

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Ninety-five: Abimelech's Conspiracy

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:15; Judges 9:1-7, 16-24; Romans 6:23
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Abimelech murdered his brothers. (2) Murder is against God's law. (3) Shechem made Abimelech king. (4) God sent an evil spirit between Shechem and Abimelech so the blood of the murdered brothers would be upon Abimelech and Shechem.
- 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
15 minutes Strategies: Action Reading
Scripture: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:15; Judges 9:1-7, 16-24; Romans 6:23
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Students do actions whenever they hear a body part word. Examples: "Blood" = point to their wrist veins; "Bone" = touch their elbow; "Heart" = hand over heart, etc. Leader should plan ahead the actions that students will do and pause to allow students time to react.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Hand Action
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Instead of raising their hands to share, they 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:
- Jerubbaal was another name for Gideon. Abimelech was Gideon's blank? (Son)
 - How many sons did Gideon have? (70)
 - The leaders of Shechem gave Abimelech 70 pieces of silver. What kind of fellows did Abimelech hire with the silver? (Worthless and reckless)
 - Abimelech killed all of his brothers except one. Who escaped? (Jotham, the youngest)
 - According to Genesis, murder is wrong because man is made in the image of blank. (God)
 - The sixth commandment says, "You shall not blank." (Murder.)
 - The leaders of Shechem made Abimelech what? (King)
 - Jotham reminded the leaders of Shechem that his father, Gideon, had fought and risked his life to blank them from the hand of Midian. (Deliver)
 - If Shechem had not acted in good faith and integrity, Jotham said fire should come out to blank Shechem and Abimelech? (Devour)
 - Who sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem? (God)
 - God sent the evil spirit so that the blank of the 70 would be laid on Abimelech and Shechem. (Blood)
 - What are the wages of sin? (Death)
- Tell students that in this lesson we see God as the "judge." Have students repeat the word and drop fist as though striking with a gavel.

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- Group Prayer** Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, listing His attributes and actions.
- Bible Memory** 10-15 minutes
Transitional Thought: Abimelech sinned against the law of God when he murdered his brothers. Next lesson we will find out what happened to Abimelech. All people sin. Those that have faith in Jesus Christ still sin. God works in their lives to make them holy, but they will not be completely free of sin until they go to be with Christ.
- 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: "...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:6*
- Students say the passage in unison a few times. Exaggerated body motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students say the passage a few times using words and motions. Students then repeat the passage using motions and words from memory.
- Bible Craft** As time allows
Materials: Heavy paper cut into various shapes, scissors, markers, glue, pins, tape, sample project
Activity: Work in Progress! Button
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students make a button that says, "Work in Progress! Philippians 1:6." Have a variety of shapes cut from paper. Allow students to choose the shape of their button. Have students cut and glue the words onto their button. (Words can be handwritten with black marker or printed from a computer for students to cut out and glue.) Encourage students to decorate their button. When students are finished, tape a pin onto the back. Discuss God's work to sanctify (make holy) His children and the fact that this work is ongoing throughout life.
- Closing** Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.