

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Eighty-four: Gibeonite Deception

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible & the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 9:3-27
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) God's actions were widely known and feared by non-Israelites. (2) The Israelites did not ask counsel from the Lord but leaned on their own understanding. (3) "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."
- 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: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Leader Read Aloud and Picturing
Scripture: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 9:3-27
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Tell students to close their eyes as they listen and try to picture what they hear. Read passage expressively using different voices for the different characters. Stop occasionally to allow students an opportunity to describe what they pictured.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: None
10 minutes Strategy: Hand Action
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Instead of raising their hands to share, students 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:
- God told the Israelites to destroy the cities and the people of the Promised Land so that the people of the land would NOT teach the Israelites "their abominable practices...for their gods." Are abominable practices good or bad? (Bad)
 - The Lord did not want Israel to blank against God. (Sin)
 - The Gibeonites had heard what God did in Egypt. What plagues do you remember that God did in Egypt? (Blood, frogs, flies, boils, darkness, death, etc.)
 - When the Gibeonites heard that "God had commanded...Moses to...destroy all the inhabitants of the land" how did they feel? (Afraid for their lives)
 - What kind of bread did the Gibeonites use to trick Israel into making a peace with them? (Dry, crumbly)
 - What kind of garments and sandals did the Gibeonites use to trick Israel? (Worn out)
 - When Joshua and the leaders of Israel made peace with the Gibeonites they swore by the Lord, the blank of Israel. (God)
 - Did Joshua ask counsel from the Lord before he covenanted with the Gibeonites? (No)
 - Because of the covenant, Israel could not destroy the Gibeonites, so Joshua cursed them by making them servants. What did they have to cut? (Wood)
 - What did they have to draw and carry? (Water)
 - Who did the Gibeonites have to serve? (The Israelites & the House of God, the altar of the Lord)

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- Group Prayer** Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, listing His attributes.
- Bible Memory** 10-15 minutes
Transitional Thought: The Israelites trusted their own understanding instead of asking for the Lord's counsel. Many people trust their own selves for salvation. God says that we must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
Materials: White board with markers and eraser
Strategy: Body Motions
Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:
Verse: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..." Galatians 3:13
Read the passage aloud to students pointing to each word as it is read. 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: Paper, markers, glue, words, sample project
Activity: Cross
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Guide each student to draw a cross as large as a piece of paper. On the crossbar have students glue the words "Christ became a curse for us." On the rest of the cross have students glue words representing sins that students have committed, such as lies, bad words, disobedience, etc. (Words can be handwritten with black marker or printed from a computer and then cut out in strips for students to glue.)

Read the words aloud to students and discuss the fact that when Christ died for these sins He became a curse to save us. Christ took on our sins and our punishment in our place so that we can be saved if we have faith in Him.
- Closing** Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.