

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes for Teaching 2 Samuel 17 to Elementary Students

Overview:

2 Samuel 17 recounts the story of the rebellion against King David led by Absalom and the contrasting advice given by Ahithophel and Hushai. This chapter deals with themes of loyalty, wisdom, and God's protection.

Pacing Suggestions:

- Introduction (5 minutes): Begin with a brief recap of the story of King David and who Absalom is in relation to him.
- Reading (10 minutes): Use a simplified children's Bible or a paraphrased version to read through the chapter.
- Discussion (10-15 minutes): Engage students in discussing key themes and events.
- Activities (15 minutes): Include a hands-on or visual activity to reinforce the lesson.
- Conclusion (5 minutes): Recap and encourage students to reflect on what they learned.

Explaining Difficult Concepts:

1. Loyalty and Betrayal:

- Concept: Loyalty means being faithful to someone.
- Explanation: Use examples like a friend standing by another friend even when times are tough.

2. Advice and Wisdom:

- Concept: People often give advice, but choosing the right advice requires wisdom.
- Explanation: Use the metaphor of a map and compass - advice helps us find the right direction.

3. God's Providence:

- Concept: God watches over and plans for our well-being.
- Explanation: Relate it to the way a parent watches over their children to keep them safe.

Managing Student Engagement:

- Interactive Storytelling: Encourage students to participate in the story by asking them to voice different characters or predict what might happen next.
- Visual Aids: Use picture books, drawings, or simple props to illustrate the key events. Creating a timeline on the board can help keep track of events as they unfold in the story.
- Creative Activities: Have students draw scenes from the chapter or create puppets to reenact parts of the story. This helps in reinforcing the story through art and theater.
- Discussion Questions:
 - Why do you think Absalom chose to listen to Hushai instead of Ahithophel?
 - What does this story teach us about making choices?
 - How do we see God's protection over David in this story?
- Reflection Time: Allocate time for students to share their thoughts or write down what they learned.

By keeping the session dynamic and incorporating different teaching methods, you can maintain student interest and deepen their understanding of the chapter.