Stones of Remembering

This unit for Devotions or Bible uses Bible stories where a stone or stones are used to remember and to remind the people of a promise or of something God had done.

Each day we sing “What a Mighty God We Serve” and go right into “My God is so Big.”

We then have the Bible story, and find the stone in it, and discuss what that stone was a reminder of. We act out some of the stories.

At the beginning of the unit, I send the parent letter home (my letter follows the plans), requesting their stories. The letter is stapled to a “rock” paper for the parents to write their story and return the story rocks. (I just draw a large rock shape and make copies to go with the letters.) After we’ve gone through the Bible stories, one per day, we read student stories. We do several each day and the child who brought that story hangs it up on the wall. We start near the floor and “build” an altar with these paper stones. I also share stories of my own.

Stories:

1. The Israelites crossing the Jordan River, Joshua 3-4, making piles of stones to remember
2. Jacob and his dream; stone, Beth-el, to remember meeting with God Genesis 28:18-22
3. Ebenezer, stone of help, 1 Samuel 7, when the Lord thundered upon the Philistines and subdued them
4. Joshua 24:27, a stone of witness to the people’s promise to serve God and obey Him
5. Jacob’s and Laban’s heap of stones as a witness to their promises; “heap of witness” Genesis 31:44-55
6. My stories – tornadoes, in Kansas, the downburst, getting Kisha, car starting

Lesson Plans

Day 1

Sing “What a Mighty God We Serve” and “My God is so Big”, discuss our might God. Discuss His Faithfulness – we can count on Him. We see what He has done in the past, and it helps us have faith for today! He is still the same God and is still faithful and a mighty God.

Introduce the theme with telling the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, Joshua 3-4. Discuss the altar, “Daddy, why are these stones here?” and how they were a reminder of God’s faithfulness. Discuss God’s faithfulness. Act out the story.

Day 2

Sing the two songs. Show a rock and a pillow – which would you rather sleep on? Tell the story of Jacob’s dream, Genesis 28. Act out the story. Emphasize the stone, remembering the meeting with God, Beth-el – the house of God.

Day 3

Sing the two songs. Write up the word “Ebenezer” and think about what it might mean. (Discuss the meaning after the story.) Tell the story of God’s thunder on the Philistines, 1 Samuel 7, and discuss the “stone of help.” Think of God’s power and protection here – defeating the Philistines with thunder!

Day 4

Sing the two songs. Review the previous stories and stones. Tell the story of the Israelites’ promise to serve God only, Joshua 24:27, and the stone of witness to their promise.

Tell one of my stories today. (When I was at the library and my car wouldn’t start. I didn’t know what to do, since I don’t have family in the area, so I prayed about it, and asked God to start my car. I got back in the car, turned the key, and it started!)

Day 5

Sing the two songs. Give some background on Jacob and Laban; tell the story of Jacob’s and Laban’s promise and the heap of stones, the “heap of witness.” Think back over the stories and remember God’s faithfulness in each.

Day 6 and 7

Sing the two songs. Read the stories on the stones the children bring in. Each child will add his/her stone to our pile of stones on the wall (or bulletin board).

Dear Parents,

In devotions, we are talking about our faithful God. We have been and will continue to discuss how God helped and delivered his people, how He took care of them, and provided for them. We will also think about how God helps and cares for us, and how faithful He is. Please think of a time when you especially realized God’s faithfulness, care, protection, love, deliverance, etc. Write it on the stone that is attached, have your child cut it out, and return it by April 14 for our devotions. Thank you! It doesn’t have to be a big or momentous thing, just a time that really made you aware of Him.

We learned about the Children of Israel crossing the Jordan River on dry ground and afterward God commanded twelve stones to be set up for a memorial. He said it shall be a sign for them, that when their children ask what these stones are for, the fathers would tell them how God helped them through the Jordan. (See Joshua 4:6-7) I think it’s important to share with the children how God has helped us, and I plan to share some personal experiences, also. Psalm 44:1 goes right along with this topic: “We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.” I really enjoy this project. It’s exciting to hear how God works in all of our lives. What a mighty God we serve!

Thank you for your help,