

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching 1 Samuel 28 to Elementary Students

Introduction to the Lesson:

- Begin with a brief overview of the Book of Samuel to help students understand the context in which 1 Samuel 28 is situated.
- Explain who Saul is and his role as the first King of Israel.
- Introduce the key characters in this chapter: Saul, Samuel, the Witch of Endor, and the Philistines.

Pacing Suggestions:

1. Opening (5-7 minutes):

- Start with a storytelling approach to set the stage for Saul's dilemma as king and his need for guidance.
- Present the importance of trust in God and the consequences of not adhering to His guidance.

2. Reading & Explanation (15-20 minutes):

- Read selected, age-appropriate passages. For younger students, summarize challenging sections instead.
- Explain the setting where Saul seeks guidance from the Witch of Endor against traditional beliefs prohibiting contacting spirits.
- Discuss why Saul is desperate — his fear of the Philistines and God not responding to him.
- Highlight the concept of Saul disguising himself and the cultural belief in ancient times and the prohibition against witchcraft.

3. Discussion & Activities (15-20 minutes):

- Lead a discussion on what it means to rely on God even when solutions seem unclear.
- Encourage students to express how they feel when they have to make tough decisions.
- Role-play: In small groups, students can act out a modern-day story parallel to Saul's dilemmas to understand decision-making and consequences.

Explaining Difficult Concepts:

- Spirit of Samuel: Simplify this by explaining it as Saul trying to get advice from someone who has passed away, emphasizing the ancient understanding rather than focusing on supernatural elements.
- Witchcraft & Forbidden Practices: Explain cultural and historical context by saying that during those times, people believed witches had powers and this was something God specifically asked them not to practice.

Managing Student Engagement:

- Use visual aids like illustrations or cartoons to depict the story's events for better comprehension.
- Facilitate interactive questions: "What would you do if you were Saul?"
- Include a craft activity, such as making a simple scroll to write or draw their own piece of advice for someone feeling confused, just like Saul.

Conclusion (5-10 minutes):

- Wrap up with a reflection on the importance of trusting in God and seeking the right type of guidance.
- Offer a "mystery box" with a question or challenge inside related to decision-making, engaging

students to think about their choices.

Follow-Up:

- Assign a short reflective journal entry or drawing where students can express what they learned about making choices and seeking advice from the right places.