

Bible Lessons for Children
Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Ninety-six: Abimelech's Downfall

Overview	<p><u>Bible Facts & Songs:</u> Bible Drill <u>Bible Reading & Discussion:</u> Judges 9:22-57; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Romans 12:19 <u>Bible Memory & Craft:</u> Questions about Salvation Review <u>Learning Objectives:</u> (1) God returned the evil of Abimelech and Shechem “on their heads.” (2) Abimelech and the leaders of Schechem died. (3) Vengeance belongs to the Lord; He will repay. (4) Election, salvation, regeneration, justification, and sanctification belong to the Lord; they are the work of God.</p>
Opening	<p>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.</p>
Bible Facts 5-10 minutes	<p><u>Materials:</u> Bibles for students to use <u>Strategies:</u> Bible Drill <u>Instructions:</u> 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.</p>
Bible Reading 15 minutes	<p><u>Materials:</u> Bibles for students to use <u>Strategies:</u> Character Reading <u>Scripture:</u> Judges 9:22-57; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Romans 12:19 <u>Instructions:</u> 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: Gaal, messengers, Zebul, Abimelech, narrators</p>
Bible Discussion 10 minutes	<p><u>Materials:</u> Word poster #1 <u>Strategy:</u> Clothes Clues <u>Instructions:</u> Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Clothes clues are written on small pieces of paper, folded, and placed into a container. A clue is pulled out and read aloud. Only those that fit the clue can share. Examples: wearing black shoes, wearing red, wearing a watch, wearing NO hair accessory... <u>Questions:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In the last lesson, what great sin had Abimelech done? (Killed his 70 brothers)➤ Jotham, his youngest brother escaped. What did Jotham say should devour Abimelech and Shechem if they had NOT dealt in good faith and integrity? (Fire)➤ Who sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem? (God)➤ God sent the evil spirit so that the <u>blank</u> of the 70 would be laid on Abimelech and Shechem. (Blood)➤ Gaal stirred up Shechem against Abimelech. When Abimelech heard of it, he went up against Schechem and they fought. How did Abimelech destroy the Tower of Shechem and the people in it? (With fire)➤ When Abimelech started to set on fire the tower at Thebez, what happened to him? (His skull was crushed by a millstone that a woman threw down upon him.)➤ Abimelech did not want it said that a woman had killed him; so he told his <u>blank</u> to kill him with the sword. (Armor-bearer)➤ “Thus <u>blank</u> returned the evil of Abimelech which he committed against his father in killing his 70 brothers.” (God)➤ “And <u>blank</u> also made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads.” (God)</p>

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- Who said "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."? (The Lord)

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, Free 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, In control, Judge, etc.)

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

Note to Instructor: For the next few lessons students will review the 13 Questions about Salvation. Game cards that are made during this lesson will be used to play a game, and should be saved to play review games during upcoming lessons.

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: God returned the evil of Abimelech and Shechem and they died. Vengeance belongs to the Lord; he will repay evil. Election, salvation, regeneration, justification, and sanctification also belong to the Lord. They are the work of God.

Bible Craft Materials: Index cards and pencils

As time allows Activity: Questions Game Cards

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student index cards. Write a question on one index card, its answer on another card, and its verse on another card. Continue this process until all questions, answers, and verses to be reviewed have been written. Backs of index cards must remain blank.

Activity Materials: Question, answer, and verse game cards

Strategy: Beat the Clock

Instructions: Have students sit around a table or in a circle on the floor. (Before the game begins, decide what Game Cards will be used: questions, answers, and verses; just questions and answers; just answers and verses; or just questions and verses. This will determine what makes "a match.") Players are given cards that have been shuffled. Timekeeper tells players the pre-determined amount of time that players will have. When the timekeeper says, "Go," players begin finding and laying out matches as quickly as possible before the timekeeper says, "Stop." The player with the most correct matches wins. Have players "prove" their matches by reading them aloud.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.

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Question: What is the covenant of grace?

Answer: It is an eternal agreement within the Trinity to save certain persons and to provide all the means for their salvation.
Verse: "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." Romans 11:27

Question: What is election?

Answer: It is God's choice of certain sinners for salvation.

Verse: "Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him..." Ephesians 1:4

Question: How does God save the elect?

Answer: God saves the elect by the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ.

Verse: "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

Question: Being the Son of God, why did Christ become man?

Answer: Christ became man to fulfill the will of God the Father.

Verse: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me." John 6:38

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

Question: How did Christ conquer death?

Answer: When Christ resurrected from the dead he overcame the power of death.

Verse: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Romans 6:9

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

Question: What is justification?

Answer: Justification is the act of God counting a person righteous because God has accepted Christ's righteousness in place of the person's unrighteousness.

Verse: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...to be received by faith." Romans 3:23-25

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

Question: What is sanctification?

Answer: It is the act of God making his people holy in heart and conduct.

Verse: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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