Group_activity

Activity 1: River Crossing Re-Creation

Objective: Understand the crossing of the Jordan River and the significance of the twelve stones.

Instructions:
1. Preparation: Gather materials such as a large blue sheet or fabric to represent the river and twelve small stones.
2. Roles:
- Narrator: Reads Joshua 4 aloud to the group.
- Israelite Walkers: Several students who 'cross the river' by walking on the blue sheet.
- Stone Carriers: Twelve students who carry a stone from one side of the 'river' to the other.
- Jordan River Keeper: A student who holds the ends of the blue sheet and raises/lowers it for the ‘crossing.’

Activity Steps:
- The Narrator reads the passage, pausing where necessary for clarity.
- As the story is told, the Israelite Walkers 'cross' the blue sheet while the Jordan River Keeper raises it slightly to simulate the parted waters.
- Stone Carriers pick up a 'stone' from the river’s edge and carry it across, placing it in a pile on the opposite side.

Discussion Prompts:
- Why did Joshua have the people pick up stones from the river?
- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw the river part?
- What might these stones mean to future generations?

Participation: Ensure each student has a turn as a walker or carrier, involving everyone in the storytelling process.

Activity 2: Twelve Stones and Their Meanings

Objective: Reflect on the symbolism of the twelve stones.

Instructions:
1. Preparation: Provide paper, crayons, or markers for drawing.
2. Roles:
- Discussion Leader: Guides the group through the questions.
- Artists: All students who will draw interpretations of what the stones mean.
- Storyteller: Shares a personal story that relates to one of the discussion prompts.

Activity Steps:
- Discuss the significance of the memorial set up by the stones.
- Each student draws their stone and writes one word or phrase that it represents for them (e.g., faith, trust, God's power).

Discussion Prompts:

- What does each stone symbolize for the Israelites?
- What is something important in your life that you want to remember?

Participation: Each student shares their drawing and word, explaining their personal meaning.

Activity 3: Role-Play Interviews

Objective: Encourage students to explore the perspectives of different characters in the story.

Instructions:
1. Preparation: Prepare simple costume items like headbands or paper badges to identify characters.
2. Roles:
- Interviewer: Asks questions
- Joshua: Answers based on the passage.
- Israelite Child: Shares a perspective of witnessing the event.
- Elderly Israelite: Reflects on the event's importance for future generations.

Activity Steps:
- The Interviewer prepares questions, such as "What did you feel when the waters parted?"
- Characters respond in character, imagining their thoughts and feelings during the river crossing.

Discussion Prompts:
- How do you think Joshua felt leading the people across?
- What might an Israelite child remember most about this event?

Participation: Rotate roles among students so everyone gets a chance to interview and play a character.