

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning boys and girls! I am so excited to spend this time with you today as we dive into a special story from the Bible. Today, we're going to explore a chapter from the book of 2 Samuel, chapter 7. This is an amazing story where we see how God spoke to King David in a wonderful way! But first, let's imagine something.

Have you ever built a really cool fort out of blankets and chairs at home? You make it nice and cozy, and it's your special place, right? But imagine if one day, you built the most awesome fort ever and a friend came along and said, "Hey! How about we build an even bigger one together?" How exciting would that be?

This is kind of like what happened to King David, but instead of a blanket fort, it's about a house for God, the Creator of everything! Now, even though God doesn't need a house like we do, King David had this great idea to do something special for God. Today, we're going to find out what happened with David's idea and learn about a promise God made to him that was bigger than anything he could imagine.

Are you ready to go on this adventure together? Grab your imagination and let's dive into 2 Samuel 7 to see what we can discover about God, His promises, and what it means for us today!

Main Teaching Points

Point 1: David's Dream to Build a House for God

Let's start with King David. He was a great king who loved God very much. David thought that since he lived in a beautiful house, it was not right for the Ark of God, which was very special to the people of God, to stay in a simple tent. So, David had a dream. He wanted to build a house, a temple, for God so that the Ark could have a wonderful place too.

To help us understand, let's think about birthdays. When it's your birthday, it's so nice to get presents, isn't it? David wanted to give God a very special "birthday" gift by building Him a house! But, did God really need this house? Let's see what happens next.

Point 2: God's Message to David Through Nathan

David didn't start building right away. He talked to Nathan, the prophet, about his idea. Prophets were like God's special messengers back then. Nathan thought it was a good idea, but then God gave Nathan an important message for David.

God told Nathan to tell David, "I haven't lived in a house since I brought the Israelites out of Egypt. I am okay with the tent!" God wanted David to know that, even though David's idea was wonderful and kind, it wasn't part of God's plan right then. It's like when you plan to have a big ice cream sundae, but mom says it's dinner time first. You can still have something good, just in a different order.

Point 3: God's Promise to David

God didn't stop at just saying no. Instead of David building a house for God, God promised to build something even more special for David. Do you remember that example of building a fort? Well, God's "fort" or promise was way bigger! He promised David that his family and his kingdom would last forever.

God said that one of David's descendants would build the temple. We know it later happened when David's son, Solomon, became king. But the even bigger promise was that Jesus, who would be born many years later, would come from David's family.

God basically said, "David, your family will always be important to me, and through them, I will do something amazing that will last forever!" Isn't it cool how God has plans that are greater than we can imagine?

Point 4: David's Response to God's Promise

When David heard all of this, he didn't feel sad because he couldn't build the temple. Instead, he was super grateful and thanked God. He prayed a beautiful prayer, which you can think of like writing a thank-you note to God.

Imagine if someone gave you the best gift ever, more than you even expected. What would you do? You'd probably say a big, loud "thank you!" That's what David did. He was so happy that God had such a wonderful plan for him and his family.

This part of the story tells us how we can trust God's plans even when they're different from what we expected. God has a big picture in mind for our lives!

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, let's think about what all of this means for us. Sometimes, just like King David, we have big ideas and dreams. Maybe you dream about being an astronaut, or a doctor, or even a famous artist. Those dreams are wonderful! God loves when we dream big, because He's given each of us special talents and gifts.

But sometimes, life doesn't go exactly like we planned. Maybe you try out for a team and don't make it, or you work hard on your art, but it doesn't turn out like you wanted. It's important to remember that, like in King David's story, God's plan can be different from ours—and that's okay!

God has special plans for each of you, and even though we can't always see them right now, those plans are good. He knows what will make us truly happy and help us to become the amazing people He created us to be. So, when things don't go as planned, we can trust God just like David did.

Remember, when God says "no" to something, He often says "yes" to something even better. You can pray and tell God your dreams. He listens and is guiding you in His special way that sometimes is even more incredible than you imagined.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now, let's discuss some questions together to help us think about the story in our own lives.

Question 1: What was David's big idea and why did he want to do it?

Teaching Guidance: Allow the students to share that David wanted to build a house for God because he loved God and wanted to honor Him. Encourage them to think about times they've wanted to do something nice for someone.

Question 2: How did God respond to David's idea? Why do you think God's plan was different?

Teaching Guidance: Guide the students to understand that God had a bigger plan for David's family and explain that sometimes, plans are different because they are part of something bigger we might not see yet. Use examples like preparing for a surprise party—sometimes you can't see what's going on, but it's leading to something exciting.

Question 3: What can we learn about trusting God's plan for our lives from this story?

Teaching Guidance: Help students see that, like David, even when things don't happen as we planned, God's plans are often greater. Discuss the importance of prayer and how they can talk to God about their dreams and trust He's with them every step of the way.

Question 4: How did David react to God's promise and what does that teach us about being grateful?

Teaching Guidance: Discuss how David thanked God for His promises. Encourage students to think of ways they can express gratitude in their lives, such as keeping a gratitude journal, saying thank you to others, and recognizing what they are thankful for in prayer.

As we finish today, let's remember that God's plans are amazing and good. He loves each of you very much and is excited about the incredible adventures He has planned for your life!