Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes for Teaching '1 Kings 12' to Elementary Students

Lesson Overview
In 1 Kings 12, the key events include the division of the kingdom of Israel after King Solomon's death. His son Rehoboam becomes king and his harsh response to the people's pleas causes the northern tribes to break away, forming their own kingdom under Jeroboam.

Pacing Suggestions
- Opening (10 minutes): Start with a brief recap of Solomon’s reign and introduce the main characters: Rehoboam and Jeroboam.
- Main Story (15 minutes): Read selected passages of 1 Kings 12, focusing on Rehoboam's decision and its consequences.
- Discussion (10 minutes): Discuss the decision-making process and its impact.
- Activity (15 minutes): Engage students with a creative activity to explore the story further.
- Closing (10 minutes): Summarize the lesson and discuss what can be learned about leadership and choices.

Explaining Difficult Concepts
- Kingdoms and Leadership: Explain that a "kingdom" is like a large community led by a king, much like a principal leads a school.
- Decision-Making: Use a simple choice-making scenario (e.g., deciding on a game to play) to illustrate how choices can affect others.
- Rehoboam's Harshness: Compare his response to how students feel when someone isn't kind or when a rule seems unfair.

Managing Student Engagement
- Storytelling Techniques: Use expressions and simple props to bring the story to life and maintain attention.
- Interactive Questions: Ask open-ended questions during the reading to keep students thinking (e.g., "What do you think the people felt when Rehoboam answered harshly?" or "What would you do in Rehoboam's situation?").
- Creative Activity: Have students draw or act out the story, focusing on the division and the two kingdoms.

Activities
- Role Play: In small groups, have students act out the meeting between Rehoboam and the people, then role-play the break away of the northern tribes.
- Art Activity: Encourage students to draw a picture of the scene where Rehoboam is making his decision to illustrate the theme of leadership and its impact.

Reflection and Learning Points
- Emphasize the moral lesson about the importance of good leadership and listening to wise counsel.
- Discuss how choices have consequences and how treating people kindly and fairly is important for any leader.

This lesson will help students connect the biblical story with practical lessons about decision-making, leadership, and community.