

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Ninety-five: Abimelech's Conspiracy

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:15; Judges 9:1-24; Romans 6:23
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation
Learning Objectives: (1) Abimelech murdered his brothers. (2) Murder is against God's law. (3) Shechem made Abimelech king. (4) God sent an evil spirit between Shechem and Abimelech so the blood of the murdered brothers would be upon Abimelech and Shechem. (5) The process of sanctification is not complete until the day of Jesus Christ.
- 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: Character Reading
Scripture: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:15; Judges 9:1-24; Romans 6:23
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Make sure that students have 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: Abimelech, Shechem Leaders, Jotham, narrators
- 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, etc. To keep students focused, leader should change the hand action required for each question.
Questions:
- What was Jerubbaal's other name? (Gideon)
 - Who was Abimelech? (Son of Gideon)
 - How many sons did Gideon have? (70)
 - The leaders of Shechem gave Abimelech 70 pieces of silver. What did Abimelech do with the silver? (Hired worthless and reckless fellows)
 - Abimelech killed all of his brothers except one. Who escaped? (Jotham, the youngest)
 - According to Genesis, why is murder wrong? (Man is made in the image of God.)
 - What is the sixth commandment? (You shall not murder.)
 - The leaders of Shechem made Abimelech what? (King)
 - In Jotham's fable, to what was Abimelech compared? (A bramble)
 - A bramble is a type of thorn bush. How does the bramble compare to an olive tree, fig tree, and grape vine? (The bramble does not produce fruit; it is comparatively worthless.)
 - Jotham reminded the leaders of Shechem that his father, Gideon, had done what? (Fought and risked his life to deliver them from the hand of Midian)
 - Jotham said that Shechem should rejoice in Abimelech if they had acted in good blank and blank. (Faith, integrity)
 - If Shechem had not acted in good faith and integrity, Jotham said fire should come out to blank Shechem and Abimelech? (Devour)
 - Who sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem? (God)

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- God sent the evil spirit so that the blank of the 70 would be laid on Abimelech and Shechem. (Blood)
- What are the wages of sin? (Death)

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: Just, Judge, Law maker, etc.)

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

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Transitional Thought: Abimelech sinned against the law of God when he murdered his brothers. Next lesson we will find out what happened to Abimelech. All people sin. Those that have faith in Jesus Christ still sin. God works in their lives to make them holy, but they will not be completely free of sin until they go to be with Christ.

Materials: Bean bag, white board with the following written on it:

Question: Is the process of sanctification ever complete in this life?

Answer: No. It is certain and continual, but is complete only in heaven.

Verse: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

Strategy: Bean Bag Round Robin

Instructions: Leader asks the question and then throws the bean bag to someone to answer the question. That person then throws the bean bag to someone else who says the verse. The next person to get the bean bag asks the question and the round starts over. At first, students may read the question, answer, and verse from the board. After a few rounds, the board should be removed so the question, answer, and verse are quoted from memory.

Bible Craft Materials: Heavy paper, scissors, markers, pins, tape, sample project

As time allows Activity: Work in Progress! Button

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students make a button that says, "Work in Progress! Philippians 1:6." Allow students to decide and cut out the shape of their button and encourage them to decorate it after they have written the words. When students are finished, tape a pin onto the back. Discuss God's work to sanctify (make holy) His children and the fact that this work is ongoing throughout life.

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