: Pat your head; Pull your ear; Give the thumbs up sign; Touch your nose, etc. To keep students focused, leader should change the hand action required for each question.
Questions:
- The mercy seat was on the top of the Ark of the Covenant. God told Moses, "There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of blank." (Israel)
 - When the Philistines first defeated Israel, the elders of Israel decided to go to Shiloh to get the blank of the Covenant to bring it to the battlefield. (Ark)
 - Who came with the Ark of the Covenant? (Eli's two sons)
 - When the Philistines next defeated Israel, what did they capture? (The Ark of the Covenant)
 - Previously, God had informed Eli that his house would be punished forever because his sons blasphemed God and scorned His sacrifices. The sign would be that Eli's sons would both die on the same day. What happened to Hophni and Phinehas when the Philistines defeated Israel and captured the Ark of the Covenant? (They died.)
 - When the man came with the battle news, Eli was sitting by the road "for his heart trembled for the ark of God." Describe Eli at this time. (98 years old, blind, and heavy)
 - When Eli heard that the ark of God was captured, what happened to him? (He fell backward, broke his neck, and died)
 - When the wife of Phinehas heard what had happened, she gave birth to a son and named him Ichabod because the glory had departed from blank when the ark of God was captured. (Israel)

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- The Psalms say that because Israel rebelled, did not keep God's testimonies and were idolatrous, God "forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind...delivered his power to captivity, his blank to the hand of the foe." (Glory)

Transitional Thought: Due to Israel's sins, God delivered the Ark of the Covenant into captivity, forsaking His dwelling at Shiloh and removing the sign of His presence in Israel. When a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit indwells the person, sealing the believer until Christ's return. Because Christ paid the price for sin by His death on the cross, even though a believer sins, God does not remove His presence.

Show students word poster #3 and have them act out the words – Work of the Holy Spirit: Prayer Interpreter (place hands at heart and then extend toward heaven); Convictor of Sin (turn two thumbs down and then point emphatically); Spiritual Life Giver (place hand over heart with fingers in the shape on an "L"); Seal of Salvation (clap fist of one hand to palm of other hand as though "stamping" with an ink stamp.)

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is and for the work of Jesus Christ the Messiah and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Memory Materials: White board with markers and eraser
10-15 minutes Strategy: Body Motions
Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:

Question: What is a work that the Holy Spirit does for believers?

Answer: The Holy Spirit seals believers until Christ's return.

Verse: "...when you heard...the gospel of our salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..." Ephesians 1:13-14

Exaggerated body motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students read the passage a few times using words and body motions. Next students repeat the passage using body motions and words from memory, without looking at the words.

Bible Craft Materials: Sponges cut into shapes, paint, paper, scissors, marker, sample project
As time allows Activity: Personalized stamps and seals
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give students sponges that have been pre-cut into simple shapes, such as heart or cross. Show students how to dip sponges in paint and "stamp" paper. Multiple stamps can be used along with markers to make a personalized "seal." Discuss with students the use throughout history of 'stamps of certification' and 'royal seals' to authenticate that something is genuine. Explain that the Holy Spirit is the seal that authenticates true believers as children of God.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.