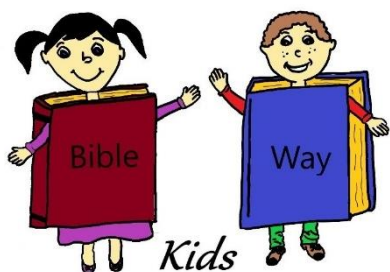




Soldier's in God's Army



Kids

A Bible-Way Kids curriculum compiled by:
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Soldier's in God's Army

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Soldiers in God's Army

These men and women were mighty in God. They served their God with honor and bravery. Let's learn how we can teach our children to be like them.

The dress for this series is a challenge for the women. Possibly green or khaki shirts and skirts. Boots? The men are a little easier, they could wear fatigues, or green shirts and pants.

The room décor is all in green also, possibly army camo. Tents could be used with canteens and anything army men would use.

You're in God's Army. Have fun!!!



Lesson One **Called into Service-Moses**

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Butcher paper or white paper, crayons, pencils

Prayer and Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:5 - 3 large black rectangles made in the shape of a traffic light. 3 red, 3 yellow, 3 green circles (that will fit in the traffic rectangle), tape, markers

Object Lesson: Colored glass $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water, clear glass $\frac{3}{4}$ full of 100% alcohol, cookie sheet, candle lighter, tongs, and a \$5 bill

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson One Called into Service-Moses

Scripture Text: Exodus 3

Memory Verse: Exodus 3:5 “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”



Welcome: Greet each child



Pre-session: (10 min.) Cover the table with the butcher paper or give each child a white piece of paper. Encourage the children to draw a picture of themselves in army gear. Ask questions like- If I were in the army, would I wear a hat? Would I want to work inside or outside? Would I carry my bible with me? What would I be trying to fight?



Prayer and Pledges: (5 min.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges.

Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” The Lord called Moses to be a deliverer for His people and follow Him. The Lord sent Moses and let him know that He would go with Him. I’m going to follow Jesus, aren’t you?



Memory Verse: (15 mins.)

Exodus 3:5 “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”

Separate the scripture into 3 parts and write it on a red, yellow, and green circle. Separate the scripture again into 3 parts that are not the same as the first and write it on the next set of circles. And do the same for the third set.- Discuss the scripture and have the children repeat it a couple of times with you. Separate them into 3 groups and put all the circles on the floor in the middle of the room. You can make it as easy or as hard as your age level allows. Then the group assigns 2 people to rush forward and try to assemble a traffic light. Basically the Lord said, “Stop, take off your shoes, this is a special place.” It might take several tries to get the right circles to complete the verse.



Lesson: (20 mins.) When Moses was a baby there was a horrible law in the land where he was born. It required all Israeli mothers to throw their newborn sons into the Nile River to be eaten by crocodiles. It was a terrible time. Moses was saved because his mother prepared him a boat made of reeds and put his sister to watch over him. He was found in his makeshift boat by the princess of Egypt. Although the princess of Egypt claimed him as her own, he was raised in his early years in an Israeli house hold. He learned Israeli law. He learned Israeli customs. Moses also learned about the Israeli God. He actually was raised by his own mother that loved him enough to build him a boat and allow the princess to claim him. See- Moses’ true mother was a slave.

As Moses grew older, he had to deal with differences in his two mothers (true mother and adopted mother) religions, customs, and laws. It weighed on Moses but there came a day when Moses had to decide in his heart. The One True God was drawing Moses even though he did not really understand why he did the

things he did. He committed an act of treason against the Egyptian princess and her people by killing a mean guard that was beating an Israelite.

Moses was then shunned from both peoples. He was in trouble with the Egyptians for killing a man and didn't fit in with the Israelites because he was not considered a slave like they were. Moses fled into the desert unto a land called Midian and there he sat down by a well. It was in the land of Midian that Moses met his wife, Zipporah, a shepherdess, and had a son. He stayed there and was happy for several years. He tended sheep for his father-in-law and one day he led the sheep to the back of the desert unto Mount Horeb. While there Moses noticed an odd sight. There was a bush on fire! Moses said unto himself, "I've got to check this out! Wow! Look at that!" As Moses got closer to get a real good look at this burning bush, the One True God spoke to him right out of the burning bush. "MOSES, MOSES." Moses didn't wonder who was being talked to. I mean that voice called his name and as far as he knew none of the sheep had the name Moses so he answered... "Here am I." He wasn't sure what was coming next. The voice came again from the burning bush, "Don't come any closer. Take off your shoes. The place where you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Moses then hid his face because he knew he had just come face to face with the God of his true mother. This was the God that she had told him about. This was the One who brought Noah from the flood. This was the God who made a covenant with Abraham. He was very humbled that this God would be speaking to him. That voice out of the burning bush gave him his marching orders. He was told he was to be the man that he would use to bring the Israelites out of slavery. Moses said, "How are the people going to believe that you sent me? Who should I say sent me?" The voice said unto Moses, "I AM THAT I AM has sent you! I'll go with you!"

Moses was called to be a leader and deliverer for the Israelites. He followed the orders of the One True God...the I AM. Through following the orders he was given when God spoke through the burning bush, his mother, father, sister, brother and his people were freed from slavery and brought into a new land!

Important Points:

1. Moses had a taste of both worlds (so to speak) and he chose to turn his back on the pleasures of Egypt and follow the laws of the God of his mother.

2. There were difficulties in both roles that Moses played in Egypt. He was an adopted prince to the Egyptians and a guy who got out of having to be a slave to the Israelites. He never really fit in to either society.
3. Moses knew he was an Israelite but never really knew the One True God before he had hard times in the desert. After being in the desert a while, God spoke to him in the burning bush. God used Moses as a leader.
4. You cannot serve God and serve the world. You cannot fit into both worlds. You need to decide to follow Jesus and follow the instructions He gave us in Acts 2:38. Forsake sin and be saved.



Object Lesson: (10 min.) Talk about how that the \$5 bill is a lot of money for a kid. You can discuss what all you can buy with \$5. It is useful. Dip the bill in the alcohol glass. Lay it in the bottom of the cookie sheet. Ask the kids what will happen after you set the bill on fire then set the bill on fire. The fire should go out after all the alcohol burns off. Hold up the unburned bill and show the kids. (The colored water glass is just in case the fire tries to get out of hand.) You can lead the kids in a discussion how that the bill wasn't changed by the fire just as the bush in the wilderness. Just as God doesn't change from day to day. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. You can give the \$5 away as a prize.



Lesson Two

Samson-Prisoner of War (P.O.W)

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Empty water bottles and 2-3 tennis balls

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: Paper cut into squares, cups, tape, construction paper hearts with verse written on it.

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: Empty toilet paper rolls, green construction paper, skin colored construction paper, green and brown tissue paper, liquid glue, small bowls, small paint brushes, markers, scissors, pattern from Resources

Extended Time Object Lesson: Box of Oatmeal, box of cereal, baseball, chapter book, baggie with two different toy people inside, dry erase board and dry erase markers

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Two

Samson-Prisoner of War (P.O.W)

Scripture Reference: Judges 13-16

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:1 “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments”



Welcome: Welcome each child with a smile; make special effort to welcome any new children.



Pre-session: Set up two or three “bowling lanes”. Give each child a turn to bowl.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 min) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “This is the Day, This is the Day” It’s a beautiful day to worship the Lord. Let us come together and worship the Lord with our giving. Pass around the offering plate or tin.



Memory Verse: (10 mins.) Proverbs 3:1- My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: Write each word of the verse on small pieces of paper and tape to a cup. Separate your class into two teams and have them unscramble the cups and put them in the correct order. Make a construction paper heart with the verse written on it for the kids to take home.



Craft: (15 mins.) “Soldiers” Give each child a toilet paper roll. Tear the tissue paper into small pieces and have the children glue to the roll. Use the paint brush in the glue and paint the roll- roll the toilet paper in the tissue paper pieces- hopefully this would be the less messy method. Cut a circle out of the skin colored paper for each child to be a face of the soldier. They will use the marker to draw their eyes, nose and smile. The green construction paper should be cut into strips for arms and to make the hat. Use the skin colored paper to make the hands.



Lesson: (20 mins.) Mr. Manoa and Mrs. Manoa couldn’t have a baby. One day an angel appeared to Mrs. Manoa and told her that she was going to have a baby. She was to have a son and he would be the one that the Lord would use to bring victory over the Philistines. The baby would have certain dietary restrictions and some rules attached to his life though- no eating certain foods, no haircuts, no wine, no touching dead things, and no marrying anyone but an Israelite. Does that sound harsh to you? Well, the Lord said that if he would follow those rules then He would use him to bring deliverance and he would be a great soldier. Mrs. Manoa named her baby Samson.

As Samson grew, the Lord moved on him to complete great feats. Samson became the strongest man who ever lived. He killed a large lion with his bare hands. He killed many, many Philistine warriors with a bone of a donkey, and when he was locked up pretending to wait to be killed- walked right out of the prison and the city and took the gates with him. He was mightily used of the Lord. Though his parents taught him all the rules that the Lord told him to follow, Samson was rebellious. He didn’t like being different than the other boys around

him but he did enjoy the strength that the Lord blessed him with. When Samson was old enough to marry, he ignored the pretty young ladies in Israel and demanded that he have a girl he saw in the Philistine camp.

Samson, at his wedding feast set up a riddle for the Philistines that attended. He made them a wager (gambled). The Philistines pressured his new wife for the answer and she told them the secret. She then went and told Samson what she did and he was very angry and killed the men that had pressured his wife. When he went back to see his new wife, his father in law had already given his wife away to another man. When Samson heard about it, he caught 300 foxes and tied their tails together and set them on fire. He put these fiery foxes loose in their food fields.

Samson was a very angry, selfish man who did whatever he wanted. He won many battles against the Philistines but he always wanted to be with them. He broke many of the rules that God required of him. The only rule that he hadn't broken yet was cutting his hair.

The Philistines were determined to kill Samson. They knew that he liked really pretty girls. So, they found a woman who would try to get the secret of his strength out of him. Delilah (the spy) worked on Samson and he thought it was funny. He would lie to her and she would try some of the methods he told her and he thought it was a big laugh. Samson, growing tired of the game, then broke more of the Lord's rules. He then told Delilah (the spy) that he had never had a haircut and that was where his great strength came from. She was sly and gave him some food and drink and sang to Samson until he fell asleep with his head in her lap. She called some men in and had them cut his hair. That was the last straw for the Lord. Samson called on the Lord to help him when the Philistines took him prisoner but the Lord would not hear.

Samson suffered many horrible things at the hands of his enemies. He had won so many victories that when he fell from grace- it was a long way down. The Philistines put out Samson's eyes and made him work as a horse grinding grain in the mill. They used him as great entertainment at their parties. After a while the Philistines forgot about Samson as he pushed the wheel for the mill grinding the wheat. As time went by, Samson had time to think of all the things his parents had taught him. He thought about the rules that God had placed on him. He contemplated how God used to use him to bring victories. Samson began to repent for all the things he had done.

It was a time of great celebration for the Philistines and they decided to bring out Samson to have a big laugh at Israel. They had a small boy go get him because they wanted everyone to know that he was as harmless as a cat. Samson could hear all the voices and learned that most all of the Philistines were in the same place. He asked the young boy to take him to the center of the room where the two main pillars are so that he could rest upon them. He acted weak but in his

heart he was talking to God. “I’m sorry, God, please use me again. Just one more time.” The bible said that when Samson pulled on the pillars the walls and ceilings collapsed killing more Philistines than Samson had ever killed altogether. Wow!

Important Points for Today:

1. Samson was born with a purpose. God had a plan for his life before he was ever born. So do you. God has a plan for you and just by being here today you are completing part of the plan He has for you.
2. Samson disobeyed God and God used him for a time but when Samson severed the last tie he had to his dedication to God, the Spirit of God was no longer with Samson. That is sad and very scary. Without God in our lives we have to do whatever the devil tells us to do. There is no choice when he is our slave master.
3. At the end of his life, Samson repented, in that repented state, God heard his prayer and used Samson to complete His purpose in Samson’s life. He used Samson, even though Samson died too, to kill a lot of the enemy and bring great victory to Israel.
4. Don’t wait until your life is almost over to repent! Listen to your parents! Listen to your Pastor! Follow the rules even when you may not like them or understand them. Allow God to use you! Acts 2:38 gives us the promise that if we repent, be baptized in Jesus Name, and receive the Holy Ghost we can be saved. That’s not the end though. We have to go forth and live a clean and holy life. In living that life, we will be a witness to those who are looking for help and change; they will only find that in the Lord. Let God use you to reach someone else and give the devil a black eye.



Extended Time Object Lesson: (15 mins.) Preparation: Place the props in a large gift bag. (Select five children to take any item they choose from the box and place on the table. Each time, call the child’s name and say: “What CHOICE are you going to make?”)

Each of you have selected or picked something to place on the table. This is called making a choice. There are lots of choices we must make in life. Some choices are easy, such as oatmeal or cereal to eat for breakfast. Some choices don’t make much difference, like whether we play baseball or read a book after school.

Some choices are VERY, VERY, VERY important such as which friends we select. (Pull toy people from baggie.) Am I going to choose this friend or this one? So many choices in life! We want to make sure we pick the RIGHT friends and make the BEST choices.

1. What qualities should we look for in friends? (Loving, kind, listen to us, help solve problems, don't intentionally hurt us, don't gossip, prays with us, comfort each other, dependable.)
2. Why is it important to choose our friends wisely? (We can be influenced, good or bad, by our friends. We need to make wise decisions when choosing our friends and always pick those who do right things.)
3. What can happen if we pick wrong friends? (What they do wrong can rub off on us.) Demonstrate by quickly drawing a person with the dry erase marker and filling in the drawing. Ask one child to come and put his/her hand on the drawn person. What happens? (Marker rubs off.) Ask another pupil to put his/her arm on the drawn person. What happens? (Again, marker rubs off.)
4. How can wrong friends influence us? (Clothes we wear; words we speak; how we treat others)
5. What happens when we pick the right kinds of friends? (We become better. We influence each other to do the right things and to make better choices.)
6. What other RIGHT choices should we make in life? (Allow children to share.)
7. Who can help us make the right choices? (Jesus, pastor, parents)

Closing Prayer



Lesson Three

Foreign Asset-Rahab

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: “Where’s Waldo Books”

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: 2 poster boards, marker, scissors

Lesson: Jenga Game blocks or stackable blocks, Popsicle sticks, red yarn, yellow napkin or yellow paper strips, markers

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: Pretzel sticks, small marshmallows, red licorice (the kind that pulls apart so you have several long strings), craft popsicle sticks, markers

Extended Time Game: Candy or small prize, towel, tray, various items such as hand held mirror, piece of bubble gum, a spoon, a rubber band, etc... small things that fit on the tray. Depending on age group you could modify how many (5-15 items) and type of trinkets (toys to everyday items) on the tray

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Three

Foreign Asset-Rahab

Scripture Reference: Joshua 2

Memory Verse: Isaiah 12:2



Welcome: Welcome each child with a smile. Give each child a red bookmark, every time they use it in a book they can remember the story of Rahab.



Pre-session: “I Spy” or “Where’s Waldo Books”- This would be a good time to practice being observant. You can check out the “Where’s Waldo” books at your local library.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God’s Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

Prayer

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “When the Saints Go Marching In” Pass around the offering plate or can during this time. Just as the children of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho, so we will march and present our offering to the Lord.



Memory Verse: (10 mins.) *Isaiah 12:2 - Behold, God [is] my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH [is] my strength and [my] song; he also is become my salvation.* Write the scripture with the marker on both poster boards. Use the scissors and cut the poster boards up in puzzle pieces one at a time. On the back of the poster board pieces, make you sure mark the pieces “A” and “B” so that pieces don’t become mixed. Separate your class into two teams and have the children compete to put the scripture puzzle together.



Lesson: (20 mins.) *Using the markers, make Rahab, 2 spies, King, and Joshua on popsicle sticks. You could get as creative with it as you’d like. The red yarn represents the red sash and the yellow napkin or paper represents the flax stalks that Rahab hid the spies. The blocks will be the wall of Jericho, don’t forget to add a window. Use these props where you feel appropriate!*

Meet Rahab. She was a very pretty woman but she was NOT a church goer. She had many sins stacked up by her name. Do any of you have sins that you have not said “Sorry” for? Well, this story starts with Rahab standing in the door of her house watching all the people go by. She loved to watch people. There were fat people, skinny people, rich people, poor people, silly people, smart people, there were a lot of people to watch in her city. She lived in Jericho. Jericho was a prosperous city that lay not far from the Jordan River where the Israeli camp was located. Suddenly, she noticed two men who were dressed differently than everyone else. They walked along...staring at EVERYTHING! Rahab walked up to those men and stated the obvious, “You’re not from around here. You better come with me and not be seen.”

So, Rahab took these two strange men to her house. (I’d advise against doing this at home!) Turns out that the two men that Rahab brought home were spies. They were spying on everything. How much food does Jericho have, how many weapons do the people have, how many fighters are there in Jericho? They knew what was the king’s favorite drink was and what little Tommy’s cat’s name was, and how the butcher was not selling the best of the meat but keeping it for himself. They saw Johnny kick Susie and blame it on the dog. They saw Caden swipe the

pie off of Mrs. Talley's window sill. They knew everything there was to know in Jericho. They had been busy gathering information for their leader, Joshua. When Rahab found out who they were working for, she was shook up! "Oh My! You are from THAT camp?" Rahab and everyone in Jericho had heard about the terrible army that was coming their way. She had heard the stories about how their God had saved them from Pharaoh and parted the Red Sea and what happened to the people who stood in the way!

Rahab was scared of the spies' God and their army but she told herself that she needed to do something good for once. She didn't always make wise or good choices. She stood up straight, sucked in a deep breath and held it and whooshed out..."I'll HIDE YOU!" Whew! She couldn't believe she just said she was going to hide them. She asked in return for her hiding them, for them to spare her life and the lives of her family. She knew what happened to the other lands and people who stood in the way of the people of God. The two spies, after looking through all of her rooms, closets, living room, dining room, kitchen, drawers and photo albums, told Rahab that as long as her family stayed in her house and didn't go outside, they would be spared. As Rahab hid the spies on her roof, there was a loud commotion at her door. She hurriedly covered the spies with the flax stalks she was drying to use to make linen clothes and ran to the door. "Yeeesssss, can I help you?" "Rahab, you are summoned to see the king." So, Rahab was escorted to the palace.

"Here am I, oh king, it is I, Rahab. How can I help you, sir, majesty, oh king?" Rahab bowed before the king of Jericho.

"Rahab, I have heard that there are a couple of men looking over the city. They were dressed funny and looking at everything. I think they are SPIES!!" The king was mad and his face was as red and round as an over-ripe tomato. "And I heard, Rahab, they went into your house! Bring them to me... NOW!"

"King Jericho, yes, I took two men into my home but they are gone now. As soon as it was dark, they must have went out before the gate was shut. If you run really fast you might still catch them."

"After them!!!" Shouted King Jericho.

Rahab went back to her house and up to the roof where she had hid the two spies. She told them of how she had told the king that they may have slipped through the gates already and how the king had sent out searchers for them. She said, "Because I have hid you from those who would have hurt you, please will you give me something that I may know that you will keep your word not to harm me or my family?" Rahab advised the spies to go hide in the mountains for 3 days until all the searchers had went home, then travel on to their camp.

The spies told Rahab, "Tie this red rope from the window of your house so that we may know not to harm its occupants... but if anyone goes outside before

the battle is ended he or she will be identified as the enemy.” And so they went to the mountains and stayed for 3 days.

When God delivered Jericho into the hands of the Israeli army, Rahab and her family were spared. Time went on and after several generations, Jesus was born. One of Jesus’s great, great, great grandmas was Rahab. She is also listed in the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11! Though she knew her city was to be destroyed, she showed great courage and faith in a God she had never known, but had heard of! She gave her life to God and married an Israelite.

Important Points for Today:

1. Joshua sent spies into Jericho and the surrounding area to see how hard it would be to win the battle. God promised them the land and Joshua was trying to find out all there was to know about Jericho.
2. Rahab, a sinner woman, saw the men and offered them a place to hide when they were about to be found. She offered them a place to hide in return for safety for herself and her family.
3. When summoned before the king of Jericho, Rahab sent the searchers on a wild goose chase so that the spies from Israel could get away without being caught.
4. The spies gave Rahab a scarlet rope to hang in her window. During the battle all of Rahab’s family was saved.
5. Rahab lived as an Israelite and turned from her wicked ways. She is included in the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11: 31.
6. We can also be saved by following Acts 2:38. We may not have a scarlet rope to hang in our windows but if we follow the instructions left in this scripture we will be saved from Hell’s fire.



Craft: (15 mins.) With the pretzel sticks and marshmallows you can have the children build Rahab’s house with the red rope that the spies gave her. If you wanted to, you could use teddy bear crackers to represent people or use the craft sticks and markers to represent Rahab and the two spies.



Extended Time Game: (10 mins.) Prepare your tray with the amount of trinkets that you decided on and cover with an opaque towel or covering. Take one minute to show the tray to the children. You can discuss the items on the tray and then cover the tray. You can then have the children write down all the items they remember being on the tray. Give them about 2 minutes. Bring out the tray and start listing off the items. Have the children check mark the ones they got correct.

The child who gets the most correct gets a prize. You can play this game several times by replacing items or taking one or more away.



Lesson Four

Israeli Diplomat in Persia-Esther

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Hula-Hoop Pass- 1 or 2 hoola-hoops depending on class size

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or can

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:15- the verse and craft go together

Craft: Foam sheets, scissors, permanent markers, stapler, stickers

Lesson: Any costumes that you would like the children to wear to play the different characters; kings hat, queens hat and scarf, name tag saying Uncle Mordecai, and maybe a piece of rope and a suit coat for Haman

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Extended Time Game: Trash bag, rice, any goodies that you would like to hide in the rice for a search and rescue mission

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Four

Israeli Diplomat in Persia-Queen Esther

Scripture Reference: Esther 2-8

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:15



Welcome: Greet each child with a warm welcome and a smile.



Pre-session: (10 mins.)(Operation Peace) This would be a good time to do a group game or activity where the group has to accomplish a mission with everyone working together. Here are a few ideas: *Birthday Line Up- Have everyone line up in birth order using only whispers. *Hoola-Hoop Pass- Have the children form a circle and join hands. Place the hoola hoop on one of the children's arm, reclose the circle, instruct the children to pass the hoola hoop around the circle until it reaches the first child. You can have fun with this one! *Opposites Game: Have a list of foods, games, or whatever subject would best fit your age group and have people partner up. (I Love Broccoli- I Hate Broccoli) (I love to read- I hate to read) Even if we have differences, there can be a difference of opinion without fuss, chaos, or turmoil.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song & Offering: (5 mins.) “I’m in the Lord’s Army” (Assign someone to lead the singing today.) Pass around the offering plate or can. Encourage the children that God wants us to give all of ourselves. All of our time, energy, money, everything is a gift from Him, so we should give back to Him.



Memory Verse: (5 mins.) (Ephesians 6:15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: As humans, we learn by repetition. For this verse, repeat it over and over with the children. Express the importance of always using words that do not cause other’s harm, gossip, lie, or any evil thing coming out of our mouth. Everything we do, everywhere we walk, every place we go we should show God’s love by not causing a ruckus and not causing drama. Be peaceful.



Craft: (20 mins.) With a look at Ephesians 6:15, we are going to make some sandals to “shod” our feet! Use foam sheets and trace the children’s feet with a permanent marker. Cut the tracing out. Cut a strip about an inch and a half to go across the top of the foot and staple to the bottom of the traced foot. You can have them decorate the “sandals” with sticker and make sure they put the word PEACE on the sandal. You can also substitute the foam with poster board.



Lesson: (20 mins.) (Pick 3 or 4 of your children to participate in the lesson. King, servant, Mordecai, Haman, and Esther. You can add as many characters as you’d like to fill out the story)

In the nation of Persia, the children of Israel were under the authority of the King Xerxes. The king (we will call him King X) decided to throw a big party. It lasted for more than an hour, longer than a couple of hours, this party lasted for DAYS! King X was proud of his pretty wife and liked to show her off to all his friends and during this party he wanted her to come to the party so he could show

her off. SHE said NO!! Can you believe it?! Well, the King was none too happy and he asked his advisors what to do about it. They told the king just to get rid of her because by telling the king NO then all wives would start telling their husbands No. The king thought this was good advice and his feelings were hurt anyway and told his wife, "You're not my wife anymore."

Without a wife, the king felt lonely. He sent his servants out and had them bring to him all the pretty women of the land. King X wanted a new pretty wife to show off to his friends. So, his servants went through the land saying, "You, you, not you, wow the king will surely like this one" and so there was the first beauty contest listed in the Bible! Can you believe it? After meeting several young ladies, King X decided that Esther was the most beautiful in all the land.

What King X did not know was that Esther was an Israelite. Her uncle Mordecai commanded her not to let anyone know. The King loved Esther and things were going pretty well until one of the king's counsellors named Haman got mad at an Israelite. Haman had just got a promotion from the king. He was big stuff now because he was the king's right hand man now and the king told everyone to honor and respect him now because of his new job. Well...things didn't work out so well in the respect department.

Uncle Mordecai was standing out by the gates of the king's palace and here comes Haman...chest stuck out...strutting like a rooster. Everyone was bowing and saying things like... "Oh Haman, here let me shine your sandals, let me mow your lawn... can you put in a good word for me with the king...Haman, over here I want your autograph... can I draw your portrait"... all of this commotion and Haman is feeling pretty good about his self. He looks around but here is stubborn old uncle Mordecai just standing there watching all the fuss. He got angry and thought he would just beat up Mordecai, maybe even until he died. He was that mad. Then he decided, "No, I won't just punish Mordecai, I'll just have the king kill all of his family and friends too so I will have my revenge!"

Haman went to the king and told him, "There is a certain people scattered around your kingdom who don't obey you or your laws. They disrespect you and if you want I'll destroy them and even pay you to let me do it!" He surely was a smooth talker so the king agreed and signed that request into law and took off his ring and put his seal on it. WHAT?! If that means all of the people that means Esther too!

While Haman was off building a gallows to kill the Israelites, uncle Mordecai went to see Esther. "Esther, this is why God made you queen! Talk to your husband and ask him to spare the lives of your people!" She said that if she entered before the King, her husband, without being invited then there was the possibility that he would be angry and kill her. (He must have had a temper) So

Esther told her uncle to tell all of the Israelites to start praying. She went into planning mode.

For 3 days, Esther and her servants fasted and prayed. During this time, uncle Mordecai and all the Israelites fasted and prayed. At the end of her fast, Esther put on the prettiest dress that she had, nicest shoes in her closet, sweetest smelling perfume, and had her hair done up in the most gorgeous hairdo in the land. She was ready to see the king!!

Esther told her servant, "Run down to the kitchen and tell the cook to make all of the king's favorite foods, we are going to have a banquet tonight! Don't forget the chocolate cake!!" Then Esther headed for the throne room to see her husband. When she got there, Esther she stood on the outside of the chamber and when the king saw her, he motioned her to come in. She sighed with great relief, said a prayer and entered in the room to talk to the king. He said, "what can I do for you Beautiful Wife?" She said, "Just come eat dinner with me, I have a feast prepared for you and you can even Haman." He was so happy, though he was confused as to why Haman was invited.

The banquet went so good that night! The king loved the chocolate cake and the beautiful way that Esther decorated just for him. King X said, "Ok, Beautiful Wife, what do you want from me? You surely want something because you're trying to butter me up." She said, "Just come eat with me tomorrow night too. Also, you can bring Haman." On the next night, when the chocolate truffles were served and dinner was through the King once again asked Esther what she wanted of him. He was ready to do anything for her at this point. He was well buttered up. Esther flat out told the king, "King, if you love me and have I have found favor in your eyes, will you please spare my life? Will you also save my friends, family and people? We were sold to be killed. If we were just going to be servants, I wouldn't have bothered you, but we are scheduled to die" King X said, "Who is going to kill you, Esther, Most Beautiful Wife in the World, great banquet preparer?" She said, "HAMAN! I'm an Israelite and he wants to kill all of us!!"

Uh Oh!! Haman is in trouble now. The king was so upset he had to walk away for a few minutes and Haman knew he had better get Esther to say something nice about him to the king. He knew he was in a pickle then! He fell on Esther's couch to beg her to help him when the king walked in. "WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO WITH MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE?!" He was not putting up with Haman then. One of the servants, who was on Esther's side, came and told the King about the gallows that Haman made to kill the Israelites. King X decided then and there that Haman should die on the gallows he had built for uncle Mordecai, Esther and the other Israelites. Haman had conspired to kill God's people on those gallows but God turned the situation around where that he paid for

his pride and arrogance with his own life. God put Esther in the best place to save his people. She became a diplomat for the Israeli people in Persia.

Important Points for Today:

1. Queen Esther did not win the beauty contest because she was so beautiful (though she was) she won because she was a child of God. She followed the commandments of God.
2. For us to become a child of God, we also have to follow the commandments of the Lord. He laid out some specific things for us to do in order to be one of His. We can find the requirements to be His children in Acts 2:38. (Have a child read Acts 2:38) Queen Esther was born an Israelite but though we are not born in Israel we can still be one of His favored children. We need to turn away from sin in repentance. Walk away from bad behavior and habits. Then you need to be baptized in the name of Jesus, taking on His Name. To be His child, we need His Name! Our hearts will be clean and the Holy Ghost will reside in there! Live a holy and clean life, follow the rules that he provides, then when your time of trouble comes then the Lord could use you to be a peacemaker.



Extended Time Game: (15 mins.) (Supplies Needed: rice, candies or small snacks) **HUNT FOR A PIECE...PEACE** Fill a trash bag with rice, mix in some candies or small snacks in the bag with the rice. Let the children take turns hunting for “Piece/Peace” in the bag. This will relate to the story how that Esther was able to bring about a peaceful ending to a scary situation with prayer andfood.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Five

A Few Good Men-Gideon

Lesson at a Glance

Welcome: Small flashlight or electric tea light for each child, (these can be purchased at Dollar Tree or online very reasonably)

Pre-session: Dry Erase board and markers or chalk board with chalk

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: 2 Poster Boards, Markers, Prize Candy

Lesson: Judges 6-7 Dry erase board

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: cake pop sticks, red, yellow, and orange tissue paper or even fire print tissue paper if available, wax paper, paint brushes, liquid glue, tablespoon of water, plastic bowl to put glue in

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Five

A Few Good Men-Gideon

Scripture Reference: Judges 6-7

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 3:22



Welcome: Welcome each child with a smile. Give each of the children a small flashlight or an electric tea light. The lights will remind them of Gideon's torch.



Pre-session: Hangman: use age appropriate army words and or phrases or even words and phrases from the story to have a great game of hangman. For the younger age groups you could play a type of Pictionary using pictures in place of words.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “This Little Light of Mine” Try to use all the actions that you know as you pass around the offering plate or tin. Example: Hide it under a bushel, NO- Shine it all over the world, I’m gonna let it shine- Don’t let satan blow it out...



Memory Verse: (15 mins.) Deuteronomy 3:22 Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you.

Write the verse on both poster boards backwards. Example: 22:3 ymonoretueD uoy rof thgif llahs eh doG ruoy DROL eht rof: meht raef ton llahs eY

Separate your group into two teams. Have them translate the verse and memorize. (If this activity is too difficult, write the scripture the right way without any spaces.) ☺ The group who can quote as a team the verse without mistakes, reward with candy.



Lesson: (20 mins.) Uh oh... Israel was being bad again. They had been doing evil in the sight of God and now there are consequences. Have you been naughty before and disobeyed your parents? Or your pastor? It is not a comfortable place to be in. The place of punishment. Israel did not get time out, a lecture or even a spanking... they were put in the hands of their enemy for 7 years. They suffered from the meanness of a big bully for 7 years. That’s punishment. The Midianites were Israel’s slave masters. The Midianites came to Israel like a large bunch of grasshoppers. They ate all the food and took all the animals. Israel was hungry! I’m telling you... Israel was sorry they didn’t listen to the Lord. They started repenting!! We are so sorry Lord! Please Save Us!! Help us Jehovah!

When God felt like they had truly repented, He sent an angel to visit a humble farmer named, Gideon. Have you ever been visited by an angel? Well, Gideon went out to thresh wheat behind the winepress hoping to hide the food from the Midianites. An angel came to Gideon and said, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” Gideon looked around, “Who? Me? If the Lord be with me then why are we suffering so much? No, the Lord has forsaken us and that’s why the Midianites have been trying to kill us all.” The angel said, “Go, I have sent you to save Israel from the Midianites.” After the Lord had shown Gideon that He was really speaking with him Gideon said, “I am ready!”

Gideon sent word throughout Israel that the Lord would deliver them from the Midianites and it was time to fight. 32,000 men showed up the next day to join the army of Gideon. (Write the number 32,000 on the dry erase board.) Gideon was

pretty excited! “Yeah! We got us an army, Lord!” The Lord looked and saw the army and said to Gideon, “Tell everyone who is afraid to go home.” Gideon shook his head in astonishment. “Ok Lord- although I don’t think anyone will leave but I’ll tell them.” When Gideon told the 30,000 men that if anyone is scared to go home, 22,000 men went home. (Write 22,000 under the 32,000 and subtract). Whoa! What’s going to happen? The Midianites are a large army and now Gideon’s army is down to 10,000 men!

Gideon said, “Ok Lord- lets fight!” The Lord said that there were still too many men in the army of Gideon to fight. Gideon said, “What do you want me to do, Lord?” The Lord answered, “Have everyone go to the river to drink and I will let you know who to take with you to deliver Israel from the Midianites.” Gideon brought everyone to the river and told them to drink and refresh themselves before the battle. Most of the men laid on their bellies drinking the water from river and some cupped the water in their hands to bring the water to their mouth. Those that cupped the water to their mouth was only 300 men. (Write the number 300 on the dry erase board and circle it), Those were the men that God chose to be in the army of Gideon. “Now with these men will I save you from the Midianites”, the Lord told Gideon. Well, Gideon didn’t know what was going to happen. The Midianites had a big army and Gideon only had 300 men.

In the meantime, the Lord was working strategy. He told Gideon to collect clay pots and put a lit torch inside and have each man carry it in one hand and a trumpet in the other hand. They were to come at the Midianites at night. By this time, Gideon knew to trust whatever the Lord said. He and his army of 300 men approached the great army at night without weapons armed with a torch in a pot and a trumpet. Gideon separated the men into 3 groups and put them on each side of the enemy’s camp. When they were all in position, Gideon gave the word! All the men broke their pots and yelled “THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND OF GIDEON” then blew the trumpets. The Midian army woke in utter confusion! Have you ever been woke up suddenly in the middle of the night? Yells! Swords! Trumpets! Surrounded by LIGHTS! Well, they grabbed their swords to fight and in the middle of all the confusion, the Midianites started attacking each other! The Lord confused their minds to think that their own army buddies were attacking them and Gideon didn’t have to use a sword! The Lord brought victory to Israel!!

Important Points for Today:

1. First, Gideon’s army had 32,000 men in it. Why did 22,000 men go home? The Lord said that the army was too big so Gideon told all of those who were afraid to go home. The Lord wanted Israel to know that He fought the battle.

2. How did Gideon choose the final 300 that would fight the Midianites? By the way they drank water. If they lapped like dogs they went home. If they scooped water up in their hand, then they stayed in the army. This is also where being watchful comes in! Remember: 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
3. What did the 300 Israelite soldiers carry with them when they fought the battle? Clay jars with burning torches inside. They also each carried a trumpet to blow. When we lift our voices in praise and worship, the devil cannot stay around! It hurts his ears to hear the children of God worshipping because that used to be his job.
4. When the Midianites heard the trumpets and saw the fires, what did they do? They started fighting and killing each other and then they ran away. God sent confusion in the camp and the 300 with Gideon didn't have to use any weapon! GOD FOUGHT THE BATTLE!
5. How do you get the Lord on your side? Follow Acts 2:38 and allow Jesus to take command of your life! Repent, like Israel. Go down in the water in baptism in Jesus Name, like the men drinking at the river. Receive the Holy Ghost as the spirit brings the utterance- that will be like the sound that Israel made when they smashed their pots and their light shone in the darkness! The devil hates the light and when Jesus is in your heart- the devil cannot stay! Hallelujah!!



Craft: (10 mins.) Torches on a Stick: Give each child a portion of the wax paper as a placemat. Tear up the tissue paper into small squares and put some on each child's wax sheet. Put a tablespoon of water in the liquid glue to thin it out a little and use the paint brush to paint some glue on the cake pop stick. Roll the stick on the tissue shreds and repeat process. The stick should soon resemble a large colored Q-Tip. With the colored tissue, it should look like fire on the stick.



Extended Time Game: (15 mins.) Sneak Up on Grandma/pa Game
Chooses one person to be Grandma/Grandpa and face a wall. The rest of the class will start on the opposite side of the room and attempt to sneak up on Grandma/pa and tap a shoulder. However, they cannot be caught moving so and Grandma/pa may turn around at any time. If a person is caught moving and pointed out, they must return to the start. No one can move while being watched. If a player manages to tap Grandma's/pa's shoulder, he or she takes their place facing the wall and the game starts over.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Six

Negotiator-Samuel

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Lots of pennies, bowl(s), prize candy

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: Construction paper, glue, stickers, medium to large size shields cut out of aluminum foil, permanent markers

Lesson: Bible, notecards with scriptures for the kids to read

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: paper plate, grapes (head), sliced cheese cut into small triangles (Helmet), Wheat Thins (body), Cheez-It (breast-plate), twizzlers (arms and legs), Fruit rollup (belt), pretzel stick (sword), butter round cracker (shield), raisins (shoes)

Extended Time Game: Chairs

Soldier's in God's Army

Lesson Six

Negotiator-Samuel

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 7

Memory Verse: Psalms 3:3



Welcome: Welcome each child with a warm smile and a hug.



Pre-session: (10 mins.) Give each child a handful of pennies and place a bowl in the center of the table. Have each person in the group step back the same number of steps as their age (for example, a 6-year-old would step back six steps). Then, each player tries to throw their pennies into the bowl. The player who can "pitch" the most pennies successfully into the bowl wins!



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “Everybody Ought to Know” Remind the children that God will be there for them yesterday, today and forever. Pass around the offering plate or tin.



Memory Verse: (15 mins.)

Psalm 3:3 But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Read the verse to the kids and have them recite with you several times. Give each child a sheet with the memory verse written at the top. Glue the shield on the middle of the page and have the kid’s decorate with the markers. When everyone is finished, encourage the children to show their shield and quote the verse.



Lesson: (20 mins.)

Samuel was a miracle baby! Have you ever heard of someone being a miracle child? Maybe their parents couldn’t have kids or maybe they were really sick as a baby or something? Samuel’s mom couldn’t have children and she prayed about it every chance she got. One time she prayed, “Lord, if you give me a child, I will give him back to you as a gift to work in your house.” Guess What?! Not long after that, Samuel was born. His mother kept her promise and once he could eat by himself and dress himself and was potty trained- Samuel went to live at the church. His Pastor’s name was Eli. Eli trained Samuel to be a priest also and when Eli died- Samuel became the “pastor”.

There was a very important Holy Thing called the Ark of the God of Israel that was very special to Israel. It was where the Lord put his Spirit. They did not worship the Ark but it was something Holy and dedicated to God. But it was lost. The enemy, the Philistines, captured it while in battle when the Israelites lost the battle. Israel was very sad and very sorry that the Ark was gone because they felt like the Lord left them as well. The Philistines had the Ark of the God of Israel for seven months and the Lord punished them the whole time. The Philistines sent word to Israel to come and get it- and hurry!

The Lord was mad at Israel because they turned away from what their pastor had been telling them to do and they worshipped other gods. But Israel was sorry. They went to Samuel asking him how they get the favor of the Lord again.

Samuel said (*Have child read 1 Samuel 7:3*) The people did as Samuel commanded them then he told them to go to a place called Mizpeth and he would pray and intercede for them unto the Lord.

Then the children of Israel did (*have a child read 1 Samuel 7:6*) They repented before the Lord and fasted. What does repent mean? It means telling the Lord that you are sorry for doing the things that displease him and you do not go do those things anymore. They also fasted...what does fasting mean? They did not eat or drink while they waited for an answer from the Lord.

(*Have a child read 1 Samuel 7:7*) The people were afraid of the Philistines because they had come to Mizpeth to pray and seek the Lord- they didn't come prepared for war. And in their distress they cried out for Samuel- "Please pray that the Lord would save us from the Philistines!! Help us, Samuel!" Well, Samuel got to praying. He offered a sacrifice to the Lord and asked God to please save His people. You know what happened? The LORD heard their cries and (*have a child read 1 Samuel 7:10*). The Lord intervened and saved Israel from the Philistines.

As the Philistines were running off- the children of Israel ran after them and got them all the way to the place called Beth-car. Samuel then made a monument to remember that special day that Israel was saved from the Philistines and the day that the Lord forgave Israel. He called the monument Eb'en-e'-zer which means "Hitherto hath the Lord Helped Us."

Important Points for Today:

1. The children of Israel did bad things in the eyes of the Lord. When they tried to do battle with the Philistines, they had no God to fight the battle with them. During that battle, they lost a precious item from the temple. The Lord was not with Israel.
2. When the children of Israel realized that the Lord was not with them, they went to their pastor, Samuel, to have him intercede to the Lord so that they could be back in the Lord's good side. They were repentant.
3. The enemy saw them gathered in one place and decided to attack. The devil likes to try and catch us when we are at a weak moment. He doesn't wait until we are full of faith and strong in spirit but he likes to kick at us when we are down.
4. When Israel repented and offered a sacrifice, the Lord forgave them and He took charge of the battle that they faced. When we repent, we offer a sacrifice too. It's not a lamb or an animal on an altar, but it is a sacrifice of ourselves. We tell God- take our lives and use it according to however you want to use us...we cannot win any battle on our own, Lord, we are helpless without you.
5. We have hope that the Lord Jesus will always be with us in our time of trouble. Make sure that you follow Acts 2:38 and receive the Holy Ghost in your heart because that is Jesus' spirit and he will live inside of you.

6. It is a good idea to repent every day and make sure that there is no sin in your heart that will separate you from the Lord!



Craft: (10 mins.) (Supplies Needed: paper plate, grapes (head), sliced cheese cut into small triangles (Helmet), Wheat Thins (body) Cheez-It (breast-plate), twizzlers (arms and legs), Fruit rollup (belt), pretzel stick (sword), butter round cracker (shield), raisins (shoes)) The “Armor of God” soldier in food! When we are in God’s Army, we need to make sure we are fully equipped to do battle. To go into battle with the devil, we need to have the Helmet of Salvation, Breast plate of Righteousness, Belt of Truth, Shield of Faith, Sword of the Spirit, and the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace.



Extended Time Game: (10 mins.) (Supplies needed: chairs) “Army Turnover” Separate your kids into 3 groups- Swords (of the Spirit), Shields (of faith), Helmets (of Salvation). Arrange the chairs in a circle and have everyone mix around then sit in the chairs. You should have 1 less chairs for the amount of kids in the class. The child without the chair will be “It” and will call out one of the categories. Ex. The child will say “Swords” and all the people in the “Swords” group will have to get up and quickly change chairs. It is against the rules to sit in the same chair you just stood up from and the person who is “It” has to quickly find a chair. To have everyone change chairs then the person who is “It” calls out “Army Turnover”. Everyone will have to find a new seat.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Seven

Early Recruit-David

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: 2 jump ropes, 2 hula hoops, 1lb bag of animal crackers, chair, medium sized mixing bowl, stop watch, paper and pencil, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place ribbons or prizes

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: Construction paper, construction paper already cut into ½ inch to 1 inch strips, bowls of liquid glue, small paint brushes, scissors, note cards with memory verse written on them OR sticky notes with the verse printed on them

Lesson: Bible, eight hats numbered 1-8, oil, stuffed sheep, cane with a hook

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: Crowns from Burger King (they will donate them) or make your own crown, yellow construction paper, skittles, starbursts, spears, or any other small candy to use in place of jewels, scissors, tape, liquid glue, markers

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Seven

Early Recruit-David

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 16:1-14

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7b



Welcome: (5 mins.) Welcome each child with a warm smile. Be sure to especially welcome any new children.



Pre-session: (10 mins.) Obstacle Course Relay: This is a timed race. Set the chair at the other end of the room and put the bowl of animal crackers in the chair. In between the chair and the starting line, you place the hoola hoop and jump rope equal distance apart. You want to have 2 people going at the same time. So, you will have two courses with them sharing the chair. The child is to run to the hoola hoop and try to spin the hoola hoop around the waist three times then run to the jump rope and jump five times. After jumping, run to the chair and eat one cookie until it is out of the mouth on the way to the tummy (no choking accidents) repeat the process from the other end. Write every child's times as they participate and congratulate all of them. You can reward those that put in good effort!



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me” Just as David was so happy to be able to come to church- so should we be glad for the opportunity to come into the house of God! Let’s praise God with our offering today!



Memory Verse: (10 mins.) (1 Samuel 16: 7b- “For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”) Repeat until everyone is comfortable saying the verse. Hand everyone a piece of construction paper, strips of colored construction paper, and set out the bowls of glue. Use the paint brushes to paint the paper and glue the strips on the page. Once every strip is glued, use scissors and cut out a heart shape. Hand out the verse cards to be glued in the middle of the heart.



Lesson: (15 mins.) (Select 8 children to be the sons of Jesse and place a hat on his/her head. Samuel the prophet gets the bible and oil, and the one chosen to be David will receive the lamb stuffed animal and the cane with the hook.)

Samuel, the prophet and judge in Israel, was pressured by the people to give them a king. He talked to the Lord about it and the Lord told Samuel to anoint a tall man named Saul. When Saul became king though, he disobeyed God on several occasions and thought just because he was king that he could get by with it. But there was a time when no excuses got Saul off the hook- God was angry and very sorry He had made Saul king. He was a bad example to the children of Israel. If he was allowed to stay king, then the children of Israel would start disobeying God too so the Lord started making plans.

Meanwhile, out on the hillside, was a young man who was singing to his daddy’s sheep. He loved going to church and hearing about the Word. This young man even wrote his own praises to God as he sat on that hillside watching sheep. His name was David.

Samuel was so sad that Saul was a bad apple. He thought and prayed about it a lot. One day the Lord spoke to Samuel, “How long are you going to mourn after

Saul? Go now to Bethlehem to the house of a man named Jesse. I have provided me a king among his sons.”

Samuel was afraid. “Lord, if I go and anoint a king then Saul will hear about it and have me killed.” And Saul probably would because he had become very suspicious of everyone and had a temper.

“Go and take a cow with you for a sacrifice. Say that you are going to sacrifice and do that, but afterward go to Jesse’s house and anoint the new king.”

So Samuel went. He took the cow with him and when he got to Bethlehem the elders of the city met him and asked him if he came in peace. . Samuel showed the elders the sacrifice and told them that he wanted to present a sacrifice unto the Lord. As they prepared the sacrifice, Samuel sent an invitation to Jesse and his sons.

When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel was looking them over... “1,2,3,4,5,6,7- Jesse is blessed...which son will the Lord anoint to be king today?” After the sacrifice, he told Jesse to present his sons to him one at a time. So Jesse brought out his oldest boy. (#1) Samuel got excited! Surely this would be the one that God has chosen as King. He was tall, broad shouldered, looked like a soldier, and handsome to boot!

But God said, “Don’t look at how handsome he is or how tall he is because I have refused him. For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh at the heart!”

Samuel called to see the next boy. (#2) “Is this the one, Lord?” And the Lord said, “I did not chose this one.”

Jesse brought out the next son (#3). Samuel said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”

Jesse brought out sons #4, #5, #6, and # 7 and Samuel was disappointed because the Lord refused them all. He asked Jesse, “Is this all your sons?! Do you have a baby boy somewhere? Maybe one still with his mother?” He knew there had to be one somewhere because the Lord had told him that He would chose a King out of the house of Jesse.

Jesse replied, “Well, I do have one more son. He is back in the middle of nowhere guarding and guiding my sheep. It will take a while for someone to get to him but if you really want me to then I will send for him.” Samuel said, “Send for your #8 boy.” Wow! Can you imagine having 8 boys and the bible didn’t even talk about Jesse’s daughters.

When David, the youngest boy of 8 sons, Jesse’s shepherd boy, came in the house and went to the room where Samuel was- the Lord spoke to Samuel. “This is the one I have chosen. This is the one I am pleased with to be King over Israel instead of Saul.” In the middle of the room, in front of his mom and dad and 7 brothers, Samuel took the oil and poured it out on David’s head. While Samuel

poured the anointing oil on David, anointing him King of Israel, the Spirit of the Lord came upon David.

Samuel left that same hour after anointing David King and the bible said that while the Spirit of the Lord settled upon David... the Spirit of the Lord left Saul. From that day forward, Saul was even more troubled and tormented.

Important Points for Today:

1. Why was Samuel sad about King Saul? Saul did not obey God and thought he could just get by with disobedience. God was sad that he even allowed Saul to be king and lead the people. He represented a bad example.
2. Whose son would be the next king of Israel? Jesse's- God looked at Israel and told Samuel that He had prepared himself a king from the house of Jesse.
3. Why did Samuel think Jesse's oldest son would be the new king? He looked handsome and tall- on the outside he looked like he had it all together
4. Man sees how people look on the outside. What does the Lord see? The heart- God sees all and He knows all. He keeps good records. Make sure your heart is clean and without sin. How do you make sure your heart is clean? Follow Acts 2:38!
5. David was not with his brothers. Where was he? In the pasture taking care of his father's sheep- God loves hard workers. When he came to earth, He set a great example of keeping busy doing the Lord's work. Out in the pasture keeping sheep- David was also working and preparing songs to be sung or prayed unto the Lord.



Craft: (10 mins.) Hand out yellow construction paper or an already cut crown to each child. If you do not have your crowns already cut out- have the children use a marker and draw their own unique crown. When they are finished with the design, have them cut it out. Pass out how many ever candies that you'd like to each child and have them glue onto their crown as jewels. They can use the markers to make the crowns as elaborate as they choose. Wrap the crown around the child's head to get a good fit and then tape the edges of the crown together so the children can wear their own crowns. Note: Do not tape the crown until it is finished being decorated to prevent the crown from being crushed.



Extended Time Game: (10 mins.) Shepherds and Sheep- To play this game form two teams. Have the groups meet in the middle of the room and take 3 giant steps back from each other. Designate one team as the shepherds and one team as the sheep. They will be facing one another. When the leader calls "sheep," have the

sheep run to tag the shepherds before they can run to the wall behind them. If they reach the wall without being tagged then they are safe. If “shepherds” is called, the shepherds chase the sheep to their safe wall. Anyone caught must join the opponent’s team. The game continues until all have become either shepherds or sheep. To add a little suspense, draw out the first sound of the team names like this “shhhhhhe-perds!”

Closing Prayer



Lesson Eight

Something Worth Fighting For-Shammah

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: construction paper, crayons, pencils

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: A soft ball, a rolled up sock, or a beanbag and a poster board with the verse printed on it

Craft: White construction paper, crayons, dried lentils, sour patch kids candy, glue (liquid would stick better)

Lesson: Bible

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Extended Time Game: An empty vegetable can with edges taped so there are no sharp edges, 3-5 marbles, blindfold

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Eight

Something Worth Fighting For-Shammah

Scripture Reference: 2 Samuel 23:11-12

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:12



Welcome: Greet each child with a warm smile.



Pre-session :(10mins.) Instruct the children to draw a picture or make a list of things they think are worth fighting over or standing up for. This will encourage them to think about the things that are important to them. You can even start a conversation and pray for our country and the soldiers who fight and give their lives that we might have the freedom to worship the way the bible tells us.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “B-I-B-L-E” The bible is something that we should fight for. Right now it is under attack in America and we need to stand on the solid rock of the Word that we might be saved. Sing the song while taking up the offering.



Memory Verse: (10 mins.) Write the verse on the poster and read it several times with the kids. Then form a circle and give one child the ball. The child that catches the ball says the verse, then tosses the ball to someone else in the circle, who will then say the verse. Repeat enough times so everyone has a chance to say the verse. Help them when necessary

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses



Lesson: (20 mins.) King David was known as the warrior king of Israel. When it was time to clean out the enemy from the land though- he did not go alone. He traveled with what is known in the Bible as the “Mighty Men”. Our story is about one of those “Mighty Men”. His name is Shammah. His name is only mentioned 3 times. Why is he worth remembering? He was a warrior for God!

Every year, the Philistines (the enemy) would arrive from over the hills to steal the Israelites bean harvest. They hoped to make Israel weak and ready to surrender if they were low on food. A whole troop of Philistines would show up, armed to the teeth, yelling and screaming, looking like armed crazy men and you know what? It made the farmers, who were not warriors but spent time working the field, scared and ran them off. Think about all the months spent preparing the ground, planting, watering, praying for good weather, pulling weeds, talking to the plants, waiting for the time to see the reward for their hard work- just to see the enemy come and take it all away. I bet that Shammah may have had a friend or even family member who would complain about it every year. I imagine he got tired of hearing about it and just decided to do something about it.

(Read 2 Samuel 23:11-12) WOW! Lentils are a type of bean. Shammah stood alone in a bean field and when the Philistines troop came, he defended that field of beans! Did he win? Yes! The Lord wrought a great victory on that day!

There are things worth fighting for in our lives that we need to stand up against the devil for. We need to remember Romans 8:31-32. *31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not*

his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

We need to fight for our Brothers and Sisters, we need to fight for our Pastor, we need to fight for our family. If we don't fight for the Lord and if we just stand by (we don't fight for the Lord or against Him) we will be accursed. The Bible says in Judges 5:23 *Curse ye Meroz, because they came not to the help of the Lord.* We as children of God do NOT want to incur the wrath of God. We want His favor. If Shammah would not have taken a stand, we would never have known his name. I want to be known as a Warrior for the Lord and not a coward!

Important Points for Today:

1. David and His mighty men. Taking a stand! When we take a stand as a group the Devil will flee. When David was there the men fought and won over the Philistines.
2. What happened when the King wasn't there to lead in the battle? Shammah took a stand. We need to take a stand when no one is around. Stand for Jesus and He will stand for you!
3. What is worth fighting for? Ex. Bean field... Brothers, Sister, Family, Pastor.
4. How do we want to be remembered? WARRIOR for the LORD!!! To become a warrior for Jesus then we need to follow his orders for becoming one of his. Acts 2:38 gives us our marching orders for being saved. If we do not have the Holy Ghost in our hearts then when the battle comes we will be helpless. When the Holy Ghost is in our hearts when the battle comes then we will have victory, just like Shammah!



Craft: (10 mins.) Give each child a white construction paper. They can then draw in the hills and the sky. Give each child 3-6 beans and glue on the hills. Then pass out everyone a "Shammah" (sour patch kid) and glue among the beans. Lastly, depending on how many sour patch kids you have left- pass out the Philistines and glue as an army. You can substitute as needed.



Extended Time Game: (15 mins.)

Pick one person from the group to be 'It'. The other players form a circle facing each other and 'It' stands in the center. The players in the circle should slowly pass the can around the circle, without letting the marbles make any noise.

If the object being passed around makes a noise, and 'It' can point out where the noise is coming from, then he or she points in that direction. If 'It' gets the answer right, the person who held the can when it made noise becomes 'It'. Each time, the children can come up with ways to prevent the object from making noise.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Nine

New Commander-Joshua

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Small orange cones, masking tape

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, and American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: Poster board, construction paper, tape

Craft: Construction paper or scrapbook paper, scissors, glue, markers, stickers

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Nine

New Commander-Joshua

Scripture Reference: Joshua 1

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:7



Welcome: Greet each child with a smile and a warm welcome.



Pre-session: (Basic Training) The Balance Game: Set up a series of cones around the room and use masking tape to create a path around the cones that you want the children to navigate. Instruct the kids to first navigate the path without knocking down the cones. Start easy by having them all walk the path, then gradually make it harder like hopping with both legs, hopping on one foot and maybe hop on one foot with a balloon on a spoon...



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song & Offering: (5 mins.) “Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the Morning...” or another song of praise. Pass around the offering plate or tin. Every time you give in offerings it is a praise unto the Lord.



Memory Verse: (10 mins.) (Joshua 1:7) *Write the verse out on a poster then cover the individual words as the kids read the verse together.* “Only be thou strong (*Flex your muscles*) and very courageous, (*thump your chest with your fist*) that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand (*wave hand to the right*) or to the left, (*wave hand to the left*) that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest. (*Finger walk across your palm*) You can be as dramatic as you like, the kids enjoy it and will be able to recall it faster.



Craft: (15 mins.) “Thank You Notes” Make a list of leaders. It could be the pastor, teacher, boy/girl scout leader, a song leader, etc. Discuss the leaders on the list and have the children choose a leader and make a thank you card for them. Encourage the children to spend a little time and put some effort to make it look nice. Leaders spend time to do things for us and we should take time also to do a little something for them. If it is appropriate and time allows, you can have the children announce the leader they chose and why and or how that leader made an impact on them.



Lesson: (20 mins.)
(Read Joshua 1:1-9) After the children of Israel were delivered from slavery and crossed the Red Sea, they experienced more miracles on their journey. God made them a promise that He would give them houses that they didn’t build and land with crops that they didn’t grow and even a place that was so beautiful that it was described as a land flowing with milk and honey! WOW! Does that mean that the rivers didn’t have water but milk and sometimes honey?? No, but that would be neat to see, huh? That meant that is was good ground to live on. When there is no grocery store close to you then you have to grow it yourself. That is a lot of hard work especially if the ground is hard and rocky.

This land that God was going to give to his people was already growing crops... Moses, the leader of Israelites at this time, sent some spies in the land to do some recon. What does recon mean? It means that they went out to see how tough the opposing army was going to be and how their supplies were and where they were located, they were scoping out the land. How many of you have gone to a friend's house and saw a toy or dolly that they had and then went to Walmart or some store to see if you could find one or even a better one? The children of Israel were promised that land from God and they were seeing all that was there and how hard it would be to get it.

Moses sent out 12 men. When they came back, 10 of them told Moses that taking the land would be impossible. They compared themselves to grasshoppers in the sight of the enemy. (Means that they were a lot shorter and felt outnumbered by the enemy) Only a man named Joshua and his good buddy Caleb weren't scared. God said he'd give it to us and so we are going to get it. They came back with some fruit from the land that was so big that it took several men to carry it. Well, God was very mad at the 10 spies who doubted him but he respected the courage and the trust that Joshua and Caleb put in Him. After about 40 years, God said it was time to push forward and take the promise. But... there was a problem. Moses had passed away. The great leader of Israel was gone. Who is going to take charge of God's Army and lead them into the Promised Land?! God had a plan. He always had a plan in hand and is always doing some strategic planning. He remembered Joshua. Joshua was not a sissy. Joshua was a good man who prayed and always did what he was commanded to do and was a good soldier under Moses. Joshua was a man that God could trust with his people. When Joshua was told he was to be leader, God encouraged him. "Joshua, it is time to take the Promised Land! Get up! Move out! Don't be afraid! Be of good courage! I'm going to help you! I gave my promise that this land is for my people and I'll be there with you to fight the battle!" What a promise! Joshua became the new leader of Israel at that time and he with the help of the Lord went on to win many battles! Joshua's famous challenge to the children of Israel is still heard though out many homes today! Who has heard, "As for me and my house we shall serve the Lord."? That was said by Joshua. Well said, Joshua!

Important Points for Today:

1. God promised to be with Joshua wherever he went. Ask God to help you be strong, courageous and obedient to him. God will be with you wherever you go.

2. God guided and protected Joshua and the Israelites as they moved into the Promised Land. Joshua trusted, obeyed and served God. Trust in God to guide and protect you.
3. Following God's instructions, Joshua went to conquer the city of Jericho. He was not alone; God was with him, giving him victory. There are times when following God that you will have to face some difficulties. Whenever this happens, remember that God is with you, strengthening, comforting and guiding you.
4. To have Jesus with you all the time, you need to follow Acts 2:38. Then you would always have great back up with God on your side. Every battle that you face, you will never be alone!



Extended Time Game: (10 mins.)

Play the game "Simon says," but say "Joshua says."

Choose a leader and play as if "Joshua says". Joshua says, "Hop on one leg."
(Everyone hops on one leg.) "Hop on one leg." (No one hops.)

Play "Follow Joshua" This would be played like "Follow the Leader". Whatever the leader does then the rest of the children will imitate the action.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Ten

Work Detail-Nehemiah

Lesson at a Glance

Welcome: Small baggies of Legos or similar building blocks-one per child

Pre-session: Construction paper, scissors, tape, pattern from Resource packet

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Memory Verse: Notecards and a stop watch

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: Graham crackers, peanut butter, gummy bears, square pretzels, pretzel sticks, paper plates, crayons

Extended Time Game: Building Blocks made in Pre-session or red plastic cups

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Ten

Work Detail-Nehemiah

Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 1-2; 6:15-16; 12:27, 43

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:4



Welcome: Welcome each child with a smile. If possible give each child a small baggie of Legos or similar type of building blocks.



Pre-session: Building Blocks: Have the children trace the pattern on construction paper or have it traced before time. Cut out the pattern and fold as indicated. Tape the block shut. These will be used in the extended time game.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Memory Verse: (10 mins.) *1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* Children are called out to form a line and each person is given a card with one word from the memory verse, but in mixed-up order. A member from each team then competes for the best measured time on a stop-watch to move the people back into the correct verse order. Repeat this for each member of the teams and award the prize to the team with the lowest total time!



Lesson: (15 mins.) Nehemiah lived in the city of Susa and worked in King Artaxerxes' palace. He was a special helper to the king. He was a cupbearer- that means that he made sure every meal that no one had put poison in the King's cup. Everyday Nehemiah faithfully served the King.

One day, Nehemiah's brother came to visit. He told Nehemiah some sad news about the city of Jerusalem where their family had once lived. His brother said, "The wall and gates surrounding the city are all fallen down. The people are in trouble."

This news troubled Nehemiah. He wanted to help, but he didn't know how—so he prayed and asked God what he should do. Later, when Nehemiah was serving King Artaxerxes, the king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad. He asked Nehemiah why he was so sad. Nehemiah told the king, "The city where my people lived has been destroyed and the gates are torn down."

The king asked Nehemiah what he wanted to do. Nehemiah prayed and asked God what to say to the king. Then he said, "Please let me go home and rebuild Jerusalem's wall and gates." The king wanted to help Nehemiah, so he allowed him to go to Jerusalem to work to repair the city. He even helped Nehemiah get the lumber he would need and letters to the important people of the countries that Nehemiah would have to travel through to ask them to give Nehemiah safe travels.

Nehemiah traveled almost 1,000 miles and when he finally got to Jerusalem, he rode around the city to see what needed to be done. Then he told the people he had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild its wall and gates. He also told them he would need lots of help.

People from all over helped with this huge building project. Imagine it with me. "Bang! Bang! Bang!" went the hammers. "Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!" went the saws. The people worked hard, and the enemies of Israel started noticing that the walls that they had torn down was being built back up. They started sending threatening letters. That didn't stop Nehemiah though- he just ordered the workers to start

carrying weapons. At one point, Nehemiah told the workers, “We are too spread apart. When you hear the sound of the trumpet, drop your work tools and bring your weapon to the area where you heard the trumpet. There the Lord will fight with us.” The main bully was Sanballat from Samaria. He tried to get Nehemiah to leave wall building to come to meet him. You can probably guess that he would try to kill Nehemiah but Nehemiah told Sanballat – “No, I’m too busy!”

In just 52 days the wall and gates were finished. The people celebrated and worshiped God because now they had a secure wall and strong gates around their city. The enemies of the children of Israel could no longer take Jerusalem without a fight! With the walls up and Jerusalem protected, the people were able to prosper once again. The city that was very poor began to be able to support itself. The people were so happy! Nehemiah was thankful that God had used him to help do this important work.

Important Points for Today:

1. Even in captivity, Nehemiah never lost his love for Jerusalem. Never lose your love for the things of God! Keep praying- keep doing the things that you know to do.
2. Nehemiah had a desperate need to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem. If there are not any barriers that keep the enemy out then your life will always be trouble upon trouble. We need the walls of the Word of God around our hearts and when the enemy of our soul, the devil, comes trying to find a way to cause you to sin- the Word of God will keep him out!
3. How can we build a wall around our hearts? Memorize the scriptures you are given every lesson. Look them up in your bible. Study what they mean. Ask God to give you a better understanding of what you read. When your time of trouble comes, those scriptures will come to your mind and help you! You also need to receive the Holy Ghost in your heart to have complete protection! What does Acts 2:38 say? It tells us that if we repent and be baptized in Jesus Name then we can have the Holy Ghost!



Craft: (10 mins.) (Supplies Needed: Graham crackers, peanut butter, gummy bears, square pretzels, pretzel sticks, paper plates, crayons) Wall Building. Have the children draw a town on their paper plates. The graham crackers are the walls. The square pretzel represents the gate. Use the peanut butter to stick the gummy bear to the bottom of the wall and the pretzel stick is his sword. Alternative Craft: You can have the walls stand up on the plate and not lay flat on the paper plate. Use the peanut butter to make it stand and to stick the gummy bears on.



Extended Time Game: (15 mins.) (Supplies Needed: Building blocks made in Pre-session or red plastic cups) **Wall Building Game:** Place either the building blocks or red plastic cups at the other end of the room. Separate your class into two teams and have them race to the blocks and grab one and place in the middle of the room. The next person will race and get one block and add to the first block. If the wall falls then the next person needs to fix the wall and then get a new block. The team that completes first wins.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Eleven

Promotion Ceremony-Jehu

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Chairs

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Lesson: Older suit coat and bible, purple sash with a crown on it, small paper dessert plate with a frowning emoji face, red sash with a crown on it, hand held mirror, 2 black sashes, small statue or figurine to use as an idol, small clear bowl or cup with lid partially full of oil, army hat, hand-made spear (broom stick), small name tag saying Captain Jehu, 3 name tags saying Captain

Important Points: Acts 2:38

Craft: Paint sticks for everyone, large craft sticks, aluminum foil, black electrical tape, permanent markers

Extended Time Game: 2 brooms and 2 chairs

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Eleven

Promotion Ceremony-Jehu

Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 9

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:13



Welcome: Welcome each child with a big smile and a pat on the back today.



Pre-session: Musical Chairs- sing your favorite Sunday School songs and let the kids enjoy playing this classic game. As you stop singing (wherever you are at in the song) the children hurry to find a seat. The complication is that you are short one chair and so the person left standing gets to sing with the teacher. It's a "Be Prepared" game to start off your session.



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism”

Our story is about a bad queen who tried to make everyone worship another god and God was not happy about it. Pass around the offering plate or tin as you are singing. This would be a good time to mention that anything that takes the place of God in your life can become an idol. It can be electronics, it can be toys, and it can be even food. When you spend more time with something else and you allow that to control your time, emotions, and actions, then it has become an idol.



Memory Verse: (10 mins.)

1 Corinthians 16:13: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

1. Watch ye, - Hold hand up to eyes
2. stand fast in the faith; - Stand tall and firm
3. quit you like men – Make muscles
4. be strong. – Act like lifting weights



Lesson: (20 mins.) *This is a group participation story. Warn the kids to listen closely so they will know what to do. It may seem like a bit of preparation but it is worth the trouble when the children can remember what they have learned.*

Teacher: Israel at one time had a bad king and a really, really bad queen- at the same time! They brought in an idol by the name of Baal for the people to worship instead of the One True God. The really, really bad queen whose name was Jezebel (**have child Jezebel (with the hand held mirror) wave at the rest of the kids**) made all kinds of rules to punish those people who would dare to disagree with her. She painted her face and dressed in a manner that displeased God greatly. He was very mad at all the bad, bad things that Jezebel did. Jezebel also told her husband what to do...all the time. She had a man killed because he refused to give his garden to the king. (**Child king Ahab with frowning face**) The king could see the beautiful garden full of grapes and fruit and the king decided that he wanted it. Jezebel decided if Naboth would not give up his garden then she would just arrange for him to be killed. And she did. She made God very angry. He sent a prophet by the name of Elijah (**child Elijah holding bible**) to tell them that God was going to cause no rain to fall in the land. When he gave his message, Jezebel tried to have Elijah killed. God was trying to get Ahab and Jezebel to repent. Three years later, when Israel was suffering, Elijah proposed a contest between the One True God and the idol (**statue or figurine**) Baal. And during all this time, no rain

fell. Crops did not grow and water was hard to find. The land practically turned into a big desert. God won the fire contest because obviously a statue cannot hear or see or answer. Elijah was once again running for his life from Jezebel and God was done with her.

Years passed and Elijah was caught away on a chariot of fire into heaven and passed down his life's work to a man of God named Elisha. (*Have child Elijah give suit coat and bible to child Elisha.*) Elisha was Elijah's shadow who loved the One True God and Elijah. God loved him and decided to use him to bring freedom to Israel by getting rid of the bad king and the really bad queen.

(*Elisha gives container of oil to the young prophet*) Elisha, the prophet, sent another prophet of the Lord unto a mighty warrior named Jehu. (*Child Jehu gets the name tag "Captain Jehu", army hat and spear.*) Then the young man, (*young prophet*) who was a prophet like Elisha, took the bottle of anointing oil in his hand and went to where Jehu was. In the camp of Israel he found the captains (*child captains wearing name tags*) of the army sitting together. He came suddenly among them, and said, "O captain, I have an errand to you."

And Jehu, one of the captains, said to him, "To which one of us is your errand?"

He said to Jehu, "My errand is to you alone, O captain."

Then Jehu went with the young prophet into the house; and the prophet poured the anointing oil on his head, and said, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I have anointed you as KING over my people Israel. And you shall destroy the family of Ahab, because they destroyed the prophets of the Lord. And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam (another bad king), who made Israel to sin. And the wild dogs shall eat Jezebel in the city of Jezreel, and there shall be no one to bury her.' "

And after he said what Elisha told him to say, the prophet opened the door, and went away as suddenly as he had come. Jehu came back to the other captains, and sat down again. One of the captains said to him, "Is all well? Why did this wild fellow call you out? What did you do now?" Jehu was known as not only a mighty warrior but also a wild man.

Jehu said to them, "You know the man, and you know what he said to me. Don't pretend like you don't know!"

"No, no," they all said, "we do not know. Tell us what he said."

Then Jehu told them what the prophet had said, and that he had anointed him as king. This pleased all the captains. At once they took off their coats and robes (just the outside clothes- they were all still dressed), and spread them as a carpet on the stairs of the house, and at the head of the stairs they placed Jehu; and they blew the trumpets and called out to the army, "Jehu is the KING!"

Then Jehu made ready his chariot, and rode swiftly toward Jezreel, his company riding after him. The watchman on the tower at Jezreel saw him coming, and he called out to King Jehoram, "I see a company coming toward the city. He is driving like a mad man...Oh ITS JEHU!"

Jehu came with his army and took care of the Lord's enemies in Jezreel and went to the castle where Ahab and bad, bad, really bad Jezebel lived. When Jezebel heard that he was coming, she painted her face and fixed her hair up on her head in layers so that it stood really tall on her head. She was hoping to impress Jehu even though she was already married. She stuck her head out of the window and called to him, "Oh Jehu!" She fluttered her eyelashes and patted her hair...

Jehu called out to the castle, "Who is on my side?"

Two servants (*child servants wear the black sashes*) stuck their heads out the window and hollered, "We are!"

Jehu called up to them, "Throw her down!"

Jezebel died from the fall and Jehu reigned as King of Israel. The Lord put an end to the evil queen and used the mighty warrior to set things straight in Israel!

Important Points for Today:

1. God was angry because Ahab and Jezebel caused Israel to serve an idol. They refused any warnings He sent to them and continued to do whatever they wanted to do.
2. When God was through trying to get Ahab and Jezebel to change, He had Elisha send a prophet to anoint a new king. Jehu was a great warrior and he followed God. He had no love for Ahab and Jezebel but he loved Israel. He tore down the idols of Baal and this pleased the Lord.
3. Ahab and Jezebel died from the hands of the new king, Jehu. When God is finished with you, it is a scary situation to be in. They refused to repent and God is a God of judgment as well as mercy. It was judgement time for Ahab and Jezebel.
4. To avoid the same fate as Ahab and Jezebel, we need to listen to the messenger that God has sent to us! He sent us our PASTOR! Pastor shows us that in Acts 2:38 that God wants us to repent from our bad ways and for the bad things that we have done in our lives and turn to Him. Jesus said that when we turn from our sins and be baptized in the water in Jesus Name- all of our past will be washed away! Jesus will no longer remember any of our Sins! He promised that He would come and live in our hearts. The Holy Ghost is real! You can receive the Holy Ghost today!



Craft: (15 mins.) Swords of the Spirit- the paint stick will be the sword and the craft stick taped on the paint stick will make a handle. Wrap the sword part with aluminum foil. Have the children color the handle of their Sword of the Spirit with the permanent markers.



Extended Time Game: (10 mins.) Jehu's Horse Race! Separate your class into two teams. Give the first person in each team a "Broom Horse" and instruct them that they are to pass the "horse" to the next person in line when their turn is finished. The idea of the game is to set up the two chairs at the other end of the room and have the kids "gallop" to the other end of the room, go around their chair and "gallop" back and pass the horse to the next person in line. The team who completes first is the winner.

Closing Prayer



Lesson Twelve

Jehovah Wins!

Lesson at a Glance

Pre-session: Construction paper, Bibles, markers, stickers

Pledges: Bible, Christian flag, American flag

Song and Offering: Offering plate or tin

Important Points: Acts 2:38

This Lesson is the Party Lesson! Time to reiterate everything taught in previous lessons and have a celebration!

- Praise & Worship
- Food- appetizers and a sweet desert- doesn't have to be big but homemade is always best!
- Drinks- HUGS drinks are a good buy. You can get 20 for \$3 and usually less messy.
- Paper plates, napkins and table cloths

Extended Time Game: Camouflage wrapping paper, 2 theater box candies, tape, scissors, stereo with kids cd or gospel music cd

Soldiers in God's Army

Lesson Twelve

Jehovah Wins!

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 5-6

Memory Verse: Acts 2:38



Welcome: (5 mins.) Welcome each child with the attitude of jubilation! God is so Good! I'm so glad you're here today! Today is the big Celebration!!



Pre-session: (10 mins.) Have the kids make their own memory verse posters. They can decorate it as elaborately as they wish and materials allow. Encourage them to really put effort into it because they could use it to teach the verse to their parents and friends after service!



Prayer & Pledges: (5 mins.) Make sure everyone is standing for pledges. Ready... Salute...

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Bible: I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will hide its words in my heart; that I might not sin against God.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Pastor: I pledge allegiance to my Pastor, a man sent from God. I will obey the Word that he teaches, follow the example he has set, stand beside him to uphold truth that I might be saved.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it stands, One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again, with life and liberty for all who believe.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Prayer



Song and Offering: (5 mins.) “Look What the Lord has Done” God is so good to us! Has He done something for you this week? Of course He has so let us praise Him in song and offering.



Memory Verse: (5 mins.) Acts 2:38- “Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Read the verse to the children and have them repeat after you. Then have the children take turns saying one word at a time around the room. Ex. Child 1- then, Child 2- Peter, Child 3- said...



Lesson: (20 mins.) At the time of our story, Israel was in a battle with the Philistines and things were not going well. There were many deaths on the side of the Israelites and the Ark of the God of Israel was captured and taken to the land of the Philistines.

The Ark of God was carted off to Ashdod to the temple of the Philistine god, Dagon. The Philistines thought that their statue gave them the victory over the God of Israel. God heard their words. He took note of what they were thinking and He was not pleased. When the priests of Dagon showed up the next morning, the statue god Dagon was on his face, bowed down to the Ark of the God of Israel. The priests scratched their heads wondering what had made their statue god fall down. They put the statue back on its stand and went about their business that day.

The following morning, when the priests of Dagon came to do their business in the temple, they found their statue god on the floor...again... and his head and hands were broken off. The priests were spooked. They wondered if some ghost had come and destroyed their statue. They would not even go back into that city afterwards. They figured that the Ark of God was a curse. The Lord’s hand was heavy on the Philistines. And so the Philistines of Ashdod sent the Ark of God to another Philistine town.

In the Ark of God’s new place, Gath, the Lord caused great sores on the bottoms of the people. The sores made the Philistines of that city bow because their bottoms were so sore. The Lord also made mice over run the city. Everywhere they looked were mice. Mice in the bed. Mice in the kitchen. Mice eating your bread. Mice running over your feet. It was a curse that the Lord punished the Philistines with for taking His Ark out of Israel.

So, the Philistines of Gath sent the Ark to another Philistine city Ekron, and when the people heard that it was coming, they were distraught! They had heard

what the Lord God had plagued the previous resting place of the Ark! Terrible sores and MICE!!!! They did not want the Ark but the Ark stayed with the Philistines 7 months.

The lords of the land of the Philistines decided they could not stand any more death or punishment from the Lord God of Israel and tried to decide what sacrifice or token they could present to the Lord God of Israel to get Him to quit the torment He was giving them. They decided to make gold replicas of the mice and the affliction and put it in the Ark. Then they started to question... “If it is the Ark of God that is troubling us, let’s test and see if it is Him or not.” So they took 2 momma cows and put their babies in a barn and put the Ark of God on a cart and made the momma cows pull it. The Philistine lords said that if the cows pulled the Ark of God to Beth-shemesh then it was the Lord God afflicting them but if the momma cows went back to their babies then it was just bad luck in the land.

Guess What?! The cows were crying for their calves but they walked to Beth-shemesh and so the Philistines knew that it was the Lord God of Israel who was the Boss. He was the one in charge of what was happening and He had punished those who would dare to suggest that a mere statue had power over Him. No man or beast or statue has power over the Lord.

Important Points for Today:

1. Israel had sinned. They worshipped idols and committed gross sins in the eyes of the Lord.
2. When Israel went to battle with the Philistines, the Philistines defeated Israel and captured the Ark of God. The Ark symbolized God’s presence with the Israelites. When the Philistines stole it, they didn’t know what trouble they were getting into...
3. “They carried the Ark of God into the temple of Dagon and placed it beside an idol of Dagon. But when the citizens of Ashdod went to see it the next morning, Dagon had fallen with his face to the ground in front of the Ark of the LORD!” Dagon was the god that the Philistines worshipped. It was an idol and no idol can do the things that our mighty God can do!
4. No person or idol can stand in the presence of God. In Isaiah 45:23 the Lord tells us, “That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.” That is why we bow our hearts to God every day and why we have nothing in our hearts take the place of Him.
5. Our God is awesome and there is nothing that He can’t do! He loved us enough to die for us on the cross and to take our sins. He knew that we won’t be perfect because we are human and we will make mistakes. Israel made mistakes but if you notice that God always came to the rescue when they repented. Sin will separate you from God. That is why Israel lost the

battle. There was sin and yet no one repented. That's why we are teaching you Acts 2:38 every time you are here. We want you to understand that God will be with you and fight for you if you stay repented and follow the plan of Salvation. It's vitally important to being saved.

6. Let's pray right now!



Party: (10-15 mins.) We are celebrating that our God is the biggest, most awesome, greatest fighter, Savior of those that believe, and best friend in the whole entire universe!!! Use this time to praise God and be festive as you and the children enjoy the goodies that are provided.



Extended Time Game: (10 mins.) Hot Grenade: played like hot potato. Sit the children in a circle and when the music starts they pass the grenade. When the music stops then the person holding it is out. Play until there is only one person left and they can open their prize. Play again with the 2nd grenade.

Captain Says: played like "Simon Says". This is a good time filler and fun if you put some thought about what you want them to do. You can have them quote verses. Shake someone's hand and tell them that Jesus loves you. You can have them do jumping jacks, pushups, hop on one leg, etc.

Closing Prayer