

Lesson

1. Engaging Introduction

Good morning, everyone! Today we're going to dive into an exciting story from the Bible that's all about promises, choices, and trusting God. We're going to look at a chapter from the book of 1 Kings, chapter 9. Have any of you heard of King Solomon? He was a very wise king of Israel, the son of King David, and God helped him do amazing things, like building a beautiful temple in Jerusalem where people could worship God.

To start, I want you to imagine that you've just made something really special. Maybe it's the best drawing you've ever done or a Lego tower that reaches the ceiling. You've worked on it for a long time, putting all your focus and effort into making it perfect. How would you feel if you showed it to your best friend? Would you be excited, maybe a little nervous, wondering what they might say? In 1 Kings 9, Solomon has just finished building not only the temple but also a palace, and now he's talking with God about what comes next. It's like revealing your masterpiece to the world!

So, as we explore this chapter, we're going to discover how God makes promises to Solomon and how Solomon has a choice to make, just like we all do. We'll see how this connects to our lives today, and we'll even have some fun questions and activities at the end. Let's get started!

2. Main Teaching Points

A. God Visits Solomon Again

Let's begin by understanding what's happening in 1 Kings 9. After Solomon finished building the temple and his palace, God appeared to him a second time. This was a big deal! Imagine, God coming to talk to you like a good friend. When God came to visit Solomon, He told him that He had heard his prayers and that He had chosen the temple as a special place for His name to be honored and glorified. Think of this as God saying, "I see your work, and I'm really proud of you!"

B. The Importance of Obedience

But that's not all. God also reminded Solomon about the importance of obedience. God promised to keep His promise to David, Solomon's father, which was that someone from their family would always be king of Israel, but there was an important condition: Solomon and his descendants had to follow God's commands. This is like when your teacher gives you a fun job to do, like being the line leader, but only if you remember to always listen and follow directions. Following God was very important because it was part of how God would bless them and keep their kingdom safe and strong.

C. What Happens When We Disobey

God also warned Solomon about what would happen if he and the people of Israel turned away from following His commands. God said that if Solomon's family and the people turned to worship other gods, the temple would become a symbol of what went wrong. People would wonder why such a beautiful place ended up in ruins, and the answer would be because they stopped listening to God. That's kind of like having a garden that you forgot to water and look after – it can start off so beautiful, but if you stop caring for it, it becomes messy and brown.

D. God's Promises Show His Faithfulness

It's important for us to see how faithful God is in this story. He didn't just give Solomon promises out of nowhere. God wanted Solomon to know that He would be with him and take care of him, as long as Solomon chose to love and obey Him. God's faithfulness is something we can trust, even when things are difficult or when we make mistakes. You might remember promises from your parents about a special treat if you clean your room. They make those promises because they love you, just like God makes promises because He loves us.

3. Personal Application for Elementary Students

Let's think about how this story connects to us. Solomon had a choice to make every day: to follow God or not. We have similar choices every single day, like deciding to be kind, to share, or to listen to our teachers. These choices might seem small, but they're really big to God because they show Him that we care and want to follow His ways.

Remember the example of your best creation, like a drawing or a Lego tower? You wanted to share it because you put your heart into it. In a similar way, God wants us to put our heart into loving and following Him. When we make good choices, like helping a friend or telling the truth, it's like we're making something beautiful for God.

God is always near to help us make the right decisions. He never leaves us alone. Even when we mess up, like when we accidentally knock over our Lego tower, God's still there to help us start again. We can pray and ask Him to guide us, just like Solomon prayed when he talked with God.

So today and every day, let's remember that God loves us, has a good plan for us, and is always faithful. We can trust Him, follow His ways, and know that He'll be with us in everything we do.

4. Interactive Discussion Questions with Explanation and Teaching Guidance

Now, let's chat about what we've learned! Here are some questions for us to think about together. Feel free to raise your hand and share your thoughts.

A. Why do you think God gave Solomon promises only if he followed God's commands?

This question helps us think about why obedience is important. Just like rules in games help us play fairly, God's rules help us live happily and safely. Encourage students to think about how following God's ways helps us and those around us.

B. What do you think might have happened if Solomon chose not to follow God?

By considering this question, students can understand the consequences of our actions. Just as a forgotten garden withers, our lives can be less joyful when we don't make good choices. Invite students to share ideas about how they feel when they make good versus not-so-good choices.

C. How can we show God that we are making the right choices today?

This question brings the lesson to a personal level. Discuss how smiling at someone who feels left out or saying thank you to someone who helps us are ways to show we care about God's teachings. Guide students to see how these actions are like little gifts to God, as they make His world better.

D. When is a time you trusted someone, and how did it feel when they kept their promise?

Encourage students to share personal experiences to reinforce the concept of faithfulness. It's comforting when others keep their promises, just as it's comforting to know that God always keeps His promises.

To wrap up, remind the students that we can pray anytime for help in making good choices. God loves when we talk to Him and ask for guidance. Let's close with a short prayer: "Dear God, thank you for loving us and making promises to us. Help us to follow your ways and make good choices every day. Amen." By thinking about these questions and praying, we can trust in God's promises every day!