

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! Today, we are going to explore a chapter from the Bible that is all about counting. Do you like counting? Maybe you've tried counting jellybeans, stars, or even the number of ladybugs on a sunny day. In the Bible, there's a whole book called Numbers, and in Chapter 26, they counted something really important.

Imagine if you were the leader of a giant group of people, just like leading your friends through a park. It would be your job to make sure everyone knows where they're going, that everyone has snacks, and nobody is missing! That's similar to what Moses and Eleazar experienced. They had an enormous group of Israelites, and God asked them to count everybody. But this was not just for fun; it had a very important purpose.

The Israelites were God's special people, and they were on a journey to a new place God had promised them. This new place was called the Promised Land. God wanted them to be ready for this journey, and counting was a special way of showing that each person mattered and was prepared for God's promises.

As we dive into this story, think about why counting these people was so crucial. What if you were part of their group? How would you feel knowing every person mattered to God? Let's get ready to learn more about why God wanted Moses to count the Israelites and how He has a plan for everyone.

Main Teaching Points

1. The Importance of Counting and Organization

First, let's explore why counting was necessary. Imagine a big birthday party with hundreds of people coming. You'd need to count them to make sure there are enough cupcakes and games, right? In Numbers 26, God asked Moses and Eleazar, the priest, to count all the men who were 20 years old and up who could serve as soldiers. This was a way for them to organize the people and know how many were ready to protect the group and help them get to the Promised Land. Organization was important to God because it enabled the people to move forward together with strength and purpose.

2. A Fresh Start with a New Generation

Next, let's think about a garden. After the winter, you might plant new seeds for a bright, sunny garden in the spring. Similarly, the group that Moses and Eleazar counted was a new generation. Many of the older people who started the journey to the Promised Land with Moses had passed away because they did not trust God at one point. This new counting was like planting new seeds, symbolizing a fresh start with people ready to trust and obey God on the challenging journey ahead.

3. Understanding an Individual's Value in a Community

Counting everyone wasn't just about numbers. It was about recognizing each person. Imagine being in a class picture. What if the picture didn't include your face? Wouldn't you feel left out? By

counting every person, Moses was saying, “You are important, and you belong.” Each person had a role, and God cared for each one. This helped everyone understand their value and that they were essential to the community, just like you are important in your family or class at school.

4. God’s Promises and Faithfulness

Finally, the counting reminds us of God’s promise and faithfulness. Remember how in the story of Noah, God promised to keep His people safe? The counting of the Israelites is a reminder of God’s continuous care. Just as you might count on your fingers to ensure you haven’t forgotten anything important, God was ensuring that everyone would be part of His great plan. Despite challenges, God was with them, just as He is with you at home, school, or anywhere you go.

These teachings show us how God, through Moses and Eleazar, prepared His people by planning, creating a fresh start, valuing every individual, and emphasizing His promises. This leads us to see our place in God’s world.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, let’s bring this lesson closer to you. Imagine if you were a part of a big relay race, and each person had a part to play. If someone missed their turn, the whole team might not finish the race. In the same way, you and I have a special part in our families, our schools, and God’s big family.

Remember, just as each Israeli had a role to play, you too have unique gifts and talents. Maybe you’re great at singing, running, or helping others. God loves when you use your talents. It’s like adding a dash of your favorite color to a painting—it wouldn’t be the same without you!

Also, think of the fresh start God gave the new generation in the Bible. We have fresh starts every day. If you had a rough day yesterday, maybe you couldn’t find your homework or had a disagreement with a friend, today is a brand new day to try again and learn.

And just like God was with Moses and the Israelites, He is with you every day, guiding and helping you grow, even when things are difficult or new. So, whether you’re making new friends, learning a difficult math problem, or helping someone in need, know that you are part of something amazing, and God sees and loves you.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now let’s have some time for questions and discussion. Here are some questions to think about and discuss:

1. Why was it important for Moses and Eleazar to count the Israelites?

Discuss how counting helped them know who could help, much like counting students helps a teacher know that the whole class is safe during a field trip. Explain how this gives a sense of belonging and prepares them for their journey and battles.

2. What does it mean that everyone counted was important to God?

Imagine if there was a big puzzle, and a piece went missing. That puzzle wouldn’t be complete, would it? Each person in the story was like a puzzle piece, important to the whole picture. Encourage students to share how they feel important at school, home, or church.

3. How do you think God shows He cares for us today?

Consider the many ways God shows care: through nature, our family, teachers, and friends who help us. Discuss how we can see God's care in daily life, just as the Israelites saw it on their journey.

4. What can we learn from the new generation of Israelites chosen to enter the Promised Land?

Discuss fresh starts by asking students to share a time they had a second chance to do something. Relate this to how God allows us to start fresh, learn from mistakes, and grow.

These questions help bridge the story to our lives, allowing the children to reflect on their significance in God's family and how they see and experience His promises every day.