

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Eighty: Crossing the Jordan

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Bible Drill
Bible Reading & Discussion: Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24
Bible Memory & Craft: Catechism Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) The hand of the living God is mighty. (2) You should fear the Lord your God forever. (3) The triune God has chosen to save sinners.
- 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: Bibles for students to use
5-10 minutes Strategies: Bible Drill
Instructions: Students hold closed Bibles up over head. The leader then calls out a Scripture reference – first the book, then the chapter, finally the verse. Students repeat the reference aloud. When the leader says, "Charge," the students look for the reference in their Bibles. When the reference is found, students stand and read it. Leader should choose Bible references from the Bible Reading and Bible Memory portions of the lesson.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Impromptu Retelling
Scripture: Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24
Instructions: After Scripture has been read, students perform roles by pantomiming actions and repeating lines from the reading. Leader prompts students as needed. (Parts: Joshua, Levitical priests, people of Israel, twelve men from the twelve tribes)
- 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...
Questions:
- When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, how did God lead them, what did they follow? (The pillar of cloud/fire)
 - Now that the people are entering the Promised Land, what are they to follow? (The Ark of the Covenant carried by the priests)
 - The Lord told Joshua that He would begin to exalt Joshua so that the Israelites would know what? (That God would be with Joshua just as He was with Moses)
 - When the soles of the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant rested in the waters of the Jordan what happened? (The waters stopped flowing and stood up in a heap)
 - The priests stood firmly on blank ground. (Dry)
 - This miracle happened so that the people would know, "that the blank blank is among you." (Living, God)
 - God told Joshua to take twelve men, one from each tribe, to do what? (Each take a stone from the midst of the Jordan)
 - God told Joshua to set up the stones as a blank forever. (Memorial)
 - God said that in time to come blank blank will ask about the stones and be told how God dried up the waters of the Jordan? (Your children)
 - God dried up the Jordan so the Israelites could cross over just as He had dried up what? (The Red Sea)

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- Rahab had stated that the inhabitants of the land were afraid of the children of Israel because they had heard how the Lord had dried up the Red Sea. How do you think the inhabitants felt when they heard about God drying up the Jordan? (Very afraid)
- God said that He dried up these waters, "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is blank, that you may fear the blank your blank forever." (Mighty, Lord, God)

Show students word poster #1 and have them act out the words: God is...Creator, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Life-source, Just, Merciful, Righteous, Life-sustainer, Creator of Nations, In control, Long-suffering, Glorious, Providence, Deliverer, Savior, All-seeing, Faithful, Freer from law, Judge, Provider, Prayer answerer, Sovereign, Gracious, Way to Heaven, Protector, Promise keeper, Success maker, King of kings, Holy, Law maker, Skill instiller, Guide, Victory giver, Truth, Immutable/unchangeable

Ask students which of the words on the poster describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Omnipotent, In control, Guide, etc.)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: Through the Jordan miracle God revealed His might to all the peoples of the earth so that they would know that He is the Lord God and fear Him. Through Christ's death and resurrection God revealed His mercy and love so that we may be saved from the penalty of our sin and glorify Him.

Materials: Sheets of paper containing memory phrases:

Question: *What is election?*

Answer: *It is God's choice of certain sinners for salvation.*

Verse: *"Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him..." (Ephesians 1:4)*

Strategy: Phrase-by-phrase

Instructions: The passage is written on sheets of paper with one phrase per sheet. Students stand in a circle holding the phrases in the correct order for all to see. Students read the passage in unison a few times. Students holding phrases take turns turning around so their phrase cannot be seen. The group attempts to read the passage including the missing phrase(s) from memory.

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

As time allows Activity: Heaven's Gate

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give students paper and assist them to cut and fold the paper to look like a gate. On one side of the paper have students write "Whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16b" On the reverse side of the paper have students write "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:4a" Discuss the twin aspects of salvation that those who are saved are called by God before all time. Their response is to believe in the Lord for their salvation. Encourage students to decorate their "heaven's gate."

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