

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes for 1 Samuel 27

Overview:

1 Samuel 27 discusses David's decision to seek refuge with the Philistines, escaping Saul's pursuit. David aligns himself with Achish, king of Gath, and is given the town of Ziklag.

Pacing Suggestions:

- Introduction (5 minutes): Introduce the context by briefly summarizing the struggles between David and Saul.
- Reading the Passage (10-15 minutes): Use a child-friendly version of the Bible to read the passage together.
- Discussion and Explanation (10-15 minutes): Break down the key events in the chapter and discuss them with the students.
- Activity (Optional, 10 minutes): Engage students with a related activity to reinforce the lesson.

Explaining Difficult Concepts:

1. David's Decision:

- Simplify by explaining that David was afraid and needed a safe place to stay. Relate it to a game of hide and seek where David was hiding from Saul.

2. Philistines as Enemies:

- Explain that the Philistines were often at war with Israel, so it was unusual for David to find refuge with them.

3. Deception of Achish:

- Discuss with students how David told Achish he was attacking Israel's enemies while secretly keeping loyalty to Israel. Relate to a scenario of keeping a secret to protect friends.

4. Cultural and Historical Context:

- Briefly mention that this took place in ancient times when cities were ruled by kings and kingdoms often fought one another.

Managing Student Engagement:

- Interactive Reading: Pause during reading to ask questions, ensuring comprehension and keeping students involved.
- Visual Aids: Use maps or illustrations showing David's journey from Israel to Philistine territory to make the story more tangible.
- Role Play: Organize a simple role-play activity where students act as David, Achish, and Saul to understand their perspectives.
- Q&A Session: Facilitate a question-and-answer session to clear up any confusion and encourage curiosity.
- Reflective Activity: Have students draw a picture of what they think David's new home in Ziklag

might have looked like or write a diary entry as David describing his experience.

Conclusion (5 minutes):

Summarize the key events and lessons about trust, fear, and God's protection. Reinforce that even though David made choices in fear, God had His plans for David.

Tips for Success:

- Be patient with questions; this story presents moral and ethical nuances complex for younger students.
- Encourage empathy by helping students relate to the feelings and experiences of the characters.
- Frequently check for comprehension by asking students to recap parts of the story in their own words.