

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Ninety: Othniel, Ehud, & Shamgar

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Psalm 106:34-36, 40-46; Judges 3:7-16, 20-21, 23, 26-31
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel forgot the Lord their God and served other gods. (2) The Lord gave Israel into the hand of enemy nations until they cried out to the Lord. (3) God showed mercy to Israel when He raised judges to save Israel from the enemy nations. (4) God has shown mercy to sinners by sending Christ. (5) Regeneration, faith, and righteousness all come from God.
- 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: Psalm 106:34-36, 40-46; Judges 3:7-16, 20-21, 23, 26-31
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads aloud. Whenever the students hear a number, they use their fingers and hand motions to represent the number. Leader should mark passage ahead of time and plan ahead how students will show ones, tens, hundreds, and thousands. Alternative: Students could write the number on a card and hold it up.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Popcorn
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. The leader asks a question and students that want to answer the question "pop" up, share their answer, and then sit down. Set a limit of pops per person.
Questions:
- Why was the Lord's anger kindled against Israel? (Israel served other gods)
 - As judgment, the Lord gave Israel into the hand of enemy nations until Israel did what? (Cried out to the Lord)
 - To save Israel, the Lord raised judges. What were the names of the three judges in this lesson? (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar)
 - The blank of the Lord was upon Othniel and he judged Israel. (Spirit)
 - How long did Israel serve the king of Mesopotamia before he was given into the hand of Othniel? (8 years)
 - How long did Israel have peace before Othniel died? (40 years)
 - The people again did evil in the sight of the Lord. How long did the people serve the king of Moab before they cried out to the Lord? (18 years)
 - How long did Israel have peace after God gave the Moabites into their hand through Ehud? (80 years)
 - How many Philistines did Shamgar kill? (600)
 - What did Shamgar use to kill the Philistines? (An Oxgoad)
 - The Psalmist says that the Lord delivered the Israelites many times, "but they were blank in their purposes..." (Rebellious)
 - The Psalmist also says that the Lord heard their cry, remembered his covenant and "relented according to the abundance of his steadfast blank." (Love)

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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, Rest provider

Ask students which words on poster #1 describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Judge, Merciful, Deliverer, etc.)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: Because God is holy and righteous He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. So, God judged the Israelites for their sin when they served other gods. However, God is also merciful; so He showed His love to the Israelites and sent judges to save them. We also deserve judgment for our sin. However, God is merciful to us and showed His love to us when He sent Christ to take our punishment so that we can be saved through faith in Him.

Materials: Bean Bag

Strategy: Bean Bag Stand-up/Sit-down Review

Instructions: Have students stand in a circle. Ask a question then toss the bean bag to someone to share the answer &/or verse. If the answer is correct, student sits. Continue until everyone is sitting.

Question: How does the work of Christ save sinners?

Answer: A sinner is saved through faith in the work of Christ.

Verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God..." Ephesians 2:8-9

Question: What is regeneration?

Answer: It is 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

Question: What is righteousness?

Answer: Righteousness is God's goodness and holiness.

Verse: "...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ..." Philippians 3:10

Bible Craft Materials: Index cards, glue, scissors, questions, answers, & verses

As time allows Activity: Memory Game

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student 9 index cards. Have students cut and glue each question on one card, each answer on another card, and each verse on another card. Continue this process until all three questions, answers, and verses have been glued to the cards. (Leader must prepare the questions, answers, and verses ahead of time for students to use.) Backs of index cards must remain blank. Have students play memory with adults or older students to read aloud for them. Spread out all index cards upside down on table. Take turns turning over 3 cards. Try to remember where various cards are located. When a person turns over a question, answer, and verse that all match the person can keep the 3 cards and take another turn.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.