

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger 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 games (tape), and for art project (colored paper, markers, scissors, tape or glue). Set up obstacle course. Learn music.

BEGINNING

Sing "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

Read from a children's bible or tell the story to the children in this way.

Before long, all the tribes of Israel went to David and said, "Look at us – we are your relatives! In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who ran the country. God said to you, 'You will shepherd my people and you will be a prince.'"

The leaders of Israel met with David at Hebron, and the king made a promise with them in the presence of God. After that, they anointed David king over Israel. David was 30 years old when he became king and he ruled for 40 years. In Hebron, he ruled Judah for seven and a half years. In Jerusalem, he ruled for 33 years.

As king, David made the fortress city his home and named it the “City of David.” He built the city all around. 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?
- I wonder what ways you are a helper and leader with your family, friends and classmates?

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.

Work together to create a machine where everyone has a part - moving or supporting and/or audible. Give each person a chance to “operate” or “conduct” the machine, getting them to go faster or slower, louder or softer.

Wreath of Gifts

Invite everyone to trace their hands onto colored paper. Have them decorate it with words or pictures portraying what they bring to the community. Arrange these handprints into a wreath of gifts to decorate your classroom.

Sing

“I Am the Church” in My Heart Sings Out or This Little Light of Mine from LEVAS

CLOSING PRAYER

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