**Grade 6**

**Unit 4: God Leads the Chosen People**

**Chapter 19: David**

**Faith Focus:** David, the greatest king, sinned and repented. He wrote Psalms that showed his devotion to God. We too, can show our devotion to God through prayer and praising.

**Materials:** Breakthrough Bibles, My 23rd Psalm

**Meditation:**

1) Remind students that each week they are going to begin class with quiet prayer time where they can focus on getting to know God better, and talking to him about their day.

2) Dim the lights and lead the class in 5-7 minutes of the Examen or some other form of meditative prayer you deem appropriate for your class.

**Centering:**

1. Ask students: “What are your favorite types of music?”
2. Ask students share their ideas with the class. Share your own too.

**Sharing:**

1. Ask students to recall who Samuel anointed king after Saul turned away from God (David)
2. Invite students to read the interview with David on page c17 of their breakthrough Bibles. Assign one student the role of David.
3. Point out David is holding a harp in the picture because he was a musician who wrote songs. The songs he wrote are both prayers and hymns called Psalms.
4. Explain the Psalms David wrote are still used in Church today.
5. Ask the class to turn to Psalm 23. Do a coral reading of this Psalm. A coral reading is where everyone reads the Psalm at the same time. Read through the Psalm twice.
6. Ask the class the following questions and write the answers on the board:
	1. How was David feeling when he wrote the Psalm?
	2. When are sometimes you have felt fear, anxiety or distress? Can you picture it in your minds?

**Acting:**

1. Tell students they are going to write lyrics for their own Psalm to pray with the class. They should use the image of the time they were afraid to help them to rewrite the words.
2. Pass out the My 23rd Psalm sheet.
3. They are going to use the 23rd Psalm as a springboard by keeping the same structure. Below is an example. Write this example, or your own, on the board.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 23rd Psalm | My 23rd Psalm |
| The Lord is my shepherd | The Lord is my shepherd |
| I have everything I need | My life is complete |
| He lets me rest in fields of green grass | I rest in his loving arms |

1. Give students about 10 minutes to work alone, but tell them they may ask advice from a neighbor if they need help.
2. After about 10 minutes have them share their Psalms with the class.
3. Ask students to take out their journals and respond to the following questions:
	1. Was it difficult or easy to write your own Psalm?
	2. Why do you think David wrote so many Psalms?
	3. How could you use music to pray to God this week?
4. Have students share as time allows.

**Closing Prayer:**

1. Explain David wrote Psalms about many different things, including Psalms of praise.
2. Ask students to turn to Psalm 150.
3. Pray this Psalm together as a class. End with the prayer of the month (Act of Contrition)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 23rd Psalm | My 23rd Psalm |
| The Lord is my shepherd |  |
| I have everything I need |  |
| He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. |  |
| He gives me strength |  |
| He guides me on the right paths, as he has promised |  |
| Even if I go through the deepest darkness |  |
| I will not be afraid, Lord for you are with me. |  |
| Your shepherd’s rod and staff will protect me |  |
| You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; |  |
| You welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim |  |
| I know the your goodness and love will be with me all my life; |  |
| And your house will be my home as long as I live.  |  |