Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning, boys and girls! Today, we're going to hear a very exciting story from the Old Testament, about a time when God sent a special message to His people through a man known as a prophet. Have you ever played a game of "Telephone," where you pass a message from one person to another? Sometimes, the message gets mixed up when it moves from person to person. In today's lesson, we'll learn about a prophet—a messenger chosen by God to deliver His words exactly as they were told.

Our story comes from 1 Kings 13. We'll learn about a king named Jeroboam, a prophet who courageously delivered God's message, and a lesson about obedience and listening carefully. As we dive into this story, think about how important it is to listen and follow instructions. We'll explore what happens when we do, and even what happens when we don't!

Picture this: a bustling town, with a beautiful but newly constructed altar where King Jeroboam is about to make an offering. Sounds interesting, right? Through this lesson, we will discover how God shows His power and why listening to Him is so important.

We'll also talk about how God's messages might come to us today and how we can respond to them. So, get ready to use your imagination, listen carefully, and learn an important lesson that can help us understand how God wants us to live our lives!

Main Teaching Points

1. God Sends a Message (241 words)

Let's start our story with King Jeroboam, who was ruling over the people of Israel. He decided to create his own altars and worship areas, which was not what God wanted. God had specific places where He wanted His people to worship Him, and Jeroboam disobeyed that command. So, God sent a prophet, a very important messenger, to deliver a message.

Can you imagine being the prophet and having to tell someone like a king that they were wrong? It takes a lot of courage! But this prophet went straight to King Jeroboam as he stood by the altar. God asked him to proclaim that the altar would be destroyed because God was not pleased. This was a bold message, demonstrating that God's instructions were not being followed.

This part of our story shows us that sometimes God needs to communicate to set us back on the right path. Just like when your parents might tell you not to touch something because it's hot or to share your toys because it's kind, God's message through the prophet was to correct something that was wrong. It was all about helping the king and the people pay attention to the right way of worshiping God.

2. Signs and Wonders (234 words)

God didn't just send a message through words; He also showed His power with some amazing signs! As the prophet spoke, the altar split in two, and the ashes on it were poured out. This was a powerful sign that what the prophet was saying was true. The king saw this miracle happen with his very own eyes.

Not only that, but when King Jeroboam was angry and pointed his hand to seize the prophet, his hand dried up and became stiff! Could you imagine not being able to move your hand? The king couldn't use it until he asked the prophet to pray to God for healing, showing everyone the power and mercy of God.

This teaches us that God is very serious about His instructions and that He has the power to do incredible things when needed. Imagine your parent showing you a toy that you were warned could break if not handled carefully—it serves as a reminder to be gentle, right? In the same way, God provided a reminder through these miraculous signs about the seriousness of obeying Him.

3. Obedience and Deception (233 words)

Even after the prophet delivered the message, the story continued with another important lesson. The prophet was told by God not to eat or drink anything on his way home. He needed to follow these instructions exactly. But as he traveled back, an old prophet tricked him.

This old prophet told the man that an angel had visited him, saying it was okay to eat and drink. Even though it wasn't true, the prophet believed him and disobeyed God's command. Unfortunately, this led to a very sad ending when the prophet's life was taken as a result of his disobedience.

Like when your teacher gives instructions on how to complete a craft project—if someone else tells you to do it differently, you might end up making a mistake. The story is a reminder of how important it is to trust and follow God's instructions directly, and not be tricked into doing otherwise.

4. Lessons from the Prophet's Journey (227 words)

The story of the prophet teaches us something vital about listening to and trusting God. God's instructions are truthful and are for our well-being. The consequences faced by the prophet remind us that it's important to stay true to what we know is right, even if someone else tries to trick us.

By following God's instructions, the prophet was initially protected, just like when you listen to instructions at home or in school and stay safe. His unfortunate mistake later on, however, was a lesson for everyone on what could happen when we aren't careful about following God.

Ultimately, God's desire is for us to understand His love and His wishes for goodness in our lives. This story teaches us about the importance of fidelity to God's commands and remaining steadfast and courageous, even if the world around us tries to pull us in different directions.

Just like every hero of faith in the Bible, we have moments where we must choose to follow God, always remembering that, while it might sometimes be challenging, it is always the right path to take. We have guidance from God, through His word, and it helps us make wise decisions every day.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've learned about the prophet and King Jeroboam, let's think about how this story applies to you. Even as kids, you might face situations where you have to decide whether to obey or not. It might be as simple as listening to your teacher at school, following the rules at home, or sharing with your friends, but these are your opportunities to show obedience.

Imagine you're drawing a picture, and a friend tells you to color outside the lines even though your

teacher said to color inside them. What do you do? Remember the prophet had to think about what God told him. If you're in that situation, you can remember how important it was for the prophet to follow God’s instructions exactly as they were given.

It's also important to remember that sometimes we can learn from doing the wrong thing, just like the prophet learned. Mistakes happen, and what's great about God is that He's always willing to forgive and help us to learn from our mistakes. So, if you make a mistake, don't be discouraged. Ask for forgiveness and try to make a better choice next time.

Finally, just as the prophet received a specific task from God, God has given you special things to do, too—being kind, helping others, and listening to your parents and teachers. These are the kinds of things that show your love for God. So, each day, try to follow what you know is right, be brave like the prophet, and shine brightly with your actions!

Interactive Discussion Questions

Let’s wrap up our lesson with some questions to think about and discuss. It's a fun way to see what we've learned today!

1. Why do you think the prophet was brave to bring God's message to King Jeroboam?

Think about how you would feel if you had to tell someone important that they were wrong. This helps us understand the courage it took for the prophet. Discussing this can help kids understand that sometimes doing the right thing takes bravery and we can find that courage with God’s help.

2. What lesson did we learn from the miracle that happened when the altar broke apart?

This question invites kids to talk about God’s power. It can lead to a discussion on how visible signs can be reminders for us today to follow God. For instance, seeing your teacher smile might be a sign you did something good. It reinforces that our actions matter.

3. How do we know if what someone is telling us to do is the right thing? What can we do if we’re unsure?

Encourage kids to think about ways to find out what’s right, like asking parents or reading the Bible. Talking about this helps children learn to make good choices and seek the right sources for guidance. They can understand that God’s word, like the Bible, is always a good place to start.

4. Why is it important to ask God for forgiveness if we make a mistake?

Use this question to discuss how everyone makes mistakes and how asking for forgiveness is a part of learning and growing. It helps kids understand that God’s love is unconditional, and He always wants to help us thrive and make better choices afterward.