

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Eighty-three: Fall of Ai

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible & the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Genesis 12:7-8; Joshua 8:1-8, 14-22, 30-32, 34-35
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) God fulfilled His promise to give the land to Abram's offspring. (2) God gave Israel the victory over Ai. (3) Israel obeyed the Lord. (4) Jesus obeyed God the Father.
- 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: Paper, pencils
15 minutes Strategies: Draw it!
Scripture: Genesis 12:7-8; Joshua 8:1-8, 14-22, 30-32, 34-35
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. After reading the passage, give each student a piece of paper and pencil. Show students how to draw an altar of "uncut stones" with the smoke from the city of Ai in the background. Have students draw their own pictures as you discuss the fact that the altar was used to worship God after the victory over Ai.
- 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:
- What was the name of the city that the Lord gave into Joshua's hand? (Ai)
 - The Lord originally promised the land at Ai to Abram's offspring. The people of Israel are children of Abram, so did the Lord keep His promise to Abram? (Yes)
 - Joshua might fear to go up against Ai because Ai had defeated Israel because of Achan. The Lord told Joshua, "Do not blank..." (Fear)
 - Who said, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand."? (The Lord)
 - What did Joshua build on Mount Ebal? (An altar)
 - The altar was to be made of blank stones. (Uncut)
 - What did Joshua write on the altar? (A copy of the Law of Moses)
 - What was sacrificed on the altar? (Burnt offerings, Peace offerings)
 - To whom did Joshua read the Book of the Law? (All of Israel, including the women and little ones)
 - The people of Israel did "according to word of the Lord." This means that they obeyed whom? (The Lord)
- Tell students that in this lesson we see God as the "victory giver." Have students repeat the words and raise two fingers in a "v" for victory.
- Group Prayer** Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, listing His attributes.

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

- Bible Memory** 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: The Israelites obeyed God when they went up against Ai and when they built the altar on Mount Ebal. Jesus obeyed God the Father when He became man and died as the perfect sacrifice for sins.
Materials: White board with markers and eraser
Strategy: Body Motions
Instructions: Have students stand in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following written on it:
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
Read the passage aloud to students pointing to each word as it is read. Explain to students that this verse was spoken by Jesus, it is about Jesus. Add exaggerated body motions to represent some words in the passage. Say the passage using words and body motions and have students echo the phrases several times in imitation. Then have students say and act out the passage in unison. Finally, offer to allow individual students to "perform" the passage alone.
- Bible Craft** As time allows Materials: Pre-made coloring sheets and words, glue, markers, sample project
Activity: "Jesus was obedient" Mural
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a pre-made coloring sheet that includes the manger, the cross, and the tomb. Have students glue prepared words "Jesus was obedient." onto the mural. Have students color the mural. (To make the coloring sheets: Use a black marker to draw a simple outline of a manger, cross, and tomb on a blank sheet of paper and then copy on a photocopier to make multiple coloring sheets. Words can be handwritten with black marker or printed from a computer and then cut out in strips for students to glue.) As students work, discuss the fact that Jesus obeyed God the Father when He came to earth to die for sins.
- Closing** Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.