

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, boys and girls! Today, we are going on a fantastic adventure into an exciting story from the Bible. This story is found in 2 Samuel 2, and it has themes of courage, leadership, and making wise choices. Have you ever had to wait for something you really wanted, like a new toy or a trip to somewhere fun? Today we meet David, a character who had to do a lot of waiting, but he trusted God every step of the way.

In the story before today's, David had been told he'd be king, but he had to wait a very long time. Can you imagine being told you'd be king or queen but having to wait many years? Finally, in this chapter, something incredible happens – David is anointed as king over a special place called Judah. Now, anointing means that someone pours oil on your head as a special way to show God has chosen you for something important. We'll see how David handles this new responsibility, and what lessons we can learn from him about being patient, listening to God, and being a kind and fair leader.

Get ready to picture this story in your mind and think about how it might relate to your own life. Let's dive into the story of David and see what happens!

Main Teaching Points

1. David Becomes King of Judah

Imagine waiting for your turn to do something special – like picking a game at recess. David had been promised by God that he would become king. But first, he becomes the king of just a small part of the country called Judah. This tells us something important about God: sometimes promises come true in steps. David didn't immediately start ruling the whole kingdom. Isn't that interesting? He had to be patient and faithful with being the king of one area before he could rule everything.

As anointing took place, Samuel was not just making him a king in a small area; he was preparing David for bigger tasks. Just as when you learn to ride a bike with training wheels before taking them off, God was training David for bigger responsibilities.

2. Kindness and Forgiveness

After David was made king, he found out about Saul's death. Now, Saul had been someone who didn't treat David very well. But instead of being happy or holding onto past grudges, David chose to be kind and gracious. He remembered the bravery of the people who had buried Saul and thanked them. It's like at school when someone's not very nice to you, but you choose to do or say something kind anyway. David is showing us that God loves it when we forgive and move forward.

3. A Civil War and Leadership Choices

The story then talks about a time of conflict between the followers of David and the followers of Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth. When two groups can't agree, we call it a conflict, like when two friends want to play different games. But, David showed that true leadership means seeking peace and understanding. Even when things were hard, he didn't use his power to hurt others. Instead, he focused on being righteous and fair. The Bible teaches us that when you're a leader, even if it's being team captain or helping a younger sibling, you should be kind and think about what's best for everyone.

4. God's Timing

The chapter ends reminding us about God's perfect timing. David didn't become king of the whole nation instantly; it was God's choice for him to first be king of Judah. It feels like when you plant a seed and wait for it to grow into a flower – it takes time, and sometimes, you need to trust that it will happen when it's supposed to. We learn from David to trust God's timing, even if it's different from our own.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

You might wonder, what does the story of David's first steps as king have to do with me? Let's talk about some things we can learn.

First, David teaches us about being patient. Can you think of a time you had to wait for something you really wanted? It could be waiting for a special birthday or waiting to take your turn on the play equipment. Like David, we need to trust that good things will come if we're patient.

Next, David shows us how to forgive. Maybe there's a time when someone wasn't nice to you. What can you do? You can choose to be kind, just like David did. This helps build friendships and makes our classrooms and families happier places.

Lastly, think about leadership. Even if you're not a king, you are a leader too. You can be a leader at home if you're the oldest sibling, or at school when you help new friends. Being a leader means listening to others, making choices that help everyone feel included, and showing kindness, just as David led with fairness.

Remember that God has special plans for you just like he did for David. Maybe it's helping someone feel included on the playground or inviting someone new to your group. God looks at what's inside our hearts and helps us become the best versions of ourselves when we trust Him.

Interactive Discussion Questions with Explanation and Teaching Guidance

Let's finish today's lesson with some discussion questions. These will help us think more deeply about what we've learned and how we can use these lessons in our own lives.

1. Why do you think David didn't become king of the whole country right away?

- Help the children understand that sometimes God helps us grow step by step so we can get ready for bigger responsibilities. Like learning to read or solving a tough puzzle, learning little by little makes us stronger. Encourage them to share experiences of things they needed to practice before they were good at them.

2. How did David show kindness even when people were unkind to him?

- Guide the children to think about times when they can choose kindness even when it's tough. Ask them to share simple daily examples, like helping someone with their schoolwork, to understand better how kindness can spread.

3. What do you think it means to be a good leader?

- Explain that leadership isn't just about being in charge - it's about helping others and making good choices. Help them think of who good leaders might be in their lives, whether teachers, coaches, or family members, and what makes them good leaders.

4. Do you trust God's timing, like waiting for a prayer to be answered or something you hope for?

- Encourage the children to share personal stories. Emphasize learning to trust that sometimes

things happen when they should, according to God's plan. This question encourages children to think about patience in their spiritual lives and how they can trust in God's timing.

Let's remember as we go throughout our week how David's story can guide us to be patient, kind, good friends, and leaders in our own ways. Thanks for joining the adventure today, and I look forward to the next story we will explore together!