

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes for Teaching 2 Samuel 1 to Elementary Students

Introduction to 2 Samuel 1:

- Explain that 2 Samuel is a book in the Old Testament, part of the Bible.
- The story takes place after King Saul and his son Jonathan have died in battle.
- David, who was Saul's successor and Jonathan's friend, laments their deaths.

Pacing Suggestions:

- 10 minutes: Introduction and context
- 10 minutes: Reading and summarizing the chapter
- 10 minutes: Discussing key themes and concepts
- 10 minutes: Activities and engagement
- 5 minutes: Wrap-up and review

Explanation of Difficult Concepts:

1. Lamentation:

- Explain that to lament is to express deep sorrow or mourning. Ask students how they express sadness. Relate it to how David felt losing important people in his life.

2. Friendship and Loyalty:

- Discuss the friendship between David and Jonathan as a model for true friendship. Engage students by asking what they value in a friend.

3. Leadership Transition:

- Simplify the idea of a "king" to a leader who takes care of people. Explain that Saul's death meant David, who was chosen by God, would become king.

Engagement Tips:

- Use storytelling techniques: Be expressive to capture students' emotions related to friendship and loss.
- Incorporate visual aids: Use drawings or picture books to illustrate the story or map to show locations.
- Encourage role-play: Have students act out the lamentation scene to better understand David's feelings.
- Interactive discussion: Pose questions about emotions and personal experiences to relate to David's lament.
- Group activity: Create a "friendship tree," where students write qualities they appreciate in a friend on leaves.

Managing Student Engagement:

- Keep sessions interactive by asking questions and allowing students to express their thoughts.
- Use shorter, simpler sentences to explain concepts, ensuring comprehension.
- Include a brief movement break, tying the session to the day's topic, like marching in "battles" or miming emotions.
- Monitor students' reactions and adjust pace if attention wanes, ensuring key ideas are clearly understood.

Wrap-up and Review:

- Recap the story's main points: Who are Saul and Jonathan? How does David react?
- Ask students to share one thing they learned about friendship or handling sadness.

- End with an invitation for students to share their own stories of friendship and how they support their friends in good and tough times.

By following these guidelines, you can create a meaningful and engaging learning experience for your students.