

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson One Hundred One: Samson and The Philistines

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 13:3-5; 14:19-20; 15:1-20; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 1:30-33
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Christ's Work
Learning Objectives: (1) Samson was born to begin to save Israel from the Philistines. (2) The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon Samson, giving him strength to fight the Philistines. (3) Samson recognized that the Lord "granted this great salvation." (4) Samson was a picture of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. (5) The Lord Jesus Christ was born to save man from the consequences of sin; He is the one that grants salvation from eternal death. (6) The Lord Jesus Christ does the work of a prophet, a priest, and a king.
- 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: Ask students to lead songs about the Bible & the Judges.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Character Reading
Scripture: Judges 13:3-5; 14:19-20; 15:1-20; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 1:30-33
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Make sure that students have the same Bible translation as the Leader. Students carry out dialogue between characters like a reader's theater. Leader should prepare ahead by marking the passage based upon the character that is speaking. Characters: angel of the Lord, Samson, wife's father, Philistines, men of Judah, narrators
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #2; add "King"
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:
- Before Samson was born, the angel of the Lord told his mother that Samson would begin to blank Israel from the hand of the blank. (Save, Philistines)
 - After his wife and companions cheated about the riddle, Samson became very angry and went back to his father's house. When he finally went back to get his wife, what had her father done? (Her father had given her to Samson's companion instead.)
 - Samson said, "This time I shall be blank in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm." (Innocent)
 - When Samson turned loose the foxes with the torches, what burned? (The stacked grain, the standing grain, and the olive orchards)
 - With what did the men of Judah bind Samson when he agreed to go with them? (Two new ropes)
 - The blank of the blank rushed upon Samson and the ropes melted off his hands. (Spirit, Lord)
 - Samson said to the Lord, "You have granted this great blank by the hand of your servant..." (Salvation)
 - How many years did Samson judge Israel in the days of the Philistines? (20)
 - Samson was a picture of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, who was born to "blank his people from their blank." (Save, sins)
 - Mary was told that Jesus would be given "the blank of his father David, and he will reign...forever." (Throne)

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Show students word poster #2 and have them act out the words – Roles of Jesus Christ: High Priest (Move hand as though sprinkling blood), Mediator (Move hand from self toward heaven), Savior (Stretch arms out to the sides), Intercessor = advocate (Clasp hands as though pleading), King (Place hands on head like a crown)

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is and thank Him for the work of Jesus Christ.

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: Samson was born to begin to save Israel from the Philistines. The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon Samson, giving him strength to fight the Philistines and he judged Israel for 20 years. Samson was an imperfect picture of the perfect Messiah, Jesus Christ, who was born to save man from the consequences of sin. Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever, “of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Strategy: Picture It

Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:

Question: What work does Christ do for his people?

Answer: He does the work of a prophet, a priest and a king.

Verse: “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Hebrews 1:3

Pictures are used to replace some of the words in the passage. Students repeat the passage “reading” the pictures in place of the words. Gradually, the words are erased or covered until only the pictures remain. Students repeat the passage using only the pictures as a guide.

Bible Craft Materials: Heavy paper, paint, brushes, pencils, sample project

As time allows Activity: Symbolic Painting

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a piece of paper and a pencil. Have students lightly sketch a symbolic picture that represents Christ’s work for us. (Examples: altar, lamb, cross, crown, throne, shining light, etc.) When students are ready, have them paint their picture. Encourage students to “sign” their painting like an artist. Optional: Assist students to add a picture frame and yarn loop for hanging their painting.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.