

## Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

### Preschool Lesson Ninety-six: Abimelech's Downfall

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges  
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 9:22-34, 39-40, 46-57; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Romans 12:19  
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation Review  
Learning Objectives: (1) God returned the evil of Abimelech and Shechem "on their heads." (2) Abimelech and the leaders of Schechem died. (3) Vengeance belongs to the Lord; He will repay. (4) Salvation belongs to the Lord; it is the work of 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. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals as appropriate.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use  
15 minutes Strategies: Pantomime Reading  
Scripture: Judges 9:22-34, 39-40, 46-57; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Romans 12:19  
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads expressively while students act out actions in the reading. Examples: Gathering grapes, eating and drinking, rising early, gathering brushwood, etc. Leader should pause often to allow students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1  
10 minutes Strategy: Clothes Clues  
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Clothes clues are written on small pieces of paper, folded, and placed into a container. A clue is pulled out and read aloud. Only those that fit the clue can share. Examples: wearing black shoes, wearing red, wearing a watch, wearing NO hair accessory...  
Questions:
- In the last lesson, Abimelech killed his 70 brothers. Jotham, his youngest brother escaped. Jotham said that blank should devour Abimelech and Shechem if they had NOT dealt in good faith and integrity/honesty. (Fire)
  - Who sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem? (God)
  - God sent the evil spirit so that the blood of the blank would be laid on Abimelech and Shechem. (70 brothers)
  - Gaal stirred up Shechem against Abimelech. When Abimelech heard of it, he went up against Schechem and they fought. How did Abimelech destroy the Tower of Shechem and the people in it? (With fire)
  - When Abimelech started to set on fire the tower at Thebez, who threw a millstone down upon him? (A woman)
  - Abimelech did not want it said that a woman had killed him; so he told his armor-bearer to kill him with the blank. (Sword)
  - Who "returned the evil of Abimelech which he committed against his father in killing his 70 brothers?" (God)
  - Who "made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads?" (God)
  - Who said "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."? (The Lord)

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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.

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

*Note to Instructor: For the next few lessons students will review the verses about Salvation.*

**Bible Memory** Transitional Thought: God returned the evil of Abimelech and Shechem and they died. Vengeance belongs to the Lord; he will repay evil. Salvation also belongs to the Lord. It is the work of God.

Materials: Bean Bag

Strategy: Bean Bag Review

Instructions: Have students stand in a circle. Using the two review verses, start to quote a verse and then toss the bean bag to someone to share the next word. Continue until both verses have been reviewed sufficiently.

*Verse: “...you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21*

*Verse: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” John 6:38*

**Bible Craft** Materials: Paper, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Rebus Book

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Fold papers together to make a book with enough pages for the verses that will be reviewed over the next few weeks. Book “binding” may be stapled or tied with yarn. Assist students to turn the first two pages into Rebuses (or picture sentences) of the two review verses. Collect the books for future lessons.

Example:

“...you shall  his name  for he will save his  from their  .”  
*Matthew 1:21*

**Closing**

Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.

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*Verse: "...you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21*

*Verse: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me." John 6:38*

*Verse: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..." Galatians 3:13*

*Verse: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him." Romans 6:9*

*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*

*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..." I Thessalonians 5:23*

*Verse: "...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6*