

Small Group Experience

LESSON 2 - "Thy Will Be Done"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I'm Gonna Do My Father's Will!"



Power Verse:

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven."

-Matthew 6:10

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* None

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, review the events of the Bible Story. Once small group begins, choose volunteers to act out the Bible Story as you read it aloud. Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, pausing for the volunteers to act out the events of the story. Give cues and prompts as needed. Continue on this way until the story is complete.

Say - This is week two of our lessons on prayer. What better way to learn about prayer than by studying the prayer Jesus taught - the Lord's Prayer? We will take a look at this prayer line by line to better understand its meaning. Today we will take a closer look at the next part of the prayer, but first, we should review our Bible Story. I need several volunteers who are willing to do some acting.

-Choose volunteers, assigning them parts based on the roles in the Bible Story-

Say - It's time to begin! As I read, the volunteers will bring the story to life. Let's get started!

-Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, giving cues and prompts to the volunteers as necessary-

Today's Bible Story is found in 1 Samuel 3. It is all about a young boy named Samuel. Samuel was a boy who lived and worked in the temple for the priest, Eli. Can you imagine actually living in the church? How cool would that be?

Well, it wasn't the same for Samuel as it might be for you today. There were no video games or bounce houses in the temple Samuel lived in. It was actually a lot of work for him, as he served the priest.

One night, after a long day of working in the church, Samuel was sleeping. Suddenly, he was awakened by the sound of someone calling his name. "Samuel!" He assumed it was the prophet, Eli, calling him. So Samuel got up and went to Eli's room to ask what he wanted. Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

Samuel wasn't sure what had happened, so he went back to sleep. A little while later, Samuel was awakened by the same thing. A voice called to him: "Samuel!" He got up and went back to Eli. Once again, Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." So Samuel went back to sleep. Guess what? It happened again. "Samuel!" So, once again, Samuel went to Eli. This time, Eli had a thought. He knew it wasn't him that was calling Samuel. He thought that maybe it could be God. He told Samuel, "It is God. If He speaks again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

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So Samuel went back to sleep. Sure enough, it happened again. “Samuel!” This time, Samuel sat up in bed and said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” God began to tell Samuel some very important things that were about to happen. Isn’t that amazing?

Samuel had to not only listen to God’s voice, but he also had to obey. It turns out that God told him to do something that was very difficult for Samuel. Samuel did not really want to do it, but he knew he had to obey God. He knew that God’s will had to be done. So Samuel obeyed.

Say - What a great Bible Story. Thank you to our volunteers for bringing the story to life.

Ask - Why did God speak to Samuel?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What might have happened if Samuel didn’t listen to God?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why did Samuel choose to obey God?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Blank or scratch paper (*approximately ½ a ream per team*)
- * Markers (*one color per team*)
- * Masking tape

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Once activity time begins, divide the group into two teams. Give each team a stack of paper. Divide the space by placing a piece of tape on the floor. To play the game, place each team on opposite sides of the tape. Have each team use their marker(s) to write the words “My Will” on each piece of paper. Each team’s marker color should be unique to their team. When this is complete, tell the teams to wad up each piece of paper and then place them in a pile for their team. The more paper balls they have, the more fun the game will be. Once this is done, you are ready to play the game. Tell the teams that when you say “Go,” they will begin to throw the paper balls across the tape line. Each team must stay on their side, behind the tape line. They will continue on this way until you say “Stop!” The object of the game is to see which team gets rid of the most “My Will” papers. This will be determined by counting the paper balls on either side of the tape. This game is a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity and can be played multiple rounds as time allows.

Say - I am dividing you all into two teams and giving each team a stack of paper and a certain color marker. Write the words “My Will” on each piece of paper, and then wad up the papers to make as many paper balls as possible. Each team should keep their paper balls on their side of the tape line.

-Allow time for the teams to complete this task-

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Say - Now we can begin! The object of this game is to get rid of your “My Will” paper balls. When I say “Go,” begin throwing your paper balls towards the other team’s side. As paper wads land in your area, pick them up and throw them back. Continue on this way until you hear me say “Stop.” When I say “Stop,” you must immediately stop throwing paper balls. We will count the “My Will” paper balls on both sides, and the team who got rid of the most “My Will” paper balls will win!

-Play the game; this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

* None

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say - Prayer is something that is meant to connect the Creator with His creation. Jesus understood the importance of prayer, and He gave us a model. The Lord’s Prayer is an example through which we can understand how to better communicate with our Creator. Last week, we started with the first part of the prayer - “Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.” Let’s quickly review what this means.

Ask - What does, “Our Father, which art in heaven...” mean?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - God is our Heavenly Father. He is in Heaven, above all things! Now let’s look at the next part - “Hallowed be thy name.”

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Ask - What does, “Hallowed be thy name,” mean?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - God is HOLY. He is perfect. He will never mess up, never forget us, never leave or let us down.

Say - Now it’s time to move on to the next part of the Lord’s Prayer - “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Ask - What does this verse mean to you?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

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Say - Earlier we played a game where we raced to get rid of “My Will.” Another way to say this is, “My plan.” Jesus understood that life will be full of times when it’s our plans versus God’s plans. We may have a plan, and that plan might even be a good plan, but it doesn’t mean that it’s God’s plan for our lives. Part of being a follower of God is learning to set aside our own plans and choose to follow God’s plan.

Ask - Does God not want me to have plans and dreams for my life?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why would we set aside our plans to follow God’s plan?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Is it easy to follow God’s plan for our lives? Why or why not?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Following God’s plan for our lives means obeying Him. If we want to hear God, we must be listening for His voice.

Ask - How do we listen for God?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - God speaks in so many different ways. If we take the time to listen, He will guide and direct us to His plan for our lives. When He reveals His plan, it is up to us to obey. This might be the most challenging part!

Ask - Is obeying God worth it? Why or why not?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - We don’t know what life has in store for us, but we must be willing to obey God and do whatever He asks of us. It may not always be easy to do God’s will, but we can ALWAYS know that HIS WILL leads to what is BEST for us - ALWAYS!

Prayer Time

Say - Choosing to listen to God and obey His will is something that we can all work on. Let’s pray that God will help us listen to Him and obey!

Pray

Closing

Say - Samuel must have been confused when heard his name being called in the middle of the night, especially when he found out it wasn't coming from Eli. Thankfully, Eli understood this was a key moment for Samuel and that he should carefully listen because God was speaking. Samuel listened, heard God, and then had a choice to make. Would he follow His plan or God's plan? Would Samuel follow through with, “Thy will be done?” We know from his story that Samuel did follow through with obedience. Samuel obeyed God, even though what was asked of him was difficult. God's plan for Samuel's life was best, and Samuel was blessed because of his obedience. He went on to be the prophet of Israel. God has great plans for your life. Spend time with God and listen. He will guide and direct you, and at times He will ask you to lay aside your own plans and instead follow His plan. Choose to obey. When you obey God's will, great things happen. Thank you for coming today, I will see you again soon.