

## Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

### Primary Lesson Ninety: Othniel, Ehud, & Shamgar

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges  
Bible Reading & Discussion: Psalm 106:34-48; Judges 3:7-31  
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation  
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel forgot the Lord their God and served other gods. (2) The Lord gave Israel into the hand of enemy nations until they cried out to the Lord. (3) God showed mercy to Israel when He raised up judges to save Israel from the enemy nations. (4) God has shown mercy to sinners by sending Christ. (5) Regeneration, faith, and righteousness all come 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: 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: Popcorn Reading  
Scripture: Psalm 106:34-48; Judges 3:7-31  
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. One person reads aloud, stopping at any point. As soon as one reader stops, another reader quickly takes over. There is no predetermined order of readers; however, Scriptures should be read in order.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Answer cards, word poster #1  
10 minutes Strategy: Answers First  
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Answers to questions are written on index cards and handed out randomly to students. The leader asks a question and the student with the correct answer card stands up and reads the answer.  
Questions:
- Why was the Lord's anger kindled against Israel? (Israel forgot the Lord their God and served other gods)
  - When the Israelites served other gods, who did they sacrifice to these gods? (Their sons and daughters)
  - As judgment, the Lord gave Israel into the hand of enemy nations until Israel did what? (Cried out to the Lord)
  - To save Israel, the Lord raised judges. What were the names of the three judges in this lesson? (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar)
  - Do you remember how Othniel was related to Caleb? (Othniel had married Caleb's daughter. He was Caleb's son-in-law.)
  - The blank of the Lord was upon Othniel and he judged Israel. (Spirit)
  - How long did Israel serve the king of Mesopotamia before he was given into the hand of Othniel? (8 years)
  - How long did Israel have peace before Othniel died? (40 years)
  - The people again did evil in the sight of the Lord. How long did the people serve the king of Moab before they cried out to the Lord? (18 years)
  - How long did Israel have peace after God gave the Moabites into their hand through Ehud? (80 years)
  - From what enemy did Shamgar save Israel? (The Philistines)
  - With what did Shamgar kill 600 Philistines? (An Oxgoad)
  - The Psalmist says that the Lord delivered the Israelites many times, "but they were blank in their purposes..." (Rebellious)

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- The Psalmist also says that the Lord heard their cry, remembered his covenant and “relented according to the abundance of his steadfast blank.” (Love)

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

Ask students which words on poster #1 describe God in this lesson. (Answers: Judge, Merciful, Deliverer, etc.)

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

**Bible Memory** 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: Because God is holy & righteous He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. So, God judged the Israelites for their sin when they served other gods. However, God is also merciful; so He showed His love to the Israelites and sent judges to save them. We also deserve judgment for our sin. However, God is merciful to us and showed His love to us when He sent Christ to take our punishment so that we can be saved through faith in Him.

Materials: Bean Bag

Strategy: Bean Bag Stand-up/Sit-down Review

Instructions: Have students stand in a circle. Ask a question then toss the bean bag to someone to share the answer &/or verse. If the answer is correct, student sits. Continue until everyone is sitting.

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

Question: What is regeneration?

Answer: It is the act of God enlivening the sinner’s heart, leading to faith.

Verse: “Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:5

Question: What is righteousness?

Answer: Righteousness is God’s goodness and holiness.

Verse: “...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.” Philippians 3:10

**Bible Craft** Materials: Index cards and pencils

As time allows Activity: Memory Game

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student 9 index cards. Have students write each question on a card, each answer on another card, and each verse on another card. Leave backs blank. Have students play memory. Spread out all index cards upside down on table. Take turns turning over 3 cards. When a person turns over a question, answer, and verse that all match, the person can keep the 3 cards and take another turn.

**Closing** Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.