

# Teacher\_tips

## Teacher Notes and Tips: Teaching 2 Samuel 24 to Elementary Students

### Objective

- Help students understand the key events and themes of 2 Samuel 24, including repentance, forgiveness, and the importance of making wise choices.

### Pacing Suggestions

- Aim for a 30-minute lesson.
- Introduction: 5 minutes
- Story Reading: 10 minutes
- Discussion and Explanation: 10 minutes
- Conclusion and Reflection: 5 minutes

### Introduction (5 minutes)

- Begin with a brief introduction to the Book of 2 Samuel, explaining that it is part of the Bible and tells stories about King David's life.
- Explain that today's story is about a time when David made a decision that had important consequences.
- Ask students if they know what a "census" is or have heard about counting people.

### Story Reading (10 minutes)

- Summarize 2 Samuel 24 in simple language, emphasizing the key points:
- David decides to count the people of Israel, which displeases God.
- Joab, David's commander, is hesitant but follows orders.
- God becomes angry with this decision and gives David a choice of punishments.
- David chooses a plague, showing his faith in God's mercy.
- David repents, and God shows forgiveness.
- Consider using a children's Bible with illustrations to help visualize the story.

### Discussion and Explanation (10 minutes)

- Explain difficult concepts:
- Census: A way to count people, often used by kings to learn how big their army could be.
- Repentance: Feeling sorry and wanting to change; explain using relatable scenarios like apologizing to a friend.
- Forgiveness: When someone stops feeling angry or upset at another person's mistake.
- Discuss the lesson of the story:
- Everyone makes mistakes, but it's important to learn and ask for forgiveness.
- Trusting God and making wise choices are key themes.

### Engagement Strategies

- Ask questions to encourage participation:
- "Why do you think David decided to count the people?"
- "How do you think David felt when God was displeased?"
- Use role-playing or drawing activities to allow students to express emotions from the story.
- Encourage students to share examples from their own lives where they had to ask for forgiveness.

### Conclusion and Reflection (5 minutes)

- Reinforce the story's key message: Every choice has consequences; it's important to think before acting.
- Lead a short reflection or prayer, asking for guidance in making wise choices like David learned to do.
- Invite students to share something new they learned or an action they will take after hearing the story.

#### Guidance for Managing Student Engagement

- Maintain an enthusiastic tone to keep students interested.
- Use interactive activities to prevent restlessness, like drawing a scene from the story or acting out simple parts.
- Provide positive feedback and acknowledge thoughtful answers to encourage participation.
- Adjust the lesson flow based on students' reactions, extending or shortening sections as needed.