

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 16:28-34; 1 Kings 17:1-6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will provide.

Materials: Goldfish crackers / loaf of bread, pitcher of water, and cups

Memory Verse: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Lesson Summary

At this time in the history of Israel, Ahab, the son of Omri, began to reign. He led the children of Israel into worship of the false god Baal. Wicked Ahab did more to provoke the Lord to anger than any of the other kings before him. God sent the prophet Elijah to inform Ahab of the punishment for all of his wickedness. There would be no rain in the land until God said. Afterward, the Lord told Elijah to go hide by the brook Cherith. God would send ravens to feed him, and he could drink from the brook. Elijah did as the Lord commanded. He went and lived by the brook. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and also bread and meat in the evening. Elijah got water to drink from the brook. Even though there was a drought in the land, Elijah's needs were taken care of. Just like Elijah, when we obey the Lord, God will provide.

Bible Point:
God
will
provide.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids to act out the story of Elijah being fed by the ravens. Let the kids take turns being "Elijah" and have the other students be the "ravens." The ravens will "fly" to Elijah with a cracker or a pinch of bread. As they give their food to Elijah they will say the Bible Point: "God will provide." As an option you can have water for Elijah if he gets thirsty.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God get angry with Ahab?
2. What punishment did God send to Ahab and the Israelites?
3. How did God provide for Elijah's needs?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 17:7-16

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God does the impossible.

Materials: Small jar with oil or water, two small bowls, flour for one bowl, spoon for stirring

Memory Verse: "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

Lesson Summary

The brook where Elijah was hiding had dried up because there had been no rain in the land. God commanded Elijah to leave that place and go to the city Zarephath. A widow woman was going to be the source of God's provision for Elijah just as the ravens had been for him at the brook. Again, Elijah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to the city. As he entered the gate of the city, a widow was gathering sticks. Elijah called out to her and asked her for a drink. As she was going to get him something to drink, Elijah also asked her for some bread to eat. She replied that she had only enough flour and oil to make one last meal for herself and her son. After that, she figured that she and her son would die for lack of food. But Elijah told her not to be afraid, asking her first to make him a small cake, and then to make one for herself and her son. Elijah said that the LORD God of Israel would make her flour and her jar of oil to last, until the LORD would send rain again. The widow did as Elijah instructed her. Because of her faith and obedience, her little bit of flour and small amount of oil did not run out. God did the impossible and provided for them all.

Bible Point:
God
does the
impossible.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Demonstrate to the class how ingredients are normally used up when baking. Pour the small amount of oil/water and flour into one of the bowls. Stir the ingredients. Explain that, under normal circumstances, once the items are used, they are gone. Talk about the miracle that God performed by having the flour and oil last continuously, even after it was used.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did Elijah leave the brook? Where did God tell him to go?
2. What did Elijah ask the widow woman when he first saw her?
3. How did God reward the widow woman for taking care of God's servant?

Faith-N-Focus

Theme: Bible Heroes

Lesson: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Lesson Text: 1 Kings 18:17-46

January 21, 2024

for Young Disciples

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 18:1-46

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that the Lord is the true God.

Materials: Paper, markers or crayons

Memory Verse: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:4-5).

Lesson Summary

After three years of no rain, God sent Elijah to show himself to Ahab. Elijah told Ahab to gather all the Israelites and the prophets of Baal together on Mount Carmel to test who the true God was. He questioned the people about their trying to serve God and Baal (1 Kings 18:21). Elijah challenged the 450 false prophets to build an altar, and whichever god answered by fire was the true god. Even after crying out, dancing around, and cutting themselves, the prophets of Baal did not hear one sound from their god. Elijah then repaired the altar of the LORD with twelve stones to represent the twelve sons of Jacob, and he dug a deep trench around the altar. He poured water upon the altar three times so that the water filled up the trench. Elijah then called on the name of the LORD, asking Him to hear his prayer, so that the people would know that the Lord is God and would turn back to Him. The fire of the LORD fell on the altar, consuming the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water in the trench. When the people saw it, they proclaimed that the LORD is the God! Elijah told Ahab to get ready for rain. At first, there was only a small cloud; but then God sent a great rain!

Bible Point:

The LORD is the true God.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the students to draw different scenes from the Bible story. Examples: Elijah confronting Ahab; Elijah gathering the Israelites; the prophets of Baal and their altar; Elijah preparing his altar; God sending down fire on altar; Elijah on Mt. Carmel; the raincloud; the great rain. Then have them retell the story with their pictures arranging them in chronological order.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How long had it been since it rained?
2. What was the test to determine who the real God was?
3. Did it matter that there were 450 prophets against 1 prophet?
4. Whose God proved that He was the true God?
5. Who caused it to rain?



Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9-21, 2 Kings 2:1-12

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how the LORD takes up Elijah and blesses Elisha.

Materials: none

Memory Verse: "The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust him shall be desolate" (Psalm 34:22).

Lesson Summary

God showed Elijah that he was to anoint Elisha to be the next prophet. When the time came for the LORD to take Elijah up into heaven, Elisha went with Elijah and left Gilgal. Elijah told Elisha to stay because the LORD had sent Elijah to Bethel. But Elisha did not want to leave Elijah. Prophets from Bethel told Elisha that God was going to take Elijah today. From there, Elijah went to Jericho. Again Elisha would not leave him. Prophets from each place warned Elisha that God was going to take Elijah today. God then sent Elijah to Jordan. Elijah hit the water with his coat, and the two men walked over on dry ground. Elijah then asked Elisha, "What do you want from me, before I am taken away?" Elisha said that he would want a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah told him it would be granted if he saw him taken up. As the two of them walked together, there appeared a chariot of fire with horses of fire. Elijah went up into heaven by a whirlwind, and Elisha saw it. God then used Elisha and blessed him with His Spirit.

Bible Point:
God
blesses
US.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Let the students think of something that God has blessed them with, but don't tell what it is. Have them take turns playing a "20 Questions" game. The class will try to guess what one child's blessing is by asking questions. The child answers with a simple "yes" or "no." For example: Is it a toy? Is it something to eat? Can you ride it? Is it alive?

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What blessings has God given you?
2. If you could ask God for just one thing, for what would you ask Him?
3. What blessing did Elisha ask of Elijah?
4. How was Elijah taken up to heaven?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 1:1-17; John 14:15

Lesson Objective: The student will learn why we should obey God.

Materials: Bible, paper, colored markers, stapler, glue, or yarn

Memory Verse: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Lesson Summary

God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to Nineveh. Since Nineveh was a very bad city, Jonah did not want to go there, not even for a visit. But God was asking Jonah to go and preach to the people of the city about the terrible way they were living. Instead of doing what God asked, Jonah decided to disobey God and go his own way. Jonah went down to Joppa where he could get on a ship headed to Tarshish. Jonah paid the fee and purchased a ticket to go to Tarshish which was the opposite direction of Nineveh. As the ship set sail, the Lord sent a violent storm on the sea. The ship began rocking back and forth and was about to break. The sailors were terrified and began to pray to their gods. They threw the food and supplies into the water to lighten the load. What was Jonah doing? He was in the lower level of the ship sound asleep. The sailors woke him up and asked him to pray to his god. Jonah explained to the crew that he worshipped the God who created the sea and land. The men were very scared when they realized Jonah was running away "from the presence of the Lord" (Jonah 1:3). Jonah knew he had disobeyed God's commands and this storm was his own fault. If Jonah had not disobeyed God, none of this would have happened.

Bible Point:
**I will
obey God.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Travel Journal: Sailors often kept a journal in which they described their voyages and the weather. Make a travel log. Staple, glue, or tie several pieces of paper together to make a booklet. Allow students to write about the trip to Tarshish from Jonah's perspective. Decorate the cover with colored markers. Use this journal throughout the entire study of Jonah to record personal reflections on each lesson.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
2. What did Jonah decide to do?
3. What happened when Jonah got on the ship going to Tarshish?
4. Was Jonah afraid?
5. Do you think there would have been a storm if Jonah had gone straight to Nineveh like God asked him to?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 1:1 - 2:9; John 3:16

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that salvation comes from the Lord.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, colored markers, green crepe paper or yarn, can of sardines.

Memory Verse: ". . . Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9b).

Lesson Summary

When Jonah tried to run away, God sent a great storm on the sea. The sailors tried to row against the storm but it was too strong. Something had to be done. The crew cast lots to see who caused the storm. The lot fell on Jonah. After Jonah confessed of his guilt, the men threw him overboard into the sea. But God had a plan for saving Jonah from the raging waters. God sent a huge fish up from the deep to swallow Jonah in one big gulp. Inside the fish's stomach, Jonah was safe. Even though the conditions inside the whale were nothing like a nice hotel, Jonah had time to think about his actions, to talk with God, to repent, and to praise God for saving him. Just as Jonah knew that the storm was no accident, he also knew that whales don't usually swallow men whole. This was all God's plan for turning Jonah around so he could see things God's way. Now, Jonah realized that God is merciful and that "salvation is of the Lord."

Bible Point:
**Jesus is
my Savior!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Inside the Whale: Hang pieces of green crepe paper or yarn along the front edge of a table to create the belly of the whale. After you tell the Bible story, invite the children to sit underneath the table as you discuss the questions below. You may also open a can of sardines for the children to smell.

Where is Jonah? Cut a piece of paper into the shape of a whale for each child. Have each student to draw what it would be like inside of a fish's stomach. They should also draw Jonah as he was praying to God.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did it look like in the belly of the whale?
2. How did it smell?
3. What did it feel like?
4. What was Jonah thinking while he was in the fish's belly?
5. What did Jonah do while he was inside the whale?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 2:10 - 3:10; Mark 16:15

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that each of us should share God's Word with others.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils, robes, towels, sheets, sandals, toy microphone

Memory Verse: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Lesson Summary

After the great fish spit Jonah out on dry ground, the Lord spoke to Jonah again. God said the same thing as before, "Arise, go unto Nineveh that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee" (Jonah 3:2). This time, Jonah obeyed God. Jonah had learned his lesson the hard way. Now he would do exactly as God commanded. Jonah would not choose where to go or what to say. He traveled to Nineveh and began preaching as soon as he entered the gate of the big city. He preached, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4). This was not an easy message to preach. It was hard for Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh about God's judgment. But God would forgive them if they would stop sinning. Each one of us must tell others about God's salvation plan. God's Word is Good News!

Bible Point:
**I will
tell the
Good News!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

News Flash: Man preaches on the city street corner.

Assist the students in writing a script for today's story from a news reporter's perspective. Have the reporter to interview Jonah about what he is preaching and several townspeople about what is happening in their city. Allow the students to act out the script as a play.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did God tell Jonah to do?
2. Did Jonah obey God?
3. Where did he go?
4. What did he say?
5. Are you willing to tell your family and friends about the Good News of salvation? Who will you tell?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; 1 John 1:6-10; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the meaning of true repentance.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, pencils, colored markers, travel journals

Memory Verse: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Lesson Summary

When Jonah reached the city gate of Nineveh, he immediately began to tell the people that God would judge the city in 40 days. If they continued to live wickedly, God would destroy the whole city. The people of Nineveh believed Jonah's message. Even the king of Nineveh felt sorry for the way he had been living. Every person, from the richest king to the poorest man, repented of their sins. Repenting is when someone realizes that he is a sinner (someone who disobeys God's laws) and that he must make a change in the way he is living. To show their true repentance, all of the citizens of Nineveh took off their nice clothes and put on scratchy, itchy clothes called sackcloth. Every time the cloth would scratch their skin, it would remind them not to do bad things anymore. They even sprinkled ashes (bits of burnt wood) on top of their heads to show they were sorry for their sins. The people spent time in prayer asking God for forgiveness. "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:10). God forgave their sins because He does not want any to "perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Bible Point:
**Repent
and
believe!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Charades: On small pieces of paper, write key words from the Bible story such as: dirty, clean, scratchy, soft, bad, good, hate, love, forgive, destroy, etc. Allow one student at a time to choose a paper and make gestures and actions to demonstrate the word. The other students must guess the word from the actions.

Travel Journal: Allow the students to write about the response of the people of Nineveh to Jonah's preaching.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What message did Jonah preach to Nineveh?
2. Did the people of Nineveh listen and believe?
3. How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message?
4. Have you repented of your sins and started living God's way?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Jonah 4:1-11; John 13:34-35; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn why we should love others.

Materials: Bible, travel journals, colored markers, pencils, small Styrofoam cups, dirt, flower or vegetable seeds, water

Memory Verse: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Lesson Summary

Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh and the entire city repented. What a great revival! Jonah should have been happy, but instead he went out to watch what would happen to Nineveh. He waited to see how God would destroy them. God saw that the people were truly sorry for their wicked ways so He had compassion on them and did not destroy their city. Jonah became angry. He felt betrayed. He preached that the city would be destroyed but God forgave them instead. While Jonah sat and pouted, God caused a vine to grow up over his head to shade him from the sun. Jonah felt some relief under the cool shade. Then a little worm crawled out and ate a hole through the plant causing it to shrivel and die. Jonah became angry again. What was God doing? The Lord looked down at Jonah and said, ". . . Thou hast had pity on the gourd. . . And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand (120,000) persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand. . ." (Jonah 4:10-11). If Jonah felt sorry for a plant which died, how much worse would God feel for one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know right from wrong (2 Peter 3:9)? If God loves everyone and wants them to repent and be forgiven, shouldn't we love them too?

Bible Point:
**Love
one
another.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Travel Journal: Complete the travel journal from Jonah's perspective describing the plant, the worm, and the city of Nineveh.

Seeds of Love: Give each child a few flower or vegetable seeds to plant in a Styrofoam cup of dirt. On the cup, write: "Let Love Grow." As the students tend the growing plant, they will be reminded of Jonah and the vine.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What happened when Jonah preached to Nineveh?
2. Was Jonah happy about what happened?
3. What did Jonah seem to care most about?
4. What does God care about?
5. What does God want us to care about?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 1:1-21

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that choosing to honor God will give them a holy reputation.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Proverbs 20:11).

Lesson Summary

When Daniel and his three friends were in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to a man named Ashpenaz. He wanted Ashpenaz to go to the young men who had been taken as prisoners from Judah and look for those who were good looking, smart and were quick learners. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the best of these young men to work for him in his kingdom. Ashpenaz chose Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah along with many other young men who were good looking, smart and quick learners. The king didn't want them to have their Jewish names anymore so he renamed Daniel and his three friends. Their Babylonian names were Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king took good care of all these men. He gave the young men delicious meals from his table. They were allowed to eat the rich, delicious foods that the king liked to eat. They could also drink the wine that he drank. Because he was a Jew, Daniel knew that he could not eat that food. Daniel wanted to obey God and eat the foods that God said he could eat. The Babylonians ate meat from pigs and Jewish people were not allowed to eat that meat. There were other foods that the Babylonians ate that Daniel knew he should not eat, especially if the food had been offered to idols. Daniel would not sin against God by eating food that God did not want him to eat. It took courage for him to take a stand to go and speak to Ashpenaz about his decision. This decision could have cost him his life but God had worked in Ashpenaz's heart and caused him to like Daniel. Ashpenaz put a man named Melzar in charge of Daniel. Daniel asked Melzar if he could take a test. He asked if he and his three friends could eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. If at the end of the ten days they looked worse than those who were eating the king's food, then he could punish him however he wanted. Melzar agreed to the test. At the end of the ten days, the Bible says that Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than those who were eating the king's food. Since Daniel and his friends passed the test, they didn't have to eat the king's food and were allowed to obey God.

**Bible
Point:**
**God gives us strength
to live a holy life**



Ideas to Illuminate

Bring the children a snack, maybe fruit and then explain how their reputation reflects whether they have good fruit or bad.

Questions for Class Discussion:

- 1) "In Daniels time", certain foods were considered unclean and forbidden. What kind of things do we have in our life today that might be considered unclean and forbidden?
- 2) How can you have a pure/holy reputation in school or around family and friends?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 3:10-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God gives them the courage and the encouragement they need even during hard times, peer pressures, and when they are being mistreated (persecution).

Materials: Bible, popcorn or something light that can be tossed (cotton balls, etc.)

Memory Verse: "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

Lesson Summary

Now Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, friends of Daniel, were acting as administrators over the province of Babylon when King Nebuchadnezzar decided to make a golden image that was about 9 stories tall. He had a ceremony announcing that everyone must bow down and worship the image when they hear the music being played. If they didn't, they were to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would only bow down to the one and only real God (our God). Because they wouldn't bow down, the King had his soldiers to make the furnace hotter, then bind them and throw the three men into the furnace. It was so hot that it even burned up the soldiers. Then the King saw that there were not 3 but 4 men walking around, and they were loose. The fourth man's image was like the son of God. When he let them out, the three men were not burned. They did not even smell like smoke. King Nebuchadnezzar knew that the God that they served was the true and living God.

**Bible
Point:**
**God is with
His children.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids to pair up and then stand across from one another (a little far). With one piece of popcorn and using only one hand, have them to toss the popcorn back and forth. Each time they toss, have them step a little closer. The closer they get the easier it becomes. Compare this to how the closer we get to God the easier it is to serve and the easier it is to trust that He will protect us.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When were the people supposed to worship the golden image?
2. What would happen if someone didn't worship/bow down to the image?
3. How can we find the courage we need to remain faithful to God during hard times, under peer pressure, or when someone mistreats us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 5:1, 4-6, 11-13, 16-17, 25-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God rewards us with many blessings when we honor Him.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

Lesson Summary

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego survived the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing vision. Daniel interpreted the vision for the king. He told him that he would live like a wild animal for many years unless (or until) he gave up his sinful life by acknowledging God as Lord of all. Just as Daniel said, the vision came true and he lived as a wild animal until he finally changed his ways. But sometime afterwards, his son, Belshazzar, became king. He did not honor God, nor humble himself. Instead, he did his best to fight against the Lord. He was having a great feast and in that same hour a man's hand appeared and starting writing on the wall. The King was afraid. He called for Daniel who then interpreted the writing. He interpreted it to say, "The king's reign is at an end and his kingdom will be given away." Then Daniel was rewarded with clothing and jewels; and he was made the third ruler in the kingdom. That night King Belshazzar was slain, and then Darius became King. It pleased Darius to set Daniel as a ruler under him.

Bible Points
God rewards those who honor Him



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the children each write down a prayer. Their prayer should be one of honoring. Let them know that all good things come from God, and He alone is worthy of our praise.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the king ask Daniel to come to him?
2. What did the writing on the wall say?
3. How and why was Daniel rewarded?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Daniel 6:6-24

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that by having faith in God all things are possible.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Lesson Summary

Many of the king's subjects were upset by the favor Daniel received. Moreover, many people in the kingdom were already jealous of Daniel because of his high position within the kingdom, as he was only a captive from Judah. However, the people of King Darius' knew they couldn't find any reasons for the king to fire Daniel. So they came up with a plan that would have Daniel disobey the king by making a law against his god. They went to king Darius and said, "O great king, you are so wonderful that no one should pray to anyone but you." The king liked the idea. So if anyone was caught praying to any god other than the king, he was to be thrown into the lions' den for 30 days. They knew that Daniel would still pray to his god, so they spied on him. Then they went and told the king that Daniel disobeyed, knowing the king had to honor his word. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. The king liked Daniel and was displeased with what he had to do; so he fasted all night. The next day, he went to check on Daniel and found that Daniel's God had shut the lions' mouths. Daniel was released, but the men that tricked the king were thrown in the den along with their families.

**Bible
Point**
**With God all
things are possible**



Ideas to Illuminate:

By Faith (Game)

Write each of the clues shown below on index cards. Divide the class into two teams. Following the rules of Charades, have the kids to act out the situations shown below. Tell the kids that all of the answers are about events in the Bible that took great faith. (All of these examples of faith can be found in Hebrews chapter 11.)

1. The walls of Jericho fell down
2. David killed the giant Goliath
3. Daniel survived the den of lions
4. Moses Parting the Red Sea

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did Daniel show he had faith in God after he heard the decree?
2. How did the evil men know that Daniel would not give up praying to God?