

Bible Heroes with Family Problems

A review of the lives of Joseph, Moses, Daniel and Samuel.

All four of these Bible Heroes had troubled childhoods and experienced the breakup of their families. MOSES did not get to live with his parents, Daniel was sold into slavery, Samuel was taken from his parents at age four, Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers.

A good start to the lesson is to ask if anyone in class can tell you the story of these men...one at a time. (If your classroom has a library the "Hear me Read" series by Dr. Mary Mans Simons might be a great addition...entire Bible Stories told in just 19-36 words...very brief and clear for the youngest of children.) After reviewing or reading the stories of these children/men ...focusing on their family troubles...ask the children if having a lot of family trouble means you are at the bottom of God's list???

The answer is: "Of course not. When a child of God has family trouble it moves you right to the top of God's list...NOT...the bottom. God PROMISES to be a Father to the Fatherless. We hope and pray that all the most problemed children of the world learn the stories of these four children especially orphans and the children of divorce. If you know of an orphanage (especially in Africa or Haiti) could we ask that you forward this weeks email to them?

A few questions a teacher/leader might ask after reading the stories.

1. Which of the four children did God speak too? (answer...all four.)
2. What did they do when they were afraid? (answer...they prayed.)
3. Did their problems mean they were at the bottom of God's list or did having problems move God's heart to put them at the TOP of his list?
4. Would they have become leaders of their nation if they had not learned to trust God even when they had problems with their family. Is it harder to trust God when you have problems?
5. Sometimes being hurt or having problems makes people angry. Sometimes it helps them understand people better and love them more. If you want to learn to love even those who hurt you do you think Jesus would help you?
6. (Optional question for special groups) People were especially cruel to Jesus. They took his clothes, beat him and spit on him. If anyone is hurting you God wants you to tell someone about it...an adult that you trust or like. Jesus does not want anyone hurting children.