

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! Today, we're going to explore a wonderful story from the Bible about two very good friends, Jonathan and David, from the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 20. Have you ever had a friend that you really cared about? Someone you enjoyed playing with, sharing your toys or secrets, and who made you laugh? Friends are very special, and they are gifts from God who bring joy and love into our lives.

Imagine you have a best friend, someone who you trust with everything, and one day they suddenly get into some serious trouble. What would you do to help them? Would you stand by them? This is exactly what Jonathan did for David. Their story shows us the importance of truth, promises, and sticking together, even when things get tough.

In our Bible chapter, Jonathan, who was the son of King Saul, showed immense loyalty and care for his friend David, even though it was very challenging. Their friendship teaches us that true friends are there for each other through thick and thin. Let's dive deep into this lesson and find out how these two friends supported each other, what made their friendship strong, and what we can learn from their story. This wonderful tale of friendship and bravery has a lot to teach us, so let's get ready to learn!

Main Teaching Points

1. Understanding Friendship: Jonathan and David

First, let's take a closer look at Jonathan and David's friendship. Jonathan was King Saul's son, and David was a shepherd boy who had been chosen by God to be the next king. Despite their different backgrounds, they became the best of friends. Their friendship shows us that God places people in our lives who can become our closest friends, even if we come from different places or have different interests.

Jonathan made a special promise, or covenant, with David. This was like a super-strong promise to always be true friends, no matter what happened. We learn that promises are important and that when we make a promise, like promising to share or help someone, we should always try our best to keep it. Can you think of a promise you've made to a friend before?

2. Loyalty in Tough Times

Now, let's talk about how Jonathan showed loyalty to David. Being loyal means standing by someone, even when things get difficult. In the story, King Saul became very jealous of David because David was loved by many people for his bravery and goodness. Saul even wanted to harm David, which was very scary. But Jonathan didn't let that stop him from being a good friend.

Jonathan didn't keep quiet or go away when his friend needed help. Instead, he came up with a plan to find out what Saul was thinking. Jonathan promised David that if he found out that his father really intended harm, he would let him know so David could stay safe. This teaches us that good friends look out for each other and help each other make the right choices.

3. The Importance of Communication

Let's look at how Jonathan and David communicated. They set up a plan involving arrows to send messages to each other about whether David was safe. Jonathan did this because it wasn't safe for them to talk openly. This shows us how important communication is in friendship. Even when they couldn't speak directly, they found a way to share important news.

We learn from this that when we feel something is not right or if we need help, it's important to talk to someone we trust—like a parent, teacher, or a good friend. By communicating openly, we can help solve problems together.

4. Courage to Do What's Right

Jonathan showed great courage by helping David. He had to do something very hard: choose between obeying his father or helping his friend. Jonathan chose to do what was right. Sometimes we might find ourselves in a situation where doing the right thing isn't easy, maybe because others might not agree with us.

Think of a time when you had to be brave. Maybe you had to stand up for someone or tell the truth even when it was hard. By being brave like Jonathan, we can show our friends, and everyone, that we care about doing what's right and being there for them.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

What can we learn from Jonathan and David to use in our own lives? Let's think about some ways we can be better friends, just like them.

Firstly, always be kind and supportive. A friend is someone you can count on, and who can count on you. Maybe you have a friend who's being picked on, or perhaps someone who feels left out during recess. You can show kindness by inviting them to play or by saying something nice to them.

Secondly, keep promises. If you promised to share your favorite toy or help someone with their homework, do your best to keep your word. It shows others that you value them and that you're reliable.

Thirdly, communicate. If something is bothering you or you have an idea, talk it out with your friend. Maybe there's a misunderstanding or a problem that needs solving. Use your words to share how you feel and work things out.

Finally, be courageous. If you see something that's not right, like someone being treated unfairly, have the courage to speak up. It takes bravery to do this, but as Jonathan showed us, it's important to help our friends and others when they need it.

By doing these things, you can be a great friend and make sure your friendships are strong, just like Jonathan and David's.

Interactive Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jonathan and David's friendship was so strong?

Guide: Encourage the children to think about trust, loyalty, and shared values. Discuss how Jonathan and David supported each other, showing that true friendships are based on more than just having fun together. Ask the students to share examples of how they are good friends to

others.

2. How did Jonathan show courage, and why is it important for us to be brave too?

Guide: Focus on Jonathan's decision to help David, despite being risky. Courage often means doing something even when it's hard or scary. Ask the children to think about a time they were courageous. How did it feel before and after? Reinforce the idea that being brave can help us support our friends and stand up for what's right.

3. Can you think of a way to communicate well with your friends, especially if there's a problem?

Guide: Encourage the children to think about positive communication strategies, like speaking kindly, listening carefully, and being honest. Role-play scenarios where they may need to resolve misunderstandings. Discuss how good communication helps build trust and prevents problems from getting bigger.

4. Why is it important to keep promises in a friendship?

Guide: Explain that keeping promises helps build trust and shows that you value your friend. Use examples like promising to play a certain game or help with something and how breaking those promises might feel. Discuss how trust is a foundation of friendship and how keeping promises helps to maintain it.

These questions and the corresponding discussions will help the children understand the story deeply and relate it to their everyday lives, equipping them to be better friends and thoughtful individuals.