Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, kids! Today, we're going to hear an exciting story from the Bible that involves a very brave prophet, some stubborn kings, and even…fire! Doesn't that sound interesting? Our lesson is from the book of 2 Kings, chapter 1. This part of the Bible is full of kings and prophets, messages from God, and amazing surprises. It's important for us to learn from it because it teaches us how we should always trust in God and listen to Him.

Imagine you're looking for something valuable, like a treasure. Do you think it would help to have a map? Of course! But what if you decided to just ignore the map and go your own way? You might get lost or never find the treasure, right? Well, in the story today, we'll see how King Ahaziah, the king of Israel, was a bit like someone who ignored the treasure map. Instead of listening to God's guidance, he tried to figure things out his own way and ended up getting into a lot of trouble! But again, just like any good story, there's a hero who knows exactly what to do. And today, that's the prophet Elijah.

Are you ready to discover what happened when King Ahaziah met the brave prophet Elijah and how God showed His power through fire? Let's jump into the story!

Main Teaching Points

1. King Ahaziah's Mistake

First, we meet King Ahaziah. He wasn't feeling well because he had a bad accident; he fell through a hole in his upper room floor! That sounds painful, doesn't it? Instead of trusting in God to help him, Ahaziah did something very unwise. He sent messengers to inquire of a false god named Baal-Zebub to find out if he would get better.

You see, King Ahaziah made a big mistake by not turning to God. This is like if you had a toolbox full of the best tools ever, but you chose to ignore it and used a spoon to fix everything instead. God is like the best toolbox we have. He knows everything, and He can help us anytime we need Him.

2. Elijah Delivers God's Message

While those messengers were on their way, God spoke to Elijah, the prophet. Elijah had a very important job: he was God's messenger. Imagine if you were chosen to deliver messages from the best and wisest person you know. That would be a big responsibility!

God told Elijah to meet the messengers and give them a message for King Ahaziah. Elijah told them, "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to ask Baal-Zebub? You will not get up from your bed; you will surely die."

Wow, that was a serious message! Elijah was very brave because he was delivering God's message, knowing that the king might not like it. This teaches us that even if it's scary, doing what God wants us to do is always the right choice.

3. Ahaziah's Response and the Power of God

When the messengers returned to Ahaziah and told him what Elijah said, the king was not happy. He decided to send soldiers to bring Elijah back. He sent fifty soldiers with a captain to find Elijah. As the captain called out to Elijah, asking him to come down, Elijah was calm and sure of God's power. Elijah said, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And guess what? Fire came down from heaven and did just that!

It happened again with another group of fifty soldiers! But on the third time, the captain begged Elijah to spare his life and the lives of his men. He humbly asked Elijah for help, and God told Elijah to go with him.

This part of the story shows us that God is powerful and helps those who trust in Him. God protected Elijah because Elijah was doing God’s work. Isn't it amazing how God shows his power in such a dramatic way?

4. The Lesson of Trust and Obedience

Finally, the message God delivered through Elijah came true. King Ahaziah did not recover. What does this teach us? It's a reminder that when we face difficult situations, we should seek God. He always knows what’s best for us. Remember, just like ignoring a treasure map, we don't want to ignore God. He is always there to guide us and help us.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, what can we learn from this story? It might seem like adventures and battles from a long time ago, but it has important lessons for us today.

First, just as King Ahaziah needed to trust God, we also need to trust Him in our lives. Whether it's studying for a test, dealing with a tough situation at home, or making new friends, we should always talk to God in prayer and trust He will guide us. We might not see fire coming down from heaven, but God has lots of ways to help us. It could be through a friend, a teacher, or even a quiet feeling in our hearts.

Second, think about Elijah's bravery. He wasn't afraid to deliver God's message even when it was tough. That teaches us to always stand up for what is right and to be kind even when it's hard. Maybe it’s helping someone who others ignore or telling the truth when it’s difficult. God is always with us when we make those brave choices.

Finally, remember how the third captain humbled himself before Elijah? It's important to be humble and listen. When we have problems, we can ask for help from others and especially from God. Being humble means recognizing we don’t have all the answers and that’s okay because God does.

Let's try to remember these lessons and apply them in our lives. God loves us and wants to help us as we trust and follow Him.

Interactive Discussion Questions with explanation and teaching guidance

Now kids, let's think about this story and what it means for us by discussing some questions together. When I ask each question, think about your answer. We’ll talk about it so everyone can understand better.

1. Why do you think King Ahaziah chose to ask Baal-Zebub instead of God for help when he was

hurt?

Guide: Encourage the kids to think about how sometimes we do what seems easy or what we see others doing, instead of what is right. Use examples like peer pressure or choosing to watch TV instead of doing homework. Explain how it's important to choose wisely and ask God for guidance instead of following the wrong crowd.

2. How did Elijah show bravery and trust in God? Can you think of a time when you needed to be brave and trust God?

Guide: Give them a context of a realistic fear, like speaking in front of the class or trying something new. Encourage them to share their experiences, and if they haven't experienced it yet, that's okay. Discuss how God is always like a loving parent watching over us, ready to help.

3. What did the third captain teach us about being humble and how can we be humble every day?

Guide: Lead them to understand that humility is recognizing that we need help and that others are important too. Use illustrations like sharing toys, asking for help with schoolwork, or saying "I'm sorry." Explain that being humble makes us better friends and shows God’s love to others.

4. Why is trusting God, like using a good treasure map, important for our lives? What happens when we ignore God?

Guide: Help them see that trusting God leads to making the best choices, just like using a good map gets us to the treasure. Use examples like listening to a wise teacher or coach who helps us do better. Discuss how ignoring God can mean missing His help and guidance, just like ignoring good advice in real life.

Through this story, we see the importance of trust, obedience, and humility. Let's all try to remember these lessons as we go through our week. Remember, God is always there to listen, guide, and help us!