

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson Ninety-eight: Jephthah Delivers Israel

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Bible Drill
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 11:11-29, 32-33; 12:7
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Salvation Review
Learning Objectives: (1) 300 years after Israel moved into the land, the Ammonites came to fight Israel for the land. (2) It was the Lord, the God of Israel that had defeated and dispossessed the Amorites so that Israel took possession of the land. (3) The Spirit of the Lord was upon Jephthah and the Lord gave the Ammonites into his hand. (4) Election, salvation, regeneration, justification, and sanctification belong to the Lord; they are the work of 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: 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: Popcorn Reading
Scripture: Judges 11:11-29, 32-33; 12:7
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: Bean bag, music, word poster #1
10 minutes Strategy: Hot Potato
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. A bean bag is passed around the circle while music is played. When the music stops, the person holding the object answers the question.
Questions:
- When Jephthah went with the elders, he spoke the words before the blank at Mizpah. (Lord)
 - Jephthah sent messengers to ask the king of the Ammonites why he had come to fight. The king said, "Because Israel on coming up from blank took away my land..." (Egypt)
 - Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites to tell the story of Israel coming into the land. "And the blank, the blank of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel..." (Lord, God)
 - Who had dispossessed the Amorites? (The Lord, the God of Israel)
 - The king of the Ammonites was asked, "Will you not possess what Chemosh your blank gives you to possess? And all that the Lord our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess." (god)
 - How many years had it been since Israel came into the land? (300)
 - Jephthah said, "The Lord, the blank, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon." (Judge)
 - Did the king of the Ammonites listen to Jephthah? (No)
 - "The blank of the Lord was upon Jephthah." (Spirit)
 - Jephthah fought against the Ammonites, "and the blank gave them into his hand." (Lord)
 - How many years did Jephthah judge before he died and was buried? (6 years)

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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: In control, Providence, Deliverer, Victory giver, 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 a past lesson to play the game and save the cards to be used to play review games during upcoming lessons.

Bible Memory Transitional Thought: It was the Lord, the God of Israel that had defeated and dispossessed Israel's enemies in the past. It was the Spirit of the Lord that was upon Jephthah and it was the Lord, the God of Israel that defeated the Ammonites. Israel's salvation was the work of God. A sinner's salvation from the penalty of sin is also the work of God through faith in the work of Jesus Christ.

Materials: Question, answer, and verse game cards

Strategy: Hand Out

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 all cards to players. Each player picks up his/her hand and looks for matches. Matches are laid down face up for all to see. The first player chooses a card from the hand of the player to his/her right. The hand is held up with the back of the cards facing the player – the player does not know what card s/he is choosing. 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. Play continues in this manner around the circle several times. The first player to lay down all cards in his/her hand wins.

Bible Craft Materials: Unfinished flap books from previous lesson, pencils, markers, sample project

As time allows Activity: Flap Book Project

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 his/her unfinished flap book from the previous lesson. (New students: Give 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