

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Eighty-eight: Joshua's Charge & Death

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Joshua 23:1-16; 24:29-33
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel is commanded to serve the Lord their God. (2) Israel is warned against serving other gods. (3) God regenerates sinners to faith and life in Christ.
- 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 & Action Reading
Scripture: Joshua 23:1-16; 24:29-33
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Whenever students hear "Lord your God," they stand up. Leader should mark the passage ahead of time and pause to give students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1
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:
- Who had fought for Israel? (The Lord)
 - The Lord gave Israel rest from whom? (Their enemies)
 - Had all the people of other nations been completely driven from the Promised Land? (No)
 - Joshua warned the Israelites not to mix with these people and not to serve or bow down to their blank. (gods)
 - Joshua said, "You shall cling to the Lord your blank. (God)
 - The Israelites were told to, "be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the blank of Moses." (Law)
 - If the Israelites transgressed the covenant of the Lord and served other gods, the Lord's blank would be kindled against them. (Anger)
 - If Israel chose to serve other gods, the Lord would bring upon them all the blank things. (Evil)
 - How old was Joshua when he died? (110 years old)
 - Did Israel serve the Lord after Joshua died? (Yes, all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua)
 - The Israelites had brought the bones of whom out of Egypt to bury in Shechem? (Joseph)
 - Who died and was buried at Gibeah? (Aaron's son Eleazar)
- 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, Rest provider (Lay head on hands as though resting)

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Ask students which words on poster #1 describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Deliverer, Promise keeper, Victory giver, Rest provider...)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: As He had promised, God saved the Israelites from their enemies, gave them rest and a new life in the Promised Land. As he promised, God gave Christ to save sinners, give them rest and new life in Him.

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: What is regeneration?

Answer: The act of God enlivening the sinner's heart, leading to faith

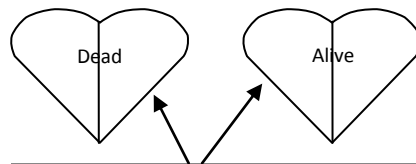
Verse: "Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:5

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: Paper, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Flip Hearts

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give students two paper hearts identical in size. Have students fold the hearts in half. Inside one heart have students glue the words, "Dead in our sins" and draw tombstones & skulls. Inside of the other heart have students glue the words, "Made alive with Christ" and have students draw the cross and smiley faces. Finally, have students glue the outsides of the hearts together from the fold to the edge on HALF of the heart. The two hearts should still open and close to show the inside, however they are now attached like a booklet. Discuss with students the fact that our hearts are dead in sin until God makes our hearts alive and we put our faith in Christ.



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