

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Ninety: Othniel, Ehud, & Shamgar

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Psalm 106:34-36, 40-41, 44-45; Judges 3:7-16, 20-21, 23, 26-31
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel forgot the Lord their God and served other gods. (2) The Lord gave Israel into the hand of enemy nations until they cried out to the Lord. (3) God showed mercy to Israel when He raised judges to save Israel from the enemy nations. (4) God has shown mercy to sinners by sending Christ. (5) Faith, life, and righteousness come 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 & Action Reading
Scripture: Psalm 106:34-36, 40-41, 44-45; Judges 3:7-16, 20-21, 23, 26-31
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads aloud. Whenever the students hear "the Lord," they stand. Leader should mark passage ahead of time and pause to allow students time to respond.
- 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:
- The Lord's anger was kindled against Israel because Israel served other blank. (gods)
 - As judgment, the Lord gave Israel into the hand of enemy nations until Israel cried out to the blank. (Lord)
 - To save Israel, the Lord raised judges, Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. The Spirit of the blank was upon Othniel. (Lord)
 - Israel served the king of Mesopotamia 8 years before the blank gave him into the hand of Othniel? (Lord)
 - Israel had peace for 40 years until Othniel blank. (Died)
 - The people again did evil in the sight of the Lord. They served the king of Moab 18 years before they cried out to the blank. (Lord)
 - Israel had peace for 80 years after the blank gave the Moabites into their hand through Ehud? (Lord)
 - Shamgar saved Israel when he killed 600 Philistines with what? (An Oxgoad)
 - The Psalmist says that the Lord heard their cry, remembered his covenant and "relented according to the abundance of his steadfast blank." (Love)
- Tell students that in this lesson we see God as "merciful," which means that He doesn't punish as deserved or He saves from deserved punishment. Have students repeat the word and use their two arms to make the baseball sign for "safe on base."

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

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: Because God is holy and righteous He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. So, God judged the Israelites for their sin when they served other gods. However, God is also merciful; so He showed His love to the Israelites and sent judges to save them. We also deserve judgment for our sin. However, God is merciful to us and showed His love to us when He sent Christ to take our punishment so that we can be saved through faith in Him.

10-15 minutes

Materials: Bean Bag

Strategy: Bean Bag Stand-up/Sit-down Review

Instructions: Have students stand in a circle. Start to quote a verse and then toss the bean bag to someone to share the next word. If the answer is correct, student sits. Continue until everyone is sitting.

Verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God..." Ephesians 2:8-9

Verse: "Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..." Ephesians 2:5

Verse: "...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ..." Philippians 3:10

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, glue, words, sample project (optional: ribbon, wrapping paper)

As time allows Activity: Gift from God

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a piece of paper that has been folded in half. Show students how to decorate the front to look like a gift with wrapping paper, ribbon, and a tag that says, "From God." (If available, real wrapping paper and ribbons can be glued onto the paper.) Inside the folded paper, have students draw a cross and glue the words, "Faith," "Righteousness," and "Made Alive." (Words can be handwritten with black marker or printed from a computer and cut for students to glue.) Discuss these "gifts from God."

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.