

Old Testament

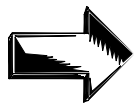
Four Lepers Help 2 Kings 6:32-7:16

Younger Verse

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. John 3:16

Older Verse

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



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

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

Welcome Time

Have you ever tried to blame someone else for something you did wrong? Most of us have. Let’s see what happens when a king tries to do the same thing.

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 some time, the land of God’s people became dry. They did not have much rain and so all the land became cracked and dry. Much of the grain and vegetables could not grow. Many people were hungry. Because there were fewer things to eat, the prices of the goods went up, up, up. It cost a lot of money to buy vegetables, grain and fruit. Another reason food cost so much was that an evil army had camped around the outside of the city. They wanted to take over the city. The people could not leave the city to get supplies because this army was camped outside their walls.

The king of the land became upset. He decided to blame Elisha and God for the problem. He sent a messenger to Elisha to kill him because of the problems the people were having.

Remember that Elisha was a prophet from God. God told him what the king was doing. When the messenger and the king arrived, he told them that God would take care of everything. In fact, he told them that everything would change the next day. There would be lots of food and the prices of the food would go down.

This is what happened:

Four men who were lepers lived by the entrance of the city gate. They probably stayed there to beg for money and food. People were afraid of lepers because their disease was contagious. That means that other people could get the disease too. They had to live away from everyone else, by themselves.

Lesson Goals

See how important it is to share the news of Jesus with others
Don’t blame others. Instead, take responsibility for your wrongs
Don’t judge others by what they look like

They talked among themselves and decided to go to the mean army's camp. When they got there, they were surprised! There was not one person there! God had made the army believe that there were lots of chariots and horses coming from God's people and other towns. They ran away scared to face the army.

The men who had leprosy were so happy. They ate and drank the food. It was so delicious. They also found silver coins and beautiful clothes. Then they said, "We are not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. Let's go at once and report this to the king."

When the king heard the news, he did not know what to think. He did not believe the lepers. He thought that it was a trick from the army to get his army outside to fight.

The king sent his own team of people to investigate. Sure enough, they found things just as the lepers said. When the town heard the good news, they ran to the army camp and took their food and clothes. Just as Elisha predicted, the prices of food went down!

We sometimes do what the king did. We judge a person by their past or what they look like. In most cases, what we think is not correct. The king discovered that the lepers were right. If we give people a chance, we will see that they can change and can be our friends.

The king also tried to blame Elisha for his problems. Instead of blaming others, we must see our mistakes and correct them. Instead of trying to accuse others, we must admit our mistakes and correct them so that it won't happen again.

We all have mistakes that we make. It is called sin. Sin separates us from God and makes Him sad. Because of our sin, we cannot go to heaven. God loved us so much that He thought of a way to change things. God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to help us. Jesus took our sin and died for it on the cross. He took the blame for all the wrong we did! If we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive our wrongs and come into our hearts, Jesus cleans out our mistakes and makes us clean. Because we are clean and pure, we can go to heaven on day. Would you like to know more about how to go to heaven? Talk to us about it. Just as the lepers ran to tell the town the good news, when we believe in Jesus, we must tell others the good news that Jesus is the only way to heaven!

Learning Activities

Try ideas to help the kids apply the lesson to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Write each word of the verse on sheets of paper and play hopscotch. The kids must jump on the words in order. Make it fun by mixing the sheets up so they have to think, look, and jump!

Prayer Time

In today's lesson, the king forgot about God and tried to do things HIS way. When you pray today, ask God to help us trust Him and do things GOD's way.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring fruit or vegetables today and thank God for them!

Planning for Lesson 68
Joash repairs God's house
2 Kings 12:1-12

Preschool Lesson
For
Four Lepers Help

Rumble, rumble, rumble. God's people were hungry. Their tummies were making growling noises because they did not have much food. There had not been much rain, so the land was dry and the vegetables did not grow. Vegetables, fruit and grain cost a lot of money. Because of the cost, many people were very hungry.

God told his man Elisha that things would change the next day. There would be lots of food! Let's see what happened.

Four lepers lived by the city wall. Lepers are people who are sick. They must stay away from the rest of the town because others can get sick too.

They decided to go outside the city. When they traveled down the path, they found a big army camp. The mean people were trying to hurt God's people. Instead of finding the people, the whole place was empty!

The lepers were excited because the camp had lots of food to eat. Yum, yum, yum, yum! They all tasted fruit, vegetables, and bread. It was so delicious. (Rub your tummy or lick your lips).

They knew that they had to tell God's people the good news. They ran back to their town and shared the good news! The people ran to see that it was true! From then on, they had plenty to eat!

God took care of His people. God loves us and wants to take care of us too.

Sing this song to the tune of "London Bridge."

Four lepers went to see, went to see went to see,
Four lepers went to see if they could find food.

They found lots of food, lots of food, lots of food,
They found lots of food. It was so delicious.

They ran to tell the town the news, town the news, town the news,
They ran and tell the town the news and all were very happy.

Fruits and vegetables are good to eat, good to eat, good to eat,
Fruits and vegetables are good to eat, thank you God for them.

Hands-On Activities
For
Four Lepers Help

Try the Water trick on the next page from Children's ministry magazine. Help the kids see how God can help solve problems just like He did in today's lesson.

Sometimes we judge people and we are very wrong. Try this object lesson to help the kids see that judging is not right. Bring two mugs or cups, one very pretty and one ugly or plain. Coat the inside of the pretty cup with dirt but make sure you cannot see the inside. Now show both cups (without revealing the inside dirt) and ask which one they would like to drink from. Most will definitely choose the pretty mug. Now show the inside and explain that sometimes we look at people and judge them the same way. We look at the outside. Instead, we should love and accept all people just as God does.

The four lepers in today's lesson went back to tell the good news! We have good news about Jesus. He is the ONLY way to heaven. There is no other way to get there. This is good news that we should share with others. Bring flyers, and together, let the kids help pass them out, inviting people to come to Bible study. (Be sure kids go in teams not by themselves)

It is really easy to blame others so that we won't get in trouble. God does not want us to blame others. He wants us to take responsibility for our wrongs and ask for forgiveness. This week, instead of blaming others, admit your mistake and ask forgiveness.
