

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Eighty-seven: Altar of Witness

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Joshua 21:43-45; 22:1-6, 10, 28b-29, 34
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) God fulfilled all of His good promises to Israel. (2) God gave Israel rest from their enemies. (3) Sinners are saved through faith in Christ. (4) Faith is a gift from 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. 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 Action Reading
Scripture: Joshua 21:43-45; 22:1-6, 10, 28b-29, 34
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads expressively while students make hand motions when they hear certain words. Leader should pause often to give students time to respond.
Lord – Students point upwards toward heaven
Rest – Students lay head on hands as though resting
Altar – Students fold hands as in prayer
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Color cards, Word poster #1 Add: Rest provider
10 minutes Strategy: Color cards
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Small cards are marked each with a different color and handed out randomly to students. The leader asks a question and calls out a color. The student with the correct color card answers.
Questions:
- Who gave Israel rest from their enemies? (The Lord)
 - How many of the Lord's promises had come to pass? (All)
 - The Reubenites, Gadites, and half tribe of Manasseh had been given land on the other side of the Jordan, so they crossed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan with the other Israelites only to help to conquer the land. When Joshua sent these tribes back to their own land he said, "You...have been careful to keep the charge of the blank your God." (Lord)
 - Joshua also gave them instructions. He said, "...to blank the Lord you God (love),
 - and to blank in all his ways (walk)
 - and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your blank and with all your soul (heart)."
 - Before crossing into their own land, what did these tribes build near the Jordan? (An altar)
 - Were there plans to offer sacrifices on the altar, to replace the tabernacle altar? (No)
 - The altar was to be "a witness between us that the blank is God." (Lord)
 - What was the name of the altar? (Witness)
- Tell students that in this lesson we see God as the "rest provider." Have students repeat the words and lay their head on their hands as though resting.

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: As He had promised, God saved the Israelites from their enemies and gave them rest. As he promised, God gave Christ to save sinners and give them rest in Him.

Strategy: Clap-a-word

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

Verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God" Ephesians 2:8

Students say the verse in unison a few times. Students then say the verse replacing some words with claps. The word "grace" is clapped once rather than said aloud. The word "saved" is clapped twice rapidly. The Word "faith" is clapped three times rapidly. To prepare students, leader should clap once, twice, or three times and have students respond with the correct word each time. Students say the passage in unison trying to remember to clap the chosen words instead of saying them. The process is repeated until students try to repeat the passage from memory.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Faith mural

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Discuss laws of nature that students believe without even thinking about it, such as...when you drop something it will fall; you cannot breathe under water so you hold your breath; fire is hot so you do not touch it, etc. Explain that these are things that you believe, that you know, that you have faith are true. Explain that salvation is having faith/believing that Jesus Christ died to take the punishment for your sins. Have students make a mural depicting the many things in which they have "faith/belief."

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.