

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Eighty-four: Gibeonite Deception

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible & the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 9:3-27; Proverbs 3:5-6
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) God's actions were widely known and feared by non-Israelites. (2) The Israelites did not ask counsel from the Lord but leaned on their own understanding. (3) "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."
- 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: Leader Read Aloud and Picturing
Scripture: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 9:3-27; Proverbs 3:5-6
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Tell students to close their eyes as they listen and try to picture what they hear. Read passage expressively using different voices for the different characters. Stop occasionally to allow students an opportunity to describe what they pictured.
- 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, students 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:
- God gave the Israelites instructions about the cities of the Promised Land. God said, "You shall devote them to complete *blank*." (Destruction)
 - God commanded this destruction so that the people of the land would NOT teach the Israelites "their abominable practices...for their gods" causing Israel to *blank* against the Lord God. (Sin)
 - The Gibeonites told Joshua that they had come to make a covenant with Israel because they had heard what God did in *blank* and all that God did to the two kings of the Amorites. (Egypt)
 - What did the Gibeonites use to trick Israel into making a covenant with them? (Dry, crumbly bread, burst wineskins, and worn out garments and sandals)
 - When Joshua and the leaders of Israel made peace with the Gibeonites they swore by the Lord, the *blank* of Israel. (God)
 - Did Joshua ask counsel from the Lord before he covenanted with the Gibeonites? (No)
 - When Joshua asked the Gibeonites why they had deceived Israel, they said that they had heard that the "Lord your God had commanded...Moses to...destroy all the inhabitants of the land...so we *blank* greatly for our lives" (Feared)
 - Because of the covenant, Israel could not touch the Gibeonites, so Joshua cursed them by making them servants. What did they have to cut? (Wood)
 - What did they have to draw and carry? (Water)

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- The Gibeonites had to cut wood and carry water for the people of Israel and for the house of blank. (God)

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 words on poster #1 describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Protector—from temptation to sin, Deliverer—from Egypt...)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: The Israelites leaned on or trusted their own understanding instead of asking for the Lord's counsel. Many people lean on or trust their own selves for salvation. God says that we must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Materials: White board with markers and eraser

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: Why did Christ die?

Answer: In the place of sinners, Christ died as the perfect sacrifice, taking the punishment for their sins and satisfying God's justice.

Verse: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..." Galatians 3:13

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. Finally, students repeat the passage from memory using words only, no body motions.

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

As time allows Activity: Cross

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have each student cut out a cross as large as a piece of paper. On the crossbar have students copy or glue the words "Christ became a curse for us." On the rest of the cross have students copy or glue words representing sins that students have committed, such as lies, bad words, disobedience, etc.

Discuss the fact that when Christ died for these sins He became a curse to save us. Christ took on our sins and our punishment in our place so that we can be saved if we have faith in Him.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.