

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Older Children

Proper 9 (B)

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

BACKGROUND

The context for this week's reading is complicated and confusing. It was not a straight line from graciously mourning Saul's death - Saul who was sometimes an ally and often a foe - to accepting the peoples' apparently unison cry for David to be their ruler. But that is where we find ourselves this week and especially for children perhaps it is best to focus on unity and a leader who unites.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING

David is heralded for uniting the Kingdom and ruling over it all. Through this, the people are reminded that they are "better together" as they face common enemies and present a united front. Everyone can benefit from a reminder of the importance of teamwork and community, as well as understanding of everyone has an important role to play. Today's teamwork activities are designed to teach the value of living in community.

THEME

David is Anointed King of All Israel

BEFORE CLASS

Gather supplies for team building (tape) and group tanagrams (paper, scissors, envelopes) and body pictures (mural paper, markers) Learn music.

BEGINNING

Sing "Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises" from Wonder, Love and Praise or "I the Lord of Sea and Sky from Wonder Love and Praise or Come into God's Presence from My Heart Sings Out

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you have created us to live in community. Help us to see the gifts of each person, and to offer ourselves to your service. Amen.

THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 5:1-5, 9-10

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they

anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

David occupied the stronghold and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder how David felt when the people asked him to be their leader?
- Who are the leaders in our community?
- I wonder how you would choose a leader?
- In what ways do you think we (this class or community) are better together?
- What gifts do you bring to your community? (your family, friends, neighborhood, school, or this community)

ACTIVITIES

Team Building

Play some community-building games. Encourage everyone to chat with each other until they learn one gift or contribution each person makes to the class. Have them introduce each other and name each other's gift.

Work in teams to accomplish tasks, such as put a piece of tape as high as possible on the wall, or link elbows and go through a simple obstacle course. Have small groups use their bodies to spell out names and other words on the floor, each body shaping itself like a letter.

Tanagrams

Play a game of group tanagrams. Beforehand, take 5 different sheets of paper and cut up each into 5 pieces in different ways. The place one of each in an envelope. Each person (or team) examines the contents of their envelope and figures out which pieces they need to trade in order for everyone to get the pieces they need to build the piece of paper back to its original size. Have them work together to complete all 5 papers.

Better Together Mural

Use mural paper and have everyone trace each other's bodies onto the paper. Then invited everyone to decorate their body outlines with the gifts and leadership skills they bring to the group. Post them all together in the room with sign reading "We Are Better Together!"

Sing

What Does the Lord Require (Hymnal 1982 or My Heart Sings Out) or Thuma Mina (Wonder Love and Praise)

GETTING CLOSURE

Encourage the children to pay attention to the many ways they contribute to their communities. Help them see that leaders also draw out other people's gifts. Challenge them to look for opportunities to draw out other people's gifts and to affirm those offerings to community.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, you have blessed each of us with different gifts. Give us grace to share our gifts with others, and affirm other people's gifts, that your name be glorified at all times and in all places. Amen.