

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Ninety-four: Gideon's Death

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 7:24-25; 8:4, 10-12, 18-32
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) The Lord gave Zebah and Zalmunna into the hand of Gideon. (2) Gideon made an ephod that became a snare. (3) The land had rest for 40 years in the days of Gideon. (4) All have sinned. (5) We should turn from sin, repent. (6) Through Jesus Christ, God saves His people and makes them holy.
- 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. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use, paper, pencils
15 minutes Strategies: Action Reading
Scripture: Judges 7:24-25; 8:4, 10-12, 18-32
Instructions: As the Scripture is read, students listen for numbers. When a number is read, students raise both hands into the air. Leader should pause to give students time to respond. Leader should also be prepared to write the number for students to see and should help students to understand the difference in the numbers (Example: 300 vs. 15,000 vs. 120,000).
- 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:
- Gideon called Ephraim to capture the blank of the Jordan. (The waters)
 - What happened to the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb? (They were captured and killed?)
 - How many men crossed the Jordan with Gideon? (300)
 - Zebah and Zalmunna were the Midian blank. (Kings)
 - How many were left of the Eastern army? (15,000 men)
 - How many men of the Eastern army had fallen? (120,000 men)
 - Who killed Zebah and Zalmunna? (Gideon)
 - What did Gideon answer when the men of Israel wanted him to rule over Israel? (The Lord will rule over you.)
 - Gideon made an ephod, which became a blank. (A snare)
 - How long did the land have rest in the days of Gideon? (40 years)
 - Gideon was a good old age when he died. Whose tomb was he buried in? (His father's)
- 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.
- Group Prayer** Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, listing His attributes.

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Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: God delivered Israel from their enemies and gave Israel rest for 40 years. However, Gideon made an ephod, which God had not told him to make. The ephod became a snare and Israel sinned by whoring after it. God delivers his people and justifies them through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. However, God's chosen people still sin, must repent, and need God to sanctify them.

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 all have sinned...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through...Christ Jesus...to be received by faith." Romans 3:23-25

Verse: "...Are we to continue in sin...? By no means!" Romans 6:1-2

Verse: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless..." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Bible Craft As time allows Materials: White hearts cut from heavy paper, glue, glitter, yarn, pins

Activity: Saved Heart necklace or pin

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a heart. Show students how to use glue to make the shape of a cross in the center of the heart. (Students should use their finger or a q-tip to spread the glue so that it is not too thick.) Students may also outline their heart with glue. Assist students to sprinkle glitter on their heart. Allow glue a chance to dry and then shake off the excess glitter. The glitter will stick to the glue so that the heart is outlined and has a cross in it. Use the yarn and the pins to turn each heart into a necklace or pin for each student. While the glue dries, use the opportunity to discuss salvation. Note: This project can be messy. Consider putting down newspaper to protect the area or choosing a space that is easy to clean or where a mess does not matter.

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