

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Ninety-five: Abimelech's Conspiracy

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:15; Judges 9:1-7, 16-24; Romans 6:23
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Abimelech murdered his brothers. (2) Murder is against God's law. (3) Shechem made Abimelech king. (4) God sent an evil spirit between Shechem and Abimelech so the blood of the murdered brothers would be upon Abimelech and Shechem. (5) The process of sanctification is not complete until the day of Jesus 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. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Action Reading
Scripture: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:15; Judges 9:1-7, 16-24; Romans 6:23
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Students do actions whenever they hear a body part word. Examples: "Blood" = point to their wrist veins; "Bone" = touch their elbow; "Heart" = hand over heart, etc. Leader should plan ahead the actions that students will do and pause to allow students time to react.
- 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, etc. To keep students focused, leader should change the hand action required for each question.
Questions:
- What was Jerubbaal's other name? (Gideon)
 - Abimelech was Gideon's what? (Son)
 - How many sons did Gideon have? (70)
 - The leaders of Shechem gave Abimelech 70 pieces of silver. What kind of fellows did Abimelech hire with the silver? (Worthless and reckless)
 - Abimelech killed all of his brothers except one. Who escaped? (Jotham, the youngest)
 - According to Genesis, why is murder wrong? (Man is made in the image of God.)
 - The sixth commandment says, "You shall not blank." (Murder.)
 - The leaders of Shechem made Abimelech what? (King)
 - Jotham reminded the leaders of Shechem that his father, Gideon, had done what? (Fought and risked his life to deliver them from the hand of Midian)
 - If Shechem had not acted in good faith and integrity, Jotham said fire should come out to blank Shechem and Abimelech? (Devour)
 - Who sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem? (God)
 - God sent the evil spirit so that the blank of the 70 would be laid on Abimelech and Shechem. (Blood)
 - What are the wages of sin? (Death)

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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: Just, Judge, Law maker, etc.)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: Abimelech sinned against the law of God when he murdered his brothers. Next lesson we will find out what happened to Abimelech. All people sin. Those that have faith in Jesus Christ still sin. God works in their lives to make them holy, but they will not be completely free of sin until they go to be with Christ.

Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Strategy: Erase-a-Word

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

Question: Is the process of sanctification ever complete in this life?

Answer: No. It is complete only in heaven.

Verse: "...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:6

Read in unison pointing at each word. 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. (Students that are unable to read will associate the location on the board with the word.)

Bible Craft Materials: Heavy paper, scissors, markers, pins, tape, sample project

As time allows Activity: Work in Progress! Button

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students make a button that says, "Work in Progress! Philippians 1:6." Allow students to decide the shape of their button and cut it out (circle, triangle, square...). Encourage students to decorate their button after they have copied the words onto it. When students are finished, tape a pin onto the back. Discuss God's work to sanctify (make holy) His children and the fact that this work is ongoing throughout life.

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