

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Ninety-seven: Jephthah Introduced

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Exodus 20:1-6; Judges 10:6-17; 11:1a, 5-6, 9-11
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation Review
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel broke the first two commandments; they served other gods. (2) God sold Israel to the Philistines and the Ammonites to be oppressed. (3) When Israel put away the foreign gods, God became impatient over their misery. (4) Jephthah acknowledged that the Lord would have to give the Ammonites to him. (5) Salvation results in repentance.
- 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 time discussing the meaning of new songs. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Action Reading
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-6; Judges 10:6-17; 11:1a, 5-6, 9-11
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads aloud expressively. Whenever students hear the word "God," they point up. When students hear the word "Lord," they stand up. When students hear the word "gods," they make the thumbs-down sign. Leader should pause to give students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Number cards, Word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Count Down
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Numbers are written on small cards and handed out randomly to students. The leader asks questions and students answer in numerical order (1, 2, 3).
Questions:
- The first commandment says, "You shall have no other blank before me." (gods)
 - The second commandment says, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image; you shall not bow down to them or blank them." (Serve)
 - God said that He visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children of those who "blank me." (Hate)
 - God also said that He shows steadfast love to those "who love me and keep my blank." (Commandments)
 - What did Israel do that was evil? (Served other gods)
 - Israel "forsook the blank and did not serve him." (Lord)
 - God sold Israel into the hand of the Philistines and the hand of the Ammonites who crushed and oppressed Israel. When Israel cried out to the Lord, He reminded them of all the enemies from whom He had already saved them. Then God said, "Go and cry out to the blank whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress." (gods)
 - What did the people of Israel put away before God became impatient over their misery? (The foreign gods)
 - Jephthah was a blank warrior. (Mighty)
 - When Jephthah was asked to be the leader in the fight against the Ammonites, Jephthah said, "If...the blank gives them over to me, I will be your head." (Lord)
 - The elders of Gilead replied, "The blank will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say." (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: Judge, Law maker...)

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. Use game cards that were made during the last lesson to play the game and save the cards to be used to play review games during upcoming lessons.

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: Israel forsook the Lord so He sold them into oppression. When the people of Israel put away their foreign gods then the Lord “became impatient over” their misery. Next lesson we will find out how God saved Israel from their enemies. The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is salvation from those wages through faith in Jesus. The result is repentance/putting away/turning from sin.

Materials: Question, Answer, and Verse Game Cards

Strategy: Choose it!

Instructions: Have students sit in a circle. Have students take turns choosing a card and sharing the question, answer, or verse that goes with it. If the student is correct, the student keeps the card. If the student is not correct, the card is returned to the bottom of the deck. If students cannot read, leader should read aloud the chosen card.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Rebus Book

Note: This project will take a few lessons to complete. Collect the unfinished books for completion during future lessons.

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Fold papers together to make a book with enough pages for the 13 Questions about Salvation that will be reviewed over the next few weeks. Book “binding” may be stapled or tied with yarn. Assist students to turn the pages into Rebuses (or picture sentences) of the review questions, answers, and verses. Collect the books for future lessons.

Example:

“...you shall  his name  for he will save his  from their .”

Matthew 1:21

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