Preschool–Grade 6

Abigail, David and Nabal

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Be a peacemaker. A soft answer and wise words can turn away anger, and God takes care of what is right.
Bible passage: 1 Samuel 25:2–42. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." *Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Turn It Around (5–10 minutes)

Read a grumpy, hurtful answer. Teams have 30 seconds to turn it into a soft answer that is kind and still true. 1) "That's mine! Get your own!" 2) "You're doing it wrong, slowpoke." 3) "I'm not sharing with you." 4) "You always mess everything up." Each team reads its soft answer. Say: "Today we will see how one wise woman's soft answer stopped four hundred angry men."

2. Bible story: Abigail the Peacemaker (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 25. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Nabal and Abigail. Look up 1 Samuel 25:2–3. Nabal was very rich, with three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. **Churlish** means rude and harsh. His wife Abigail was "a woman of good understanding": she was wise. (This Carmel is a town in Judah, not Mount Carmel.)

David asks kindly. David's men had kept Nabal's shepherds safe in the fields. They "were a wall unto us both by night and day" (25:15–16). At sheep-shearing time David sent ten young men to greet Nabal with "Peace be both to thee" and to ask for whatever food he could give (25:5–8).

Nabal's grievous words. Look up 1 Samuel 25:10–11. Nabal acted as if David were a runaway servant, and he would not share. David was angry. He said Nabal had "requited me evil for good" (25:21), which means paid back good with evil. "Gird ye on every man his sword," he said, and about four hundred men went with him; two hundred stayed with the **stuff**, their supplies (25:13).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

Abigail makes haste. A young man told Abigail that Nabal **railed on** (shouted insults at) David's men (25:14). **Look up 1 Samuel 25:18.** She **made haste** (hurried) and loaded the present on **asses** (donkeys). **Parched corn** is roasted grain. She sent her servants on ahead and rode after them (25:19), and by the **covert of the hill**, a hidden place by the hill, she met David and his men (25:20).

The soft answer. Abigail **lighted off** (got down from) the ass, bowed to the ground and fell at David's feet (25:23–24). **Look up 1 Samuel 25:24. Iniquity** means wrong; she asked that the blame be on her. She said the LORD would make David ruler over Israel, so he should not have to remember that he had "shed blood causeless," hurt people for no good reason (25:28–31).

David listens. Look up 1 Samuel 25:32–33. Advice means wise counsel. **Look up 1 Samuel 25:35. Hearkened** means listened. About ten days after, "the LORD smote Nabal, that he died" (25:38). David said the LORD had "kept his servant from evil" (25:39). David sent for Abigail, and she became his wife (25:39–42).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Proverbs 15:1 says grievous words stir up anger. Nabal's words made David angry. Have grievous words ever started a fight around you? What happened?
2. Abigail hurried (25:18). Why does it matter to make peace quickly?
3. Abigail used kind words and a kind gift. What kind thing could you do to make peace with someone?
4. David listened to good advice and changed his plan (25:32–35). Why is that hard? Why is it wise?
5. David didn't take revenge, and God took care of Nabal (25:38–39). What should we do when someone treats us badly (Romans 12:21)?

Recall questions

1. How many sheep did Nabal have? *(Three thousand, 1 Samuel 25:2)*
2. How many young men did David send to Nabal? *(Ten, 25:5)*
3. What did David say to Abigail at the end of their talk? *("Go up in peace to thine house," 25:35)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: a **soft answer** means gentle, kind words; **turneth away wrath** means turns away anger; **grievous words** means harsh, hurtful words; **stir up** means make bigger. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Abigail said, 'Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be' (1 Samuel 25:24). She asked for the blame to be on her. Jesus did more: He 'bare our sins in his own body on the tree' (1 Peter 2:24, KJV). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: the next time someone is angry with you, take a breath and give a soft answer. Tell your family what happened.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 1 Samuel 25:3: What kind of woman was Abigail? *(A woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance)*
2. 1 Samuel 25:6: What word did David's men say three times to Nabal? *(Peace)*
3. 1 Samuel 25:10: What did Nabal ask about David? *("Who is David?")*
4. 1 Samuel 25:16: What did Nabal's servant say David's men were to them? *(A wall, by night and day)*
5. 1 Samuel 25:18: How many cakes of figs did Abigail take? *(Two hundred)*
6. 1 Samuel 25:20: Where did Abigail meet David? *(By the covert of the hill)*
7. 1 Samuel 25:32: Who did David say sent Abigail? *(The LORD God of Israel)*
8. Matthew 5:9: What shall peacemakers be called? *(The children of God)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Abigail's courage and wise words. Help us give soft answers, make peace quickly, and listen to good advice like David did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why David was going to fight: David was angry because Nabal paid back good with evil (1 Samuel 25:21). Anger made his plan wrong, and he thanked God that Abigail stopped him (25:32–34).

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post