

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Ninety-seven: Jephthah Introduced

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Songs about the Bible and the Judges
Bible Reading & Discussion: Exodus 20:1-6; Judges 10:1-17; 11:1-11
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation Review
Learning Objectives: (1) Israel broke the first two commandments; they served other gods. (2) God sold Israel to the Philistines and the Ammonites to be oppressed. (3) When Israel put away the foreign gods, God became impatient over their misery. (4) Jephthah acknowledged that the Lord would have to give the Ammonites to him. (5) Salvation results in repentance.
- 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: Missing Word Reading
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-6; Judges 10:1-17; 11:1-11
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Make sure that students have the same Bible translation as the leader. Students fill in the next word whenever leader pauses. Leader should mark the passage to pause before the following words: God, Lord, gods.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Number cards, Word poster #1
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:
- What is the first commandment? (You shall have no other gods before me.)
 - What is the second commandment? (You shall not make for yourself a carved image; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.)
 - God said that He visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children of those who "blank me." (Hate)
 - God also said that He shows steadfast love to those "who blank me and keep my blank." (Love, commandments)
 - After Abimelech, Tola, and then Jair judged Israel, what did Israel do? (Evil, served other gods)
 - Israel "forsook the Lord and did blank serve him." (Not)
 - God sold Israel into the hand of the Philistines and the hand of the Ammonites who crushed and oppressed Israel for how many years? (18)
 - When Israel cried out to the Lord, He reminded them of all the enemies from whom He had already saved them. Then God said, "Go and cry out to the blank whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress." (gods)
 - What did the people of Israel put away before God became impatient over their misery? (The foreign gods)
 - Jephthah was a blank warrior. (Mighty)
 - When Jephthah was asked to be the leader in the fight against the Ammonites, Jephthah said, "If you bring me home again to fight with the Ammonites, and the blank gives them over to me, I will be your head." (Lord)
 - The elders replied, "The blank will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say." (Lord)

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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, Law maker, immutable/unchangeable, 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. Use game cards that were made during the last lesson to play the game and save the cards to be used to play review games during upcoming lessons.

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: Israel forsook the Lord so He sold them into oppression. When the people of Israel put away their foreign gods then the Lord “became impatient over” their misery. The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is salvation from those wages through faith in Jesus. The result is repentance/putting away/turning from sin.

Materials: Question, answer, and verse game cards

Strategy: Go Fish

Instructions: (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.”) Shuffle cards. Deal 7 cards to each player. Place the left over cards in the center of the table face down. Each player picks up his/her hand and looks for matches. Matches are laid down face up for all to see. The player to the right of the dealer begins by asking any one player whether s/he has a card needed to make a match to one of the cards in his/her hand. The question must be specific, such as “Name, do you have the verse that answers the question ‘Who is God?’” or “Name, do you have the question that goes with the answer ‘God is everywhere?’” If the player has the card, it must be given to the player requesting it. If the player does not have the card, s/he says “Go Fish” and the player draws a card from the pile in the center. Whenever a player gets a match, the match is laid down face up for all to see. Have players “prove” their matches by reading them aloud. The first player to lay down all cards in his/her hand wins.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, pencils, markers, stapler, tape, sample project

As time allows Activity: Flap Book

Note: This project will take a few lessons to complete. Collect the unfinished books for completion during future lessons.

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student four sheets of paper. Have students stack the paper together, fold it in half, and staple the fold to make a booklet. Have students neatly write one question at the top of each page. Have students write the answer and verse farther down the page. Tape a smaller piece of paper over the answer and verse to make a flap. (Student should see the question, but the answer and verse should be covered by the flap that can be lifted to disclose them.) Have students proceed until the 13 salvation questions, answers, and verses are included in the book. Have students decorate the cover, page borders, flaps, etc.

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." I 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