

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! I'm so excited to share a wonderful story from the Bible with you today. This story is from the book of 1 Kings, chapter 1, and it's a story about a great king and what happens when it's time to choose a new king. Now, how many of you have played the game "Follow the Leader?" In that game, you follow someone, doing exactly what they do. Sometimes it's easy to follow the leader, but other times it can be a bit challenging, especially if there are more than one leader.

In our story, there is a wise king named David. He is getting very old, and it's time for someone else to become king. But here's where it gets tricky—from this big kingly family, who should be the next leader? There are lots of people, including David's sons, who think they should be king next. It's a bit like when you're playing "Follow the Leader" and two people try to lead at once. Sometimes things can get confusing!

As we dive into this story, let's use our imaginations and think about what it meant back then to be a king. Having a king was like having someone really awesome in charge, someone everyone listened to and followed. Let's see how this story shows us what it takes to be a good leader, and why listening and patience can sometimes be the best crown a leader wears.

Main Teaching Points

Point 1: Who is King David?

To understand our story better, let's first talk about King David. King David was a very important person in the Bible. You might remember him as the boy who defeated Goliath with just a sling and a stone. Well, that brave boy grew up to become a kind and wise king of Israel. During his reign, he brought the people together and made the kingdom very strong. But now, King David is very old and he isn't as strong as before. Imagine your grandparent trying to play soccer again; it's not as easy for them as it was when they were young. So, David needed someone to step in and take on the big job of being king.

Point 2: Adonijah's Ambition

Let's meet another character in our story, Adonijah. He is one of King David's sons. Adonijah thought, "Hey, I can be king next! I'm strong, I'm handsome, everyone should follow me!" So, he decided to make himself king even though his father, King David, hadn't chosen him. It's like deciding you're the leader in "Follow the Leader" without asking anyone first. Adonijah started celebrating and gathered some people to support him, but he never talked to the most important person—King David. He even threw a big party to get people on his side.

Point 3: Solomon is Chosen

Now, on the other side, there was another son named Solomon. Solomon was younger and wasn't part of Adonijah's plans. But someone very wise was watching the situation, and that person was Nathan, a prophet. Prophets were like God's messengers, speaking what God wanted them to say. Nathan knew that God had chosen Solomon to be king. Nathan went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, and they both went to talk to King David.

Point 4: Doing What's Right

When King David heard from Nathan and Bathsheba, he remembered that God wanted Solomon to be king after him. Even though Adonijah thought he should be king, King David made the right choice by listening to God. He gave Solomon a very special task: to be the king and lead wisely.

Just like in "Follow the Leader," where you listen to one leader and follow their steps, Solomon had guidance from King David and, most importantly, from God. God helped David make the wise choice so that Solomon could become the king with a humble heart, ready to follow God's direction.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've learned about how leaders were chosen in King David's time, let's think about what these important lessons mean for us. Just like King David needed to listen to God to choose the right leader, we also have to make choices. Maybe you had to choose a team for soccer or decide which book to read next. What helps you make those choices? Is it your friends, your teacher, or even how you feel inside?

Solomon teaches us a great lesson about patience and readiness. He didn't rush to become king. He waited patiently, and when King David announced him as king, Solomon didn't brag or boast. Instead, he accepted the responsibility with humility. When we want to lead or do something important, we should remember to stay patient and humble, just like Solomon.

And isn't it amazing that God cares about the choices we make? Whether it's being kind and listening, or helping lead a group in school the right way, God can guide us, just like he guided David and Solomon.

So, next time you have a choice to make, remember this story. You can pray and ask God to help you make the right decision and be a leader like Solomon, who follows God's way.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now, let's talk about this story with some questions. These questions will help us think about King David, Adonijah, Solomon, and what it means to be a good leader.

1. Why do you think King David needed to choose a new king?
 - It's important for the students to understand that sometimes, new leaders are needed in different situations, just like when a teacher may choose a new line leader in class.
2. How do you think Adonijah felt when he wasn't chosen as the king?
 - Encourage students to think about times they might not have been chosen for something they wanted. Discuss how we can feel sad or upset, but how it's also important to understand when someone else may be a better fit for the task.
3. What can we learn from Solomon about being patient and waiting for the right moment?
 - Guide students to see the value in waiting for the right time, just like waiting for their turn on the swings or for their favorite activity in the day.
4. What does this story tell us about listening to God and doing the right thing?
 - Invite students to discuss how listening to advice from others, like teachers or parents, can help them make the right choices, just as David listened to Nathan.

As we wrap up, remember, each of us can be a leader in our way, and God helps us in that journey. Keep these questions and stories in mind, and let's try to be leaders who listen, who wait patiently, and who follow God's guidance in every step we take.