

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning, everyone! Today, we will hear an exciting story from the Bible about a prince, a king, and some very important choices. Have you ever had to make a choice between doing what's right and what's wrong? Sometimes it can be hard to know what to do, but today's story will help show us why it's important to choose wisely. Our story is found in the Old Testament, in the book called 2 Samuel, chapter 15. It's all about King David and his son, Absalom.

Absalom was a prince of Israel, and David was the king chosen by God. We might expect that being a prince would make Absalom happy, but he actually wanted something more. He wanted to be the king, even while his father David was still reigning. Can you imagine wanting something so much that you would do anything to get it, even if it meant hurting someone in your family?

As we dive into today's lesson, think about what it means to be fair and to do the right thing, even if it's not easy. We're going to explore the choices Absalom made and think about what we might do in a similar situation. Plus, we'll learn about the importance of trusting God and being patient. So, get ready for a story full of action, characters with dreams, and important lessons about life!

Main Teaching Points

1. Absalom's Plan (Understanding What Happened):

Our story starts with Absalom, King David's son. Absalom was handsome and popular with the people of Israel. But Absalom wasn't happy just being a prince; he wanted to be king instead of his father. So, he came up with a plan. He decided to win the hearts of the people by being friendly and acting as a judge in Israel, telling people that if he were king, he would make sure everyone was treated fairly. Absalom would stand by the city gate, stopping people who came to see King David, and say, "If only I were made judge in the land, then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me, and I would see that they receive justice."

Absalom's actions teach us a lesson about being patient and respecting the roles God gives each one of us. He tried to take something that didn't belong to him by manipulating people's perceptions, showing us the importance of honesty and integrity.

2. King David's Response (Learning from the King):

When David heard about Absalom's actions and that he intended to take over as king, David didn't start a fight or argue with his son. Instead, he made a wise and peaceful decision to leave Jerusalem, the city where he ruled. This might seem like a strange choice, but David trusted God to take care of the situation. He knew that God was his true protector and that he didn't have to rely only on his strength.

David's response shows us what it means to trust God completely. Even when circumstances seem confusing or unfair, we can follow David's example by being peaceful, believing that God has a bigger plan for our lives.

3. The Consequences of Choices (Illustrating Right and Wrong):

Absalom's plan to become king carried consequences. By choosing to mislead the people and go against his father, Absalom faced a future filled with trouble. David, on the other hand, through his trust and patience, showed wisdom. God knows what is in our hearts and values truth and patience over trickery and impatience.

Let's remember this whenever we face choices ourselves. Maybe you've thought about cutting in line at school or taking something without asking because it seems easier or faster, but this story reminds us that those choices often lead to bigger problems later. Making good and right choices is always better in the long run.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've heard about Absalom and David, let's talk about what this story means for you. We all have choices to make every day—some big, some small. Perhaps it's how we share with our siblings or how we talk to our friends at school. What we learn from Absalom is that trying to get what we want by being sneaky or unfair isn't a good path. It can break trust and relationships.

Think about your own life. Has there ever been a time when you wanted something so badly that you thought about not being completely honest? Maybe you wanted to win a game, so you thought about bending the rules. Remember, being honest and fair shows others that they can trust you. Trust is something very valuable, and it's important to protect it.

Learning from David, we also see how trusting in God, and being patient is so important. Sometimes, when things aren't going our way, we might feel sad or frustrated. But, like King David, if we trust that God has a great plan for us, and we remain patient, we can see that good things come to those who wait and who do what's right.

Let's aim to be like David and listen to God first, trusting that His way is always the best way. When you face a tough choice, remember to pause, pray, and think about what would be the right thing to do. Trust in God's plan at all times!

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now let's discuss a few questions together. I'm excited to hear your thoughts!

1. Why do you think Absalom acted the way he did?

Think about being Absalom. He had everything a prince could want, but he still wanted to be king. Ask the students why they think someone in his position might act this way. Guide them to understand that sometimes people want more than what they have, and it can cause them to make wrong choices. Encourage them to think about being content with what they have and being thankful.

2. How did King David show trust in God?

Ask students to recall what David did when he found out about Absalom's plan. Guide them through the scene, emphasizing David's choice to leave Jerusalem rather than fight, highlighting his belief that God would take care of him. Talk about how we can show trust in God facing uncertain situations, encouraging students to share personal examples.

3. What can we learn from Absalom and David about making choices?

Sum up what the story reveals about choices. Ask students what they would do if they were in Absalom's or David's shoes. Lead them to conclude that honesty and trust in God lead to a better path. Discuss how, in their lives, they can make choices that honor God and show love and respect for others.

This discussion is a great way for us to connect the Bible's teachings with our everyday lives. Remember that you are capable of making great and kind choices, and God's way is always with love and truth. Thank you so much for listening and sharing today!