Teacher_tips

Teacher Notes and Tips for Teaching 'Acts 5:12-42' to Preschool Students

Overview of Passage:
Acts 5:12-42 focuses on the apostles performing miracles, how they were arrested by the religious leaders, and their subsequent release and joyful proclamation of Jesus. At this age, focus on key elements: the apostles' bravery, miracles, and their joyful sharing of Jesus' love.

Pacing Suggestions:
1. Introduction (5 minutes):
- Begin with a short prayer or song to settle the class.
- Use a brief story to connect to the lesson, such as a time someone stood up for what is right.

2. Story Time (10 minutes):
- Simplify the story using a picture book or props (puppets, cutouts) to retain attention.
- Break the story into two segments: the miracles and the arrest/release.

3. Discussion and Explanation (5-10 minutes):
- Encourage students to express their thoughts (“What would you do if you were a disciple?”).
- Use props to explain difficult concepts (e.g., chains to represent imprisonment, light for freedom and Joy).

4. Activity (10 minutes):
- Engage children with a role-play or reenactment focusing on healing and joy.
- Craft: making simple bracelets as ‘chains’ that are easily opened to symbolize freedom.

5. Conclusion (5 minutes):
- Recap the key lesson in simple language: We can share Jesus' love with joy even when facing difficulties.
- Short prayer or reflection time.

Ways to Explain Difficult Concepts:
- Miracles: Describe as super special and kind acts done with God’s power.
- Arrest and Release: Talk about it in terms of 'in trouble' vs. 'safe again’ with emphasis on trust and happiness.
- Courage: Use examples they understand, like being brave at the doctor’s office.

Managing Student Engagement:
- Interactive Storytelling: Use vivid facial expressions and body language. Encourage kids to participate with simple repeated lines or actions.
- Hands-on Activities: Integrate crafts or movements related to the story, like making sound effects for the parts of the story.
- Frequent Changes in Activity: Keep transitions light and swift but maintain a rhythm to avoid restlessness.
- Peer Interaction: Allow children to share how they show courage or talk about their happy moments related to the story.
- Simple Phrases: Repeat central ideas in catchy, memorable phrases, e.g., “God's love is strong!”

Conclusion:

End the session with a simple reflective question for the children to consider, like "How can we share God’s love today?" and allow them to give a personal and simple answer or plan.