

## LESSON PLAN

### DAVID IS REJECTED BY NABAL

#### I Samuel 25

**Lesson Memory Verse:** Romans 12:21 – “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

**Lesson Aim:** We should be good to evildoers so we can bring them to Christ and overcome their evil deeds.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Scotty and Sally each had been given a quarter. They went to the store to buy a candy bar. The candy bar cost fifty cents. Sally gave Scotty her quarter when he promised that he would buy the candy bar that they chose and then he would split it so each would get a half of the bar. Scotty bought a chocolate candy bar and went outside the store. Then he took the wrapper off of the candy bar, but he refused to give Sally her half. Instead he took a bite out of both ends and would not give her any of it! Sally got very angry. She ran up to him and slapped the candy bar out of his hand and it fell down on the sidewalk. Then she stepped on it so Scotty could not eat any more of it. Scotty hit Sally and chased her home. What should Sally have done instead of slapping the candy bar out of Scotty's hand? (She should have reminded Scotty of his promise to give half the candy bar to her and then kindly ask him to keep his promise.) If that failed, what should she do? (1) She could forget about it; (2) she could tell their parents what Scotty had done; (3) she could tell him that she would get even with him in the future; or, (4) she could pray and ask God to help her to be kind to him. Which way do you think that Sally should respond?

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse tells us what to do when people do something wrong to us. We should not return evil to someone who has done something wrong to us. Rather, we should try to stop their wrong-doing by doing something good to them. **Definition of “overcome”** – to conquer.

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application):** PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's story will show how David learned how to treat Nabal when he had wronged him.

#### I. The Wicked Deed of Nabal (25:2-11)

Nabal was a wealthy man with lots of animals and servants and lands. David and his men had protected Nabal's shepherds and flocks for a long time. According to the custom of the country, David and his men were supposed to receive a reward for doing this. Therefore, David sent ten men to a feast that Nabal had for his shepherds. They said good things to Nabal at his party and then kindly asked for their reward for protecting his shepherds and flocks. Nabal's servants agreed that David and his men deserved a reward. But Nabal would not give them their reward. Instead, he said many mean things about David and his father and said that David had done wrong to Saul. That was an evil thing for Nabal to do.

**WE:** We need to be fair with everyone whether we like them or do not like them. We must not be selfish with our things, but we should share them with our brothers, sisters, friends, and even those that we do not know too well. We must not be like Scotty who would not share the candy bar with his sister.

#### II. The Wrong Idea of David (25:12-13; cf. 25:21-22)

When the ten men told David what Nabal did, David became very angry. He became so angry that he forgot to ask God what he should do. David only thought about what he wanted to do. He made things look much worse than they really were. He promised that he and his 400 men would kill Nabal and all the men at Nabal's home for refusing to give him a reward.

**WE:** We must learn not to act in anger when someone does wrong to us. We need to stop and ask God what He would want us to do. He would not want us to do something wrong to a person that wronged us. How does our memory verse tell us to act when someone wrongs us? Let us read it and you tell me how we should act?

#### III. The Right Idea of Abigail (25:14-36)

A servant quickly told Nabal's wise wife, Abigail, what Nabal had done to David's servants and how angry David would be when his ten men reported Nabal said to them. She wisely decided not to tell her

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husband about her plan. Instead she prepared a reward for David. She gathered lots of good food and brought it to David and his men who were already coming to kill Nabal and all of his men. She knelt down in front of David and said she was sorry for Nabal's evil doing to David and then kindly asked David to take the reward of food that she had brought to him. David saw how wrong he had been to get angry so quickly. He thanked Abigail for the food and for teaching him a good lesson, and then he went home.

**WE:** We need to do our best to overcome evil with good. We need to be humble like Abigail, who stopped David from returning evil to Nabal and his men. David realized that he had responded to Nabal and his men in the wrong way. We need the Lord to help us to do good to someone who does evil to us.

### IV. The Results of Doing Evil and Good (25:36-42)

The same day that Nabal had done an evil deed, Abigail had done a good deed. Nabal was punished for the wrong he had done. He had become drunk at a big party that he provided for his shepherds. In the morning, Abigail told Nabal that she had given food to David for his reward which saved his life and the lives of his shepherds. David and his men were coming to kill him and his men. She said that David was satisfied with her reward and went home. Nabal was shocked at her news and then became very angry. Suddenly he had a stroke and was unable to move for ten days. Then God caused Nabal to die.

Abigail was rewarded for the good she had done. When David learned that Nabal had died, he wanted her to be his wife. David loved good Abigail for the good thing she had done to him. Abigail said that she would be happy to be the wife of the future king of Israel.

**WE:** We need to remember that evil will be stopped when we do good things to evil doers. Sometimes a person will stop from doing evil by our good doing as Abigail did for David. But sometimes the evil person will be stopped from doing evil by sickness or death as it happened to Nabal. We must remember the Lord will punish those that do evil (Nabal), but reward those that do good (Abigail).

**BE (for Action):** We have an important lesson to learn; we must do good things to those who do evil to us. Has anyone ever been mean to you? Have you ever done something good to someone who has been mean to you? What happened? If they said "nothing" good ever happened to them when they were good to mean people...

1. Ask: Are you **sure nothing** good happened?
2. Remind them that God doesn't always stop evil people right away, because He wants to save them, if at all possible.
3. Remind them that David's protection of Nabal's shepherds was rewarded by Abigail's gift and by Abigail becoming his wife.
4. Remind them that Abigail's good act did overcome David's anger.
5. Remind them: God **will** reward Christians for the good that they have done when they are in Heaven.

Will you remember to stop trying to overcome evil by doing bad things to evil people? Learn to overcome evil by doing good things to evil people. If you want to do good to evil people, you can pray right now for the Lord to help you. (Encourage your students to pray for the Lord's help before you close the lesson in prayer.).