

Power and Perspective: A Look at King David

Overview

- Educator: Sara Levitt, Congregation B'nai Emunah
- Estimated Audience Size: 10-12 people
- Estimated Time for Lesson: 90 minutes
- Session Title: *Power and Perspective: A Look at King David*
- Technology Used: None

Learning Objectives

Participants will be will be able to...

- Name the bystanders and perpetrators in the II Samuel text
- Name the several different perspectives and voices on the text
- Highlight the connection between power, leadership, and possible corruption
- Apply lessons to our community and our world today

Assessment

Students will demonstrate comprehension of the objectives by...

- Answering a wrap up question to describe one take away from the program

Power and Perspective: A Look at King David

Session Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)

- Frame today's session as part of exploring leadership, accountability, and power through Jewish text

II. Remembering King David (10 minutes)

- Ask participants: What do you already remember or know about King David?
- Note both stories of greatness (shepherd, warrior, poet, king) and struggles (abuse of power, family conflicts)
- Provide historical context of the role of kings in Israelite history, and Torah's warnings about appointing kings (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

III. Text Study: Stories of King David (30 minutes)

- Read II Samuel 11-12
- Pause frequently to ask clarifying and guiding questions, such as:
 - What is happening in this story?
 - How do you feel about David's choices?
 - Where do you see moments of strength, and where do you see failure?
 - What is surprising or troubling?

IV. Connections to Our Lives Today (20 minutes)

- Facilitate reflection on contemporary connections:
 - How does this story resonate with dynamics of power today?
 - What does it teach us about leaders in our communities, workplaces, or politics?
 - How do we hold together greatness and imperfection in the same person?

Power and Perspective: A Look at King David

Session Agenda

V. Closing and Takeaways (15 minutes)

- Group reflection: What is this story meant to teach us? How does it shape how we think about power?
- Invite participants to name one “thought” or “nugget” they are taking away