

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning, everyone! Today we are going to hear an important story from the Bible about King David. Do you know who King David was? That's right — he was the young shepherd who fought the giant Goliath with just a sling and a stone! David loved God very much and became a great king of Israel. But like every person, David made mistakes, and there is a lot we can learn from him.

Today's story comes from 2 Samuel 11. Have you ever played a game where you had to make choices, like choosing which block to take out of a Jenga tower? Sometimes, our choices can seem small, but they affect other blocks in the tower, right? Well, the choices we make in real life also have consequences, just like in our games.

In this story, King David faced such choices, but unfortunately, he made some wrong decisions that led to big problems. Even though he was a king and had many blessings, David forgot about doing what was right in God's eyes, just like someone who forgets to keep their room clean when their parent has asked them to do so.

Listening to this story will help us know more about making good choices, following God's teachings, and understanding how important it is to say 'I'm sorry' when we do something wrong. Let's dive in and see what King David did, and how we can learn to do better!

Main Teaching Points

1. The Setting and David's Mistake

King David was in his palace while his army went to battle. Imagine being at school but everyone else is at recess. How does that feel? David was not where he needed to be, and that was his first mistake. Instead of leading his army, he stayed back and, from his rooftop, saw Bathsheba, a beautiful woman. He liked what he saw and made another poor choice. Instead of turning away, David tried to get to know Bathsheba, despite knowing she was married. This shows us how sometimes we know something is not right, but we pretend it's okay because we want to do it. Have you ever felt that way?

2. David's Secret Plan

When Bathsheba told David she was going to have a baby, David tried to cover up his actions. He came up with a sneaky plan that involved her husband, Uriah. King David brought Uriah home from battle, thinking he would go home to his wife, but things didn't go as David planned. Just like when we try to cover up a mistake with another lie, it only creates a bigger problem. Finally, David arranged for Uriah to be sent to the toughest part of the fight, where he sadly died. David thought he solved his problem, but he was wrong.

3. The Consequences of David's Actions

Even when no one sees, God always knows what we do. That's why it's important to be honest, even when we mess up or make mistakes. David couldn't hide from God. God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David a story about a man who did something wrong. Nathan's story helped David

see how wrong his choices were. It was like having a mirror showing him his own mistakes. Nathan told him that God was unhappy with what he did, and there would be consequences. This reminds us that God is always aware and wants us to do what's right.

4. David's Repentance and God's Forgiveness

When David realized the impact of his actions, he felt very sorry. He understood he had sinned against God and others. So, what did David do next? He didn't run away or ignore it; he prayed to God, asking for forgiveness. Isn't it great that just like when we apologize to someone we have hurt and they forgive us, God is forgiving too? David learned, though his actions had consequences, that he still could find forgiveness in God.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've heard about King David and his choices, let's think about how this story can help us make better choices every day. When you're in school, or at home playing with friends or siblings, you might face decisions where you know the right thing to do but feel tempted to do something else. Just like King David was tempted to make poor choices, so are we sometimes.

For example, suppose you find a friend's toy and really want to keep it. You might be tempted to say that you didn't see it when asked. But as we learn today, doing the right thing might be hard but is always best in the long run. Just like a person who builds a tall tower without a strong base, it could fall at any moment because it's not built on the truth.

It's important to remember God loves honesty and wants us to make good choices. And if we make a mistake, saying "I'm sorry" and asking for forgiveness is the first step to making things right. So next time you face a choice, think of David, the blocks in your tower, and remember what we talked about.

When you do something wrong, go to God in prayer and talk to Him. He will listen and forgive, just like He did with David. And you can also talk to your parents or teachers when you need help making the right choice. They are always there to guide you.

Interactive Discussion Questions with Explanation and Teaching Guidance

1. What were some of the mistakes David made in the story?

Encourage students to think of how David stayed behind while his army went to battle, how he watched Bathsheba, and how he tried to hide his wrong choices. Discussing this can help them see that even small wrong decisions can lead to bigger problems.

2. Why do you think it is important to make the right choices even when nobody is watching?

Help students understand that God is always aware of our actions and loves to see us do what's right. It's also about building good habits and a strong character because even if others aren't there to praise us, doing right brings joy to our lives and those around us.

3. How can saying sorry and asking for forgiveness help us when we make mistakes?

Guide them to see that admitting wrong and seeking forgiveness can heal relationships. For David, it helped him come back to God, and for us, it helps us feel better and restores trust with others. Share real-life examples where you've seen saying sorry work well.

4. How can we help each other to make good choices, just like Nathan helped David realize his mistake?

Discuss how friends, family, or teachers can aid us in making wise choices. Encourage them to be supportive friends who gently remind each other of what's right, and to ask for help when they're unsure about a decision. Illustrate how teamwork and good advice can keep us strong.

Let's all commit to making God-honoring choices and be ready to help one another do the same! Remember David's story and how he turned back to God. Thanks for joining today's lesson!