

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning, everyone! Have you ever been part of a team, a club, or maybe a class project where everyone had different ideas about what to do next? It can be a little confusing, right? Today, we're diving into a Bible story from 2 Samuel 19. It's a story about a king named David, who faced some tough decisions and how he had to bring people together again.

To understand this story, let's first learn a little about King David. Do you remember David from other stories we've heard? Yes, he's the same David who fought Goliath with just a sling and a stone! David eventually became king and was greatly loved by the people for his bravery and trust in God.

But even kings can have hard times. In this story, David is returning home after a big problem in his kingdom. Imagine you are playing a big board game, and suddenly everything changes because one player decides to stop following the rules, causing lots of confusion. Similarly, David's son, Absalom, had tried to take over David's kingdom, which caused many arguments and chaos.

Now, picture David climbing up a ladder to reach his treehouse to look out over the land. He's thinking about how to bring everyone back together again. How would he do it? How can you make things right when they seem all tangled up?

As we go through this story, pay attention to how King David handles this tricky situation and think about what you would do. Let's jump in and explore what lessons we can learn from David's experiences!

Main Teaching Points

1. David Returns to His Kingdom

After Absalom, David's son, tried to be king, David was in hiding. When the battle was over, David started his journey back to his kingdom. Imagine if you were playing hide-and-seek, and you finally hear the words "all clear." How joyous and relieved you would feel to come out of hiding and return home! That's exactly how David and his friends felt.

On his way back, David had to decide how to reunite his people. Some still weren't sure how they felt about him being king again. It was like trying to calm a big group of friends who had a disagreement. David knew he had to be wise and patient as he returned to his home.

2. Shimei Asks for Forgiveness

Along the way, a man named Shimei approached David. Previously, Shimei had been very mean to David. Imagine if someone knocked over your blocks on purpose in the playground—how would you feel?

Even though Shimei had done wrong, he came to David asking for forgiveness. And what do you think King David did? Did he frown and say, "No way"? He didn't! Instead, David chose to forgive Shimei. David knew that holding on to anger would make his return even more difficult. Like when you forgive a friend, David's choice to forgive shows great strength.

3. Mercy to Mephibosheth

Another important part of David's return was meeting Mephibosheth, a member of Saul's family. Remember King Saul, the first king of Israel? Mephibosheth had stayed loyal to David, but there was confusion over what really happened while David was away.

Rather than being suspicious, David trusted Mephibosheth's word and chose to show him mercy. It's like when you accidentally break a friend's toy, but they decide to trust you still and let you play with their toys again. This story teaches us to believe in the good of others.

4. Rewarding Barzillai

David also met Barzillai, an old friend who had helped David during difficult times. Imagine if a friend shares their snack with you every day. Wouldn't you want to share back? David wanted to reward Barzillai for his kindness by inviting him to stay at the royal court. It's important to show gratitude and remember those who have been kind to us.

5. David's Leadership

Throughout his return, King David showed us what it means to be a good leader. He didn't punish those who had been against him, which wasn't easy. Deciding to make peace with others takes courage. Like when you let everyone play the game their way instead of insisting on your way, David's actions helped bring his people back together. Unity was far more important than being angry.

6. The Promise of Unity

By seeing how David worked to bring peace and unity, we understand the importance of working together, forgiving others, and being open to trust. When we choose understanding and cooperation, it's amazing what can be achieved together. This teaches us that just like David, we all have the ability to bring peace and kindness to our world.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've explored the story of King David's return, let's think about how these lessons can apply to our lives today. Even though you're not ruling a kingdom, you face choices every day that can make a big difference.

Imagine a time when you had a fight with a friend. Maybe you both wanted to play different games at recess or disagreed over whose turn it was on the swing. What if you were like David and chose to forgive instead of staying mad? Forgiving someone is like opening the window on a rainy day to let the sunshine in. It can make everything brighter!

Sometimes we meet people like Shimei who might have hurt our feelings. When they apologize, think about what David did. By choosing to forgive, you help your friendships grow strong, just like the roots of a big tree.

Think about times when you can be like David and show mercy. Maybe someone new at school looks lonely. When you offer to be their friend, it's like giving them a piece of your happiness pie, making their day much sweeter.

Lastly, remember Barzillai. If a friend helped you when you needed it, be like David and show your

appreciation. Whether it's a kind word, a thank you note, or a drawing of appreciation, showing gratitude is very important.

Let's carry these lessons into our playground, classrooms, and homes. Your actions can inspire others to choose kindness, forgiveness, and unity, bringing everyone together just like David did.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now that we've learned about King David's story and how it applies to us, let's see what you think with some questions and have a quick chat!

1. Why do you think David forgave Shimei?

Encourage children to think about the power of forgiveness. Guide them to see that holding grudges can keep us in a stormy mood, whereas forgiveness is a way to clear the skies. Ask if they have ever forgiven someone and how it made them feel.

2. How can you be like David when a friend is upset with you?

Prompt students to share situations where they may have experienced a disagreement. Discuss ways to handle it peacefully, like listening or speaking kind words. Guide them with examples of saying sorry or telling a teacher about a problem to resolve it together.

3. Could you think of a time when you saw someone being kind, like Barzillai, and wanted to do the same?

Have the children share moments when they saw acts of kindness and how it inspired them. Discuss how kindness spreads and grows, creating a happier environment for everyone.

4. What can we do to show gratitude to our friends, family, or teachers who have been kind to us?

Encourage students to express their thoughts on ways to thank others, emphasizing actions like writing thank you cards, helping them with something, or simply giving a big smile.

With each discussion point, remind students that even as kids, their actions make a big impact. Encourage them to think about these questions in their daily lives. By doing so, they can help nurture a community full of kindness, respect, and love, just like King David aspired to create in his kingdom.