

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Proper 8 (B)

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

BACKGROUND

Saul and David have a long and complicated history together. Saul became increasingly ineffective and paranoid and even chased David around the countryside trying to kill him at several points. David and Jonathan have been best friends, and Jonathan has given up so much for his friend, David.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING

Grief is always complicated, but here David simply laments the loss of two very important people. He also curses the circumstances and warns that this bodes poorly for the country. David shows his honesty with God and puts his emotions right out in public.

THEME

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

BEFORE CLASS

Choose your music. Gather materials for lists and for comfort pillows. Choose a Children's Bible version of the story, if desired.

BEGINNING

Sing "Peace Before Us" (Wonder, Love and Praise) adding motions if you wish.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, you are with us in our happy times and when we are sad. Help us to feel your comfort and love. Amen.

THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 1:1, 17-27

Read it from the Bible or from this Bible storybook version of it.

On the hills of Israel our leaders are dead

The bravest of our soldiers have fallen!

Saul and Jonathan, so wonderful dear;

Together in life, together in death;

Swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.

Jonathan lies dead in the hills.

I grieve for you, my brother Jonathan;

How dear you were to me!

How wonderful was your love for me.

From The Children's Bible in 365 Stories, Mary Batchelor

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder if you have ever lost something or someone important to you?
- I wonder how you felt when you lost something?
- I wonder if God ever feels sad?
- I wonder how we can express our sadness?
- I wonder what helps you feel better when you are sad?

ACTIVITIES

Lament Lists

Working as a large group create lists of “laments” - things that make people sad. Try to include different kinds of loss and pain - the ways the earth is hurt, countries at war, as well as losing people close to you.

Then watch or listen to “Favorite Things” from The Sound of Music. Talk about the song’s list of things of favorite things that bring comfort. Create your own list of comforting things. These two lists could be done as two large murals, or as two half of a sheet of paper.

Comfort Pillows

Create comfort pillows. Using “tube socks” or fabric, fill with polyester pillow filling and add a small wooden or hard plastic heart. Allow them to decorate the sock pillow and remind them to feel for the heart shape inside to remember that they are loved always. Tie off with a ribbon or piece of yarn.

Sing

Way, Way, Way (from Wonder, Love and Praise) or Shalom, My Friends (Hymnal 1982) or We Shall Overcome (LEVAS) or Peace Before Us again.

GETTING CLOSURE

Encourage the children to think of who they know that might be feeling sad. Ask them what they could do to bring comfort. Include them in your closing prayers.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, today we remember people who are feeling sad or lonely. (insert names here). We pray that they may feel the comfort of your love. We remember that you always love us, no matter what. Amen.