

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Eighty: Crossing the Jordan

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible & the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24
Bible Memory & Craft: Catechism Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) The hand of the living God is mighty. (2) You should fear the Lord your God forever. (3) The triune God has chosen to save sinners.
- 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: Lead students to sing songs about the Bible & the Judges. Spend some time discussing the meaning of new songs. Encourage students to think about what they are singing. Be very careful to choose songs that only speak truth. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Impromptu Retelling
Scripture: Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24
Instructions: After Scripture has been read, students perform roles by pantomiming actions and repeating lines from the reading. Leader prompts students as needed. (Parts: Joshua, Levitical priests, people of Israel, twelve men from the twelve tribes)
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1
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...
Questions:
- When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, how did God lead them, what did they follow? (The pillar of cloud/fire)
 - Now that the people are entering the Promised Land, what are they to follow? (The Ark of the Covenant)
 - The Lord told Joshua that He would begin to exalt Joshua so that the Israelites would know that God would be with Joshua just as God had been with whom? (Moses)
 - When the soles of the feet of the priests rested in the waters of the Jordan what happened? (The waters stopped flowing and stood up in a heap)
 - The priests stood firmly on blank ground. (Dry)
 - This miracle happened so that the people would know, "that the blank blank is among you." (Living, God)
 - God told Joshua to take twelve men, one from each tribe, to do what? (Each take a stone from the midst of the Jordan)
 - God told Joshua to set up the stones as a blank forever. (Memorial)
 - God dried up the Jordan so the Israelites could cross over just as He had dried up what? (The Red Sea)
 - Rahab had stated that the inhabitants of the land were afraid of the children of Israel because they had heard how the Lord had dried up the Red Sea. How do you think the inhabitants felt when they heard about God drying up the Jordan? (Very afraid)
 - God said that He dried up these waters, "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is blank, that you may fear the Lord your God forever." (Mighty)

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Show students the word poster and have them act out the words: God is...Creator, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Merciful, Righteous, Just, Creator of Nations, God is in control, Long-suffering, Glorious, Deliverer, Savior, All-seeing, Faithful, Judge, Provider, Prayer Answerer, Sovereign, Gracious, Way to Heaven, Protector, Promise Keeper, Success maker, King of kings, Holy, Law maker, Skill instiller, Guide, Victory giver, Truth

Ask students which of the words on the poster describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Omnipotent, In control, Guide, etc.)

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, listing His attributes.

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: Through the Jordan miracle God revealed His might to all the peoples of the earth so that they would know that He is the Lord God and fear Him. Through Christ's death and resurrection God revealed His mercy and love so that we may be saved from the penalty of our sin and glorify Him.

Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Strategy: Rhythm & Beat

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

Question: What is election?

Answer: It is God's choice of certain sinners for salvation.

Verse: "Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world..." (Ephesians 1:4a)

Students read the passage in unison a few times to get the cadence. Clapping, stomping, finger-snapping, and knee-slapping are added so that the passage is read to the rhythm and beat of the sounds. The passage is read this way several times. Then students attempt to repeat the passage to the beat without looking at the words.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, scissors, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Heaven's Gate

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give students paper and assist them to cut and fold the paper to look like a gate. On one side of the paper have students write or glue the word "Believe!" On the reverse side of the paper have students write or glue the word "Chosen!" Explain that those who are saved are chosen by God before all time. Their response is to believe in the Lord for their salvation. Encourage students to decorate their "heaven's gate."

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