

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Good morning, everyone! Today, we're going to journey into the Bible and discover an exciting chapter in the book of Numbers, specifically Numbers 9. Now, before you start thinking about math class with all those "numbers," let me assure you, this is a different adventure. The book of Numbers helps us learn all about the Israelites and their walk through the wilderness after leaving Egypt. Today, we're going to find out how God took care of His people as they traveled. Picture it like a big camping trip, but instead of just a few of you going for fun over the weekend, imagine an entire nation moving from one place to another!

Have you ever gone on a long trip with your family? Maybe you went to visit relatives or took a trip to a special place like an amusement park. Think about how you prepared for that trip: packing your clothes, grabbing your favorite toys or books for the ride, and making sure you had enough snacks! Now imagine going on a journey where you aren't quite sure where you'll end up or how long you'll be traveling. That's kind of what the Israelites experienced, but with a unique twist. They followed something extraordinary—a special cloud and pillar of fire that showed them exactly where to go!

In Numbers 9, we'll discover more about the journey of the Israelites and how God was like their very own road guide with a special set of directions. Are you ready to find out how this all happened? Let's dive in!

Main Teaching Points

Our first teaching point in Numbers 9 is about the Passover. Do you remember the story of the Passover from when the Israelites were in Egypt? The Passover was when God told the Israelites to mark their doorframes with lamb's blood so that when the last plague came, the angel would pass over their houses and not harm them. It was a reminder of God's protection and deliverance from Egypt. In Numbers 9, God instructs the Israelites to keep celebrating Passover each year, no matter where they are, to remember what He did for them. It's like having an annual party to remind yourself of something wonderful that happened.

Now imagine your family celebrates your birthday every year. Even if you're staying at a friend's house or are on vacation, you still find a way to have cake and enjoy some fun, right? This is similar to what God wanted the Israelites to do with the Passover. He wanted them to remember His protection and how He set them free no matter where they were.

The second teaching point is the captivating cloud and fire. This wasn't just any cloud; it was a special cloud that showed God's presence. During the day, the cloud would hover above the Tabernacle, which was like their portable church or worship tent. At night, the cloud appeared as fire. Isn't that amazing? Imagine having a cloud that turned into fire to lead and guide you!

Whenever the cloud moved, the Israelites packed up their camp and followed it. And when the cloud stayed, they stayed. Sometimes the cloud would stay for just a few days, other times for months. They never knew how long it would be until God moved them again, so they always had to be ready. This is like playing a game of "Simon Says" where you listen really closely for the next move. God was showing them He wanted to lead them, and He was trustworthy to follow.

The final teaching point is obedience and trust. The Israelites had to trust that God knew what He was doing. Even if they didn't understand why they had to move again, or why they had to stay longer in one place, they obeyed. This was an act of faith, demonstrating that they believed God's way was the best way. Imagine if you were on a hike and the leader knew the way to the lake, would've you trust the leader and follow or run off on your own? Staying with the leader ensures you'll reach your destination safely.

In their journey, whenever the Israelites followed God's guidance with the cloud and fire, they were showing their obedience and growing their faith. And each time they celebrated Passover, they were reminded of God's faithfulness in what He had already done.

Now that we've unpacked these key points, let's think about how we can relate to this in our own lives.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, let's talk about how Numbers 9 can be meaningful for you, in your life right now. First, remember how the Israelites had to celebrate Passover every year? Just like them, we have special days and traditions that remind us of important things. Can you think of a special day your family celebrates each year? Maybe it's a holiday, like Christmas, where you remember the birth of Jesus, or Thanksgiving, when you express your gratitude for all the blessings in your life. These traditions help keep important memories alive and allow you to share them with others.

Secondly, let's think about that incredible cloud and fire. Just like the Israelites, we need guidance too. Sometimes, knowing what to do and where to go can be confusing! Maybe you're trying to decide what good choice to make in a challenging situation or you're worried about making new friends. In those times, God wants to guide you, just like He guided the Israelites. You can pray for direction, and God provides wisdom through His Word or by talking to trusted adults like your parents or teachers.

Lastly, practicing obedience and trust can sometimes be hard, but it's so important. In our lives, obedience might mean completing your chores when asked or playing nicely with your siblings. Trusting can mean knowing that your parents want what is best for you, even when you don't understand their decisions. Just like the Israelites listened to God, we are encouraged to listen to His guidance, trusting that His plan is for our good.

As you go about your week, remember Numbers 9 and how it shows us to trust God's direction, celebrate His goodness, and keep faith in Him—all parts of an exciting adventure in our walk with God.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now it's time for some questions! Let's see if you can think about how these stories apply to your life and your journey following God.

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to celebrate Passover every year, no matter where they were?

- Teaching Guidance: This question encourages students to understand the importance of remembering and celebrating God's past actions. Guide them to relate it to their own lives by celebrating their life events like birthdays or anniversaries, reinforcing that traditions can help us remember important events and values.

2. What was special about the cloud and fire that led the Israelites?

- Teaching Guidance: Encourage students to think about how they would feel following such a special guide. Prompt them to imagine a visible guide in their day-to-day life—how would that change their confidence in decision making or in feeling secure?

3. When are times you might need to trust God, even if you don't understand what He's doing?

- Teaching Guidance: Help students apply this to situations in their life, like dealing with change, feeling scared about an event, or having difficulty understanding something new. Discuss how prayer and trust can provide comfort just as the cloud and fire did for the Israelites.

4. How can we celebrate and remember God's faithfulness today?

- Teaching Guidance: Direct this conversation to make connections to modern traditions within their lives, such as attending church, family traditions, or prayer before meals. Encourage children to share their own experiences of celebrations and rituals that are important to them.

Through these questions, students will be able to interact with the story and relate it to their own experiences, helping them to see God's faithfulness and guidance in their everyday lives. Thank you for your attention and participation today, and remember to look for God's guidance in everything you do!