

God Reveals Himself Powerfully

Bible Lesson: 1 Samuel 17:20-50

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will understand that God used Old Testament people and events to advance his purpose of making himself known.

Outcomes

1. Students will state God's purpose and power in the Old Testament story of David and Goliath.
2. Students will identify evidence of God's working in other Old Testament stories to make himself known to Israel and other groups of people.

Memory Verse

Exodus 9:16 "But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

Directions

1. Review verses for the "Bible Drill Challenge." Consider how you will relate each to today's theme.
2. Review the "Key Word Wheel" poster. Integrate these words as you notice them in any and all sections of today's lesson. Suggested: "Purpose," "Power," and "People."
3. Read the Bible story references. Pray that God will guide you as you teach and apply this lesson to your unique group of students.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 30 min.

Materials

- Bibles
- book of baby names and meanings (check with a local library or a young mother)
- "Key Word Wheel" poster (Introduction p. 6)
- "Key Word Cards" (Introduction pp. 7-8)

TEACHING (CORE)

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY: WHAT DOES YOUR NAME MEAN?

Directions

1. Warmly welcome students to your time of discovering God's purpose together.
2. Ask students, "What does your name mean?" Listen for answers. Some students may already know the meaning of their names. For some who don't, look up their names in the book. Enjoy discovering their meanings or histories.
3. Explain, *"The name of God is like no other name. It is special. The name of the Lord reveals what he is like: his character, power, and glory, all rolled into one. The name of the Lord was so revered, so honored by the people of Israel, that they wouldn't even say it out loud. They created an abbreviation to stand for God's name and only reverently whispered this name."*
4. *"Because God's name represents everything about him, when people really get to know his name, they know God. God's purpose is that all people will know him and honor him. Sometimes the Bible uses phrases like 'his name will be known,' to mean that people will know and worship God."*

BIBLE DRILL CHALLENGE

Exodus 9:16 "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, may your ways be known on earth, your salvation among all nations."

Directions

1. Give each student a Bible. Invite students to participate in a Bible drill. Say, *"Since the Bible has such an important purpose, we want to get more acquainted with the Bible itself. Today, and over the next several weeks, we will practice finding verses and stories in the Bible that help us understand God's purpose."* (optional: *"We will also be practicing to challenge our parents to a Bible Drill Challenge on the last week of our quarter."*)
2. Instruct students to hold their Bibles in a ready position, Bibles closed and over their heads. Invite students to work in pairs if they are less familiar with their Bibles. Let students warm up for a speed competition by first looking for each item below, one at a time. As you name the item, adding theme-related questions or comments, students will lower their Bibles and quickly try to find what you have named. Say, *"Ready, begin"* after introducing each item.
 - Genesis 11:8 – "Why did God scatter the people of the earth? What happened to their languages?"
 - Genesis 12:3 – "Why did God bless Abraham?"
 - Malachi 1:11 – "What is God's purpose?" (review verse from Lesson 1)
 - Isaiah 45:22 – "What does God want for all people?" (review verse from Lesson 2)

Materials

- book of baby names with meanings

Materials

- Bibles

- Psalm 67:1-2 – “Why does God bless his people?” (review verse from Lesson 3)
 - Any verse with the word “power” in it
 - Exodus 9:16 – “This was spoken by God to Moses.”
3. After reading the final verse aloud, discuss its meaning together. Say, *“In this verse, God communicated with Moses, one of the most famous leaders in the Old Testament. God was telling Moses why he had blessed him with a position of leadership. Why does God bless people?”* (to be a blessing, so that they will bless all peoples)
 4. Reinforce the concept of top line/bottom line. *“God put Moses in authority so that he might show God’s power and that God’s name would be proclaimed in all the earth.”*
 5. Say, *“How did Moses respond to God’s blessing? He led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, eventually leading them through the Red Sea on dry ground. In the process, people all over the earth heard God’s name and understood about his greatness and power.”*
 6. *“Moses’ story is just one of many Old Testament stories where God’s name was made known with power.”*

BIBLE LESSON: DAVID AND GOLIATH

Directions

1. Ask several review questions. *“What is the main story or purpose of the Bible?”* Allow responses. (God making himself known, God receiving worship, bringing people back into relationship, blessing people so they will bless others)
2. Say, *“Some people believe that the concept of ‘missions’ – telling people around the world about God’s salvation through Jesus – is something that was only talked about in the New Testament, after Jesus rose from the dead. But if we look closely at Old Testament stories, we see that God always wanted people of other nations to know him.”*
3. Invite students to help you tell the story of David and Goliath. Assign the following verses to six students (or small groups). Have them use information from the verse to answer the following questions:
 - Group 1: “Who was David?” (1 Samuel 17:12-15)
 - Group 2: “Why did he go to the battlefield?” (1 Samuel 17:17-18)
 - Group 3: “What did he see there?” (1 Samuel 17:21-24)
 - Group 4: “What did he want to do?” (1 Samuel 17:26, 32)
 - Group 5: “What weapons did he choose to fight the giant?” (1 Samuel 17:38-40)
 - Group 6: “What happened to the giant?” (1 Samuel 17:48-50)
4. Point to the hub on the “Key Word Wheel” poster. Ask, *“Do we see God’s purpose in this story? Where?”* Invite a student to read 1 Samuel 17:45-46. Ask, *“Did David understand the importance of God’s name? How do you know? What did David believe would be the result if he*

Materials

- Bible
- “Key Word Wheel” poster (Introduction p. 6)

defeated the giant?” Guide students to understand that David believed the whole world would know there was a God in Israel.

5. Say, *“There are many other stories in which God powerfully revealed himself to the people of the earth, through those who had already been blessed with knowledge about him.”*
6. Define “reveal.” Say, *“‘Reveal’ means to make something known. To uncover it. To take it out of hiding. God used David, as a youth, to reveal his power to people of other nations.”* Point to the words “People” and “Power” on the “Key Word Wheel” poster.

IN CLOSING ...

Lead students in prayer, asking God to work through them to reveal himself to their friends and family who do not know him.



PRAYER ACTIVITY: POWER STORIES CHART

Before the Activity Directions

1. Preview the “Reference Chart.” Review the scripture verses for each story. Consider how you will guide students to help you fill in details on the chart together.

Directions

1. Using the sample, quickly draw the blank chart on an erasable board. Fill in headings. Leave columns two and four blank for now. Use the first row as an example. Fill in the details you have already discovered from the story of David and Goliath.
2. Say, “*The story of David is not the only one in which God used his power to reveal himself to all nations.*”
3. Continue filling in the Bible story in column one and the verse references in column three. Read the scriptures together. Invite students to help you remember the stories.
4. Fill in columns two and four for each story. Together, discover many of the truths listed on the “Reference Chart.”
5. Refer to the “Key Word Wheel” poster. Ask, “*What other “Key Words” are demonstrated by these stories?*” Fill in column five. Notice how God worked all throughout the Old Testament.
6. “*Why does God want people to know him?*” (Because this is why they were created, to know and honor God.)
7. Close in prayer together for people who have not yet come to know God or worship him.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- Bibles
- “Reference Chart” (p. 6)
- “Key Word Wheel” poster (Introduction p. 6)
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or dry erase marker

Reference Chart

GOD POWERFULLY REVEALS HIMSELF IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES

Old Testament story	Who was shown God's power so God's name would be known?	Purpose verses	How was God's power shown?	Other Key Words
David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)	Philistines	1 Samuel 17:45-46	By David's defeat of a huge giant with a small stone	Preparation Proclamation People
Elijah (1 Kings 18)	prophets of Baal, rebellious Israel	1 Kings 18:36-37	By God sending fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice, even though it was soaking wet	People Proclamation
Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)	people of Persia, Babylon	Daniel 6:25-27	By saving Daniel from the hungry lions	People Moving Proclamation People
The Plagues (Exodus 7-12)	Pharaoh, Egypt, the whole earth	Exodus 9:13-16	Over every power known to the Egyptians: water, animals, bugs, crops, sun, weather, life, etc.	People People Moving Proclamation Preparation