Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching 'Joshua 20'

Overview:
Joshua 20 discusses the establishment of cities of refuge in Israel. These cities served as safe havens for individuals who accidentally committed manslaughter, allowing them to await a fair trial.

Pacing Suggestions:
- Lesson Duration: 30-40 minutes
- Introduction (5 minutes): Briefly introduce the book of Joshua and its historical context.
- Main Content (15-20 minutes): Read through and explain Joshua 20 in segments.
- Activities (10-15 minutes): Engage students with interactive discussion and a creative activity.
- Conclusion (5 minutes): Recap key points and check for understanding.

Ways to Explain Difficult Concepts:

1. Cities of Refuge:
- Compare it to "safe zones" on a playground where students can go if they feel scared or need a break.
- Explain that these cities were part of ensuring fairness and protection in ancient times.

2. Accidental Manslaughter:
- Simplify by saying sometimes people might make a big mistake without meaning to. Discuss the difference between intentional and unintentional actions.

3. Fair Trial:
- Explain that just like when there’s a dispute at school, adults need a way to figure out what’s fair and just, which is why there's a trial process.

Guidance for Managing Student Engagement:

- Storytelling Method: Use vivid storytelling to capture their interest. Begin with a short, relatable story about misunderstandings and fairness.

- Interactive Discussion: Prompt students with questions such as, "What would you do if you were accused of something by mistake?" to make personal connections.

- Visual Aids: Use maps to show the location of the cities of refuge within Israel. Simple drawings or printed maps could help children visualize the setting and size of the region.

- Role Play: Organize a mock scenario replicating a trial, showing how cities of refuge would work, involving willing participants or volunteers.

- Creative Activity: Have students draw a city of refuge or create their own "safe zones" using art supplies. This provides a hands-on way to internalize the lesson.

Conclusion and Recap:
Summarize that Joshua 20 is about kindness, fairness, and protecting people. Encourage students to think about how they can help make their environment a safe space for everyone.

Check for Understanding:
- Ask students to recount why cities of refuge were needed.
- Let volunteers explain what they would do if they ended up in such a city.
- Facilitate a quick Q&A for any questions they may have.

This strategy ensures the lesson is engaging, interactive, and relatable, thus keeping the students interested and helping them to grasp complex concepts.