

Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching 2 Samuel 18 to Elementary Students

Objective:

- Students will understand the key events of 2 Samuel 18 and learn about themes such as leadership, consequences of actions, and emotions in family relationships.

Pacing Suggestions:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Briefly introduce the Book of 2 Samuel as part of the Old Testament and David's story.
- Explain the background context: King David, his son Absalom, and their complicated relationship.

2. Reading the Passage (10-15 minutes):

- Read aloud or have students read in turns while you summarize key points for understanding.
- Break down the chapter into manageable sections, stopping to discuss after each part.

3. Discussion and Explanation (15 minutes):

- Focus on the main events: Absalom's rebellion, the battle in the forest, and Absalom's death.
- Discuss David's emotional response to Absalom's death.

4. Activity or Craft (15-20 minutes):

- Have students draw or create a "Feelings Chart" for David, identifying and illustrating his emotions throughout the story.
- Alternatively, engage the class in a role-play of the battle or court scene to reinforce the narrative.

Explaining Difficult Concepts:

- Rebellion and Battle:

- Explain rebellion as simply not listening to and trying to take power from someone in charge.
- Simplify battle descriptions: A fight between two groups who disagree.

- David's Grief:

- Use relatable examples like a parent being sad or upset when something bad happens to their child.

- Consequences:

- Discuss how Absalom's choices led to big changes and how everyone's choices have results (like consequences after breaking a rule).

Managing Student Engagement:

1. Interactive Discussion:

- Ask open-ended questions after each section, such as "How do you think David felt?"
- Encourage students to predict outcomes before revealing the next part.

2. Visual Aids:

- Use simple maps or drawings to show locations like the forest where the battle took place.

3. Role-play and Drama:

- Have students act out parts of the story to better understand character motivations and emotions.

4. Review and Recap:

- Summarize the story in a few sentences at the end to reinforce learning.
- Invite students to share something new they learned or what they found most interesting.

These activities and discussions are designed to help students engage with the biblical narrative in an accessible and relatable way. Adjust the pacing and activities based on class size and student needs.