Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching 1 Samuel 17 to Elementary Students

Objective:
Students will understand the story of David and Goliath, focusing on themes of courage, faith, and overcoming adversity.

Duration:
- Introduction: 5 minutes
- Reading & Storytelling: 15 minutes
- Discussion: 10 minutes
- Activity: 10 minutes
- Conclusion: 5 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):
- Briefly introduce the Book of 1 Samuel as a part of the Old Testament.
- Explain that it contains many stories about the history and leaders of Israel, focusing on Samuel, Saul, and David.

Reading & Storytelling (15 minutes):
- Summarize the story focusing on key events: Goliath’s challenge, David’s decision to fight, his preparation, and ultimate victory.
- Use visual aids such as illustrations or a storyboard to help maintain engagement.
- Possible script: “Once upon a time, there was a giant named Goliath who was very big and scary. He challenged the Israelites to send someone to fight him, but no one was brave enough—except for a young shepherd boy named David.”

Explaining Difficult Concepts:
- Faith and Courage: Explain how David’s belief in God gave him the courage to stand up to Goliath, even when things seemed impossible.
- Size vs. Strength: Discuss how being small doesn’t mean you’re not strong. Use age-appropriate parallels (e.g., comparing elephant size to an ant's strength).
- Trust in God: Talk about trust and how David trusted God to help him, just like students might trust their parents or teachers.

Discussion (10 minutes):
- Ask open-ended questions to encourage thinking and application:
- What makes David brave?
- How did David’s faith help him overcome his fear?
- Can you think of a time when you had to be brave?

Activity (10 minutes):
- Act It Out: Have the students act out the story. Assign roles (e.g., David, Goliath, Israelite soldiers).
- Art Project: Create a drawing or storyboard of the major scenes.
- Group Discussion: Split into small groups to discuss what they’d do if they were in David’s shoes.

Managing Student Engagement:
- Keep the pace lively to maintain attention.

- Use movement or gesture to emphasize the story (e.g., demonstrating the sling action).
- Rotate leadership roles in group activities to involve different students.

Conclusion (5 minutes):
- Recap the story and key themes: courage, faith, and using what you have.
- Encourage students to reflect on how they can show courage in their own lives.
- Close with a simple prayer or positive affirmation related to bravery and faith.

Assessment:
- Observe participation during discussions and activities.
- Use quick, informal reflections such as “thumbs up if you understood” to gauge comprehension.

Adjust the lesson based on the student’s responses and energy levels, ensuring a comfortable and positive learning environment.