

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello everyone! Today, we're going to dive into an exciting story from the Bible, specifically from the book called 2 Samuel, chapter 23. This chapter contains the last words of King David. You remember David, right? He's the same person who defeated Goliath with just a sling and a stone when he was a young boy. David also became one of the most famous kings of Israel. But did you know he had a special group of friends who were also warriors? They were called "David's Mighty Men," and today we're going to learn about them and the amazing things they did.

Imagine having a group of friends who are always there for you and who can do incredible feats. That sounds pretty cool, doesn't it? These mighty men showed bravery and loyalty, and their stories can teach us about being brave and being good friends ourselves.

We will explore how important it is to have strong friendships and how we can be there for each other, just like David's mighty men were there for him.

As we explore these stories, think about how you can be mighty, not necessarily by physical strength, but by having a strong heart and good values. Are you ready to hear about some amazing adventures and learn how they relate to us today? Let's get started!

Main Teaching Points

1. David's Last Words and Leadership

In 2 Samuel 23, we begin by hearing the last words of King David. It's like when a coach tells their team what to remember before an important game. David talks about being a just leader, like a shining light for others. He says that a good leader is like the sun on a clear morning, bringing life to plants. He emphasizes that being fair and following God makes a strong king. This reminds us that just as David led his people, we too can be leaders in our own lives, whether it's being a good friend or helping out at home.

2. Introducing David's Mighty Men

Just like in movies or stories you might know, David had a team of mighty heroes. These were men who did amazing things and were incredibly brave. They supported David and showed great courage. Imagine your best friends standing by you, not only in games but whenever you really need them.

3. The Three Mightiest Warriors

Among these mighty men, three stood out: Josheb-Basshebeth, Eleazar, and Shammah. Josheb killed 800 enemies in one battle with just his spear! It's as if he was playing a video game and won an unbelievable level. Then there was Eleazar, who stood firm in a field of lentils when everyone else ran away. Imagine how brave he must have been to stay and fight! Lastly, Shammah defended his patch of ground when everyone else had left, showing great determination and courage. These stories show us the power of courage and believing in something worth fighting for.

4. The Act of Loyalty: Fetching Water for David

One of the most touching stories is when David longed for water from a well in Bethlehem. Three of his mighty men risked their lives to get it for him. It's as if they crossed dangerous roads and climbed mountains just to bring back a bottle of water because they cared so much for David. This

act was not about the water, but about loyalty and friendship. How can we show loyalty to our friends today? It doesn't have to be in grand gestures but can be in small, everyday actions.

5. Benaiah's Brave Deeds

Benaiah was another remarkable warrior who did amazing things, like capturing a lion. Imagine facing a lion, which is brave beyond words. His courage shows us that we can face our own 'lions' or big challenges in life with bravery and faith.

6. Understanding Honor and Loyalty

David's mighty men are remembered for their courage and loyalty, not just their fighting skills. It teaches us the importance of standing by those we care about and being brave in hard times. We might not have to fight battles, but we can stand up for our friends and do what's right, even when it's difficult.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've learned about David and his mighty men, let's think about how we can be mighty in our own lives. Being mighty doesn't mean fighting with swords and shields. Instead, it's about having a strong heart and being a good friend. Here are some ways you can apply these lessons in your life:

1. Be a Loyal Friend

Think of David's friends who were willing to go to great lengths for him. Being loyal means being dependable and trustworthy. Maybe it's comforting a friend who is sad or sticking by someone being bullied. Your support can mean a lot.

2. Face Your Challenges with Courage

While we won't be facing real lions like Benaiah, we all have challenges akin to lions in our lives. Maybe you're nervous about a test or a new school. Remember, bravery is doing the right thing, even when you're scared.

3. Practice Fairness and Kindness

David talked about being a just leader. In your life, practice being fair. When you're playing games, ensure everyone gets a turn. Speak kindly and treat others with respect.

4. Help Out When You Can

Just like the mighty men helped David, we can help our friends, family, and even strangers by being helpful and kind. If you see someone having a tough time, offer your help. It can be as simple as offering to share your crayons or helping with chores at home.

5. Value and Appreciate Others

David's longing for Bethlehem's water because it had a special meaning reminds us to appreciate the little things and the people around us. Saying thank you and showing appreciation helps build strong relationships.

Interactive Discussion Questions

1. What makes you feel brave or mighty?

Encourage students to share experiences where they stood up for what was right or helped someone in need. Discuss how different actions show bravery, like trying something new or speaking in front of the class.

2. Can you name someone in your life who shows loyalty or courage?

Guide students to think about someone—friends, family, or even fictional characters—who exemplifies these qualities. Discuss what they do that stands out and how that inspires them.

3. How can you be a good friend to someone in need?

Invite students to brainstorm ways to show kindness and support to friends, such as helping with schoolwork, being there to listen, or inviting someone to join in a game. Discuss how these small acts can have a big impact.

4. Why is fairness important in making a good leader, like David?

Discuss the importance of justice and how it builds trust and respect in relationships. Engage students in scenarios where fairness is needed, like sharing toys or resolving conflicts.

5. What is one thing you can do this week to show you are mighty in heart?

Ask students to set a goal for themselves that shows they are mighty, such as forgiving a friend, completing a challenging project, or helping at home without being asked. Discuss how these goals can reflect the values of loyalty and courage.

As we finish, remind students that being mighty is about strength of character and heart, not just physical strength. Like David's Mighty Men, everyone has the potential to do mighty things by being courageous, loyal, and fair in their everyday lives.