

2.26 GOD REVEALS TASK FOR ANANIAS

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: We Can Know God's Will

3D. Living Christ Enlightens Us

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When asked how they know God reveals His will, students will say sometimes God uses visions.

Attitude: Students will be sensitive to God's revealing a task for them to do.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise book

Exercise book

Glasses of water and special drink e.g. soda

Scripture:

References: Acts 9:10-21

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "...with all your heart, do what God wants." Ephesians 6:6

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. When Jesus got Saul's attention, the direction of Saul's life was totally changed. Does God sometimes lead us to do one task at a time?

Bible Story:

2. The Bible tells us about Ananias and how he was directed to do an important, but difficult, task. Tell the story from Acts 9:10-21

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. Ananias was a believer in Christ. What was the task God asked him to do and how did He let him know?
4. Did Ananias want to do this task?
5. Did the Lord tell him why this task was so important?
6. So when Ananias found Saul, what did he do and say? What happened?
7. How did Saul respond?

Application:

8. As a child, do you think God can give you a special task to do? What kind of tasks might they be?
9. How will I know He wants me to do something for Him?

Evaluation:

10. How does the memory verse say we should do the will of God?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Quite often that is how God leads us
- Bible Story:**
2. Students will listen to learn how God lead Ananias.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. Through a vision, the Lord told Ananias to find Peter and place his hands on him that he might get his sight back.
4. No. Ananias knew that Saul was going about finding believers and arresting them, sometimes killing them.
5. Yes. The Lord told Ananias that He had chosen Saul to serve him and to make His name known to the Gentiles.
6. He placed his hands on Saul and told him the Lord had sent him so that he would see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit. At once something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes and he was able to see.
7. He immediately began preaching.

Application:

8. Yes. e.g. Helping someone in need
9. Have students discuss how they will know. They will listen, study Bible

Evaluation:

10. "with all your hearts"

Extension Activities

1. Have students write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: “with all your heart do what God wants.” Ephesians 6:6
2. In their exercise book, write at the top: “Living Out Our Faith”. Below it have them write: “God asks us to do special tasks”. Below that have them draw Ananias putting his hands on Saul’s eyes.
3. Obedience to the Living Christ will give us blessings. Use this exercise to help students understand that we can trust Christ when He asks us to do something but we have to be willing to do it. Offer full glasses of water to students who say they are thirsty. Before they take a sip from the glass, however, stop them from drinking it. Ask them if they trust you. They may seem a little confused. That’s okay. Ask them again if they trust you. If they say they do, then ask them to pour out their water (in a sink or outside). They may or may not be willing to do that. (Remember they are thirsty and they want a drink.) If they are hesitant or upset about your request, remind them that you love them, and will provide for their needs. Reassure them that you have their best interest at heart and that you will not hurt them. Ask them again if they trust you and if they will pour out their water. If they pour it out, that is good. If they are not willing, don’t force them. Then get a soda (or chocolate milk, milk—something the children really like). Tell the children that right from the start you wanted to give them their special drink. Then fill the glasses of those who poured out their water. Explain to those who didn’t pour out their water that there’s not room in their cup for the special beverage. Then talk about the experience in relation to this lesson. God wants to do something special in our lives but we need to be willing to give up our will so there is room in our lives to experience what the Living Christ is asking of us. Even when the task is difficult, like it was for Ananias, we can trust that Jesus will help us do it and will bless us.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

1. Ananias lived in Damascus. That is the city where Saul was taken after Jesus got his attention with a very bright light. Ananias was a believer in Jesus. He was given a vision.
2. Now a vision is something like a dream but a vision doesn’t come while one is sleeping. In a vision people are filled with a special consciousness of God and often are given some direction they are to take. That is what happened to Ananias.
3. The Lord was very specific with Ananias. He told him to go to the street called Straight. He was then to go to the home of Judas where he was to ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. The Lord told him that even then Saul was praying and, in a vision, Saul was shown that Ananias would come and put his hands on him and restore his sight.

4. Ananias was afraid. He told the Lord that he had heard terrible things about how Saul had mistreated those who followed Jesus. He told the Lord that Saul had even come to Damascus with the very purpose of arresting all whom worship Him.
5. The Lord's response was clear: "Go, because I have chosen him (Saul) to serve me. I want Saul to preach my Good News to kings and Jewish people and others, too. I want him to tell everyone about me."
6. Ananias was obedient. He found Saul and placed his hands on him just as he had been told. He said to Saul, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus came to you along the road to Damascus. Now he has sent me here to help you see and so that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit."
7. At once, Saul was able to see again. It was like fish scales dropped from his eyes.
8. Saul got up and was baptized. Then he ate and felt strong again.
9. Saul stayed with the people who believed in Jesus. He went to the synagogues, where Jewish people were worshipping God. There he proclaimed that Jesus really is the Son of God!
10. The people could hardly believe what they were hearing. They asked each other, "Isn't this the man who made things hard for Jesus' followers in Jerusalem? Hadn't he come here with permission to take people who believe in Jesus back with him in chains?"
11. Saul's life had truly been changed because he had met Jesus and let Him come into his heart.

Key Point

The Living Christ makes His will known to us through the Holy Spirit. He may ask us to do a single task once such as Ananias was asked to do. It may not be something we want to do but when Christ directs us, He will go before us and lead the way. It is our responsibility to obey and follow.

Teacher Evaluation

Have I ever had a deep feeling that I needed to talk with someone or visit someone for some reason? Did I obey that deep feeling or did I decide it was not necessary because it didn't seem important or it made me uncomfortable to do it? Have I ever wondered if things would have been different had I obeyed? Do I want to be useful to God so He can use me like he used Ananias? How will I encourage these students God has given me to teach to follow Jesus wherever He leads them?

