

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 4 • Week 4

DAVID REPENTS

OBJECTIVE:

To demonstrate that there are consequences for breaking God's laws, but that God is also merciful and forgiving.

ATTENTION GETTER:

God uses the lives of people in the Bible to teach us lessons about how we should live our lives. These lessons are not always from the positive things they did or accomplished. Sometimes, we can learn from the mistakes of others. Can you think of a lesson you learned from someone else's mistake?

Do: Ask the students to give examples. Then comment on the examples given.

Our lesson today is about a great king, who was a man after God's own heart. His name was King David. King David was a man whom God loved very much. He did many things that pleased God. What are some of the things that you know about the life of King David? [Depending on how the class responds, mention David's encounter with Goliath, playing the harp to Saul, his writing of the Psalms, his feats as a warrior and others which you would like to mention.]

As a boy, David faced many challenges and dangers. David was responsible for watching over his father's sheep. In so doing, David was often in the fields at night with the sheep when ferocious wild beasts would try to attack the sheep for food. David's skill and courage prevented this from happening. He would chase the wild beasts away or, in some cases, kill them with his slingshot and rocks.

David faced danger many times in his life. One of the most famous stories of the Old Testament is the story of David and Goliath. Goliath was a giant who fought with the army of the Philistines who were enemies of the Israelites. None of the Israelites had the courage to stand up to Goliath because of his physical size and strength, except for David, who with his slingshot and a few stones killed Goliath and contributed to the routing of the Philistine army.

God was very pleased with David and eventually God chose him to be king of Israel. David was very devoted to God, but despite this, he made some very bad decisions that he regretted the rest of his life.

He made some choices that were contrary to God's laws. For these mistakes, he had to suffer some difficult consequences. These wrong choices, the resulting consequences and God's ultimate mercy and forgiveness related to those events are recorded in the Bible for our instruction. How David dealt with his sins is another important aspect of this lesson.

Two of the most critical mistakes of David's life occurred while Israel was at war. From his palace balcony one night, he observed a very beautiful woman bathing. He had her brought to his palace and committed adultery with her. She was married to a man named Uriah, who was a soldier in Israel's army. As a result of this adulterous relationship between David and Bathsheba, Uriah's wife became pregnant. David hoped to make Bathsheba his own wife in order to cover his mistake.

Therefore, David as commander in chief, had Uriah sent to the front line of the battle and then had military support for him withdrawn. This resulted in Uriah's death. So not only did David commit adultery, but in essence he murdered Uriah.

Do: Read 2 Samuel 11:4-5 to the class. Ask the class which commandment of God did David and Bathsheba break.

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-17. Ask the class what commandment David broke in this instance? How did God feel about what David had done?

Read 2 Samuel 11:27. Then read 2 Samuel 12:1-7.

God sent a prophet by the name of Nathan to David to expose his sins and confront him with the consequences of those sins. Nathan tells David a story in which David condemns the man referred to. Who was the story about?

God punished David because he had committed the sins of murder and adultery. God was merciful to David and spared his life, but God told David that violence and war would be a part of his life as long as he lived. He also told him that He would raise an adversary from David's own house. This happened later in David's life of when one of his sons tried to overthrow him. God also told David that He would take David's wives and give them to his neighbors. This happened to David as a consequence for his taking another man's wife. The worst consequence of all for David and Bathsheba was that God allowed the death of the infant that was the result of their adulterous relationship. In an effort to try to save his son, David fasted for seven days, but finally the child died.

Do: Read 2 Samuel 12:14-23.

Say: These verses indicate there were several reasons for God allowing the child to die. What are some reasons and why do you think these are important to God?

Ask: How do you think David reacted to this? Was he bitter and angry with God? Read 2 Samuel 12:20-23. God allowed David and Bathsheba to eventually have another son which demonstrates His mercy, forgiveness and love for David. What are some of the lessons we can learn from these experiences in David's life?

- Say: Psalm 51 is David's repentance to God for what he had done.
- Do: Read Psalm 51:1-4. What kind of attitude does David express in these verses?
- Say: David recognizes that God doesn't want the outward appearance of being good or, in this case, being sorry. God wants the innermost part of who we are to reflect goodness and truth.
- Do: Read Psalm 51: 6 and discuss with the students what is meant by "hidden parts."
- Say: Throughout Psalm 51, David expresses inward sorrow and repentance and humbly asks God for forgiveness.
- Do: Read Psalm 51:9-12 to see the inward attitude of heart that David possessed.
- Say: In return for God's forgiveness, David makes a number of commitments to God. These can also be found in Psalm 51.
- Do: Read Psalm 51:12-14 and ask the class, what are the things David will do if God will forgive him, if God will "restore the joy of Your salvation."
- Say: In concluding Psalm 51, David acknowledges the inward qualities, which God is looking for in all of us. God, through David in Psalm 51, refers to these qualities as sacrifices.
- Do: Read Psalm 51:17 and explain what a broken spirit is as well as a broken and contrite heart. What will be the reward of those with a broken spirit? Read Matthew 5:3.

LESSON APPLICATION:

God uses the story of David to demonstrate that all men, except for Jesus Christ, have sinned—broken God's laws. Discuss with the students what we should do if we have broken one of God's laws. Is there an attitude or approach that God wants us to take?

Also discuss that while God is more than willing to forgive, it doesn't mean that there won't be consequences for making wrong choices, as was the case with David.

Lastly, discuss how we should apply the principles of forgiveness in our relations with others?

Music:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise."

family activity

THE POINT:

To demonstrate that there are consequences for breaking God's laws, but that God is also merciful and forgiving.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

As a family, make a list of the things that God desires from us. The list should include our actions, attitudes and inward qualities. Psalm 51 contains some of these. David was a man after God's own heart. What are some of the characteristics of David that God wants us to have?

As a family, discuss whether having a bad attitude affects our relationship with God. What were some of the things David did to stay close to God? Discuss some of the things each family member does to stay close to God. If we slip and break one of God's laws what do we do to correct the problem?

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise."