

Trusting God for Guidance

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 23:1-13

Bible Truth: I will trust God to guide me.

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 23:1-13

Bible Verse: “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.” (Psalm 25:9, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Following A Trusted Voice”

Preparation

Set up an obstacle course in one area of the room. Choose one or two children to participate in the activity. Blindfold them before they see the obstacle course.

Materials
blindfold
objects to use for an obstacle course

Presentation

Say: **Today, we need to help** (name of volunteer) **get through this obstacle course safely. I would like** (name of volunteer) **to pick one child he trusts to guide him through this obstacle course.** Allow the blindfolded child to choose someone to help him. Instruct the helper to give verbal commands to the blindfolded child. He cannot touch him.

Be prepared to intervene if the blindfolded child is headed into an obstacle that could cause him harm.

If there is time, repeat the activity with different volunteers.

At the end of the activity, say: **Our volunteers were not worried about getting to the end of the obstacle course safely because they chose friends they trusted to help them. When they had to make a choice about which direction to turn or how to get over an obstacle, they knew they could ask their friends for guidance. In our lives, when we have choices to make, we should always ask God what to do. We can trust Him to guide us.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 25:9

Preparation

Write Psalm 25:9 on a poster board or whiteboard.

Materials
poster board
markers or crayons

Explanation

Read Psalm 25:9 with the children. Say: **Today we are learning that we can trust God to guide us. This Bible verse tells us that God will guide us in what is right.** Ask a child to underline the word "right." **It also says that God will teach us His way.** Ask a child to underline the word "way." **Can someone read to me the two words we underlined?** Allow one child to read. **Great job! God will guide us in the "right way" to go. When you have a decision or a choice to make, always ask God the "right way" for you to go.**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into three groups. Assign each group one of the following phrases from the Bible verse and ask them to create an action or hand motion for the phrase.

He guides the humble
in what is right
and teaches them His way.

When each group has created an action or hand motion, have them teach it to the class. Say the verse together using the motions.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "David Asks God," 1 Samuel 23:1-4

Preparation

Read and study 1 Samuel 23:1-4.

Write each of the following questions on separate pieces of paper.

Materials
Bible
paper
pencil

Where did David and his men hide from Saul?
What was happening in the city of Keilah?
Why did David ask God twice if he should attack the Philistines that were causing problems in Keilah?
What two questions did David ask about Saul and the men in Keilah?
What did God do for David after he asked God for guidance?
How many times did David ask the Lord what to do in this Bible story?

Presentation

Divide the children into three groups. Give two prepared papers to each group. Ask them to listen for the answers to their questions while you tell the Bible story. Remind them not to shout out the answers during the Bible story. At the end of the Bible story, ask each team to read their questions and give the answers. If one of the groups can't answer their questions, give the other groups an opportunity to answer.

Say: David was chosen by God to replace Saul as king of Israel. Because of this, Saul was determined to kill David. David, and the men following him, hid from Saul in caves and forests.

One day, a messenger came with bad news for David. "The men in the city of Keilah are in trouble. The Philistines are stealing their grain. They won't have any food for the winter."

David asked God immediately, "Do you want me to go and attack the Philistines? Do you want me to help the people of Keilah?"

"Yes," the Lord answered.

But when David told his men, they didn't want to go. "We are afraid in our own country. There is no way we can fight the Philistine army."

So David asked God again, "Do you want me to attack the Philistines?"

"Yes," the Lord answered. "Go to Keilah. I will help you defeat the Philistines."

David and his men went to Keilah and fought the Philistines. They destroyed the Philistine army and took all of the livestock. The people of Keilah were saved.

Saul heard of David's victory over the Philistines. "Well," he thought, "David is in Keilah. This city has walls. David is trapped." Saul called his army and began his march towards Keilah.

Once again David asked God what he should do. "Lord, will Saul come to Keilah to capture me? Will the people of Keilah betray me?"

The Lord answered by saying, "Yes, David. Saul is coming. The men of Keilah will turn you over to Saul."

David knew what he needed to do. He gathered his men and quickly left Keilah. When Saul found out that David had left Keilah, he stopped his march towards the city. But he never stopped looking for David. Saul would look for David daily, but the Lord would not let him find David.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Bible Search, "What Should I Do?"

Preparation

Make copies of the "What Should I Do?" activity located at the end of this lesson. Make enough copies for each pair of children to have one.

Materials
copies of the "What Should I Do?" activity
pencils
Bibles

Presentation

Say: **There are many times in life when we don't know what to do.**

We need to ask God for guidance, just like David did. Since the Bible contains God's words, we can find the guidance we need from God when we read the Bible. Let's look at some children that need guidance and see if we can find answers for them in the Bible.

Pass out the "What Should I Do?" activity. Let children work in pairs to find the answers. Discuss when finished.

*There are two copies of the activity. One includes the scripture reference and the other has the scriptures written out for those children who may not have Bibles.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Materials
pencils
paper

Presentation

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Say: **Is there a situation in your life where you need God's guidance? On your piece of paper, write down any questions you have for God.** Give children a few moments to write on their papers. Once they are finished, place all of their papers inside a Bible. Gather around the Bible and pray together, asking God to give the children guidance. Remind the children to pray during the week for God's guidance and to listen for God's answer.

*With the children's permission, you may want to look at their questions and help them find answers in the Bible or encourage them to talk to their parents.

What Should I Do?

Directions: Match each child's question with guidance from the Bible.

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|---|--------------------|
| 1. My parents want me to clean up my toys, but I want to play instead. God, what should I do? | A. James 5:14 |
| 2. My best friend did not do her math homework. She wants me to let her copy my answers. God, what should I do? | B. Joshua 1:9 |
| 3. My grandmother just died, and I am so sad. God, what should I do? | C. Ephesians 4:28a |
| 4. I just moved to a new neighborhood, and I don't have any friends. God, what should I do? | D. Ephesians 6:1 |
| 5. I had a big fight with my sister. God, what should I do? | E. Matthew 7:12 |
| 6. I have to talk in front of a large group of people, and I am nervous. God, what should I do? | F. Psalm 34:18 |
| 7. I am worried about my mom because she is sick. God, what should I do? | G. Proverbs 18:24 |

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 6. I have to talk in front of a front of a large group of people, and I am nervous. God, what should I do?
 7. I am worried about my mom because she is sick. God, what should I do?
- A. "Is any among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14, NIV)
 - B. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, NIV)
 - C. "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands..." (Ephesians 4:28a, NIV)
 - D. "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1, NIV)
 - E. "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12, NIV)
 - F. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18, NIV)
 - G. "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24, NIV)