

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Eighty-four: Gibeonite Deception

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Catechism Review
Bible Reading & Discussion: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 9:1-27; Proverbs 3:5-6
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) God's actions were widely known and feared by non-Israelites. (2) The Israelites did not ask counsel from the Lord but leaned on their own understanding. (3) "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."
- 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: Bean bags
5-10 minutes Strategies: Bean Bag Toss & Stand up/Sit Down
Instructions: Review the Catechism. Students stand in a circle. The leader tosses the bean bag to someone and asks a question. The student that catches the bean bag answers the question. If the answer is correct the student sits down. Play until everyone has answered correctly and is sitting.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Character Reading
Scripture: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 9:1-27; Proverbs 3:5-6
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Make sure that each student or pair of students has 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: Gibeonites, Men/Leaders of Israel, Joshua, Narrators
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Yarn, word posters #1
10 minutes Strategy: Yarn Web
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. While holding one end of a ball of yarn, the leader tosses the ball to someone who must answer the question and while holding on to a piece of the yarn, toss the ball to someone else to answer the next question. The process is repeated while the ball of yarn becomes smaller and a web is built by those catching and tossing the ball and answering questions.
Questions:
- God gave the Israelites instructions about the cities of the Promised Land. God said, "You shall devote them to complete blank." (Destruction)
 - God commanded this destruction so that the people of the land would NOT teach the Israelites "their blank practices...for their gods" causing Israel to blank against the Lord God. (Abominable, sin)
 - The Gibeonites told Joshua that they had come to make a covenant with Israel because they had heard what God did in blank and all that God did to the two kings of the blank. (Egypt, Amorites)
 - What did the Gibeonites use to trick Israel into making a covenant with them? (Dry, crumbly bread, burst wineskins, and worn out garments and sandals)
 - When Joshua and the leaders of Israel made peace with the Gibeonites they swore by the Lord, the blank of Israel. (God)
 - Did Joshua ask counsel from the Lord before he covenanted with the Gibeonites? (No)
 - When Joshua asked the Gibeonites why they had deceived Israel, they said that they had heard that the "blank your blank had commanded...Moses to...destroy all the inhabitants of the land...so we blank greatly for our lives" (Lord, God, feared)
 - Because of the covenant, Israel could not touch the Gibeonites, so Joshua cursed them how? (He made them servants cutting wood and drawing water for the house of my God, the altar of the Lord, and the congregation.)

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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 words on poster #1 describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Protector—from temptation to sin, Deliverer—from Egypt...)

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

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: The Israelites leaned on or trusted their own understanding instead of asking for the Lord's counsel. Many people lean on or trust their own selves for salvation. God says that we must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Materials: Sheets of paper containing memory phrases:

Question: *Why did Christ die?*

Answer: *In the place of sinners, Christ died as the perfect sacrifice, taking the punishment for their sins and satisfying God's justice.*

Verse: *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'" Galatians 3:13*

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: Cross

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have each student cut out a cross as large as a piece of paper. On the crossbar have students write "Christ became a curse for us." On the rest of the cross have students write sins that they have committed, such as lies, bad words, disobedience, etc. Discuss the fact that Christ died for these sins.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.