

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching Ephesians 1 to Preschool Students

Objective:

Introduce preschool students to the key themes of Ephesians 1: God's love, blessings, and the idea that we are part of God's family. Focus on creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

Pacing Suggestions:

- Introduction (5 minutes)
- Story/Concept Explanation (10 minutes)
- Activity/Craft (10 minutes)
- Closing and Prayer (5 minutes)

Introduction:

Begin with a simple welcome song or a circle time greeting to gather attention. Use this time to introduce the idea that we will learn about God and how much He loves us.

Explaining Difficult Concepts:

1. God's Love and Blessings:

- Use simple language: "God loves us so much, and He gives us many good things!"
- Illustrate with tangible examples, like sunshine, friendships, or family.
- Use a visual aid, like pictures or a felt board, to show these blessings.

2. Being Part of God's Family:

- Simplify: "We are all part of God's big family!"
- Use a story about family, drawing from their experiences with parents and siblings.
- Engage with a circle game, where each child says, "I am in God's family. We are all in God's family!"

Managing Student Engagement:

- Utilize interactive storytelling, asking questions such as, "Who loves you?" or "What makes you happy?"
- Incorporate motions or actions during the story to keep energy levels appropriate. For example, mimic "big" love with wide arm gestures.
- Keep transitions quick and efficient to maintain attention.

Activities:

1. Craft: God's Blessings Collage:

- Provide magazines, stickers, or drawing materials.
- Have students create a collage of things they are thankful for, prompting them to think of people and things they love.
- Encourage sharing about their collage to reinforce verbal expression and listening skills.

2. Song and Movement:

- Teach a simple song about God's love, paired with hand motions (e.g., "Jesus Loves Me").
- Include movements like clapping or stomping to express joy and participation.

Closing and Prayer:

- Recap: Restate the main points—God loves us, gives us blessings, and we're all in His family.

- Prayer: Lead a simple prayer thanking God for His love and blessings; invite students to say "thank you" to reinforce the lesson.
- Send-off with a blessing or a simple affirmation: "Remember, you are loved and part of God's family!"

Additional Tips:

- Use varied voice tone and enthusiasm to keep stories lively.
- Be attentive to the group's energy and ready to pivot to calming activities if needed.
- Have a "quiet signal" ready, such as a clap rhythm or bell, to bring attention back when needed.

These steps aim to provide a structured, nurturing introduction to Ephesians 1 with age-appropriate engagement and understanding.