

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson One Hundred Twelve: Samuel Judges Israel

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: I Samuel 7:3-17
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about the Holy Spirit
Learning Objectives: (1) Samuel instructed the Israelites to put away foreign gods, to direct their hearts to the Lord, and to serve Him only. (2) The Israelites followed Samuel's instructions and said, "We have sinned against the Lord." (3) The Lord routed the Philistines with the sound of mighty thunder. (4) The hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. (5) Samuel judged Israel all of his life and Israel had peace. (6) The Holy Spirit is the Helper Who dwells with believers forever.
- 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: Impromptu Retelling
Scripture: I Samuel 7:3-17
Instructions: After Scripture has been read, students perform roles by pantomiming actions and repeating lines from the reading. Leader prompts students as needed. (Scene 1: Samuel & Israel; Scene 2: Samuel & Israel at Mizpah; Scene 3: The Philistines; Scene 4: Victory & Peace; Scene 5: Samuel Judges)
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #3 "Work of the Holy Spirit," add "Helper"
10 minutes Strategy: Order Please
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle in order by height or birth date, etc. Students answer questions in this order.
Questions:
- Samuel told the people of Israel that they must "...put away the foreign blank..." (gods)
 - Samuel also said, "...direct your blank to the Lord and serve him only..." (Heart)
 - The people of Israel gathered at Mizpah where Samuel prayed for them. They said, "We have blank against the Lord." (Sinned)
 - When the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the Philistines went up against Israel. How did the Israelites feel? (They were afraid.)
 - The Israelites said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our blank for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." (God)
 - Samuel cried out to the Lord and offered a burnt offering to the Lord. The Lord answered Samuel with the mighty sound of blank and the Philistines were thrown into confusion. (Thunder)
 - The Philistines were subdued. "The hand of the blank was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. (Lord)
 - The cities that the Philistines had taken were returned to Israel, and the Israelites also had blank with the Amorites. (Peace)
 - Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life traveling between four cities: Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah, and his home at Ramah. At Ramah, Samuel built a blank to the Lord. (Altar)

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Transitional Thought: The people of Israel confessed their sin and turned from their foreign gods to follow and serve the Lord. This is a picture of a person that becomes a believer in Jesus Christ. The person confesses his/her sin and repents (turns from the sin) to follow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit, the Helper, who dwells with them forever.

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.); Fruit Producer (act as though arms are tree branches); Helper (with open left hand “help” raise/lift right fist)

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

Bible Memory Strategy: Erase-a-Word

10-15 minutes Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:

Question: Does the Holy Spirit, the seal of salvation, ever leave a believer?

Answer: No, the Holy Spirit dwells with believers forever.

Verse: “...he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth...” John 14:16-17

Read in unison. Have students cover their eyes. Erase random words from the board. Ask students to open their eyes and tell you what words were erased. Read again, saying the missing words from memory. Repeat several times until quoting rather than reading.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, scrap paper of various colors, glue, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Torn Paper Mosaic

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a piece of paper that has the words “The Holy Spirit dwells with believers forever” written on it in large block/outline letters. Show students how to tear scrap paper into small pieces and then glue the torn paper into the letters like a mosaic. Discuss with students the fact that salvation cannot be “lost;” it does not go away. The Holy Spirit seals a believer and dwells with the believer forever.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.

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The Work of the Holy Spirit

Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do in prayer?

Answer: The Holy Spirit intercedes, interpreting the believers' prayer.

Verse: "...For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26

Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do concerning sin?

Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin.

Verse: "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin...because they do not believe in me." John 16:8-9

Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do in salvation?

Answer: The Holy Spirit gives life to believers in Jesus Christ.

Verse: "It is the Spirit who gives life..." John 6:63a

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

Question: What does the Holy Spirit produce in the life of a believer?

Answer: The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23a

Question: Does the Holy Spirit, the seal of salvation, ever leave a believer?

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Verse: "...he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth..." John 14:16-17