

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching 'Numbers 20' to Elementary Students

Lesson Goal:

Students will understand the main events and lessons from Numbers 20, including the significance of trust and obedience in leadership.

Pacing Suggestions:

- Introduction (5 minutes): Briefly introduce the book of Numbers, its context, and its focus on the Israelites' journey in the desert.
- Reading and Discussion (15 minutes): Read Numbers 20 together, stopping to discuss key events.
- Activity (10 minutes): Engage students with a retelling or dramatization of the story.
- Reflection and Closing (10 minutes): Discuss the lessons learned and how they apply to students' lives.

Explaining Difficult Concepts:

1. The Israelites' Complaints:

- Explanation: Describe how the Israelites were feeling frustrated and worried about having no water. Use relatable examples of everyday situations when we feel we don't have enough of something we need.
- Tip: Encourage students to share their experiences with feeling worried or lacking something, connecting it back to the story.

2. Moses' Actions:

- Explanation: Simplify Moses' actions by explaining that God told Moses to speak to a rock to bring forth water, but Moses struck it instead.
- Tip: Use a simple demonstration like tapping two objects together to show the difference between speaking and striking.

3. Consequences of Disobedience:

- Explanation: Make it clear that disobedience means not following instructions, and this leads to consequences.
- Tip: Role-play a scenario where not following clear instructions leads to humorous or unfortunate (but mild) consequences.

4. Leadership and Trust:

- Explanation: Emphasize the importance of trusting and obeying directions, especially when leading others.
- Tip: Ask students to share times when they had to trust someone in a leadership role or when someone trusted them.

Guidance for Managing Student Engagement:

- Interactive Reading: Pause throughout the reading to ask questions that prompt prediction or connection to personal experiences.
- Incorporate Visuals: Use simple drawings or images to depict key scenes, helping students visualize events and better understand the story.
- Group Activity: Divide students into small groups and assign each a part of the story to act out. This helps in reinforcing the narrative and keeps energy levels high.
- Personal Reflection: After discussion, allow students some quiet time to draw or write about what they learned. Invite them to illustrate a scene or describe what trust means to them.

By focusing on interactive and relatable activities, you can maintain engagement and facilitate a deeper understanding of the story's themes.