

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Ninety-six: Abimelech's Downfall

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 9:22-40, 46-57; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Romans 12:19
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation Review
Learning Objectives: (1) God returned the evil of Abimelech and Shechem "on their heads." (2) Abimelech and the leaders of Schechem died. (3) Vengeance belongs to the Lord; He will repay. (4) Salvation belongs to the Lord; it is the work of 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. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Pantomime Reading
Scripture: Judges 9:22-40, 46-57; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Romans 12:19
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads expressively while students act out actions in the reading. Examples: Gathering grapes, eating and drinking, rising early, gathering brushwood, etc. Leader should pause often to allow students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Clothes Clues
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Clothes clues are written on small pieces of paper, folded, and placed into a container. A clue is pulled out and read aloud. Only those that fit the clue can share. Examples: wearing black shoes, wearing red, wearing a watch, wearing NO hair accessory...
Questions:
- In the last lesson, Abimelech killed his 70 brothers. Jotham, his youngest brother escaped. What did Jotham say should devour Abimelech and Shechem if they had NOT dealt in good faith and integrity? (Fire)
 - 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)
 - Gaal stirred up Shechem against Abimelech. When Abimelech heard of it, he went up against Schechem and they fought. How did Abimelech destroy the Tower of Shechem and the people in it? (With fire)
 - When Abimelech started to set on fire the tower at Thebez, who threw a millstone down upon him? (A woman)
 - Abimelech did not want it said that a woman had killed him; so he told his blank to kill him with the sword. (Armor-bearer)
 - Who "returned the evil of Abimelech which he committed against his father in killing his 70 brothers?" (God)
 - Who "made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads?" (God)
 - Who said "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."? (The Lord)

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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, In control, Judge, etc.)

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

Note to Instructor: For the next few lessons students will review the 13 Questions about Salvation. Game cards that are made during this lesson will be used to play a game, and should be saved to play review games during upcoming lessons.

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: God returned the evil of Abimelech and Shechem and they died. Vengeance belongs to the Lord; he will repay evil. Salvation also belongs to the Lord. It is the work of God.

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

As time allows Activity: Questions Game Cards

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student index cards. Have students glue a question on one index card, its answer on another card, and its verse on another card. Continue this process until all questions, answers, and verses to be reviewed have been glued onto the cards. Backs of index cards must remain blank.

Activity Materials: Question, answer, and verse game cards

Strategy: Beat the Clock

Instructions: Have students sit around a table or in a circle on the floor. (Before the game begins, decide what Game Cards will be used: questions, answers, and verses; just questions and answers; just answers and verses; or just questions and verses. This will determine what makes "a match.") Players are given cards that have been shuffled. Timekeeper tells players the pre-determined amount of time that players will have. When the timekeeper says, "Go," players begin finding and laying out matches as quickly as possible before the timekeeper says, "Stop." The player, pair, or group with the most correct matches wins. Have players "prove" their matches by reading them aloud.

Ideas for working with non-reading students: (1) Pair a reader with a non-reader and have them work together. (2) Divide the class into groups and have a helper work with each group. (3) Play the game as a class with the leader reading the cards aloud to everyone. As the game is repeated, the class is challenged to beat their own number of matches.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.

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Question: What is the covenant of grace?

Answer: It is an eternal agreement within the Trinity to save certain persons

Verse: "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." Romans 11:27

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)

Question: How does God save the elect?

Answer: God saves the elect by the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ.

Verse: "...you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

Question: Being the Son of God, why did Christ become man?

Answer: Christ became man to fulfill the will of God the Father.

Verse: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me." John 6:38

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

Question: How did Christ conquer death?

Answer: When Christ resurrected from the dead he overcame the power of death.

Verse: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him." Romans 6:9

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

Question: What is justification?

Answer: Justification is the act of God counting a person righteous.

Verse: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through...Christ Jesus...to be received by faith." Romans 3:23-25

Question: What is repentance?

Answer: Repentance is turning from sin.

Verse: "...Are we to continue in sin...? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" Romans 6:1-2

Question: What is sanctification?

Answer: It is the act of God making his people holy in heart and conduct.

Verse: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless..." I Thessalonians 5:23

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