

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! Today, we're going to explore a fascinating lesson from the Bible. Have you ever been excited to decorate a birthday cake or throw a party, but your parents gave you specific instructions? They might say, "Be careful with the frosting" or "Don't start the music too early." The instructions are there to help you enjoy the celebration safely and make sure everything goes smoothly.

Now, imagine you're back in the time of the Bible, maybe wearing sandals and a robe, living in a tent. God gave His people, the Israelites, instructions just like that, and they were special because they taught them how to live and worship. One important book of the Bible where God gave these instructions is called Leviticus.

In Leviticus chapter 10, we hear about two brothers named Nadab and Abihu. They were priests, which means they had a big responsibility to follow God's instructions for worship exactly. But, just like what happens when we might not listen closely to our parents and things don't go as planned, Nadab and Abihu didn't follow God's instructions. Let's find out what happened to them and what we can learn about paying attention to God's guidelines.

Think of it like listening carefully when your teacher is explaining a game. You wouldn't want to miss an important rule, right? This story helps us understand why paying attention to instructions, especially from God, is crucial and how it keeps us safe and happy.

Main Teaching Points

1. God's Instructions are Important

In the Bible, God gave the Israelites specific rules for worship to keep them safe and holy. Nadab and Abihu were sons of Aaron, who was the high priest. They knew the rules, but one day, they decided to do things their way instead of following God's instructions carefully. It's a little like when you decide to mix different colors of paint together and it ends up making a color you didn't expect. Sometimes, doing things our way without listening can lead to unfortunate surprises.

God's rules in Leviticus were like important guidelines. The priests had to make sure they were using the correct items when they performed the ceremonies. But Nadab and Abihu didn't use what God said they should. This teaches us that when we're given instructions, especially important ones, following them exactly matters. God's instructions help us make right choices and keep us from harm.

2. The Consequences of Not Listening

So, what happened because Nadab and Abihu didn't follow God's instructions? The Bible tells us that fire came out from God and consumed them. This may sound scary, similar to the way touching a hot stove after being told not to can result in a painful burn. It was a serious lesson for the Israelites about how important it was to respect God's holiness and instructions.

This teaches us something crucial: when instructions aren't followed, there can be serious consequences. Just like playing with matches isn't safe and can lead to a big fire, disobeying

important rules can cause things to go wrong. God wanted the Israelites to see how important His instructions were, not because He was mean, but because He wanted them to be safe and holy.

3. God Wants Us to Respect Him

The story of Nadab and Abihu also teaches us about respect and reverence. Reverence is a big word that means showing deep respect for something that is holy or very important. Think about how we might behave quietly and respectfully in a library. It's different from how we act on the playground, right?

God is so special and powerful, and He wants us to treat Him and His instructions with great respect. It's not that God is trying to take away our fun; instead, He wants us to see how special our relationship with Him is. By following His guidance, we show God that we know He is important and we trust Him.

When we do things like praying, reading the Bible, or even being kind to others because it's what God wants, we're showing Him honor, just like when we listen closely to our parents because we respect them.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've learned about Nadab and Abihu, you might be wondering how this story is important to you. Each of us lives in a setting where we have rules to follow, whether at home, school, or church. Think about how your teacher gives you rules in class. They might say, "Please raise your hand to speak" or "Line up quietly." These rules help everyone learn and keep things peaceful.

In our everyday lives, God gives us instructions through the Bible. For example, the Bible teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This could mean sharing your toys or helping someone who needs it. When we choose to follow these guidelines, we are following God's instructions just like the Israelites were supposed to.

Remember, God's instructions are given to us not just to follow rules, but to make our lives better. They guide us to be kind and safe and to build a close relationship with God. So, whether you are listening to your parents, teachers, or learning from the Bible, remember that following good instructions leads to good outcomes.

Next time you face a decision or feel like doing things your own way, take a moment to think about what God's Word says or what a wise adult has instructed you to do. It could be the difference between having a good day or a not-so-good day.

Interactive Discussion Questions with Explanation and Teaching Guidance

Let's think more about the story of Nadab and Abihu and how it relates to us. Here are some questions to help us discuss:

1. Why do you think instructions are important to follow, not just in the Bible, but everywhere?

- Guide students to think about order, safety, and respect. Use the example of crossing the street: looking both ways before crossing is important because it keeps us safe.

2. Can you think of a time when you didn't follow instructions and things didn't go well? What did

you learn from it?

- Encourage students to share personal experiences, like not following a rule at school or home, and what they learned from the consequences. Relate it back to making better choices next time.

3. How does following God's rules show respect for Him?

- Explain that when we follow God's guidelines, we are showing Him we trust and honor Him, similar to when they listen to a loved adult or teacher out of respect.

4. What are some ways you can show respect to God and others this week?

- Lead students to think practically about actions they can take, such as praying, being kind, or listening carefully to their parents and teachers.

These questions will help us see that Bible stories aren't just from the past. They teach us how we can live today. When we take time to think about and answer these questions together, we'll understand even better why God's instructions make life bright and beautiful.