

# Lesson 5

## The Peacemaker

### Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: I Samuel 25:2-35

MEMORY VERSE: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

CATECHISM:

The Eighth Commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not deceitfully belie, betray, backbite, nor slander our neighbor, but apologize for him, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all that he does.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- God made peace with us through His Son Jesus
- God will help us to be peacemakers.

MATERIALS: Bibles, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson tells how Abigail became a peacemaker between her foolish husband, Nabal, and David the future king of Israel, who was on the run from King Saul. The lesson focuses on the positive behavior in the Eighth Commandment. When David asked Nabal for food and water after protecting his herds and servants, Nabal refused, insulting David, and making him very angry. Abigail intervened, sending David and his men food and drink. She apologized for Nabal and begged David not to sin by retaliating for her husband's refusal. David listened to Abigail and did not sin.

Possible questions: 1) Who was David? Where were David and his men? Who was trying to kill David? Why? 2) What did David and his men do while they were hiding? 3) How do you think David felt when he heard what Nabal said? 4) Who did God send to be a peacemaker? What did Abigail do? 5) How does Jesus help us to be peacemakers?

ACTIVITY 1: Fill in the blank- answers may vary. Connect the story- top left to top right to middle right to middle left to bottom left to bottom right

ACTIVITY 2: Missing vowels coded message: "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Jesus

## TEACHER PREPARATION

### Prepare to Teach

- Faithfulness in preparation and memorization
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

### Prepare Materials

- Activity sheets
- Lesson Sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

### Hymns and Songs

**FILL IN HERE**

### Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the children in your class and yourself for:
  - Faithfulness in preparation and memorization
  - That the children will want to identify with David and other Godly characters in the Bible

### Bible Background

Samuel 25:2-35, Colossians 1:20, Matthew 5:9, Romans 5:1

Abigail is not the only wife who has had to apologize for a foolish and ungrateful husband, nor a husband for a wife. This story is highly unusual in the Bible because a woman is the main character and her speech in verses 24-31 is one of the longest by a woman in scripture.

David and his men have been staying in the wilderness near Nabal's flocks and they freely helped to protect the man's flocks and servants (v.7-8). At shearing time, David sent messengers asking Nabal for a little something in gratitude for their effort (v.8).

Nabal should have been grateful for the unsolicited help, but his reply is ungracious, selfish, tactless and disrespectful (vs.10-11). When David is informed about Nabal's answer, he is angry and feels insulted, disrespected and unappreciated, and orders an attack on Nabal's home (v.13).

When Abigail steps in as the peacemaker, David graciously accepts her apology for Nabal and further harm is avoided.

When unchecked, one sin can lead to another, and the results can be fatal, and in this case could have gone from insult and hatred to murder. David is known as a man "after God's own heart." (I San 13:14). But like all the saints, he was a sinner who could lead himself into dangerous places. When he felt disrespected, as he did here, he was ready to go on a killing spree, but Abigail's efforts avert his anger. When David committed adultery with Bathsheba, it led him to murder her husband. With Nabal, David's motive was for revenge; with Uriah it was for his self-protection and reputation. It is no different today.

One of David's servants goes to Abigail and tells her the story; she immediately grasps the seriousness of the situation and takes action. She gathers a lot of food, loads it on donkeys and sets out (v.18). She knows how Nabal would react to this, so she does not tell him. When she finds David (v.20), he is still pouting about how he was treated (vs.21-22). Abigail intercedes on behalf of her husband who she describes as a "worthless man," and "stupidity is with him" (v.25). She knows her husband well.

Abigail credits God with restraining David from shedding blood (v.26) and offers food for the men as David had first asked (v.27). Only then does she ask forgiveness for her husband from David (v.28). David graciously accepts her gifts and blesses her (v.32-33).

Abigail is the only person in contact with all the other characters, and saves her household by using her good sense, wisdom, and courage. David sees her as acting for and speaking for God and reminds her that she came at just the right time (v.34). Her generous gift and wise words (vs.24-31) changed David's mind. He accepted the gifts and said to her, "Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request" (v.35).

[Include if you want: Nabal did not fare so well (vs.36-38). When Abigail told him about this matter later, "his heart died within him" (v.37). "About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died" (v.38). "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Rom 12:19).]

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Peacemaking requires taking the initiative to get involved in conflicts with the intention of reconciling the opposing parties.

Sin separates us from God and from each other. What did God do even while we were enemies of God? Did He not have the right to punish us when we offended Him by defying and disobeying His word? Instead, He sought us out and sent His Son as the "peacemaker," (at the right time). Jesus offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sin and reconciled us to the Father. Instead of facing God's wrath and eternal death, we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because God reconciled Himself to us through Christ, He now calls us to be "ambassadors for Christ" by giving us the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

## Learn the New Words

*It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.*

**apologize** When we say or do something mean to someone and are then sorry for it, we apologize and say, "I'm sorry I said that," or, "I'm sorry I did that."

**Abigail** a Jewish lady married to Nabal. She loved and served God. When her husband did something foolish, she apologized for him. God used Abigail to help David do what was right.

**peacemaker** This is someone who helps others get along and not fight.

**Nabal** Nabal was a rich, foolish shepherd who was quick to get angry. He was Abigail's husband.

**David** David was the man God had chosen to be the next king of Israel, but before he became king, he was hiding in the desert from King Saul, who wanted to kill him.

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet each child by saying the Eighth Commandment and letting them say it back to you.

Open the class with prayer,

- Thank God for the opportunity to worship Him and gladly hear and learn His Word.
- Ask for His help as you continue to memorize verses and commandments
- Ask God for His presence to be in every part of your class time together.

## Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” *Luke 6:27-28.* Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

## Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Eighth Commandment in the previous lesson. Divide the longer meanings so the children will not be overwhelmed. A suggested break is after the word “neighbor”. Explain that this part of the meaning reminds us of what we should not do. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last lesson.

## TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

### Introduce the Lesson

In our Bible lesson we read about David. (The children may be able to tell you some things about David such as, he was a shepherd, he killed Goliath, etc.) In this lesson, David was hiding in the desert. We will learn who was a peacemaker for David.

### Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. Be sure the children understand the word apologize—you might ask them if they have ever apologized to someone.

Move on to the next paragraph. **SAY:** God’s Word tells us about some interesting people. One was wise and one was foolish. **ASK:** What can you tell me about Nabal? (responses) *(Listen and accept the answers of the children. This is not a test for the right answer, but a way for you to determine what their understanding is of wisdom and foolishness.)* **SAY:** Foolish also means we do and say things without thinking of what will happen. It means forgetting all about what God wants for us and for others. God is not pleased with that kind of behavior. **ASK:** Do you think Abigail was foolish?

Read or have a volunteer read paragraph four. **ASK:** Who was David? Where were David and his men? Who was trying to kill David? Why? (Saul was trying to kill David because he was jealous of him. Saul knew that God had chosen him to be the next king. David

would not fight back against Saul because he was still king and God’s anointed.

**ASK:** What did David and his men do while they were hiding? (They helped protect Nabal’s sheep and his servants.) David asked for some food and water. Nabal new David had protecting his sheep and his servants. Nabal should have been happy to share food and water with David and his men. That would have been helping David and serving God. But Nabal said, “NO!”

**ASK:** How do you think David felt when he heard what Nabal said? (responses)

Read the first two sentences of the fifth paragraph and the first sentence of I Samuel 25:13. There was going to be trouble now because Nabal was foolish and stubborn, and David was angry.

Finish reading the fifth paragraph

**ASK:** Who did God send to be a peacemaker? What did Abigail do? (Abigail sent food and reminded David of God of what God wanted. Abigail apologized for Nabal and was even willing to take the blame for Nabal’s bad behavior. Abigail probably was afraid because it was a dangerous situation. Abigail was risking her life, but she went in the strength of God because it was the right thing to do. If she had done nothing, David would have killed Nabal in anger.

Read the Sixth paragraph. **ASK:** Did David listen to Abigail? (yes) When Abigail told David not to sin, David listened to her. David was sorry for his anger against Nabal and repented. David responded very

differently from Nabal who never saw his foolishness and did not repent.

Read the last two paragraphs. **ASK:** What is God asking us to be in this lesson and in the Eighth Commandment? (peacemakers)

**ASK:** How does Jesus help us to be peacemakers? (Learning about Him in the Bible in Sunday School, and worship service, and then telling Him we need His love and strength to do what is right because we don't always want to do what is right.

## Repeat the Memory Verses

### Discussion:

Have the children think of times when they should apologize for themselves and/or for others.

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.

#### David and Nabal

##### Activity 1

Fill in the blank activity and draw lines to put the story in order

**Activity 1**  
**DAVID AND NABAL**

Write three words that describe David and his men:  
good      honest      helpful

Write three words that describe Nabal:  
rich      foolish      bad temper

Draw arrows connecting the story boxes in the correct order. The first box is in the top left corner.

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    graph TD
      A[David and his men protected Nabal's sheep and servants. One day David sent men to ask Nabal for food and water.] --> B[Nabal became angry. He had a bad temper and said, "Why should I give David food?"]
      B --> C[When David, the future king, heard what Nabal said, he wanted to kill Nabal and his men.]
      C --> D[Nabal's wife, Abigail, took the blame for Nabal's bad behavior: She asked David not to kill him.]
      D --> E[David thanked God for sending Abigail. David said he would not hurt Nabal.]
      E --> F[David told Abigail, "Go home. There will be peace."]
  
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#### Vowel Code

##### Activity 2

Fill in the missing vowels with the code given.

**Activity 2**  
**VOWEL CODE**

All the vowels are missing. Can you decode this important message?

♪ = A   ♡ = E   ♫ = I   ♪ = O   \* = U

B \_ U \_ T   I   S \_ A \_ Y   T \_ O \_   Y \_ O \_ U \_   W H \_ O \_   H \_ E \_ A \_ R \_ ,  
\*   ♪   ♫   ♫   \*   ♫   ♫   ♪

I \_ O \_ V \_ E \_   Y \_ O \_ U \_ R   E \_ N \_ F \_ M \_ I \_ H \_ S ,   fire  
♫   ♫

D \_ O \_   G \_ O \_ O \_ D   T \_ O \_   T H \_ O \_ S \_ E \_   W H \_ O \_  
♫   ♫

H \_ A \_ T \_ E \_   Y \_ O \_ U \_ ,  
♫   ♫

E L \_ F \_ S S   T H \_ O \_ S \_ E \_   W H \_ O \_   C \_ U \_ R S \_ E \_   Y \_ O \_ U \_ ,  
♫   ♫

P R \_ A \_ Y   F O \_ R   T H \_ O \_ S \_ E   W H \_ O \_  
♫   ♫

M \_ I \_ G H T \_ E \_ A \_ T   Y \_ O \_ U \_ ,  
♫   ♫

Who spoke this important message in the Bible?    JESUS

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## CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

## **Closing Prayer**

Dear God, forgive us when we are not peacemakers. Help us remember to apologize when we do something wrong. Help us to apologize for someone else when they have done something wrong. In Jesus' Name, amen.