

Lesson 4.24: Saul - Man's Plans

Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Man's Plans

4C. Problem Solving Process

3D. Living Christ enlightens us.

Class: IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will use the problem solving model to brainstorm at least 5 ideas and solve a problem.

**Attitude:** Students will want to seek God's guidance when problem solving.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: I Samuel 10:17-27; I Samuel 15:10-19; *Peace Education* Lesson 24 or 25

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:25

### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** Give the students this problem to solve and have them use the ABC problem solving model to resolve it: *Samuel is getting old and his sons are not like him. They do evil things and are self-serving. Israel needs someone else to rule when Samuel is gone. You see that neighboring countries have kings. What do you think Israel should do?* (See Teacher notes for discussion.)

**Bible Story:**

How many of you put "pray" or "ask God" on your list of ideas? Why or why not?

Explain that the people of Israel had the problem described above and they decided they wanted a king even though that was not God's plan. Briefly tell the Bible story

**Application:** Have a student read Proverbs 16:25 and discuss it.

Have them practice problem solving with another example.

**Evaluation:**

Were students able to brainstorm at least 5 solutions to the question? Do they know they need to pray as well as brainstorm? Do they need more review on the ABC model?

### Student Activities

**Introduction:** Students work in small groups to solve the problem.

**Bible Story:** Listen to the story

**Application:** Read Proverbs 16:25 and answer the questions.

Try another example with the ABC problem solving model.

**Evaluation:** Were students able to remember and use the ABC problem solving model?

When asked, "What do we need to do when making decisions besides brainstorming ideas?" do students understand that they need to pray and seek God's wisdom when making decisions.

**Extension Activities:** *Prayer.* Share about Friends Decision making (*see Friends Connection* in the notes). Then ask students to consider a situation where they need God’s help or wisdom and invite them to pray about it. They can pray silently, in small groups or as a whole class.

*Story from YWAM in Nigeria.* Share the story about YWAM in Nigeria which is at the end of the lesson. Discuss the questions at the end of the story.

*Proverbs 16:25.* Read the verse again and have small groups think of situations where a decision that seems okay at the time might lead to injury of themselves or someone else or might cause hurt feelings and misunderstandings.

*Review.* Discuss the Peace Circles. Review the stories in this unit (Peace in a Nation) by having students tell what they know about Gideon and Samuel.

## Notes for Teacher

This lesson tells about Israel’s first king, King Saul. Having a king was not God’s plan for Israel and we can see what happens when people do what they think is right without listening to God. This lesson also gives students a chance to review the ABC decision making model they learned earlier.

Key Point: Students will know that God has the best plan and listening to God should guide our decisions.

Introduction: The people of Israel were facing a problem. Let your students consider what they would do by having them use the ABC problem solving model to make a decision. Give them this problem: *Samuel is getting old and his sons are not like him. They do evil things and are self-serving. Israel needs someone else to rule when Samuel is gone. You see that neighboring countries have kings. What do you think Israel should do?* Take this opportunity to review the ABC decision making model learned in earlier lessons. Make sure they state the problem and brainstorm at least 5 ideas before making a decision. You can do this in small groups or as a whole class. You will get more student engagement if they do it in small groups. Have groups share what they decided to do. Ask if anyone had “pray” or “ask God” on their list of ideas they brainstormed. Then tell them that Israel did not pray and it got them in a lot of trouble. Tell the story below.

Bible Story: Read the passages in I Samuel as background for the story and then tell the story in your own words. Include these important points:

- The people of Israel had been ruled by judges who prayed to know God’s will for them.
- Samuel was the last of the judges.
- God did not want the Israelites to have a king because He wanted to be their king.
- The people didn’t listen and insisted on having a king, so God chose Saul.
- Samuel anointed Saul and told him what God was saying to do.
- After a while Saul started making decisions based on what *he* thought was right without listening to God.
- Because Saul wouldn’t obey Him, God rejected Saul as king. After that God did not help Saul anymore.

Application: Discuss the meaning of the memory verse. When we do things that seem like a good idea to us, we can still get in trouble or cause problems for others. Can you think of an example? When we are trying to solve problems, we need to pray and ask God to guide us in

choosing the solution that He wants. (You may want to share the optional story of the YWAMers in Nigeria as an example of how prayer can play a part in peacemaking.)

*Problem Solving.* Give students problems to solve from the *Peace Education* book (Lesson 24 or Lesson 25) and have them write out the ABC steps as they complete them OR think of a problem that students in your class must deal with and use it to practice the steps. Encourage them to consider prayer as one of the things they would do before making a final decision.

### Stories for Extension Activities

*Friends Connection:* Friends use a decision making process called *discernment* to make decisions in business meetings. Everyone is allowed to speak what they think. It is called *consensus* when the group reaches agreement. It is not essential that they all agree with each other but that the group as a whole feels they understand what God wants and are in agreement with Him. This requires that everyone be in a prayerful attitude and be willing to submit to God's will. If an individual needs to make an important decision, like where they should work or who they should marry, they may call together a group of Friends to pray with them and help them discern the will of God. This is called a *clearness committee*. The group will pray together until it is clear what God wants. *If someone in your group has a decision to make they may want the group to pray with them about it.*

*Story from Nigeria.* Source: Sermon by Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) at the *One Thing Conference* in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, Dec. 30, 2009.)

In Nigeria, there were approximately 3,000 militant young people who were capturing foreigners who visited the country. They would use the captives to get money and to get press coverage. They became wealthy and took over about 20% of the oil in the country. For ten years they caused trouble in Nigeria. The Army of Nigeria had tried to disarm them but were unsuccessful. A group of twenty-six students at Youth With A Mission (YWAM), ages 18-26, began to pray for the militants. They asked God to show them His heart for them; what He wanted to do.

The students felt like God was telling them to go to the militants and proclaim the gospel. They knew they could be killed but they went to their camps and offered to serve them if they could share the gospel with them. So the students cleaned and served in any way the militants wanted and then they shared the gospel with them.

Some of the militants were involved in the occult because they felt it gave them more power. One day one of the militants fell into an occult trance. The others in the camp warned the YWAMers that when he was like this he would have to kill someone before he would come out of the trance. The man took a knife and started toward Alex, the leader of the YWAMers. Everyone told Alex to run but instead he stepped forward and said, "Jesus is going to set him free." The man fell on his knees, threw down the knife and was transformed. The other militants prayed and became Christians. Three hundred militants turned over their armory to the YWAMers. They had bombs and had been planning to bomb one of the large oil companies in the country. The YWAMers gave the bombs and weapons to the government and the government agreed to give the militants amnesty if YWAM would rehabilitate them. The team of YWAMers continued to go to different camps of the militants and in the end almost 3,000 surrendered. One of them said, "My job was to kidnap whites. I've not been rehabilitated. I've been transformed by Jesus Christ." *What part did prayer play in bringing peace to this situation? What part did obedience play? Friends of God seek to know God's plan and purposes and then obey Him.*