Kingdom

“David and Absalom Part 1”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* How David became King of Israel and Jerusalem became the capitol.
* The relationship between David and Absalom.
* The Psalms that David wrote during the difficult relationship with Absalom.

Series Theme Verse: “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.” – Psalm 4:8

Lesson Objective: For students to understand how David was manipulated by his son, Absalom.

Lesson Passage: 2 Samuel 14:25-26; 15:1-14

Materials Needed: paper, crayons, Bibles, white board, 5lb objects, Series Theme Verse Poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: 2 Samuel 14:25-26

* Tell students that because of David’s sin with Bathsheba, God said that violence would always be a part of his family. Today, we meet one of David’s sons, Absalom, who was a fulfillment of this prediction.
* First though, we want to get a picture of Absalom.
* Give each student a piece of paper and have them read 2 Samuel 14:25-26.
* Have them either draw Absalom, or write down the things that make him who he is in the eyes of the people of Israel.
* Talk briefly about the drawings, then move on to the next passage that begins Absalom’s Conspiracy.

Talking Points: 2 Samuel 15:1-14

* Absalom had been invited back to Jerusalem to live with his dad, but what was he doing behind King David’s back? (Stealing chariots, horses and warriors)
* Why did he stand outside the city gate each day? (To lie to people of other tribes of Israel and make them think he cared about them more than David)
* Absalom played on the traveler’s emotions and desire for justice.
* In what other way did Absalom try to gain people’s favor? (He would bow in respect and kiss their hands)
* What was the result of these actions by Absalom? (He stole the hearts of the people of Israel, they loved him)
* Who did he steal their hearts from? (King David)
* How long did Absalom do these things? (4 Years)
* After four years, what did Absalom ask King David? (To go to the city of Hebron to worship)
* Did David allow him? (Yes)
* What did Absalom really do? (Sent messengers to all the tribes of Israel and told them he was setting up his Kingdom Capitol in Hebron. When they hear the trumpets blow, they should all shout allegiance to him)
* A messenger told King David of the conspiracy and how the hearts of the people of Israel were turning to Absalom. What was David’s response? (We must flee for Absalom will kill us)

The Story Retold: “That’s Some Hair!”

* Absalom was known for his long thick hair that he cut once a year.
* 1 Shekel = .4 Ounces
* Use the white board to figure out how much Absalom’s hair would weigh that he cut off each year.
  + .4 x 200 = 80 ounces = 5 lbs
* Have some objects that weigh 5 pounds to give students a picture of how heavy the hair was that he would cut off.
* Remind students that even though the objects might be small and heavy, his hair would have been thick and cover more area.
* This will set up Part 2 of this lesson in two weeks.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Explain to students that God is our ultimate protector.
* Give students an example of how God has protected you.
* Let students sit in a circle and say the verse one word at a time around the circle.
* Do this several times, helping them learn the verse.