

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson One Hundred Eleven: The Ark of the Covenant is Returned

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 16:23; I Samuel 5:1-4, 6-12; 6:1-6, 10-16, 7:1-2
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about the Holy Spirit
Learning Objectives: (1) The Philistines placed the Ark of God in the house of their god Dagon. (2) The statue of Dagon was found fallen and headless before the Ark of God. (3) The Ark of God was moved to various cities and the hand of the Lord was heavy against the people in each city. (4) The Philistines sent the Ark of God back to the Israelites. (5) The Israelites rejoiced at the return of the Ark and offered burnt sacrifices to the Lord. (6) For some twenty years the Ark of the Lord was lodged at the home of Abinadab. (7) Only the one true God is worthy of all glory and worship.
- 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: Ask students to help lead songs about the Bible & the Judges. Encourage students to think about what they are singing. Include actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Missing Word Reading
Scripture: Judges 16:23; I Samuel 5:1-4, 6-12; 6:1-6, 10-16, 7:1-2
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads aloud expressively. Whenever leader pauses and holds up one finger, students say, "Ark of God." Whenever leader pauses and holds up two fingers, students say, "Ark of the Lord." Leader should mark passage ahead of time and explain to students that these are simply other names for the Ark of the Covenant.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Bean bag, word poster #3 "Work of the Holy Spirit," add "Fruit Producer"
10 minutes Strategy: Beanbag Toss
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. The leader asks a question and then tosses a beanbag to someone who must answer and then toss the beanbag back to the leader.
Questions:
- After the Philistines captured the Ark of God, they took it to the house of Dagon, a god of the Philistines. The first morning after the Ark of God was placed there, the Philistines found the statue of Dagon face downward on the ground in front of what? (The Ark of the Lord)
 - The next morning, the Philistines found that the statue of Dagon's blank and hands had been cut off? (Head)
 - With what did the Lord afflict the Philistines? (Tumors)
 - The Ark of God was moved to different cities. In each city the people were afflicted with tumors until there was a deathly panic among the people. After seven months, the Philistines decided to return the Ark to Israel. As a guilt offering they sent tumors and mice made of what? (Gold)
 - The Philistine priests and diviners said, "...give blank to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your gods and your land..." (Glory)
 - About 400 years had passed since Israel left Egypt and came into the Promised Land. However, the Philistines knew about the plagues that God had sent to Egypt. The priests and diviners said, "Why should you harden your blank as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their blank? (Hearts)
 - The people of Beth-shemesh rejoiced when the Ark of the Lord was returned and the Levites offered burnt sacrifices to the Lord. Then the Ark was taken to the house of Abinadab and his son Eleazar was consecrated to have charge of it. How long did the Ark stay there? (Some 20 years)

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Transitional Thought: Because of the sin of Israel, God allowed the Philistines to defeat Israel and to capture the Ark of the Covenant. However, God, through the humiliation of Dagon and the affliction of the people, made it clear to the Philistines that He, the Lord God of Israel, is the one and only God worthy of glory. When God returned to Israel the Ark of the Covenant, the visual sign of God's presence in Israel, the Israelites worshipped God. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God has overcome the consequences of sin, which is eternal death and has provided believers with His presence through the Holy Spirit. This one and only true God is worthy of all glory and worship.

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, for the work of Jesus Christ, and for the work of the Holy Spirit.

Tell students that in this lesson we see that the Holy Spirit is the Fruit Producer. Have students repeat the words and act as though their arms are tree branches.

Bible Memory Materials: White board with markers and eraser

10-15 minutes Strategy: Hand Motions

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

Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23a

Simple hand motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students repeat the passage a few times using words and hand motions from memory.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, advertisers, scissors, glue, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Collage

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students cut pictures of fruit from grocery store advertisers. Have students glue the pictures onto paper and glue the nine words depicting the Fruit of the Spirit. (Words can be handwritten with black marker or printed from a computer for students to cut out and glue.) Discuss the growth and goodness of fruit compared to the growth and goodness of the Fruit of the Spirit in the life of a believer.

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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The Work of the Holy Spirit

Verse: "...For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26

Verse: "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin...because they do not believe in me." John 16:8-9

Verse: "It is the Spirit who gives life..." John 6:63a

Verse: "...when you heard...the gospel of our salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..." Ephesians 1:13-14

Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23a