



God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

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Camp David

Children's Lessons

Lesson 1

How I React When Others Are Mean To Me

Lesson 2

How I Treat Other People

Lesson 3

How Do I Fit Into God's Plan

About This Study

Supplies you will need before heading off to camp

1. Some note paper or copy paper (3-5 sheets for 7, 8, 9 year old classes, for 10-12 year old classes you need enough paper for each child to have one plus 3-5 extra sheets)
2. A paper crown (or one from Burger King)
3. A square of fabric (or a very large towel or a small blanket) and a clothespin or safety pin to fasten the cloth with
4. An adult T-shirt on which you have sewn or glued (or perhaps drawn as a last resort) patches
5. A wide-mouth bottle or jar
6. A copy of the "Spin the Bottle" scenarios with each statement cut and folded and placed in the bottle or jar. **Note:** If you cannot find a bottle or jar that you can stuff the pieces of paper into and then get out again, you may use a hat or bowl to hold the paper and just use the bottle for spinning.
7. Three pieces of poster board and markers

Instructions for use of this material

Anytime you see quotation marks in this curriculum, that is a suggestion of what to tell your students. All of this is subject to your own creativity. It is only a jumping-off place. If you feel better telling the story in your own words or adding helpful information to the story to make it more real, please feel free to do so.

The activities are made to hold the students' attention. Keep them involved and they are more likely to remember the object of the lesson. Keep in mind that very few people, especially students of this age, are not auditory learners. They don't absorb what they only hear.

The lessons are designed to take 45 minutes to an hour. If you have time left, fill it with singing songs of the students' choosing or with games such as Four Corners (explanation later).

If the activity calls for the students to write, have them use their seats for a table if there is none available. If the story is to be acted out by students, you may need to give them verbal instructions if your students are 7-9 year olds or they seem to be having difficulty with the task. If you have the younger group, you may have more success with this activity if you and an assistant act out the story while one of you tells it.

Lesson 1

How I React When Others Are Mean To Me

Hook 'em: Brainstorming Game - You will need to divide the students into 2 or 3 teams, each team having a note-taker. You and an assistant may need to help if you are teaching 7-9 year olds.

Rules

1. The team that gets the most words wins
2. Each student will give 1 one-word answer
3. Students may only pass once
4. Whisper so the other team doesn't steal your answers
5. 2-3 minute time limit

"Think of words that you have heard people say or words that someone has said to you that would hurt your feelings." Example: ugly

Have the students keep their lists to be used at the end of the lesson.

Story Time:

Choose two outgoing students to act out the following story as you read it. Give one a paper crown and a piece of cloth for a cape. To the other, give an adult T-shirt with patches of multicolored cloth that you have sewn, glued or drawn on it.

"After David killed Goliath, the giant, King Saul started to get really jealous of David. When David did other good things for the king and God, Saul became more and more angry with David. The more David tried to be nice to King Saul, by killing a bunch of his enemies, the Philistines, and by playing his harp for the king, the more King Saul hated David. Soon, David had to run away from Saul to keep from being killed. Saul and his army hunted David and his friends down to kill them. He chased them all over the country of Israel and David and his friends had to hide in caves and even in the camps of the enemy, the Philistines.

Once, when David and his men were hiding in a cave, King Saul came in to rest." (He actually went in to go to the bathroom, but this is probably not a good time to highlight that fact.) "David has the chance to get Saul back for all the bad things

he had done to him, but instead, David only cut off a part of his robe. Another time, David was once again hiding out, this time in the woods, and again King Saul was chasing after him and his men. This time Saul was sleeping in the camp with no one watching out for him. David and one of his friends sneaked into the camp. David's friend wanted him to kill Saul so that Saul and his army would leave them alone, but David said that he did not want to do that because God would not like it. Instead, David took Saul's spear and water jug so that he would know that he could have gotten Saul back for all the bad things he had been doing to them. David respected King Saul. Not for the kind of person he was (because he was really bad and did not do what God wanted him to do), but because God made him king."

Talkback:

If you are teaching 7-9 year olds, have the students pair up, making sure that each child has a partner (if not, make one group of three). They will then answer the following questions to each other. If you are teaching the 10-12 year olds, have them write their answers to the questions on paper. Then have them share their answers with the person behind them if they are on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc. rows and the person in front of them if on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc. rows. Please make sure that each student has a partner. With the older students, you may then ask if any of them would like to share their thoughts with the class.

"How do you think David felt about Saul when he was chasing David and trying to kill him?"

"How would you feel if someone at school or someone that you know said some of the words we talked about earlier (in the opening activity) to you or was threatening to beat you up?"

"In the story, David had two chances to get Saul back, but instead chose not to hurt him because David knew that God loved and was taking care of him. In what ways can we show God's love to other people when they are mean to us?"

Just In Case:

If you have extra time, you can have the students get into groups and compare lists of words. Have them cross out any words that someone else has. The one with the most number of unique words wins and should be given a small prize.

Camp David

Teen Lessons

Lesson 1

David's Relationships

Lesson 2

David's Personal Life

Lesson 3

David's Spiritual Life

Lesson 1

David's Relationships

Introduction

Relationships are what life is all about. Every action we take, in some way affects others. Usually, we want to have a relationship with those who can benefit us in one way or another. However, our true character is shown by our relationship to those who have nothing to benefit us.

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to show students that being true in our relationship with others applies whether there are benefits to us or not.

Get Involved

Human Knot

Game Summary:

Students will hold hands in a convoluted grouping and then work to untangle themselves without letting go of each other's hands.

Game Supplies:

No supplies are required.

Get Going:

Have students stand in a tight circle. If you have more than 10 students in your group, have kids form multiple groups of 10 or fewer. Ask kids to stretch their right hands into the circle and grab anyone else's hand except that of the person standing next to them. Then have the kids repeat the process with their left hands, making sure not to hold both hands of the same person.

Once kids are linked, explain that they must untangle themselves without letting go of each other's hands. They can step over, crawl under or slide between each other to get untangled. Kids may even readjust their grips to avoid twisting anyone's arm. They must make sure they don't let go of the hands they're holding.

Eventually, the knot will straighten itself out and a perfect circle will appear before your eyes.

Get the Point:

Just like we had to depend on each member of the group to get untangled from the knot, so are certain situations in life. God designed us to need help sometimes in life and with a need to help others as well.

David and Mephibosheth

II Samuel 9

The Story:

Because of King Saul's poor handling of his kingdom. God removed him and his entire household from leadership of Israel. David was then appointed king. The custom of the day was that when a family took over a kingdom, the remaining members of the previous king's family were put to death. This was done so that there would be no one to cause future problems over who was to be king.

However, David had made a promise to his best friend, Jonathan, that after he became king he would show kindness to Jonathan's family (I Samuel 20:14-17). Once David became king, Jonathan had died and, as far as David knew, all of Jonathan's family was dead as well. Therefore, he could have easily forgotten about his promise, but he didn't.

David put out the word that he wanted to find any remaining family members of Saul so that he could show kindness to them for Jonathan's sake (II Samuel 9:1). Upon finding Mephibosheth, he brought him into the palace and proceeded to treat him as if he was a family member of his own.

Not only did Mephibosheth have nothing to offer David (he was poor and handicapped)), but he could have caused problems by trying to claim his rightful place as an heir to the throne.

The Nitty Gritty:

1. Who was Mephibosheth?

- a. Son of Jonathan, grandson of King Saul
 - b. Handicapped from an accident at the age of 5 (I Samuel 4:4)
 - c. Heir to the throne of Israel
2. Who was David? (Who he was in this story)
- a. King of Israel
 - b. Best friend of Jonathan, Saul's son. I Samuel 20:17 show the extent of their friendship

In Today's Situations:

"Tell me about your best friend. What would you do for him/her?"

- David *searched* for someone show kindness to (v. 1)
- We should search for opportunities to be a servant and a friend

"What are some ways that you have shown kindness or that you have seen kindness shown?"

- He took him in as family (v. 7)
- Relate Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

"What do you think are some *original, new* examples of ways to show kindness every day?" Encourage creativeness. You, as the leader, may need to get some ideas rolling. Some ideas may be: initiate conversation with other students you don't know, hold doors, be kind to wrong number callers, etc. Come up with different ideas that aren't the usual answers.

Summary:

The example of King David fulfilling a promise to a friend even after that friend was gone and when fulfilling that promise brought no benefit to him, teaches us a great lesson. Regardless of how wealthy, popular or beautiful we become, it still does not excuse us from treating others with kindness and respect.