

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! Today, we're going to learn about a story from the Bible in the book of 2 Samuel, chapter 10. This is a story full of friendship, misunderstandings, and some pretty interesting lessons that are just as important today as when they happened so long ago. Imagine if you tried to be nice to a friend, but they misunderstood you and thought you were being mean. How would that feel? Kind of confusing, right? That's exactly what happens in our Bible story today. It's like when you're trying to help out a friend, but somehow things just get all mixed up and suddenly, not only are they upset, but others get involved too.

In this story, we see King David, who was a very important king in Israel. David decides to show kindness or be friendly to someone new, but things don't exactly go as planned. We all have situations where we try to do good things, but they don't turn out how we expected. What do you think we should do in those situations? Should we give up or try to fix the misunderstandings? Are there certain ways or words that can help clear things up?

As we go through the story, we'll see how David dealt with these feelings and actions. Pay close attention, because later we'll talk about how you can use these lessons in your own life when things don't go according to plan. So, let's dive into 2 Samuel 10 and see what happened with David and his friends!

Main Teaching Points

1. The Good Intentions of King David

Let's start by looking at David. King David wanted to be kind to Hanun, the new king of the Ammonites. Hanun's father, Nahash, had been kind to David in the past. David thought, "I should show kindness to Nahash's son, Hanun, because of how nice his father was to me." This is like remembering your friend's birthday because they remembered yours last year. David sent some men to comfort Hanun because Hanun's father had died.

2. Misunderstanding and Suspicion

Even though David had good intentions, Hanun's advisors told him something different. They said, "David really sent his men to spy on you and figure out how to attack us!" Can you believe it? Hanun listened to his advisors and believed them instead of thinking about David's good intentions. This is like getting upset with your friend because someone else told you they said something mean about you, even if they did not.

3. The Humiliation of David's Men

Because Hanun believed the wrong thing, he treated David's men poorly. He shaved off half of each man's beard and cut their clothes in a way that embarrassed them. Back then, beards were very important to men and to their dignity, so this was very insulting. Imagine if someone took your special school project and scribbled all over it. You'd feel hurt and upset, wouldn't you?

4. David's Response

When David heard what happened, he knew his men were embarrassed and upset. He told his men to stay in Jericho until their beards grew back. This was David's way to show he cared about how they felt and that he didn't want their feelings to be hurt more. David showed empathy and understanding, recognizing that his friends needed time to heal.

5. The Resulting Conflict

This misunderstanding led to a bigger problem. After learning about the treatment of his men, King David realized that this was more than just a small problem. The Ammonites prepared for war because they knew they had offended Israel. They even hired other armies to help them fight, like hiring extra players to play dodgeball against your class.

6. Joab's Bravery and Strategy

David sent Joab, his top commander, and the army out to face the Ammonites. Joab was very smart and brave. He saw that the enemy was on both sides, so he planned carefully. He split his forces in two, trusting his brother, Abishai, to lead part of the army. He told Abishai, "If the battle is too hard for you, come help me, and if it's too hard for me, I'll come help you." This is like working as a team in a class project, supporting each other so you succeed together.

7. God Gives Victory

In the end, they were victorious. Joab and his troops fought bravely, and the hired armies ran away. This shows how sticking together and supporting each other in difficult times can lead to success. Sometimes, even if things seem tough, we can overcome challenges by being brave and working as a team. God was with them and helped them triumph because they acted with courage and wisdom.

So, that's the story of 2 Samuel 10! It's a tale not just of misunderstandings but also of standing together with our friends and treating others with kindness, even if things don't go as planned.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, let's think about how this story might relate to your own life. Have you ever had a time when you tried to do something nice for someone, but they misunderstood you? It can feel frustrating, right? You might feel like you're trapped in a little rain cloud on a sunny day.

Like David, you might have good intentions, but sometimes things go differently than expected. What's important is how you respond. If someone misunderstands you, you can try two things: communicate and show kindness. Try talking to them to clear up the misunderstanding. Say, "Hey, I wanted to help by doing this or that, and I didn't mean to upset you." This is like washing away that rain cloud with sunshine!

Then, just like David, don't forget to show understanding and care towards others. If your friend feels upset or embarrassed, give them time, like David did for his men, or offer a comforting word to make them feel better.

It's also important when you are in Joab's situation to work as a team. Whether it's with friends or classmates, being there for each other and tackling problems together can make things so much easier and sometimes even fun. Remember, you are much stronger when you work together.

In any misunderstanding, ask for God's help, too, so you can have the wisdom to know the right

words and actions. Your kindness and team spirit can be the things that help turn misunderstandings into moments of learning and friendship!

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now let's have some time for questions. I want all of you to think and maybe share an answer or two!

1. Why did King David decide to send comforters to Hanun?

David wanted to show kindness because Hanun's father, Nahash, had been kind to him before. This teaches us the importance of returning friendliness and kindness to others. You can prompt students to think of times they've helped a friend in need as a way to show kindness.

2. What went wrong in David's plan to be kind?

Ask the students to consider Hanun's reaction, discussing the misunderstanding based on his advisors' suggestions. Encourage them to share if they've ever faced a misunderstanding and the lessons they learned from it. Highlight that communication is key in these situations.

3. How did David react to the way his men were treated, and what can we learn from that?

David was thoughtful and empathetic toward his men's feelings. He showed that being a good leader or friend means caring about others. Have the students think about ways they can support their friends, especially when they are upset or embarrassed.

4. What does this story tell us about teamwork?

Discuss Joab's clever plan and how he worked with his brother, Abishai. Encourage the students to share their experiences with teamwork, emphasizing the importance of helping each other and staying united, just like Joab and his forces did.

While discussing, remind students that the main point of these discussions is to see how we can learn from these stories and act kindly, work together effectively, and handle misunderstandings with faith and care. By understanding and applying these lessons, we form stronger, more understanding communities with our friends, family, and classmates.