

Small Group Experience

LESSON 6 - "Disappointment"



Watt's Up:

"No Matter What Happens, I Will Have Faith In God!"



Power Verse:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."

-Proverbs 3:5

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* No additional supplies needed

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Once small group begins, review the Bible story by reading the provided lesson excerpt aloud. Tell the kids to stand and say, "DISAPPOINTED" every time they hear you say the name David. Continue on this way until the story is complete.

Say - Our lesson series on David is coming to a close, and I am so DISAPPOINTED! My disappointment will fit right in today, because our story deals with this emotion. I am going to read the story, and I want you all to listen for the name David. I know what you are thinking; of course you will hear the name David in a story about David. So, what's new? This time when you hear the name David I want you to stand and say, "DISAPPOINTED!" We are ready to begin, don't disappoint me!

-Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud pausing when you say the name David to allow the kids to respond-

Say - As any father would, **David** expected his oldest son, Absalom, to be the next king in line. He raised Absalom and trained him to rule and lead – to take over the kingdom when he died. But, that's not what happened at all.

In fact, Absalom turned against **David**. Over a four year period, he tricked and deceived the people of Israel - and how he did it was sneaky. When people came to see King **David**, Absalom stopped them before they got to the king. He told them, "I know you have a problem, but my dad doesn't have time for you. If I was in charge, things would be different. They'd be better!"

Absalom's plan was working. He was gaining followers and his dad, King **David**, was losing followers. Absalom plotted with the people and decided he was going to take over his father's kingdom.

One day a messenger came to King **David** saying, "The entire country has joined Absalom against you." Can you imagine how disappointed **David** must have been? His own son turned on him - and convinced the people of Israel to turn on him too!

David knew the next step for Absalom would likely be to destroy him and his men, so the King and his few followers and priests left the city, carrying the Ark of the Covenant with them. When they got out of town, they stopped to offer sacrifices of worship, and then **David** told the priests, "Take the ark back into the city. I trust God. If he wants me to be King, he will take care of me."

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David handled his disappointment the right way. He didn't freak out and try taking things into his own hands. He didn't try to stay and fight with Absalom on his own. Instead, he decided to let God take care of everything. He trusted God to take care of him even though it was hard because he knew that God was in control!

Say - Thank you so much for being so disappointing, which is probably a sentence you won't hear very often. You can stop saying disappointed when we mention the name David.

Ask - How do you think David felt when he learned his own son had turned against him?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How do you think David felt when he learned his son had turned the people against him?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Do you think it was easy for David to decide to trust God in this situation? Why or why not?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Paper lunch sacks (several)
- * Random objects (assortment such as paper clips, cotton balls, block, marker, etc.)
- * Box or container
- * Blindfold (one)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins place one random object in each of the paper sacks. Place extra objects in a box or container so they cannot be seen. Use these extras to switch out with the items in the sacks as needed. Once activity time begins, tell the kids that they must guess what you have in the sacks. However, they may not look in the sacks! One at a time, choose a kid to play. Blindfold them and then open the sack and tell them to reach in and feel the object. Allow them several guesses. If they guess correctly, allow them to take off the blindfold, pull out the object, and show it to the rest of the group. If they do not guess correctly, close the sack and pass the blindfold to the next kid. If the kids guess all of the objects, switch out the items with the extras, and start again if desired. This is a fun lesson activity and will help reinforce the concepts in the next part of the lesson.

Say - I brought a bunch of sacks with me today. I would like you all to guess what is inside of the sacks. However, you cannot look inside. This seems like it might take forever, so let's speed things up a bit. I will let you touch the items in the sacks. That is correct! You can reach in the sacks and touch the items, sounds easy! Oh yes, one last thing, you cannot look in the sack. When it is your turn, you will wear this handy blindfold. Once blindfolded you can reach into the sack, touch the item inside, and try and guess what object you are feeling. I will give you several guesses. If you guess correctly, you get to take the blindfold off and show the object to the rest of the group. If you do not guess correctly, you will pass your blindfold to the next person and allow them to have a turn. Can you trust what you feel? We will soon find out!

-Play the game; this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

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Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Trust God Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Trust God Print Pieces. Once group sharing begins, pass out the print pieces and begin.

Say - Disappointment is the worst! There is just something awful about feeling disappointed. Think about a time when you have felt disappointed. How did it make you feel? Write your answers on the empty space next to the thumbs down picture.

-Allow time for the kids to write their answers-

Ask - Would anyone like to share what they wrote?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - We discussed this throughout the series, but I would like to review it one last time.

Ask - Can we always trust our feelings? Why or why not?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - A few minutes ago you were trying to guess the identity of items based on feeling. That was silly and fun, but it can teach us a really great lesson. Sometimes when we are disappointed and we are overcome with negative feelings, we start to try and guess about the situation.

Ask - What are some of the guessing thoughts we might have?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - We've all had guessing thoughts, especially when faced with disappointment. "What did I do wrong?" "Does God still love me?" "Why would God let this happen?" We feel disappointed so we start to guess and try to figure out what God is up to. When we start to try and figure things out, it is called depending on our own understanding. In fact, our power verse deals with that exact subject. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding." - Proverbs 3:5

Ask - What does that verse mean?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - In life, we won't always understand what is happening and why. Disappointment will happen. When it does, you will be faced with negative thoughts and feelings, and the choice will be yours; you can trust God, or depend on yourself.

Ask - What are the benefits to trusting God? Write your answers in the blank space by the thumbs up picture.

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-Allow time for the kids to write their answers-

Ask - Would anyone like to share what they wrote?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Prayer Time

Say - We can trust God in the disappointing times. As we pray, ask God to help build your faith and trust in Him. (PRAY)

Closing

Say - David loved his son Absalom. He invested time in his son, carefully teaching him the ways of the kingdom so that one day he could rule. David believed in his son. David’s hopes and dreams would come crashing down with the arrival of a messenger. “Your son has betrayed you.” Can you imagine what David must have felt? Can you imagine the heartbreak, embarrassment, and hurt? David’s beloved son had turned his back on his own father. David was filled with disappointment. He could have questioned God, trying to guess why He would allow this to happen, but instead David chose to trust. David trusted God even when he was disappointed. You will face disappointment. When you are filled with heartbreak and hurt, trust God. He is always in control and He loves you. Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon.

TRUST GOD!



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DISSAPPOINTMENT



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