



David's Son Absalom

Theme: Obedience — Recognizing the consequences of sin

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Have Memory Verse strips hidden in different places throughout the room. Have the students find the strips and place them on the floor in front of the pocket chart. Once all the strips are found, have the students place them in the pocket chart correctly.

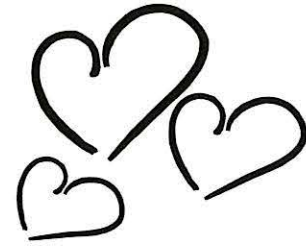
Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 2 Samuel 12:11-12; 18:1, 5-9, 14-17, 31-33. Have reading students find and mark 2 Samuel 12:11 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students locate the following places on the map of Israel in the time of David, found on page 71 of this Guide – Jerusalem, Jordan River, Ephraim.
5. Introduce the Lesson Graphics using the “Loving & Working Toolbox”.
6. Tell the story using the *Loving Hearts & Working Hands Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a stuffed or plastic donkey.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Absalom, one of David's sons, was prideful and planned evil in his heart so that he could replace David as king of Israel.
 - Absalom used smooth talk and his good looks to lull the people into thinking he should replace David as king.

- King David's army fought against Absalom and his men.
 - During the battle, Absalom's mule ran off, leaving Absalom hanging by his hair from a tree.
 - Some of David's soldiers killed Absalom.
 - David was terribly sad about Absalom and his other children who did wrong, but he knew God was in control and put his trust in the Lord.
 - We must love and trust God to know what is best for us and continue to obey Him even in bad times.
8. Using desktop Bibles, have children take turns reading aloud 2 Samuel 12:11-12; 18:1, 5-9, 14-17, 31-33.
9. Get an empty shoe box or a piece of paper labeled "Jerusalem." Make stand-up figures from clothes pins, as depicted in the photo. Begin by gluing a square of card stock on the handle end of clothes pins to provide a base. Do not glue a base to the Absalom figure. Draw faces with a Sharpie. For David, glue a crown on two clothes pins. Draw a smiling face on one and a sad face on the other, representing his feelings before and after Absalom's death. For Joab, glue on a small sword. For Absalom, glue on brown yarn for hair. Glue a graphic of a horse on a clothes pin. You may pin the Absalom figure to the horse and later to the tree, as the story progresses. Glue a graphic of a tree on a clothes pin or use a branch from a tree. From 1 Samuel 15, tell the story of Absalom's revolt and death using the stand-up figures. Allow the students to retell the story. Discuss lessons we should learn from what happened. The sword, donkey and tree graphics can be found on page 67 of this Guide.





David's Son Absalom

Theme: Obedience — Recognizing the consequences of sin

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Hide the Memory Verse strips around the room. Have students find all the strips and, once they are all found, have all students help to arrange them correctly in the pocket chart.

Prayer

Starter

The words of a song go this way:

*Sin will take you farther than you want to go,
Slowly but wholly taking control.
Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay;
Sin will cost you far more than you want to pay.*

These words tell of the consequences of sin. David confessed his sins to God. But David sins still had consequences.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 2 Samuel 18:1, 5-9, 14-17, 31-33.


Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *Identify possible consequences of sin.*


A boy at school is a bully. He doesn't obey his teachers or his parents. He doesn't go to worship or Bible class. What might happen to him if he doesn't change? Prepare ten responses and ask the students to give you a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down." Put the responses on two stacks — a THUMBS UP stack and a THUMBS DOWN stack. After all decisions are made, read again the THUMBS UP stack.

2. *Objective: Illustrate David's trust in God.*

Reenact David's leaving Jerusalem when Absalom was trying to be king from 2 Samuel 15. Have students be Absalom, David, and Zadok the priest. The rest of the students are citizens of Jerusalem and members of David's family and closest advisors. Absalom tries to win people by telling them he will treat them better than David. David decides it is time for him to leave Jerusalem for protection against Absalom. David stands at the last house before leaving the city and watches people leave. Zadok the priest brings the ark of the covenant, thinking David will want it to be with him. David tells Zadok to return the ark to its place in the city. Emphasize David's great words in 2 Samuel 15:25-26. David leaves Jerusalem crying. Discuss with the students David's trust in the Lord and how they can trust God, too. Sometimes we must leave matters in God's hands believing that He will do what is right and best for all concerned.

 3. *Objective: Illustrate how we must be careful about people we follow.*

From magazines, cut out pictures of movie stars, athletes, and teen idols. Talk with the students about why we are attracted to these people. Make application to how the people of Israel were attracted to Absalom. He was young, good looking, and said what people wanted to hear. We must use common sense and truth to help us be wise. We must be careful about being attracted to people who look good and say what people want to hear.

 4. *Objective: Demonstrate that sin has far reaching consequences that often we cannot control.*

Have a shoebox with a shallow layer of sand in it. "Accidentally" drop in some glitter. You want to get the glitter out but you can't. You don't want it there. You wish it wasn't there. But it is impossible to remove. Discuss how sin is something like this. It sometimes has consequences beyond our control. We can be forgiven of sin, but we can not always control the consequences.

BIG HEART Display: A picture of a father and son