

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Ninety-Two: Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Bible Drill
Bible Reading & Discussion: Exodus 20:3; Judges 6:1-32
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel did not obey God to worship Him only. (2) The Lord gave Israel into the hand of Midian. (3) Israel cried out for help to the Lord. (4) God sent a prophet with the message that Israel had not obeyed the Lord. (5) The Lord called Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal. (6) Repentance means turning from sin.
- 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. When the leader says, "Charge," the students look for the reference in their Bibles. When the reference is found, students stand and read it.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Impromptu Retelling
Scripture: Exodus 20:3; Judges 6:1-32
Instructions: After Scripture has been read, students perform roles by pantomiming actions and repeating lines from the reading. Leader prompts students as needed. (Scene 1: People of Israel, Midianites, & Prophet; Scene 2: Angel of the Lord & Gideon; Scene 3: Gideon & the servants; Scene 4: Men of the town & Joash)
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Popcorn
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. The leader asks a question and students that want to answer the question "pop" up, share their answer, and then sit down. Set a limit of pops per person.
Questions:
- The Israelites had rest for forty years and then they again did evil in the sight of the Lord. The Lord gave them into the hand of what nation for seven years? (Midian)
 - What did Midian do to Israel? (Devoured their food, plants and animals)
 - Because of Midian the Israelites did what in the mountains? (Made dens, caves, and strongholds)
 - When Israel cried out to the Lord for help, what did the Lord do? (Sent a prophet)
 - The prophet had a message from God, "You have not *blank* my voice." (Obeyed)
 - What commandment had the Israelites disobeyed? ("You shall have no other gods before me.")
 - Why was Gideon beating wheat in the winepress? (To hide it from the Midianites)
 - What food did Gideon prepare for the angel of the Lord? (Meat, broth, unleavened cakes)
 - What did the angel of the Lord do to the food? (Touched it with his staff and it caught fire)
 - When Gideon realized that he had seen the angel of the Lord, what did he build? (An altar)
 - The symbol for Baal was the bull. What did the angel of the Lord tell Gideon to do with his father's bull? (Pull down the altar of Baal)
 - What was Gideon to do with the second bull & the wood of the Asherah? (Offer it as a burnt offering)
 - Gideon obeyed God, but because he was afraid he did it when? (At night)
 - What did the men of town want to do to Gideon when they found what he had done? (Kill him)

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- Joash, Gideon's father, said to the men about Baal, "If he is a blank, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down." (god)
- After this, Gideon was called Jerubbaal, which means, "Let blank contend against him." (Baal)

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: Omnipotent, Omniscient, Judge, etc.)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: The Israelites were given into the hand of Midian because they had not obeyed God to worship Him only. The Israelites worshiped Baal instead of God. The Israelites needed to repent, to turn from their sin.

Materials: White board with markers

Strategy: Body Motions

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

Question: What is repentance?

Answer: Repentance is turning from sin.

Verse: "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" Romans 6:1-2

Students read the passage in unison a few times. Exaggerated body motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students read the passage a few times using words and motions. Students then repeat the passage using motions and words from memory, without looking at the words.

Bible Craft Materials: Markers, paper, sample project

As time allows Activity: Cartoon Strip

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students fold a piece of paper three times so that when they open it there are eight squares. Have students draw one or more cartoons of someone repenting, turning from sin. Example: Stealing candy, returning the candy, asking forgiveness...

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