Preschool–Grade 6

Abigail, David and Nabal

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Be a peacemaker. Kind, wise words can stop a fight.
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, 4 paper strips, a marker, tape, a basket or bag with a few pretend foods (blocks or paper "loaves"), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 4 paper strips (see part 4). Pick one corner of the room to be "David's camp." Put bookmarks in your Bible at 1 Samuel 25:18 and 1 Samuel 25:32.

1. Opening game: Soft or Grievous? (5 minutes)

Say a few lines two ways: first in a kind, gentle voice, then in a grumpy, mean voice. "May I have a turn, please?" "Please pass the crayons." "That's okay, you can go first." After each one, kids show a thumbs up for the kind voice and a thumbs down for the mean voice. Ask: "Which voice makes a friend feel happy? Which one starts a fight?" Say: "Today we will meet a woman named Abigail. Her kind, wise words stopped a big fight."

2. Bible story: Abigail the Peacemaker (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 25, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

David and his men were living out in the **wilderness**, a wild, empty land (1 Samuel 25:4). Nearby lived a very rich man named **Nabal**. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats (25:2). But Nabal was **churlish**, which means rude and mean (25:3). His wife's name was **Abigail**. She was "a woman of good understanding" (25:3). That means she was wise.

David's men had been good to Nabal's shepherds out in the fields. They kept them safe, like a wall around them, by night and by day (25:15–16). When it was time to cut the wool off Nabal's sheep, David sent ten young men to him (25:4–5). They said, "Peace be both to thee," and asked Nabal to give them whatever food he could (25:6, 25:8).

But Nabal said, "Who is David?" (25:10). He would not share his bread, his water or his meat (25:11). When David heard it, he was very angry. He told his men, "Gird ye on every man his sword" (25:13). **Gird** means put on. About four hundred men went with David to fight Nabal (25:13).

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The story continues: One of Nabal's young men ran and told Abigail (25:14). Abigail **made haste**, which means she hurried. **Read 1 Samuel 25:18 from your Bible.** She took two hundred loaves of bread, five sheep ready to cook, roasted grain, a hundred bunches of raisins, two hundred cakes of figs and more, and put it all on **asses**, which are donkeys (25:18). She rode down by the hill, and there came David and his men (25:20)!

Abigail got off her donkey quickly. She bowed down with her face to the ground at David's feet (25:23–24). She said, "Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be" (25:24). That means, "Let the blame be on me." She gave David the present (25:27). She told him the LORD would make him ruler over Israel, so he should not hurt anyone in anger (25:30–31).

Read 1 Samuel 25:32–33 from your Bible. David said, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed be thy advice." **Advice** means wise words that help someone choose what is right. Her kind words had kept David from doing wrong! David said, "Go up in peace to thine house" (25:35). About ten days later, Nabal died (25:38). Then David sent for Abigail, and she became his wife (25:39–42).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What did Nabal say when David's young men asked for food? *("Who is David?" He would not share, 1 Samuel 25:10–11)*
2. What did David tell his men to do? *(Put on their swords, 25:13)*
3. What did Abigail bring to David? *(Bread, sheep, roasted grain, raisins, cakes of figs and more, 25:18)*
4. What did Abigail do when she saw David? *(She got off her donkey, bowed down and spoke kind, wise words, 25:23–24)*
5. Who did David say sent Abigail to meet him? *(The LORD God of Israel, 25:32)*

4. Memory verse: Soft Voice Verse (5 minutes)

Tape the 4 strips up in order: *A soft answer / turneth away wrath: / but grievous words / stir up anger. Proverbs 15:1.* 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 together in a soft voice. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Abigail said, 'Let the blame be on me' (1 Samuel 25:24). Jesus did even more: He took our sins on Himself (1 Peter 2:24). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when someone is angry or a fight starts, be like Abigail. Use a soft answer, kind and gentle words.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Abigail word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/abigail-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/abigail-craft), or **Hurry, Abigail!** Kids take turns being Abigail. "Abigail" carries the basket of pretend food quickly across the room to "David's camp." There she kneels down, hands over the basket and says the memory verse with the class: "A soft answer turneth away wrath." Then ask one question from part 3 and pick the next Abigail.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Abigail's wise, kind words. Help us use soft answers when people are angry, and help us be peacemakers. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why Nabal died: say the Bible tells us that God took care of it (1 Samuel 25:38–39). David did not have to fight, because Abigail's wise words stopped him.

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