

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Eighty-seven: Altar of Witness

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Questions about Salvation Review
Bible Reading & Discussion: Joshua 21:43-45; 22:1-34
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) God fulfilled all of His good promises to Israel. (2) God gave Israel rest from their enemies. (3) Sinners are saved through faith in Christ. (4) Faith is a gift from 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: Bean bags
5-10 minutes Strategies: Bean Bag Toss & Stand up/Sit Down
Instructions: Review the Questions about Salvation. 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: Joshua 21:43-45; 22:1-34
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: Joshua, People of Israel, People of Reuben/Gad/Manasseh, Phinehas, Narrators
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Number cards, Word poster #1 Add: Rest provider
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), reverse order (10,9,8), or by type (even, odd, divisible by three, etc.). To add challenge and fun, leader can switch answer type throughout.
Questions:
- Who gave Israel rest from their enemies? (The Lord)
 - Of the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel, how many had failed? (Not one word of all the promises had failed)
 - How many of the Lord's promises had come to pass? (All)
 - The Reubenites, Gadites, and half tribe of Manasseh had been given land on the other side of the Jordan, so why had they crossed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan with the other Israelites? (To help to conquer the land)
 - When Joshua sent these tribes back to their own land he said, "You...have been careful to keep the charge of the blank your blank." (Lord, God)
 - Joshua also gave them instructions. He said, "Only be very careful to observe the blank and the law (commandment)
 - ...to blank the Lord you God (love),
 - and to blank in all his ways (walk)
 - and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to blank him with all your blank and with all your soul (serve, heart)."
 - Before crossing into their own land, what did these tribes build near the Jordan? (An altar)
 - Who went out to make war against them? (The rest of Israel)

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- Israel thought they built the altar “in blank against the Lord.” (Rebellion)
- Were there plans to offer sacrifices on the altar, to replace the tabernacle altar? (No)
- The altar was to be “a witness between us that the blank is blank.” (Lord, God)
- What was the name of the altar? (Witness)

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, Rest provider (Lay head on hands as though resting)

Ask students which words on poster #1 describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Promise keeper, Rest provider, etc.)

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

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: As He had promised, God saved the Israelites from their enemies and gave them rest. As he promised, God gave Christ to save sinners and give them rest in Him.

10-15 minutes

Materials: Sheets of paper containing memory phrases:

Question: How does the work of Christ save sinners?

Answer: A sinner is saved through faith in the work of Christ.

Verse: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Strategy: Scrambled phrases

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 lay the phrases on the floor and turn around. Leader scrambles the phrases. Students see how fast they can put the phrases into the correct order. Students read the passage correctly after each round.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Faith mural

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Discuss laws of nature that students believe without even thinking about it, such as...when you drop something it will fall; you cannot breathe under water so you hold your breath; fire is hot so you do not touch it, etc. Relate this to belief/faith in Christ for salvation from sin. Have students make a mural depicting the many things in which they have “faith/belief.” The mural may show spiritual as well as natural beliefs, such as...God answers prayer; God is all powerful; God is the creator, etc.

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