

Old Testament

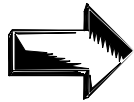
Haggai: God is powerful Haggai 2:1-19

Younger Verse

We tell you the good news: what God promised our fathers. Acts 13:32

Older Verse

We tell you the good news: what God promised our fathers. Acts 13:32



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Sing a few songs that show God's power (ex: My God is so Big; Great and Mighty is the Lord, Our God; etc.) Explain that today's lesson shows us that God is powerful and mighty.

Bible Story

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

After Josiah died, other kings ruled the earth. They did not love God or follow Him. At the same time, God's people stopped following Him. An evil king took over God's people and held them hostage in his land. He also destroyed God's temple church.

Years later, Cyrus became king of this land. He decided to let God's people go back to their home in Jerusalem and he issued an order to rebuild God's temple church.

Zerubbabel helped many people go back to their hometown in Jerusalem. When they got home they began rebuilding the church.

Soon enemies from around the country heard what they were doing. They asked to help build the temple church.

Zerubbabel told the people "No." He knew that their reason for helping was not right and he also knew that God wanted His people to rebuild it, not enemies.

Well, this made the enemies mad. In fact, they tried all kind of ways to stop the construction.

One day, the enemies learned that there was a new king of the land. They quickly wrote a letter to him. In it, they told the king that Zerubbabel was rebuilding the wall around the city to make it separate from the king. Was this the truth? NO!

Lesson Goals

See that God is powerful and almighty
Obey God and do things His way
Look at our priorities—Are they God's priorities?

The king read the letter and found out that Jerusalem was a rebellious city. He believed the enemies! The king issued a law to stop the work!

The people did not work on the temple for 15 years! Instead, they began to be selfish and work on their own homes. They began to think more about their things instead of the things of God.

God told Haggai to talk to the people about their priorities. Haggai told the people of their mistakes and how they needed to finish God's house before they worked on their own projects. Haggai explained God's power and love for His people. In both chapters we can read about how God is almighty and powerful. Haggai reminded the people that the reason they have not had much success was because they were selfish and took care of their needs before they did what God wanted.

The people realized their mistake. With God and Haggai's help, the people finished the temple church for God. It took them 4 years. In chapter 2, Haggai told the people that God would be present in His house. He told them that this house would be greater than the old temple church. God told them that He would give them peace.

Do you have peace? Are you doing things that you want, or are you doing the things that God wants? God tells us that we need to follow Him and all the other things will come (Mat. 6:33). How do we follow Him? We must ask Jesus to come into our lives. We do this by believing in Jesus—that He lived, died, and rose again for us. He took our bad sin and made a way for us to get to Heaven. When we ask Jesus to come into our lives, He does. When we choose Jesus, we change our ways. We no longer want to do things our way, but God's way. Would you like to do this? Talk to me during activity time.

Learning Activities

Use the activities to help the kids understand priorities and doing things God's way.

Memory Verse Activities

Try to make a song or rap to remember the verse today. Or, split the group up and let each team make up a song to go with the verse. Share them during snack time.

Prayer Time

Be sure to help the kids learn the importance of prayer. Take time to pray for requests and also thank God for all the ways He has blessed us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks! A fun game for today would be "Father, may I" (like "Mother, may I") Reinforce the importance of obeying God (our Father) and doing things His way.

Planning for Lesson 103
Zechariah tells about Jesus
Zech. 12:10-13; 13:7-9

Preschool Lesson
For
Haggai

We have learned about many people that were God's messengers. All of God's messengers loved God and followed Him. They listened to what God said and delivered messages to God's people.

One of the messengers was a man named Haggai. He lived in a time when the people had tried to rebuild God's temple church. Many things happened that caused the work to stop. In fact, some of God's enemies told the king that God's people were really rebuilding the wall so that they would separate from the king. This was NOT the truth!

Sadly, the king believed the enemies and suddenly the construction stopped.

The people decided to start rebuilding their homes because they couldn't rebuild the church. They hammered and hammered to work on their homes. (Make hammering motions) They worked really hard to make their homes look very beautiful. However, it seemed very hard and it took a long time. It seemed like there were always lots of problems that they had to overcome.

One day, Haggai told the people the reason that it had been so hard for them. They had stopped working on God's house and were selfish and cared for their needs before God's needs.

Haggai told the people how great and almighty God was. He helped them see that they needed to finish God's temple, then, work on their homes.

God is so good. He loves us and wants to help us.

Let's sing "My God is so Big" and "Our God is an Awesome God" to help us remember how Great God is!

Hands-On Activities
For
Haggai

Make a Prayer calendar for the month to help the kids take time to pray every day.

Bring boxes or blocks to build a church. Illustrate what happened in the story by starting to build homes instead of the church. Then, get back on track by finishing the church!

Bring graham crackers to “build” God’s temple church out of crackers and frosting (peanut butter will also work).

Has anyone ever told you that you were lying when you REALLY were telling the truth? God’s people were accused of doing something that they were not doing. Talk about what we need to do in a situation like that. Talk about what they think Jesus would do.

Talk about the difference of being selfish versus being unselfish. Make up several situations and ask the kids if the people in the story are selfish or unselfish. Talk about what it means to be unselfish at Christmas.