Preschool–Grade 6

Abigail, David and Nabal

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God wants us to use kind words.
Bible passage: 1 Samuel 25. Read 1 Samuel 25:2–42 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "A soft answer turneth away wrath" *Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)*. A **soft answer** means kind, gentle words; **wrath** means anger.
You need: a Bible, a basket or bag with a few blocks or paper "loaves" to be food, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 25. Pick one corner of the room to be "David's camp."

1. Opening game: Hurry with the Bread (5 minutes)

Give each child a block or a paper "loaf." Say "Hurry, hurry!" and they walk quickly to the "David's camp" corner and put the bread in the basket. Then say "Slow and gentle," and they tiptoe back. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a wise woman named Abigail. She hurried to bring food to David."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 25. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Nabal had lots and lots of sheep (1 Samuel 25:2). *(Say "baa!")*
David's men kept Nabal's shepherds safe (25:16). *(Hug yourself.)*
David asked Nabal for some food (25:8). *(Hold out your hands.)*
Nabal said no, in a mean way (25:10–11). *(Cross your arms.)*
David got very angry (25:13). *(Make a cross face.)*
Wise Abigail hurried (25:18). *(Run in place.)*
She brought bread, raisins and figs (25:18). *(Pretend to carry a big basket.)*
She bowed down and spoke kind words to David (25:23–24). *(Bow down low.)*
Say it with me: "A soft answer!"
David blessed the LORD for sending Abigail (25:32). *(Big smile.)*
He said, "Go up in peace" (25:35). *(Wave goodbye.)*
Say it with me: "Kind words make peace!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Was Nabal kind or mean? *(Mean. He would not share, 1 Samuel 25:10–11)*
2. What did Abigail bring to David? *(Bread, raisins, figs and more, 25:18)*
3. Did David stay angry after Abigail's kind words? *(No. He said, "Go up in peace," 25:35)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The Bible says, 'A soft answer turneth away wrath.' That means kind, gentle words help take anger away." Teach the motion: start with a cross face and fists, then open your hands and smile. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a soft, kind voice. Then say "Proverbs 15:1" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Abigail's Basket (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big basket full of food for David: round loaves of bread, little raisins and round fig cakes. While they color, ask: "What did Abigail bring? Were her words kind or mean?" Kids who finish early can play Hurry with the Bread again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, help me use kind words.
Help me make peace, like Abigail.
Thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child carry bread to the basket. Show the soft voice and the cross face with big, silly faces. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Left out on purpose: the preschool story ends with "Go up in peace." Nabal's death (25:38) and David marrying Abigail (25:42) are in the older lessons.

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