

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Preschool Lesson Ninety-seven: Jephthah Introduced

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Exodus 20:1-6; Judges 10:6-17; 11:1a, 5-6, 9-11
Bible Memory & Craft: Verses about Salvation Review
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel broke the first two commandments; they served other gods. (2) God sold Israel to the Philistines and the Ammonites to be oppressed. (3) When Israel put away the foreign gods, God became impatient over their misery. (4) Jephthah acknowledged that the Lord would have to give the Ammonites to him. (5) Salvation results in repentance.
- 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 time discussing the meaning of new songs. Ask students to help lead songs, including actions and visuals.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Action Reading
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-6; Judges 10:6-17; 11:1a, 5-6, 9-11
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads aloud expressively. Whenever students hear the word "God," they point up. When students hear the word "Lord," they stand up. When students hear the word "gods," they make the thumbs-down sign. Leader should pause to give students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Number cards, Word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Count Down
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Numbers are written on small cards and handed out randomly to students. The leader asks questions and students answer in numerical order (1, 2, 3).
Questions:
- The first commandment says, "You shall have no other blank before me." (gods)
 - The second commandment says, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image; you shall not bow down to them or blank them." (Serve)
 - God said that He visits the iniquity/sin of the fathers on the children of those who "blank me." (Hate)
 - God also said that He shows steadfast love to those "who love me and keep my blank." (Commandments)
 - Israel did evil and served other gods. Israel "forsook the blank and did not serve him." (Lord)
 - God sold Israel into the hand of the Philistines and the hand of the Ammonites who crushed and oppressed Israel. When Israel cried out to the Lord, He reminded them of all the enemies from whom He had already saved them. Then God said, "Go and cry out to the blank whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress." (gods)
 - What did the people of Israel put away before God became impatient over their misery? (The foreign gods)
 - Jephthah was a mighty warrior. When Jephthah was asked to be the leader in the fight against the Ammonites, Jephthah said, "If...the blank gives them over to me, I will be your head." (Lord)
 - The elders of Gilead replied, "The blank will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say." (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: Israel forsook the Lord so He sold them into oppression. When the people of Israel put away their foreign gods then the Lord “became impatient over” their misery. Next lesson we will find out how God saved Israel from their enemies. The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is salvation from those wages through faith in Jesus. The result is repentance/putting away/turning from sin.

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: “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

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Rebus Book

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Hand out books that were started last lesson. Assist students to turn the next two pages into Rebuses (or picture sentences) of the two review verses listed above. 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