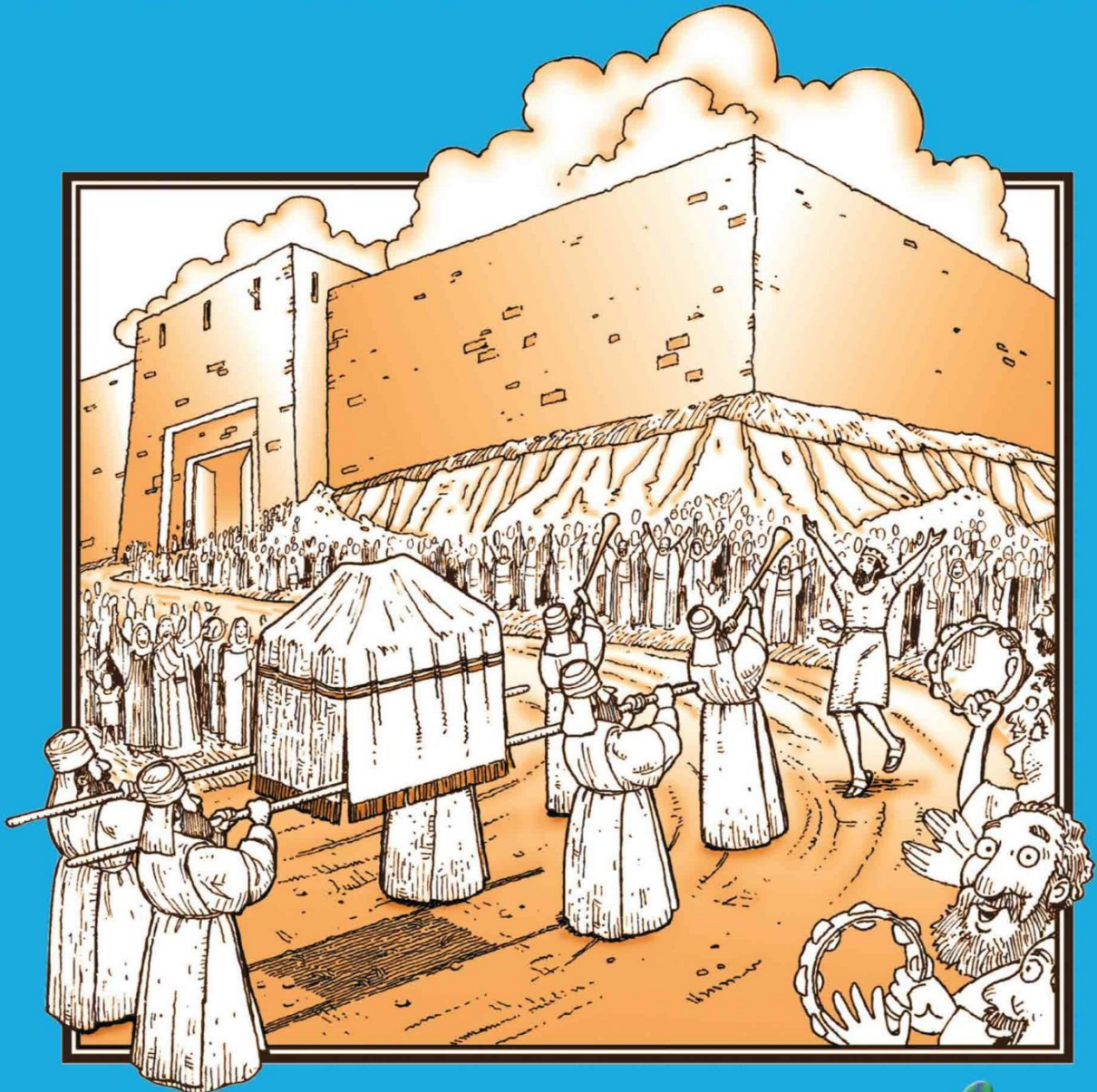


Bible Studies for Children

1 & 2 Samuel



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1 & 2 SAMUEL



PUBLICATIONS
LENEXA, KANSAS (USA)

© 2010 Nazarene Publishing House

ISBN 978-1-56344-554-5

Editor for US English version: Kimberly D. Adams

Editor for Global English: Lynda T. Boardman

Managing Editor for Global English: Jenni Montebianco

Executive Editor for non-English versions: Scott Stargel

Editorial Committee: Dan Harris, Anya Motley, Nate Owens, Beula Postlewait

Published by

Kidz First Publications

17001 Praire Start Parkway

Lenexa, KS 66330 (USA)

in cooperation with Children's Ministries International and Global Nazarene Publications

This edition published by arrangement

with Nazarene Publishing House

Kansas City, Missouri USA

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible,

New International Version®, NIV®.

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The first Children's Bible Quiz, created by Rev. William (Bill) Young, was introduced with three demonstration teams from the Kansas City District—Kansas City First, Kansas City St. Pauls, and Overland Park—at the 1968 General Nazarene Young People's Society Convention in Kansas City, Missouri (USA).

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welcome

Welcome to *Bible Studies for Children: 1 & 2 Samuel!* In this collection of biblical studies, the children learn about God's holiness and his faithfulness to his people, even when they made a bad choice.

Bible Studies for Children: 1 & 2 Samuel is one of six books in the Bible Studies for Children series. These studies help children to gain an understanding of biblical chronology and the meaning of biblical events. As the children learn about the lives of the people in these studies, they discover God's love for all people and their place in his plans. God often uses miracles to achieve his purposes. However, he prefers to work with people to accomplish what he wants to do.

The philosophy of *Bible Studies for Children* is to help children to understand what the Bible says, to learn about how God helped people, and to know God through a relationship with him. This includes biblical study, biblical memorization, and application of biblical teachings in real life situations.

Bible Studies for Children uses the *New International Version* of the Bible.

BOOKS

The following is a short description of the books in this series and the way they interact with each other.

Genesis provides the foundation. This book tells how God created the world from nothing, formed man and woman, and created a beautiful garden as their home. These people sinned, and God punished them for it. Genesis introduces

God's plan to reconcile the broken relationship between God and people. It introduces Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God made a covenant with Abraham (in Genesis 15) and renewed that covenant with Isaac and Jacob. Genesis ends with the story of Joseph as he saves civilization from famine, and God's people move into Egypt.

Exodus tells how God continued to keep his promise to Abraham in Genesis 15. God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Lord chose Moses to guide the Israelites. The Lord set up his kingship over the Israelites. He led and ruled the Israelites through the establishment of the priesthood and the Tabernacle, the Ten Commandments and other laws, and the prophets and judges. At the end of Exodus, only a part of the Lord's covenant with Abraham is completed.

Joshua/Judges/Ruth tells how God completed his covenant which began in Genesis 15. Finally, the Israelites conquered and settled into the land God promised to Abraham. The prophets, the priests, the law, and the worship rituals declared that God was the Lord and King of the Israelites. The 12 tribes of Israel settled into the promised land. This study emphasizes these judges: Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

In **1 and 2 Samuel**, the Israelites wanted a king because the other nations had a king. These books tell about Samuel, Saul, and David. Jerusalem became the center of the combined nation of Israel. This study shows how people

react differently when confronted by their sins. While Saul blamed others, or he used an excuse, David admitted his sin, and he asked God for forgiveness.

Matthew is the focal point of the entire series. It focuses on the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus. All the previous books in the series pointed to Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah. Jesus ushered in a new era, and the children learn about it in several events: his teachings, his death, his resurrection, and the mentoring of his disciples. Now, God provided a way for people to have a relationship with him through Jesus.

At the beginning of **Acts**, Jesus ascended to heaven, and God sent the Holy Spirit to help the Church. The good news of salvation through Jesus Christ spread to many parts of the world. The believers preached the gospel to the Gentiles, and missionary work began. The message of God's love transformed both Jews and Gentiles. There is a direct connection between the evangelism efforts of the Apostle Paul and Peter to the lives of people today.

CYCLE

The following study cycle is suggested specifically for those who will participate in the optional Quizzing aspect of *Bible Studies for Children*.

1 & 2 Samuel (2010-11)

Matthew (2011-12)

* Acts (2012-13)

Genesis (2013-14)

Exodus (2014-15)

Joshua/Judges/Ruth (2015-16)

* 1 & 2 Samuel (2016-17)

** Indicates a World Quiz year.*

SCHEDULE

Bible Studies for Children has twenty studies. Allow 60 to 120 minutes of class time. The following schedule is a suggestion for each study.

- + 15 minutes for **Activity**
- + 30 minutes for **Biblical Lesson**
- + 15 minutes for **Memory Verse**
- + 30 minutes for **Additional Activities** (*optional*)
- + 30 minutes for **Quizzing Practice** (*optional*)

PREPARE

Thorough preparation of each study is important. The children pay attention better and gain better understanding of the study if the teacher prepares it well and presents it well. **Bold** text in each study indicates suggested words for the teacher to say to the children. The following steps are guidelines for the teacher as he or she prepares each study.

Step 1: Quick Overview. Read the Memory Verse, Biblical Truth, Focus, and Teaching Tip.

Step 2: Bible Passage and Biblical Commentary. Read the verses in the Bible study passage and the information in the Biblical Commentary, including any Words of Our Faith, People, Places, or Things.

Step 3: Activity. This section includes a game or other activity to prepare the children for the biblical lesson. Become familiar with the activity, the instructions, and the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to class with you and set up the activity before children arrive.

Step 4: Biblical Lesson. Review the lesson and learn it so that you tell it as a story. The children want the teacher to tell the story rather than to read it from the book. Use the Words of Our Faith, People, Places, and Things from each lesson to provide additional information as you tell the story. After the story, use the provided ques-

tions. They will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

Step 5: Memory Verse. Learn the memory verse so that you are able to teach it to the children. A list of the memory verses and suggested memory verse activities are on page 122. Choose from the activities to help the children to learn the memory verse. Become familiar with the activity that you choose. Read the instructions and prepare the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to class with you.

Step 6: Additional Activities. The additional activities are an optional part of the study. These activities will enhance the children's biblical study. Many of these activities require additional supplies, resources, and time. Become familiar with the activities that you choose. Read the instructions and prepare the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to class with you.

Step 7: Quizzing Practice. Quizzing is the competition part of *Bible Studies for Children*. Quizzing is an optional part of the study. If you choose to participate in Quizzing, spend time with the children in preparation. There are practice questions for each study. The first ten questions are for a Basic Level of competition. There are three possible answers for each question, and these questions are simpler. The next ten questions are for an Advanced Level of competition. There are four possible answers for each question, and these questions are more comprehensive. Children, with guidance from their teacher, choose their level for competition. Based on the number of children and the resources available, you may choose to offer only the Basic Level or only the Advanced Level. Before you ask the practice questions, read the scripture passage to the children.

children's Bible quizzing

Children's Bible Quizzing is an optional part of *Bible Studies for Children*. Each church and each child decides whether to participate in a series of competitive events.

Quizzing events follow the rules outlined in this book. Children do not compete against each other to determine a single winner. Churches do not compete against each other to determine a winner.

The purpose of Quizzing is to help children determine what they learned about the Bible, enjoy the competitive events, and grow in the ability to display Christian attitudes and behaviors during competitive events.

In Quizzing, each child challenges himself or herself to attain an award level. In this approach, children quiz against a base of knowledge, not against each other. Quizzing uses a multiple-choice approach that allows every child to answer every question. Multiple-choice questions offer several answers, and the child chooses the correct one. This approach makes it possible for every child to be a winner.

QUIZZING SUPPLIES

Each child needs Quizzing numbers to answer the questions. Quizzing numbers are four cardboard squares that each have a tab at the top with the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. The numbers fit inside a cardboard box.

Cardboard Quizzing boxes and numbers, pictured below, can be ordered from the Nazarene Publishing House in Kansas City, Missouri, United States of America.

If cardboard Quizzing boxes and numbers are unavailable in your area, you can make your own Quizzing numbers from paper, paper plates, wood, or whatever you have available. Each child needs a set of Quizzing numbers.

Each group of children will need a person to score their answers. There is a reproducible score sheet on page 126. Use this score sheet to keep track of each child's answers.

If possible, provide some type of an award for the children's performance in each Quizzing event. Suggested awards are certificates, stickers, ribbons, trophies, or medals.



CHILDREN'S QUIZZING OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES AND PROCEDURES

Please follow these rules. Competitions that do not operate in accordance with the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* will not qualify for other competition levels.

AGE AND GRADES

Children in grades 1-6* may participate in Children's Quizzing competitions. Seventh graders, regardless of age, participate in teen Quizzing.

BASIC LEVEL COMPETITION

This competition level is for younger or beginning quizzers. Older quizzers who prefer an easier level of competition may also participate in the Basic Level. The questions for the Basic Level are simpler. There are three answers for each question, and there are fifteen questions in each round. The district or regional Children's Quizzing director determines the questions and the number of rounds at each Quizzing competition. Most competitions have two or three rounds.

ADVANCED LEVEL COMPETITION

This competition level is for older quizzers or experienced quizzers. Younger quizzers who want a greater challenge may participate in the Advanced Level. The questions for the Advanced Level are more comprehensive. There are four answers for each question, and there are twenty questions in each round. The district or regional Children's Quizzing director determines the questions and the number of rounds at each Quizzing event.

SWITCHING BETWEEN LEVELS

Children may switch between Basic Level and Advanced Level only for invitational Quizzing competitions. This helps leaders and children determine the best level for each child.

For the zone/area, district, and regional competitions, the local director must register each child for either Basic Level or Advanced Level. The child must compete at the same level for zone/area, district, and regional competitions.

TYPES OF COMPETITION

Invitational Competition

An invitational competition is between two or more churches. Local Children's Quizzing directors, zone/area Children's Quizzing directors, or district Children's Quizzing directors may organize invitational competitions. Individuals who organize an invitational competition have the responsibility to prepare the competition questions.

Zone/Area Competition

Each district may have smaller groupings of churches that are called zones. If one zone has more quizzers than another zone, the district Children's Quizzing director may separate or combine the zones to create areas with a more equitable distribution of quizzers. The term area means that zones are combined or divided.

Churches located in each zone/area compete in that zone/area. The district Children's Quizzing director organizes the competition.

Questions for the zone/area competitions are official questions. E-mail ChildQuiz@nazarene.org

*For countries other than the United States, grades 1-6 are generally ages 6-12.

to request these questions from the General Children's Quizzing Office.

District Competition

Children advance from the zone/area competition to the district competition. The district Children's Quizzing director determines the qualifications for the competition and organizes the competition.

Questions for district competitions are official questions. E-mail ChildQuiz@nazarene.org to request these questions from the General Children's Quizzing Office.

Regional Competition

The regional competition is a competition between two or more districts.

When there is a regional Children's Quizzing director, he or she determines the qualifications for the competition and organizes the competition. If there is not a regional director, the participating district directors organize the competition.

Questions for the regional competitions are official questions. E-mail ChildQuiz@nazarene.org to request these questions from the General Children's Quizzing Office.

World Quiz Competition

Every four years, an international World Quiz is sponsored by the Children's Ministries International Office. Children's Ministries International determines the dates, locations, costs, qualifying dates, and the overall qualifying process for all World Quiz competitions.

DISTRICT CHILDREN'S QUIZZING DIRECTOR

The district Children's Quizzing director operates all competitions according to the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. He or she has the authority to introduce additional Quizzing procedures on the district as long as the procedures do not conflict with the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules*

and Procedures. The district Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office in Children's Ministries International, when necessary, to request a specific change in the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* for a district. The district Children's Quizzing director makes decisions and solves problems within the guidelines of the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The district Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office for an official ruling on a specific situation, if necessary.

REGIONAL CHILDREN'S QUIZZING DIRECTOR

The regional Children's Quizzing director creates a regional Children's Quizzing leadership team that consists of all district Children's Quizzing directors on the region. The regional Children's Quizzing director remains in contact with this team to keep procedures consistent across the region. He or she operates and organizes the regional competitions according to the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The regional Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office in Children's Ministries International to request any changes in the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* for a specific region. He or she resolves any conflicts that may arise by applying the guidelines of the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The regional Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office for an official ruling on a specific situation, if necessary. He or she contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office to place the regional quiz date on the general church calendar.

In the United States and Canada, the regional Children's Quizzing director is a developing position. Currently that person does not preside over

district Children's Quizzing directors on the region.

QUIZMASTER

The quizmaster reads the competition questions at a Quizzing competition. The quizmaster reads the question and multiple-choice answers two times before children answer the question. He or she follows the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* established by the General Children's Quizzing Office and the district/regional Children's Quizzing director. In the event of a conflict, the final authority is the district/regional Children's Quizzing director who consults the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The quizmaster may participate in discussions with scorekeepers and the district/regional Children's Quizzing director concerning a challenge. The quizmaster may call a time-out.

SCOREKEEPER

The scorekeeper scores a group of children's answers. He or she may participate in discussions with scorekeepers and the district/regional Children's Quizzing director concerning a challenge. All scorekeepers are to use the same method and symbols to insure correct tabulation of scores.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION QUESTIONS

The district Children's Quizzing director is the only individual on the district who may obtain a copy of the official zone/area and district competition questions.

The regional Children's Quizzing director is the only individual on the region who may obtain a copy of the official regional competition questions. If there is not a regional Children's Quizzing director, one participating district Children's Quizzing director may obtain a copy of the official regional competition questions.

Order forms for annual official questions will be sent by E-mail in December of each year. Contact the General Children's Quizzing Office at ChildQuiz@nazarene.org to update your E-mail address. The official questions will arrive by E-mail by the middle of January, to the people who request them.

COMPETITION METHODS

There are two methods of competition.

Individual Method

In the individual method of competition, children compete as individuals. Each child's score is separate from all other scores. Children from the same church may sit together, but individual scores are not added together to obtain a church or a team score. There are no bonus questions for individual quizzers.

The individual method is the only method that may be used for the Basic Level competition.

Combination Method

The combination method combines individual and team Quizzing. In this method, churches may send individual quizzers, teams, or a combination to a competition.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines the number of children needed to form a team. All teams must have the same number of quizzers. The recommended number of children for a team is four or five.

Children from churches that do not have enough quizzers to form a team can compete as individual quizzers.

In the combination method, teams qualify for bonus questions. The bonus points awarded for a correct answer to a bonus question become part of the team's total score, instead of an individual quizzers' score. There are bonus questions with the official questions for zone/area, district, and regional competitions. Bonus questions typically involve recitation of a memory verse.

The district Children's Quizzing director selects either the individual method or the combination method for the Advanced Level of competition.

TIE SCORES

Ties between individual quizzers or teams are never broken. All individual children or teams who tie receive the same recognition, the same award, and the same advancement to the next level of competition.

BONUS QUESTIONS

Bonus questions are part of the Advanced Level, but only with teams, not individuals. Teams must qualify for a bonus question. Bonus questions occur after questions 5, 10, 15, and 20.

To qualify for a bonus question, a team may have only as many incorrect answers as there are members on the team. For example, a team of four members may have four or fewer answers that are incorrect. A team of five members may have five or fewer answers that are incorrect.

The bonus points for a correct answer become part of the team's total score, not of the individual child's score.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines the way children answer bonus questions. In most situations, the child verbally gives the answer to the scorekeeper.

Prior to the reading of the bonus question, the local Children's Quizzing director selects one team member to answer the bonus question. The same child may answer all of the bonus questions in a game, or a different child may answer each bonus question.

TIME-OUTS

The district Children's Quizzing director determines the number of time-outs for each church. Each church receives the same number of time-outs, regardless of the number of individual quizzers or teams from that church. For example,

if the district director decides to give one time-out, each church receives one time-out.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines if an automatic time-out will occur during the game and the specific point at which the time-out will occur in each game.

The local Children's Quizzing director is the only individual who may call a time-out for a local church team.

The district Children's Quizzing director or quizmaster may call a time-out at any time.

The district Children's Quizzing director, prior to the start of the competition, determines the length of the time-outs for the competition. All time-outs are to be the same length.

SCORING

There are two methods for scoring. The district Children's Quizzing director selects the method.

Five Points

- Award five points for every correct answer. For example, if a child answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced Level round, the child earns a total of 100 points.
- Award five points for every correct bonus answer in an Advanced Level team Quizzing round. For example, if every member of a team with four persons answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced Level round and the team answers four bonus questions correctly, the team earns a total of 420 points.

Basic Level points will be lower as there are only 15 questions per round, and it is individual competition only.

One Point

Award one point for each correct answer as follows:

- Award one point for every correct answer. For example, if a child answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced level round, the child earns a total of 20 points.

- Award one point for every correct bonus answer in an Advanced Level team Quizzing round. For example, if every member of a team with four persons answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced Level round and the team answers four bonus questions correctly, the team earns a total of 84 points.

Basic Level points will be lower as there are only 15 questions per round, and it is individual competition only.

CHALLENGES

Challenges are to be an exception and are not common during a competition.

Request a challenge only when the answer marked as correct in the questions is actually incorrect according to the Bible reference given for that question. Challenges issued for any other reason are invalid.

A quizzer, a Children's Quizzing director, or any other competition participant may not request a challenge because they dislike the wording of a question or answer or think a question is too difficult or confusing.

The local Children's Quizzing director is the only person who may issue a challenge to a competition question.

If an individual other than the local Children's Quizzing director attempts to issue a challenge, the challenge is automatically ruled as "invalid."

Individuals who issue invalid challenges disrupt competition and cause children to lose concentration. Individuals who consistently issue invalid challenges or create problems by arguing about a challenge ruling will lose their privilege of challenging questions for the remainder of the competition.

The district Children's Quizzing director, or the quizmaster in the absence of the district Children's Quizzing director, has the authority to remove the privilege of challenging questions from any or all individuals who abuse the privilege.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines how to challenge a competition question prior to the start of the competition.

- Will the challenge be written or verbal?
- When can a person challenge (during a game or at the end of a game)?

The district Children's Quizzing director should explain the procedure for challenges to local Children's Quizzing directors at the beginning of the quiz year.

The quizmaster and district Children's Quizzing director follow these steps to rule the challenge.

- Determine if the challenge is valid or invalid. To do this, listen to the reason for the challenge. If the reason is valid, the answer given as the correct answer is incorrect according to the Bible reference, follow the challenge procedures outlined by the district.
- If the reason for the challenge is invalid, announce that the challenge is invalid, and the competition continues.

If more than one person challenges the same question, the quizmaster or district Children's Quizzing director selects one local director to explain the reason for a challenge. After a question has one challenge, another person may not challenge the same question.

If a challenge is valid, the district Children's Quizzing director, or quizmaster in the director's absence, determines how to handle the challenged question. Select one of the following options.

Option A: Eliminate the question, and do not replace it. The result is that a game of 20 questions becomes a game of 19 questions.

Option B: Give every child the points he or she would receive for a correct answer to the challenged question.

Option C: Replace the challenged question. Ask the quizzers a new question.

Option D: Let the children who gave the answer that was listed as the correct answer in the official

questions keep their points. Give another question to the children who gave an answer that was an incorrect answer.

AWARD LEVELS

Children's Quizzing has the philosophy that every child has an opportunity to answer every question, and every child receives recognition for every correct answer he or she gives. Therefore, Children's Quizzing uses multiple-choice competition, and ties are never broken.

Children and churches do not compete against each other. They compete to reach an award level. All children and all churches who reach the same award level receive the same award. Ties are never broken.

The following are the recommended award levels.

- ✦ Bronze Award = 70-79% correct
- ✦ Silver Award = 80-89% correct
- ✦ Gold Award = 90-99% correct
- ✦ Gold All Star = 100% correct

Resolve all scoring and challenge decisions before presenting awards. The quizmaster and scorekeepers should be sure all final scores are accurate prior to the presentation.

Never take an award from a child after the child receives an award. If there is a mistake, children may receive a higher award but not a lower award. This is true for individual awards and team awards.

COMPETITION ETHICS

The district Children's Quizzing director is the person on the district who has the responsibility to conduct the competitions in accordance with the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*.

1. Hearing Questions Before the Competition. Since competitions use the same questions, it is not appropriate for children and workers to attend another zone/area, district, or regional competition prior to participation in their

own competition of the same level. If an adult Quizzing worker attends another competition, the district Children's Quizzing director may choose to disqualify the church from participation in their competition. If a parent and/or child attends another competition, the district Children's Quizzing director may choose to disqualify the church from participation in their competition.

2. Worker's Conduct and Attitudes. Adults are to conduct themselves in a professional and a Christian manner. The discussions about disagreements with the district Children's Quizzing director, quizmaster, or scorekeepers are to be private. Children's Quizzing workers should not share information about the disagreement with the children. A cooperative spirit and good sportsmanship are important. Decisions and rulings of the district Children's Quizzing director are final. Relay these decisions in a positive tone to the children and to the adults.

CHEATING

Cheating is serious. Treat it seriously.

The district Children's Quizzing director, in discussion with the district Children's Ministries Council, determines the policy to follow in the event that a child or an adult cheats during a competition.

Make sure that all local Children's ministries directors, children's pastors, and local Children's Quizzing directors receive the district's policy and procedures.

Before accusing an adult or a child of cheating, have evidence or a witness that cheating occurred.

Here is a sample procedure. Ensure that the quiz is not interrupted and that the person accused of cheating is not embarrassed in front of others.

- ✦ If you suspect that a child cheated, ask someone to serve as a judge to watch the areas, but do not point out any child who is suspected. After a few questions, ask the opinion of the judge. If the judge did not see any cheating, continue with the quiz.

- ✦ If the judge saw a child cheating, ask the judge to affirm it. Do not act until everyone is sure.
- ✦ Explain the problem to the local Children's Quizzing director, and ask the director to talk with the accused person privately.
- ✦ The quizmaster, judge, and local Children's Quizzing director should watch for continued cheating.
- ✦ If the cheating continues, the quizmaster and the local Children's Quizzing director should talk with the accused person privately.
- ✦ If the cheating continues, the quizmaster should tell the local Children's Quizzing director that the child's score will be eliminated from official competition.
- ✦ In the case that a scorekeeper cheated, the district Children's Quizzing director will ask the scorekeeper to leave, and a new scorekeeper will take his or her place.
- ✦ In the case that someone in the audience cheated, the district Children's Quizzing director will handle the situation in the most appropriate manner.

UNRESOLVED DECISIONS

Consult with the General Children's Quizzing Office regarding unresolved decisions.

STUDY **One**

1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11

Memory Verse

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”
(1 Peter 3:12).

Biblical Truth

God cares for us, and he hears our prayers.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God loves us and wants us to worship him. Prayer is one way to worship God. God hears our prayers.

Teaching Tip

Tell the children about a time when God answered yes to an important prayer that you prayed. Remind the children that God listens and answers every prayer. He does not always answer yes. Sometimes the answer is wait or no. He still wants to hear from the children, and they should not hesitate to pray about anything.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11. Samuel was an important prophet at a crucial time in the history of Israel. Samuel's life began under miraculous circumstances.

Samuel's mother, Hannah, had difficulty becoming pregnant. In Hannah's culture, her inability to become pregnant brought her shame. Her husband's second wife, Penninah, tormented Hannah. Hannah prayed to the Lord for a son.

Hannah's prayer was not selfish. Hannah wanted to have a child for at least three reasons: to please her husband, to relieve her shame, and to end the torment from Penninah. Hannah vowed to dedicate her son to the Lord's service.

God gave Hannah a son, and Hannah dedicated him to the Lord as she promised. Hannah's sacrifice brought blessings to her and to the nation of Israel.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- + God listens to us when we pray.
- + God answers our prayers.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

Prayer is a conversation with God that includes talking and listening. We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

PEOPLE

Elkanah was Samuel's father.

Hannah was Elkanah's wife and Samuel's mother.

Peninnah was Elkanah's other wife.

Eli was a priest at Shiloh.

Samuel was the son of Elkanah and Hannah. Hannah dedicated him to the Lord before his birth.

PLACES

Ramathaim was the town where Elkanah and his family lived. **Ramah** was the short name for Ramathaim. It was about 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

Shiloh was the town where the Tabernacle was located.

The Tabernacle was a place or a house of worship. It was designed for a large congregation.

ACTIVITY

Before the children arrive, choose a location within a few minutes from your classroom. This location could be inside or outside. The area must be large enough to fit all the children. At this location, make a simple altar made of stones. This altar will represent the Tabernacle in Shiloh. At the Tabernacle, Elkanah and his family worshipped the Lord and sacrificed to the Lord.

Say, **Today we will take a walk. This will help you understand what the people in today's study experienced.**

Lead the children to the location you chose for the altar. At the location, sing with the children one or two songs of worship. Ask a child to pray.

Say, **In the Old Testament, people travelled a long distance to the Tabernacle to worship God. Perhaps some of you travelled a long distance today. We will learn about Elkanah who took his family to the Tabernacle to worship God and to sacrifice to God. They travelled about 30 kilometers to the Tabernacle. Elkanah and his family made the trip only once a year, because it was a long trip for them. We took a walk to this place to worship God and to pray. However, we do not have to travel to worship God or to pray. We can worship God and pray anywhere and anytime!**

Return to the classroom.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11, before you tell it to the children.

Elkanah was from the town of Ramathaim. He had two wives, Hannah and Penin-

nah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not have children.

Every year Elkanah would take his family to Shiloh, to worship at the Tabernacle. The priest at the Tabernacle was Eli. Eli had two sons who were also priests at the Tabernacle. At the Tabernacle, Elkanah worshipped the Lord and sacrificed to him. When it came time for Elkanah's sacrifice, he gave portions of the meat to Peninnah and her children. Elkanah gave Hannah a double portion of the meat, because he loved her, and because she was unable to have children. Peninnah provoked Hannah so much that Hannah wept and would not eat.

At the Tabernacle in Shiloh, Hannah wept and prayed. Hannah made a vow to the Lord. She asked him to give her a son. In return, Hannah would give the son back to the Lord to live in Shiloh and learn from the priest, Eli. Hannah also vowed that no one would cut her son's hair. This was another way that people dedicated their lives to the Lord.

As Hannah prayed, she moved her lips, but she did not say anything aloud. Eli did not understand what Hannah was doing, so he accused her of being drunk. Eli said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk?"

"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking. I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." After she explained her prayer to Eli, he blessed her. Hannah was no longer sad.

The next morning, Elkanah and Hannah worshipped the Lord, and then they returned to Ramah.

The Lord heard and answered Hannah's prayer. Hannah became pregnant and gave

birth to a son. Hannah named him Samuel, saying “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

The next time Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer sacrifices, Hannah did not go. Hannah said to Elkanah, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him to the Lord. The boy will always live in Shiloh.” It was tradition for a mother to nurse a child until the second or third birthday. Elkanah supported Hannah’s decision to wait.

After Samuel was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They also brought a sacrifice. Hannah said to Eli, “I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord answered my prayer. I now give the child to the Lord.”

Samuel stayed at the Tabernacle in Shiloh with Eli. Eli trained Samuel to serve the Lord.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. Elkanah travelled about 30 kilometres to worship the Lord. How far would you travel to worship the Lord?**
- 2. Hannah prayed to the Lord for a son. Why did she believe that God would answer her prayers?**
- 3. Why would Hannah give up her only child? How do you think she felt?**
- 4. How does the memory verse, 1 Peter 3:12, relate to this story?**

Say, **God cares about you, and he listens to your prayers. You can talk to him about anything. He wants to hear when you are worried. He wants to know when you feel sad, and when you are happy. He loves you, and he listens to you. Take time now to**

thank God for his love and care. Thank him for hearing your prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study’s memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children’s Bible study.

1. Compare Hannah’s experience of praying for a son and giving him to God with the experiences of these other women of the Bible: Sarah (Genesis 17:15-18:5; 21:1-7), Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25, 57-66), Mary (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7). Read these scriptures to the children. Ask, **How did each woman react when she learned she would have a son? What kind of faith did these women show?**

2. To review the story, tell the good experiences and the difficult experiences in Hannah’s life. Tell the good experiences and the difficulties experiences in your life. Then, tell what experiences in Hannah’s story could help you or encourage you.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11 to them.

1 Which of Elkanah's wives could not have children? (1:2, 5)

1. Hannah
2. Peninnah
3. Neither of them could have children.

2 Where did Elkanah go to worship and sacrifice to the Lord? (1:3)

1. Ramah
2. Shiloh
3. Zuph

3 What did Elkanah give to Hannah on the day of the sacrifice? (1:4-5)

1. Nothing
2. One portion of meat
3. A double portion of meat

4 Why did Elkanah give a double portion of meat to Hannah? (1:5)

1. He loved her, and she had no children.
2. He wanted to make Peninnah mad.
3. Both answers are correct.

5 What did Hannah do while she was in Shiloh? (1:10)

1. She wept much.
2. She prayed to the Lord.
3. Both answers are correct.

6 What did Hannah tell God that she would do if he gave her a son? (1:11)

1. She would give the son back to the Lord.
2. She would not use a razor on the son's head.
3. Both answers are correct.

7 Who said to Hannah, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him"? (1:17)

1. Elkanah
2. Peninnah
3. Eli

8 What did Hannah name her son? (1:20)

1. Hophni
2. Phinehas
3. Samuel

9 Where did Hannah take Samuel after he was weaned? (1:24)

1. The temple in Bethlehem
2. The house of the Lord at Shiloh
3. The hills of Ephraim

10 How long did Hannah say Samuel would be given over to the Lord? (1:28)

1. Until he was 18
2. His whole life
3. Until he was 12

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11 to them.

1 What did Elkanah do year after year in Shiloh? (1:3)

1. He visited family.
2. He farmed his brother's land.
- 3. He offered a sacrifice and worshipped the Lord.**
4. All of the above

2 How many portions of meat did Elkanah give Peninnah? (1:4)

- 1. Enough for her and her sons and her daughters**
2. A double portion for her alone
3. Double portions for her and her children
4. None

3 Why did Peninnah provoke Hannah? (1:6)

1. Peninnah wanted a double portion.
2. Peninnah could not have children.
- 3. Hannah could not have children.**
4. All of the above

4 What did Eli think as he watched Hannah pray? (1:12-13)

1. Hannah was sleeping
2. Hannah was too loud.
- 3. Hannah was drunk.**
4. Hannah was too quiet.

5 What did Hannah tell Eli after he accused her of being drunk? (1:15-16)

1. "I am a woman who is deeply troubled."
2. "I was pouring out my soul to the Lord."
3. "I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."
- 4. All of the above**

6 Why did Hannah name her son Samuel? (1:20)

1. Eli told Hannah to name her son Samuel
- 2. Hannah asked the Lord for a son**
3. It was the name of Elkanah's father
4. It was Elkanah's second name

7 When would Hannah present Samuel before the Lord? (1:22)

1. When he turned 12
2. When he was walking
3. When he turned 18
- 4. When he was weaned**

8 How long would Samuel live in the Tabernacle? (1:22)

1. For 18 years
2. Until the Lord spoke to him
- 3. Always**
4. For 12 years

9 Who trained Samuel to minister before the Lord? (2:11)

- 1. Eli the priest**
2. Elkanah
3. Hophni
4. Phinehas

10 Finish this verse: "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is..." (1 Peter 3:12)

- 1. "...against those who do evil."**
2. "...near those who do evil."
3. "...against those who do good."
4. "...against those who disobey him."

STUDY **fwo**

1 Samuel 2:12-29, 34-35; 3:1-4:1

Memory Verse

“Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained” (1 Samuel 2:30).

Biblical Truth

God honours those who listen to him and obey him.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God may ask us to do difficult things. He wants us to obey what he tells us.

Teaching Tip

Let the children know that God probably will not speak to them in an audible voice. Sometimes, God speaks to us when we listen to him during prayer. He speaks to us through the Bible, through people, through music, and in other ways.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 2:12-29; 34-35; 3:1-4:1. As a boy, Samuel lived at the Tabernacle, and he served under Eli. During this time, the “word of the Lord” was rare. This means that God did not speak to the people through prophets. The religious leaders were corrupt, and they did not perform their religious duties properly. The greatest offenders were Hophni and Phinehas, the wicked sons of Eli. Eli rebuked them for what they did, but he did not do anything to stop their actions.

One night, the Lord spoke to Samuel. God told Samuel what was going to happen to Eli and his sons. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God said. Samuel’s first prophecy was a difficult one. God was going to punish and replace the former family of priests because of their sins.

Samuel was a faithful servant who delivered God’s word accurately. When the events happened just as Samuel said, the people accepted Samuel as a prophet of God.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God speaks to us, and he wants us to listen to him.
- God sometimes asks us to do difficult things.

PEOPLE

Hophni and **Phinehas** were Eli’s sons. They were priests at Shiloh, but they were wicked.

A **prophet** is a person God chooses to receive and to deliver his messages to people. A prophet speaks for God.

PLACES

The Tent of Meeting is another name for the Tabernacle. This was a place of worship for the Israelites. Samuel lived there with Eli.

All Israel from Dan to Beersheba refers to the land of Israel from the north to the south.

THINGS

An **ephod** is a sleeveless garment worn by a priest.

Incense is a substance burned on an altar as an offering to God. It has a sweet smell.

ACTIVITY

To prepare for this activity, collect a variety of objects that make recognizable sounds.

Tell the children to turn around so they cannot see you. Say, **I will make some sounds. After each sound, raise your hand to tell me what object made the sound.**

Make a sound, and call on one child to tell the group what object made that sound. Repeat the process until the children identify each object. Say, **Today, you listened carefully to identify what your ears heard. We will learn about a young boy who listened carefully to something that was difficult to recognize.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 2:12-29, 34-35; 3:1-4, before you tell it to the children.

During a sacrifice, the priest cut off the fatty portion of the meat and dedicated it to God. The priest placed the meat that remained in a pot to use in burnt offerings. The priests took a portion of this meat to eat as payment for their services. A priest plunged a fork into the pot, and he kept whatever piece of meat he pulled out.

Eli's sons were wicked men. They had no regard for the Lord, and they did not use the system that God designed. They demanded their part of the meat from the sacrifices first, and they threatened to take the meat by force. They desired the choicest meats, including the fatty portions. Eli's sons demonstrated a complete lack of respect for God when they treated the Lord's offering with contempt.

Samuel lived differently than Eli's sons. Samuel ministered before the Lord. Every

year Samuel's mother took him a robe. The Lord was gracious to Hannah because of her faithfulness, and he gave her three sons and two daughters.

Eli learned everything about the actions of his sons. He said to them, "Why do you do such things?" But, Eli's sons did not listen to their father's rebuke. However, Samuel grew in stature and in favour with the Lord and with men.

A man of God came to Eli, and he gave Eli a message from the Lord. "I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest. You chose to honour your sons instead of me. Your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will both die on the same day. I will raise up a faithful priest."

In those days, the word of the Lord was rare. People did not have many visions from God. One night, as Samuel slept, the Lord called to Samuel. Samuel ran to Eli, and he said, "I am here. You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you. Go back, and lie down."

So Samuel went back and lay down. The same thing happened two more times. Samuel thought that Eli spoke to him. Then, Eli realized that the Lord was calling to the boy.

Eli told Samuel, "Go, and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

The Lord came, stood there, and called, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then, Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The Lord said to him, "I will fulfil everything I promised to do to Eli and his family." Eli did not sin in the same way that his sons sinned, but he allowed these sinful actions to happen. Eli demonstrated a greater love for his sons than for God.

Samuel lay down until morning. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what the Lord said. Samuel told him everything. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what he thinks is good."

The Lord helped Samuel as he grew. The Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh. All of Israel recognized Samuel as a prophet of the Lord. All of Israel heard Samuel's words.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There may not be a right or wrong answer. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. **What were the sins of Hophni and Phinehas?**
2. **Why did the Lord punish the entire house of Eli if his sons were the ones who sinned? Was that fair?**
3. **God spoke through a prophet to Eli in 1 Samuel 2:27-36. The Bible does not tell us how Eli responded. How do you think Eli responded to this prophet?**
4. **No one in Israel heard the voice of the Lord for a long time. Then God spoke to Samuel rather than Eli, the head priest. Why did God do this?**
5. **The memory verse for this lesson is from 1 Samuel 2:30, "Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained." How does this verse relate to this story?**
6. **Imagine you were Samuel and heard the word of the Lord. Would you tell Eli everything the Lord said? How do you think Samuel felt when he gave God's message to Eli?**

Say, **Do you have friends who do not listen to God or obey him? Sometimes, you want to follow your friends and not to obey God. But, God honours those who listen to him and obey him. Because Samuel listened to God and obeyed him, God honoured Samuel.**

God will also honour you for obeying him. You honour God when you read the Bible, obey God, and obey your parents and teachers.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the Bible study.

1. Prepare an obstacle course for your class. Use chairs, tables, and boxes, or whatever you have. Provide a cloth for a blindfold.

Ask, **What was the difference between how Eli's sons and how Samuel responded to God? Let us see how important it is to listen to the right voice.**

Let a child with a blindfold go through the course. Guide him or her around the obstacles with your spoken instructions.

Ask, **Why is it important for us to listen to God? What are some consequences when we do not listen to him? You listened to me, and Samuel listened to God. It is important for you to listen to God and to obey him. Tell about a time when you listened to God and obeyed him.**

2. Read Exodus 3:1-9 and Acts 9:10-16. Say, **We read about how God spoke directly to Moses and Ananias. God spoke directly to Samuel, and Samuel heard God's voice. How was Samuel's experience different from those of others? How were the experiences the same?**

3. Read 1 Samuel 2:26. Say, **There is a similar verse in Luke 2:52. Read this verse. Ask, Whom does Luke 2:52 describe? Why are these verses important for children?** Have the children use hand motions to demonstrate how Samuel and Jesus grew.

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 2:12-29, 34-35, 3:1-4:1 to them.

1 Why was the sin of Eli's sons very great in the Lord's sight? (2:17)

1. They were priests but refused to work in the temple.
2. They treated the Lord's offering with contempt.
3. Both answers are correct.

2 How many more children did Hannah have? (2:21)

1. Two sons and one daughter
2. Three sons and three daughters
3. Three sons and two daughters

3 What did Eli's sons do when he rebuked them? (2:25)

1. They listened.
2. They did not listen.
3. They listened for a while.

4 How did Samuel continue to grow? (2:26)

1. In stature
2. In favor with God and men
3. Both answers are correct.

5 Whom did the Lord tell Eli he would raise up? (2:35)

1. A faithful priest
2. Eli's sons
3. Eli

6 How does the Bible describe the word of the Lord in the days when Eli trained Samuel? (3:1)

1. Common
2. Rare
3. Obeyed

7 What did Samuel do the first time the Lord called him? (3:4-5)

1. He ran to Eli.
2. He said to Eli, "Here I am; you called me."
3. Both answers are correct.

8 How much did Samuel tell Eli about the vision of the Lord? (3:18)

1. Almost everything
2. Everything
3. Nothing

9 Who recognized Samuel as a prophet of the Lord? (3:20)

1. All Israel
2. All Egypt
3. All the world

10 Finish this verse: "Those who honour me I will honour, but those who . . ." (1 Samuel 2:30d)

1. ". . . despise me will be disdained."
2. ". . . don't respect me will be punished."
3. ". . . hate me will find suffering."

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 2:12-29, 34-35, 3:1-4:1 to them.

1 When did Hannah give Samuel a robe she had made for him? (2:19)

1. When she went with Elkanah to offer the annual sacrifice
2. Twice a year
3. On Samuel's birthday
4. When the Lord told her to

2 What did Eli say to his sons when he found out about their sins? (2:22-23, 25)

1. "Why do you do such things?"
2. "I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours."
3. "If a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?"
4. All of the above

3 What did the man of God tell Eli about his sons? (2:34)

1. Hophni will be appointed head priest.
2. Phinehas will be appointed king.
3. They will both be priests after he died.
4. They will both die on the same day.

4 Who finally realized that the Lord was calling Samuel? (3:8)

1. Hophni
2. Phinehas
3. Eli
4. Elkanah

5 What did Samuel say the fourth time the LORD called him? (3:10)

1. "Speak, for your servant is listening."
2. "Eli, did you call me again?"
3. "Who is calling me?"
4. "LORD, please do not speak to me."

6 Why was the Lord going to judge Eli and his family forever? (3:13)

1. Eli stole from the people.
2. Eli and his sons offered the wrong sacrifice.
3. Eli knew about his sons' sins, but did not restrain them.
4. All of the above

7 What was Samuel afraid to tell Eli? (3:15)

1. The sins of Hophni and Phinehas
2. The vision from the Lord
3. That he slept in the Tabernacle
4. All of the above

8 What did Eli say after Samuel told him about the vision from the LORD? (3:18)

1. "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."
2. "I don't believe what the LORD said."
3. "Why is the LORD going to do this to my family?"
4. "I don't think you heard the LORD correctly."

9 What did the people of Israel recognize about Samuel? (3:20)

1. He was a good boy.
2. He was going to be king.
3. He was a prophet of the Lord.
4. He was a shepherd.

10 How did the Lord reveal himself to Samuel? (3:21)

1. Through Eli's sons
2. Through Elkanah's advice
3. Through the Lord's word
4. All of the above

STUDY **three**

1 Samuel 4:1 — 5:12

Memory Verse

“There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God” (1 Samuel 2:2).

Biblical Truth

The Lord our God is the one true God.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that the Lord our God is the one true God. They will learn that God has power over evil.

Teaching Tip

Remind the children that there is only one God. We serve Him. He is the God of the Bible. God has great power. He was more powerful than the Philistine god.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 4:1-5:12. The nation of Israel did not have a good relationship with God. Some of the people were faithful, but the leadership was corrupt. In this lesson, children will learn what happened to the leaders and the Israelites because of their poor relationship with God.

The Israelites lost a battle to the Philistines. The Israelites tried to manipulate both the Lord and the next battle. They brought the ark of the covenant into their camp. The Israelites lost the second battle, and the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant.

Phinehas and Hophni died in the battle. Israel disregarded the covenant with God, and their defeat in battle was God's judgment on the nation.

The Philistines believed their god, Dagon, was more powerful than the Lord. God showed this was not true when he broke the idol of Dagon and afflicted the Philistines with tumours.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God is the one true God.
- ✦ God has power over evil.

PEOPLE

A **Benjamite** was a member of the tribe of Benjamin. They were descendants of Benjamin, a son of Jacob.

The **Philistines** were a nation of people who lived near the Mediterranean Sea. They were enemies of the Israelites.

PLACES

Ashdod, **Gath**, and **Ekron** were three of the largest cities of the Philistines.

THINGS

The **ark of the covenant** was a wooden chest that had a covering of gold. The stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, the staff of Aaron, and some manna were in the ark. The ark of the Lord and the ark of the covenant are the same chest. The ark represented the presence of God.

Dagon was one of the gods that the Philistines worshipped. He was the god of crops.

ACTIVITY

You will need these items for this activity.

- ✦ A balloon or a small bag
- ✦ A small object, such as a coin, a rock, or a button.

Arrange the children into two teams. One team will have more children than the other. The larger team will be the Israelites. The smaller team will be the Philistines.

Ask the Philistine team to line up at one end of the room. To make an ark, place a small object inside an inflated balloon or bag. Place the ark on the opposite side of the room. Say, **We hid the ark in a balloon because it represents a holy object. You cannot touch it.**

Place the Israelites in the space between the Philistines and the ark. Each Israelite player should be in a different spot. The Israelites may protect the ark only by the movement of their arms. They may not move their feet. The Israelites must stand still and attempt to tag the Philistines as they move among the Israelites to capture the ark.

If an Israelite tags a Philistine, the Philistine child leaves the game. If the Israelites tag all the Philistines, the Israelites win. If the Philistines capture the ark, the Philistines win.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 4:1 — 5:12, before you tell it to the children.

The Philistines defeated the Israelites in a battle. The Philistines killed about 4,000 Israelites. The elders of Israel decided to take the ark of the Lord from Shiloh and carry it to the battle camp. The elders thought that the ark of the Lord's covenant would save the Israelites from their enemies.

When the Israelites brought the ark into the camp, they shouted so loudly that the noise caused the ground to shake. When the Philistines heard the shout and learned that the ark of the covenant was in the camp, they were afraid.

However, even though they were afraid, the Philistines did not retreat. Instead, they became more eager to fight. The Philistines fought and defeated the army of Israel. The Israelites lost thirty thousand soldiers. The Philistines captured the ark of God during this battle, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

A Benjamite soldier ran from the battle to Shiloh. His clothes were torn and there was dust on his head. The soldier told everyone that the Israelites were defeated, that Eli's sons were dead, and that the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant. When the soldier told what happened, everyone in the town wailed. The soldier's clothes and the dust on his head were visible signs that indicated grief.

Eli was ninety-eight years old, and he could no longer see. The soldier told Eli that Israel suffered many losses, that his two sons were dead, and that the Philistines captured the ark of God. When the soldier mentioned the ark of the Lord's covenant, Eli fell backward off his chair. When Eli fell, he broke his neck, and he died. He was an old man, and he was heavy.

The wife of Phinehas was expecting a child, and the time was near for her to give birth. When she heard the bad news, she went into labor and gave birth. The labour pains were too much for her. Before she died, she named the boy Ichabod. Ichabod means, "no glory." This woman felt that the glory of the Lord departed from Israel.

The Philistines took the ark of the covenant to the temple of Dagon in Ashdod, and they set the ark next to the statue of Dagon. Dagon was one of the gods that the Philistines worshipped. When the people of Ashdod woke the next day, Dagon was on his face on the ground before the ark of the covenant. The Philistines put Dagon back in place. The next morning, Dagon was on the ground again. This time, his head and hands were broken. Then the Lord afflicted the people of Ashdod with tumours.

When the men of Ashdod saw what happened, they said that the ark must not stay with them. The rulers of the Philistines moved the ark to Gath. When they moved the ark to Gath, the Lord gave tumours to the people of Gath.

Next, the rulers of the Philistines sent the ark to Ekron. The people of Ekron told the rulers to send back the ark to Israel. The Philistines who did not die then developed tumours, and they cried out to heaven.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There may not be a right or wrong answer. These questions help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. **Why did the Israelites bring the ark of the covenant into battle?**
2. **The Israelites treated the ark of the covenant as though it were magic. Was this right or wrong? Why?**
3. **Why were the Israelites sad and worried when the ark of the covenant was stolen?**
4. **Imagine that you were a Philistine. What would you think when the statue of Dagon fell over twice?**
5. **When did the Philistines first become afraid of the Israelites? Why?**
6. **How does today's memory verse, 1 Samuel 2:2, relate to this story and to our lives?**

Say, **In this study, we learned that God is the one true God. We should worship only him. God must be our first love and first in our worship.**

We also learned that God has great power. Dagon fell on his face before the ark of the covenant. This showed the Philistines that God had more power than Dagon. You can always trust God because he is the only God!

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Make a map of the journey of the ark of the Lord in 1 Samuel 4:1—5:12. Label the cities and the regions. Draw symbols to represent the events that took place in these cities and regions. Use your map as a review of the story of the Philistines who captured the ark. A Bible atlas or the internet are helpful resources for this activity.

2. Explain the meaning of the word to manipulate: To influence cleverly someone to do what you want. Ask, **Have you ever tried to manipulate God? For example, have you ever promised God you would do something good, or not do something bad, if He would give you something?** Let the children respond. Say, **The Israelites tried to manipulate God when they brought the ark to their camp. They treated the ark as though it had magical power. To try to manipulate God is a bad idea. What should we do instead?** (Here are some possible answers: pray, try to learn what he wants us to do, trust him, and obey him.)

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 4:1 — 5:12 to them.

1 Where did the Israelites obtain the ark after the Philistines defeated them at Aphek? (4:3-4)

1. Ramah
2. Ephraim
3. Shiloh

2 How did the Philistines feel when they heard shouts in the Israelite camp? (4:7)

1. They were excited.
2. They were afraid.
3. They were happy.

3 How many Israelite soldiers died in the battle after they brought the ark into the camp? (4:10)

1. 30,000
2. 20,000
3. 10,000

4 Who died in the battle when the Philistines captured the ark of God? (4:11)

1. Samuel and Eli
2. Hophni and Phinehas
3. Samuel and Hannah

5 What happened when Eli learned that the Philistines captured the ark? (4:18)

1. He died.
2. He prayed.
3. He sobbed.

6 How old was Eli when he died? (4:14-15, 18)

1. 98 years old
2. 88 years old
3. 108 years old

7 What happened when the wife of Phinehas heard the bad news about the battle with the Philistines? (4:19-20)

1. She went into labor and gave birth.
2. She died.
3. Both answers are correct.

8 What did the wife of Phinehas name their son? (4:21)

1. Phinehas
2. Ichabod
3. Samuel

9 Where did the Philistines place the ark after they captured it? (5:2)

1. In Ebenezer
2. Next to their camp
3. Beside Dagon in Dagon's temple

10 What did the people of Ashdod see the first morning after they put the ark in Dagon's temple? (5:3)

1. Dagon fell on his face before the ark.
2. The ark fell over.
3. Both answers are correct.

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 4:1 — 5:12 to them.

1 After the Philistines defeated the Israelites, what did the elders of Israel decide to do with the ark? (4:2-3)

1. They sent it to Ephraim.
2. They surrendered it to the Philistines.
3. They prayed to God about what to do with it.
4. **They brought it from Shiloh to their camp.**

2 What happened when the Israelites brought the ark into the Israelite camp? (4:5)

1. **All Israel shouted, and the ground shook.**
2. A thunderstorm came on the camp.
3. All Israel was afraid.
4. All of the above

3 What did the Philistines capture in the battle after the Israelites brought the ark into their camp? (4:11)

1. All the provisions of the Israelites
2. All the tents of the Israelites
3. **The ark of God**
4. All of the above

4 How does 1 Samuel describe the Benjamite soldier when he came to Shiloh to tell that the Philistines captured the ark? (4:12-13)

1. He suffered from an injury.
2. His face was dirty, and he did not wear shoes.
3. **His clothes were torn, and he had dust on his head.**
4. All of the above

5 How did the people of Shiloh react when they heard what happened in the battle with the Philistines? (4:13)

1. They rejoiced.
2. They cheered.
3. **They sent up a cry.**
4. They were silent.

6 What news did the Benjamite soldier bring to Eli? (4:17)

1. The army suffered from many losses .
2. Hophni and Phinehas died.
3. The Philistines captured the ark of God.
4. **All of the above**

7 How did Eli react when he heard that the Philistines captured ark of God? (4:17-18)

1. He fell backward off his chair.
2. He broke his neck.
3. He died.
4. **All of the above**

8 What did the men of Ashdod say when the Lord afflicted them with tumours? (5:6-7)

1. "Let's defeat the Israelites again."
2. "We're not sure what to do with the ark."
3. **"The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us."**
4. All of the above

9 What happened after the Philistines moved the ark to Gath? (5:9)

1. The people of Gath rejoiced.
2. **The people of Gath were afflicted with tumours.**
3. All the people of Gath died.
4. All of the above

10 Finish this verse: "There is no one holy like the LORD; . . ." (1 Samuel 2:2)

1. ". . . there is nothing that can stand against you."
2. ". . . your presence brings light; your word gives justice."
3. ". . . there is no God except you; there is no one like our God."
4. **". . . there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God."**

Memory Verse

“Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?” (Psalm 77:13)

Biblical Truth

God requires all people to know that He is holy and to respect him.

Focus

In this study, children will learn that God is holy, and that he wants everyone to respect him at all times.

Teaching Tip

Inform the children that the 70 men who died committed a serious offense. They showed great disrespect to the ark and to God. Reassure the children that God will not strike them dead for committing a sin.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 6:1—7:1. When the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant, they believed that their god, Dagon, defeated the Lord. After seven months of plagues, the Philistines admitted that they were wrong. The Philistines asked their priests how to send back the ark to the God of the Israelites.

The Philistine priests decided to place golden models of tumours and of rats on a cart with the ark. They forced two cows that recently gave birth to pull the ark on a wagon. Cows with newborn calves usually do not leave their calves. When the cows left their calves and returned the ark to Israel, it proved that the Lord planned the plagues.

The people of Israel were glad that the Philistines returned the ark. Some of the Israelites dishonoured God when they looked in the ark. God caused 70 men to die. The Israelites learned that God is holy, and that they must honour him.

The Philistines captured the ark, but God is not weak. He permitted the Philistines to capture it because the Israelites did not honour God’s presence. God’s presence and power come to those who honour him and his covenant. Those who reject or dishonour God will not receive his blessings.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God is holy, and he requires people to respect him.
- God deserves our praise.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

To be holy is to be perfect, complete, and pure. It also means to be set apart for God’s use only. God is holy. He is different from other beings, and everything about him is good and perfect.

PEOPLE

Diviners are people who try to obtain guidance from a pagan god.

Abinadab was a man from the tribe of Judah. He kept the ark in his home after the Philistines returned it.

PLACES

Beth Shemesh was an Israelite town near the Philistine border.

Kiriath Jearim was a city that was approximately eight miles from Jerusalem.

THINGS

A **guilt offering** is an offering that people gave when they committed a sin. A person admits his or her sins when he or she gives a guilt offering.

A **yoke** is a harness that connects two animals so that they work together to pull a cart or plough.

ACTIVITY

You will need the following items for this activity.

- A small box
- Some small pieces of candy or fruit

Before the children arrive, place one chair in the centre of the room. Place the other chairs in a row behind that chair. The single chair will face away from the row.

Choose one child to sit in the chair in the centre of the room. Place a small box with one piece of candy in it behind the child. Explain the following rules:

1. Tell the child who is in the centre chair to close his or her eyes.
2. Then point to another child in the group to take the box and hide it quietly.
3. Have the child who is in the centre chair open his or her eyes, and try to guess who took the box.
4. If the child guesses correctly, he or she gets the candy in the box. If the child guesses incorrectly, the child who took the box gets the candy.
5. Then choose another child to sit in the centre chair. Continue to play until every child gets a piece of candy or fruit.

Say, **When you had the box, how did you feel when someone took the box from you? How did you feel when you eventually received a piece of candy or fruit? Today, we will learn about what happened when someone returned something very special to God's people.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 6:1—7:1, before you tell it to the children.

The Philistines kept the ark of the Lord for seven months. They recognized their wrongdoing. They wanted to send the best guilt offering to compensate for their sin and to appease God. They asked their priests and their diviners how to send back the ark to the Israelites. The Philistines wanted to return the ark, but they did not know how to send it. The priests and diviners told the Philistines to send back the ark with a guilt offering to the Lord. Then God would heal the Philistines.

The priests and diviners said, "Give five golden rats and five golden tumours as a guilt offering." The rats and tumours indicated the intention of the Philistines to give back the plagues that God placed on them. The five rats and five tumours symbolized the five Philistines cities. The Philistines made the rats and the tumours from gold to show that the Philistines respected God.

Then the priests and diviners said, "Why do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh did?" When God treated the Egyptians harshly, they permitted the Israelites to go.

"Get a new cart ready, with two cows that have newborn calves. These calves have never worn a yoke. Hitch the cows to the cart, and place the ark on the cart. In

a chest beside it, place the gold objects you are sending back.”

When the Philistines returned the ark, they tested God to determine if the plagues were a coincidence. The priests and the diviners said, “Send the cart on its way, but watch it. If it goes toward Beth Shemesh, then the LORD brought the great disaster on us. If the cart does not go to Beth Shemesh, then it was not the LORD who struck us, but it happened to us by chance.”

The Philistines did everything that the priests and diviners said. The cows went directly toward Beth Shemesh. The maternal instinct of cows is to return to their new calves. However, these cows did not stray from their path toward Beth Shemesh. The Philistine rulers followed the cart, and they acknowledged that the Lord sent the plagues.

When the people of Beth Shemesh saw the ark, they rejoiced. They chopped the wood from the cart, and they sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord. Since the cart and cows touched the ark and were in God’s presence, the Israelites used them for the burnt offerings.

The Levites put the ark and the chest of gold objects on a large rock. The people offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the Lord. But, God did not intend for everyone to view the ark. He gave instructions that the priests were the only people allowed to view it. The Israelites showed disrespect for God when they displayed the ark on a large rock for everyone to see.

The five rulers of the Philistines saw this, and they returned that day to Ekron. The five tumours and five rats represented the five Philistine cities the five rulers led—Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Ekron, and Gath.

God caused seventy men of Beth Shemesh to die because they looked inside the ark of the Lord. The people mourned. God’s holiness is a serious matter. The ark symbolized God’s presence, and God did not permit anyone to come near or to touch the ark.

The men of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?” Then, they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim. The messengers said, “The Philistines sent back the ark of the LORD. Come, and take it to your place.” The men of Kiriath Jearim took the ark to Abinadab’s house. They consecrated his son, Eleazar, to guard it.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Why did the Philistines send five gold rats with the ark?
2. Why did the Philistines choose to send two cows that never wore a yoke to lead the cart?
3. Why were the Israelites excited when they saw the ark again?
4. Why did God cause the 70 Israelites to die?
5. Do you think the Philistines showed more respect to God than the Israelites? Why or why not?

Say, The Philistines sent the ark of the covenant to Israel. Some of the Israelites worshiped God, but 70 of them disobeyed God when they looked into the ark. Those 70 men did not obey God’s laws to respect the ark. They did not honour God. God wants us to respect him and to obey what he says.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

NOTES:

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Write a journal entry from the perspective of the Philistine rulers who followed the cows that pulled the ark. Ask, How do you think they felt? What do you think they thought about God?

2. Say, **When the Philistines returned the ark to the Israelites, they rejoiced. However, everyone did not treat it with the proper respect. What are some ways you show respect for God? We will make a list of ways that we show respect for God.**

If the children do not think of answers, ask them about ways people do not respect God. Then have the children change the negative answer into a positive way to show respect. Compare lists and discuss the answers. Make a collaborative list or a poster of the answers. Ask, **Why should we show respect for God? What happens when we do? What happens when we do not?**

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 6:1—7:1 to them.

1 What did the priests and diviners tell the Philistines to send back with the ark? (6:3)

1. 300 cattle
2. A guilt offering
3. Food and water

2 What did it mean if the cart with the ark went toward Beth Shemesh? (6:9)

1. The disasters occurred by chance.
2. The Lord brought the disasters on the Philistines.
3. The Israelites brought the disasters.

3 How many cows led the cart with the ark on it? (6:10)

1. One
2. Two
3. Three

4 How did the cows that pulled the cart travel to Beth Shemesh? (6:12)

1. They kept on the road, and they did not turn to the right or left.
2. They lowed the whole way.
3. Both answers are correct.

5 How did the people of Beth Shemesh react when the ark came toward them? (6:13)

1. They rejoiced.
2. They hid.
3. They ran in fear.

6 How did the people of Beth Shemesh use the cart that carried the ark? (6:14)

1. They used it to carry their wheat.
2. They chopped it up.
3. They returned it to the Philistines.

7 Where did the Levites place the ark and the guilt offering from the Philistines? (6:15)

1. Next to the Jordan River
2. In the Tabernacle
3. On a large rock

8 How many men died because they looked into the ark? (6:19)

1. 70
2. 100
3. 20

9 To whose house did the men of Kiriath Jearim take the ark? (7:1)

1. Abinadab's house
2. Samuel's house
3. Mizpah's house

10 Finish this verse: "Your ways, O God, are holy. What god . . ." (Psalm 77:13)

1. ". . . is so holy as our God?"
2. ". . . is so great as our God?"
3. ". . . can stand against you?"

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 6:1—7:1 to them.

1. What did the Philistines ask the priests and diviners after they possessed the ark for seven months? (6:2)

1. “What shall we do with the ark of the LORD?”
2. “How do we keep the ark of the LORD?”
3. “How do we destroy the ark of the LORD?”
4. “Where do we hide the ark of the LORD?”

2. What guilt offering did the Philistines include with the ark? (6:4)

1. Four silver cats
2. **Five gold tumours and five gold rats**
3. Five gold cats and five gold rats
4. Five gold seeds

3. What kind of cows pulled the cart with the ark? (6:7)

1. Two that did not have calves
2. Four that never wore a yoke
3. Three that never wore a yoke
4. **Two that had calves but never wore a yoke**

4. How did the Philistines’ send the guilt offering? (6:8)

1. **In a chest next to the ark on the cart**
2. On the cart by itself
3. Carried by the rulers
4. On top of the ark on the cart

5. What did it mean if the cart went toward Beth Shemesh? (6:9)

1. The tumours and diseases happened by chance.
2. **The Lord brought the tumours and diseases on the Philistines**
3. The Israelites sinned.
4. All of the above

6. What were the people of Beth Shemesh doing when the cart with the ark on it arrived? (6:13)

1. **Harvesting their wheat**
2. Picking the grapes
3. Enjoying a banquet
4. Sleeping

7. What happened to the cows that pulled the cart? (6:14)

1. **The people sacrificed them as a burnt offering.**
2. They sent them back to the Philistines.
3. They returned them.
4. They gave them to the widows of Beth Shemesh.

8. Why did the Philistines give five gold rats to the Lord in the guilt offering? (6:18)

1. There were five cities that experienced a plague of rats.
2. **There were five Philistine towns that belonged to the five rulers.**
3. There were only five Philistines who experienced the tumours.
4. All of the above

9. Where did the men of Beth Shemesh send the ark? (6:20-21)

1. The house of Obed-Edom
2. Jerusalem
3. Ebenezer
4. **Kiriath Jearim**

10. Whom did the men of Kiriath Jearim consecrate to guard the ark? (7:1)

1. Samuel
2. Eli’s sons
3. **Eleazar**
4. The men of Beth Shemesh

1 Samuel 7:2 — 8:22

Memory Verse

“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced” (1 Chronicles 16:11-12).

Biblical Truth

God permits us to make choices.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God gives us freedom to make choices. God does not force people to follow him. God wants people to choose to follow him and to love him.

Teaching Tip

Remind the children that the Lord is faithful. God continued his faithfulness to the Israelites despite their mistakes. He promised to save the Israelites from the Philistines if the Israelites followed him.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 7:2 — 8:22

For twenty years, Samuel led the Israelites. They stopped their worship of foreign gods, and the Israelites worshipped the Lord again.

The Philistines attacked the Israelites, and the Israelites asked Samuel to pray to God and ask him to rescue them. The Lord accepted Israel’s actions of repentance, and he gave the Israelites the victory in the battle. Samuel built an altar to remind the Israelites of God’s faithfulness.

Samuel grew old, and he appointed his sons, Joel and Abijah, as judges for the people. Joel and Abijah were corrupt. So, the Israelites asked Samuel to appoint a king. Because they asked for a king, God was displeased. He told Samuel that the Israelites rejected God as their king.

God told Samuel to give some warnings to the people. A king would demand many things from the Israelites. A king would eventually make slaves of the Israelites. A day would come when the Israelites will regret that they asked for a king. On that day, they will ask God for relief, and God will not give it to them.

Despite the warnings from God, the Israelites still demanded a king. God told Samuel to listen to the Israelites and to appoint them a king.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God wants his people to remember what he did for them.
- God gives us freedom to make choices.

PEOPLE

The **elders of Israel** were the men who ruled in each community or in each tribe.

PLACES

Mizpah was a city near Jerusalem. The word Mizpah means “the watchtower.”

Ramah is the birthplace and the home of Samuel. It was here that the Israelites demanded a king.

THINGS

Ashtoreths were pagan goddesses.

Baal was the name of a pagan god.

A **burnt offering** is an offering that burns the entire sacrifice. It showed the surrender and the obedience of the Israelites.

The **Ebenezer stone** means a stone of help. Samuel erected this stone between Mizpah and Shen.

ACTIVITY

Before the children arrive, prepare a plate of slices of fruit and a plate of candy.

Let each child choose to eat either a slice of fruit or a piece of candy. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each snack.

Say, **If you chose candy, you made a choice that will taste good for a moment. This choice, however, may not be the best choice. The candy does not provide as much nutrition as the fruit provides.**

The Israelites made a choice. God told them that a king would bring trouble to them. The Israelites preferred the instant fulfillment of an earthly king rather than to trust God completely. Even though he knew what was best for the Israelites, God permitted their request. Their choice caused many consequences.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 7:2—8:22, before you tell it to the children.

Samuel said to the Israelites, "Destroy all of the foreign gods and commit yourselves to the LORD. If you serve the LORD and no other gods, he will save you from the Philistines." The Israelites destroyed their images of Baal and the Ashtoreths, and they served the Lord.

The Israelites travelled to Mizpah. There, they confessed their sins to the Lord. When the Philistines heard that the Israelites were in Mizpah, the Philistine rulers came to attack the Israelites. When the Israelites heard of the attack, they were afraid. Samuel offered a burnt offering to the Lord, and he cried out to God on Israel's behalf. **The Lord answered Samuel's cry.**

When the Philistines came near to the Israelites, the Lord "thundered with loud thunder" against the Philistines. The Philistines panicked. The Israelites rushed out of Mizpah, and they killed the Philistines.

Samuel erected a stone between Mizpah and Shen. He named the stone Ebenezer. Samuel said, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." Ebenezer means "stone of help." This place reminded the Israelites of God's ability to provide for them.

Throughout Samuel's life, God helped the Israelites to fight against the Philistines. Samuel travelled around Israel, and he was Israel's judge for the remainder of his life. Even though he travelled often, he always returned to Ramah, his hometown. There, Samuel judged Israel, and he built an altar to the Lord.

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. His sons, Joel and Abijah, were dishonest and accepted bribes. All the elders came to Samuel in Ramah. They said, "You are old, and your sons do not obey God. Appoint a king to lead us, like the other nations have."

When Samuel prayed about this, the Lord was displeased. However, he told Samuel to listen to the people. The Lord told Samuel that the people did not reject Samuel. They rejected the Lord as their king. The Lord asked Samuel to warn them

solemnly and to tell them what the king will do.

Samuel told the Israelites what the Lord said. He told them that the king will force their sons to serve him as commanders. The king will force men to build weapons. The king will take a tenth of their grain, of their vintage, and of their flocks. The king will force the people to be his slaves. The people will cry out for relief from the king, and the Lord will not answer their cries.

Still, the people wanted a king like other nations. They wanted a king to lead them and to fight their battles.

Samuel told the Lord what the people said. The Lord told Samuel to give them a king. The Lord permitted the Israelites to make a choice even though he knew that it was the wrong one.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There may be no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. **How did the Ebenezer stone help the Israelites to remember God's faithfulness?**
2. **Why did the Israelites ask for a king? Why was God upset by their request?**
3. **Imagine that you were an Israelite. You heard the warning that Samuel gave about the king. Will you want a king? Why or why not?**
4. **How does today's memory verse, 1 Chronicles 16:11-12, relate to this story and to your life?**

Say, **What choices do you make? Some choices are easy. Some choices are difficult. The Israelites made a choice. They chose to serve a king rather than to serve God. God was not happy with the decision of the Israelites. However, God permitted the Israelites to have a king.**

God gives you freedom to make choices. God does not force you to follow him. God

wants you to choose to follow him and to love him.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Read 1 Samuel 7:3. Ask, **What are some objects or persons who are idols in a child's life? What do children need to remove from their lives so that they serve the Lord wholeheartedly?**

3. Read 1 Samuel 8:19-20. Ask, **Why did the Israelites want a king? What was the real motivation for their demands for a king? Why was the argument of the Israelites a poor argument?**

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 7:2—8:22 to them.

1 Why did the Israelites assemble at Mizpah? (7:6)

1. They fasted.
2. They confessed their sin.
3. **Both answers are correct.**

2 How did the Philistine rulers react when they heard that Israel gathered at Mizpah? (7:7)

1. They stole the ark from the Israelites.
2. **They came to Mizpah to attack the Israelites.**
3. Both answers are correct.

3 What is the name of the stone that Samuel erected between Mizpah and Shen? (7:12)

1. **Ebenezer**
2. Alabaster
3. Mizpah

4 What were the names of Samuel's sons? (8:2)

1. Hophni and Phinehas
2. **Joel and Abijah**
3. Elkanah and Eli

5 Which of these sins did Samuel's sons commit? (8:3)

1. **They accepted bribes.**
2. They killed a man.
3. They stole some livestock.

6 Whom did the people of Israel reject as their king? (8:7)

1. Samuel
2. **The Lord**
3. Eli

7 What did Samuel say Israel's king would make their sons become? (8:12)

1. Commanders
2. Weapon builders
3. **Both answers are correct.**

8 From what did Samuel say Israel's king would take a tenth? (8:15, 17)

1. **From their grain, their vintage, and their flocks**
2. From their money
3. Both answers are correct.

9 What did the Lord say to Samuel about a king for Israel? (8:22)

1. **"Listen to them and give to them a king."**
2. "Do not give to them a king."
3. "Appoint your son as king."

10 Finish this verse: "Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, . . ." (1 Chronicles 16:11-12)

1. **". . . his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced."**
2. ". . . his mercies, and the laws he decreed."
3. ". . . his love, and the battles he fought."

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 7:2 — 8:22 to them.

1 What did Samuel tell the people of Israel to do to return to the Lord wholeheartedly? (7:3)

1. Get rid of the foreign gods and Ashtoreths.
2. Commit themselves to the Lord.
3. Serve the Lord alone.
4. **All of the above**

2 How did the Lord react when Samuel pleaded on Israel's behalf? (7:9)

1. The Lord told Samuel not to listen to them.
2. The Lord refused to answer him.
3. **The Lord answered him.**
4. The Lord did nothing.

3 While Samuel sacrificed the burnt offering, the Philistines started to attack Israel. What did the Lord do? (7:10)

1. He “thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines.”
2. He caused the Philistines to panic.
3. He “routed them before the Israelites.”
4. **All of the above**

4 What happened to the Philistines throughout Samuel's lifetime? (7:13)

1. The Lord saved them.
2. The hand of the Lord was with them.
3. The Lord helped them to succeed.
4. **The hand of the Lord was against them.**

5 How long did Samuel continue to judge Israel? (7:15)

1. For a few more years
2. **All the days of his life**
3. For a few more days
4. For a few more months

6 Why did Samuel return to Ramah, his hometown? (7:17)

1. His home was there.
2. He judged Israel there.
3. He built an altar to the Lord there.
4. **All of the above**

7 Whom did Samuel appoint as judges when he became old? (8:1)

1. Saul and David
2. His brothers
3. **His sons**
4. His parents

8 What did God want Samuel to tell the Israelites after they asked for a king? (8:9)

1. How to be nice to a king
2. **What the king would do to them**
3. Who the king will be
4. All of the above

9 What did the people say when Samuel warned them about the king? (8:19)

1. “We don't want you to lead us anymore.”
2. “We want to elect a king.”
3. **“We want a king over us.”**
4. “We want you to lead us.”

10 Why did the people of Israel want a king? (8:20)

1. They will be like other nations.
2. The king will lead them.
3. The king will go before them and fight their battles.
4. **All of the above**

STUDY **six**

1 Samuel 9:1 — 10:1, 17-24

Memory Verse

“For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise” (Psalm 47:7).

Biblical Truth

God works with his people even when they make a bad choice.

Focus

In this study, children will learn that God permits his people to know his will. He helps his people even when they make a bad choice.

Teaching Tip

Remind the students that God continued to work with the Israelites. He did not agree with their choice to request a king, but he permitted them to make it. God gives us freedom to make choices that are right or wrong.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 9:1—10:1, 17-24. A man named Kish sent his son, Saul, to find some lost donkeys. Saul and the servant of his father came to the town of Zuph, where Samuel lived.

The previous day, God told Samuel that a man from the tribe of Benjamin would come to Zuph. God asked Samuel to anoint this man as leader of the Israelites. His name was Saul.

Samuel summoned the Israelites. Samuel directed the casting of lots to reveal the king God chose for the Israelites. The lot fell to Saul. This verified to the Israelites that God appointed Saul as the king. Saul was overwhelmed by these actions, and he hid from the Israelites. When they found Saul, he came before the people. The Israelites cheered for Saul as their king.

Later, the choice of the Israelites to have a king will make their lives difficult. However, Saul helped the Israelites begin their life under the leadership of a king.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God continues to help his people, even when they make a bad choice.
- ✦ God helps us to know his will.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

To anoint means to put oil on someone’s head. Kings, priests, and prophets received this act of consecration and blessing. This act showed that God chose the person to do something important for him.

PEOPLE

Kish was Saul’s father.

Saul was the first king of Israel.

A **seer** was a prophet. A seer received messages from God through dreams or visions.

THINGS

A **head taller** means Saul was taller than the other Israelites, and he looked like a king.

A **shekel** was a unit of weight, about 12 grams.

A **flask** was a jar with a narrow opening. It held liquids.

To cast lots means to use small stones or other objects to choose a course of action. Many cultures used this method to determine the will of the gods. The Israelites used this method to attempt to determine God's will.

ACTIVITY

You will need the following items for this activity.

- + 5 sheets of paper
- + A pair of scissors
- + A marker
- + A paper crown

Before the children arrive, cut each piece of paper into quarters. Use one section of paper to write each word of the verse, and one section for the reference. Replace the following words with symbols: king (a picture of a crown); earth (a picture of the earth); and sing (a picture of musical notes). Shuffle the sheets of paper so the words of the verse are not in correct order.

To begin, distribute the memory verse cards to the children. The children may hold more than one card. If each child holds one card, ask the children to stand in the correct order of the verse. (If you have fewer children, ask the children to arrange the cards in correct order on a table or on the floor.) Then, tell the children to say the verse and to use the cards to help them. Tell the class to say the entire verse again, but remove the cards with words. The children may use the three cards with symbols on them.

Give the child who has the card with the king symbol a paper crown to wear. Have this child help you with tasks during the study. Say, **You are the king for the day. You will learn about a man who became a king.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 9:1—10:1, 17-24, before you tell it to the children.

Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, had a son named Saul. Saul was a young man who was impressive. He was taller than other young men. When Kish's donkeys were lost, he asked Saul to take a servant with him to find the donkeys. They searched the land for several days. Finally, they reached the district of Zuph. Saul told the servant that they should go back to relieve his father's worry.

The servant told Saul, "In this town, there is a man of God. Perhaps, he will tell us where to go to find the donkeys."

Saul said, "It is customary to bring the man of God a gift. We have no more food. What do we have?"

The servant replied, "I have a quarter of a shekel of silver. We can give the silver to the seer, and then he will tell us where to go."

As Saul and the servant entered the town, Samuel came toward them on his way to bless the sacrifice.

The previous day, the Lord told Samuel, "About this time tomorrow, I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him as the leader of my people."

When Samuel looked at Saul, the Lord said to Samuel, "This is the man about whom I spoke to you."

Saul asked Samuel, "Where is the seer's house?"

Samuel said, "I am the seer. Come with me to the high place, for today you will eat with me. Do not worry about the donkeys that you lost three days ago. Someone found them. Now, all the desire of Israel for

a king will focus on you and your father's family."

Saul said, "I am from the smallest tribe of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin. My clan is the least of all of the clans of the tribe of Benjamin. Why do you say this to me?"

Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall. Samuel seated them at best table. At dinner, Samuel gave Saul the best pieces of meat. He ate like a king.

The next morning, Samuel spoke to Saul privately. Samuel anointed Saul as the king to lead God's people. Samuel took a flask of oil, poured it on Saul's head, and kissed him. Samuel said, "The LORD anointed you as the leader over his inheritance."

Later, Samuel summoned the Israelites to Mizpah to choose a king. Samuel said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'I brought Israel out of Egypt.' However, you rejected God, and you asked for a king."

Samuel told the people to organize themselves by their tribe and their clan. Samuel directed the casting of lots. Samuel called for the tribe of Benjamin. Then he called forward Saul's clan. Finally, God chose Saul to become the king. When the people looked for Saul, they could not find him.

The Lord said, "He hides among the baggage." Some of the people ran to Saul, and they brought him to the rest of the people.

Samuel said, "Do you see the man that the LORD chose? There is no one like him among all of the people."

Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. In 1 Samuel 9:16, God told Samuel that he will see the next day the man who will be the king of the Israelites. How do you think Samuel reacted to God's message that he would meet the future king? What would you do?
2. What was Samuel's response when he met Saul? Do you think that he thought Saul was capable to be the king?
3. How do you think Saul felt when Samuel anointed him as the king? Read 1 Samuel 10:9. What changed Saul's attitude about being the king?
4. What do you think the people thought when they heard their future king was hiding?

Say, Sometimes, we make bad choices. Sometimes, bad choices have bad results. The Israelites wanted to follow a king rather than to follow God. He did not like the choice of the Israelites, but God helped the Israelites to find a good king. Sometimes, God helps us even when we make a bad choice.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Say, **God called both Saul and Gideon to a special task. Read Judges 6:1-40. Compare how God called Saul to how God called Gideon. How did each man respond to God's call? How were their responses similar or different? Make a chart of your findings. Ask, How do you think God felt when he heard each of their responses to his call?**

2. Read 1 Samuel 9:21. Say, **Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. What did Saul mean**

when he said that he was from the smallest tribe of Israel? Read Judges 20:46-48 for a clue.

3. Ask, **Why do you think God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel? What kind of king do you think Saul will be?**

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 9:1—10:1, 17-24 to them.

1 How does the Bible describe Saul? (9:2)

1. He was a head taller than the other Israelites.
2. He was handsome.
3. Both answers are correct.

2 Whom did Saul take with him to find his father's donkeys? (9:3)

1. David
2. Saul's brother
3. A servant

3 Whom did Saul's servant suggest they go to see in the district of Zuph? (9:6)

1. A man of God
2. Saul's family
3. Both answers are correct.

4 What did Saul's servant plan to give the man of God? (9:8)

1. A half of a shekel of gold
2. A quarter of a shekel of silver
3. One shekel of bronze

5 What did the Lord tell Samuel about Saul? (9:15-16)

1. "Do not anoint this man as leader of Israel."
2. "Anoint him leader over my people Israel."
3. "This man will not follow my ways."

6 What did Samuel pour on Saul's head? (10:1)

1. A flask of oil
2. A drop of water
3. A jug of water

7 How did Samuel tell the people to present themselves before the Lord? (10:19)

1. By families
2. By groups of 30
3. By their tribes and their clans

8 Whom did God choose to be the first king of Israel? (10:21)

1. Solomon
2. Saul
3. David

9 Where did Saul hide when God chose him as the king? (10:22)

1. In Samuel's house
2. At his father's house
3. Among the baggage

10 What did the people say when Samuel announced Saul as the new king? (10:24)

1. "We want David as king!"
2. "Long live the king!"
3. "We don't want him as king!"

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 9:1–10:1, 17-24 to them.

1 How did Saul's servant describe the man of God? (9:6)

1. He is quiet, and he prays often.
2. He does not tell the truth, but people trust him.
3. **He is highly respected, and everything he says comes true.**
4. He is a tall man, and he always gives advice.

2 What did Saul and his servant ask some girls who went out to draw water? (9:11)

1. **"Is the seer here?"**
2. "Who is the seer?"
3. "Where is the seer?"
4. "When will the seer be back?"

3 At the banquet, why did the people wait to eat until the prophet came? (9:13)

1. It was rude to eat before the prophet came.
2. He brought all the food.
3. **He must first bless the sacrifice.**
4. All of the above.

4 When did the Lord speak to Samuel about Saul? (9:15)

1. Two hours before Saul came
2. In the morning, when Saul came
3. Two weeks before Saul came
4. **The day before Saul came**

5 From whose hand was Saul going to deliver the Israelites? (9:16)

1. **The Philistines**
2. The Moabites
3. The Egyptians
4. The Canaanites

6 What did the Lord say to Samuel when Samuel saw Saul? (9:17)

1. "This is the man I want you to anoint as priest."
2. "Do not let this wicked man into the city."
3. **"This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people."**
4. "Tell this man where his donkeys are."

7 At the banquet, where did Samuel seat Saul and his servant? (9:22)

1. In the middle of the table
2. On the thrones
3. **At the head of those who were invited**
4. Near the kitchen

8 When the people assembled at Mizpah, what did Samuel tell them the Lord said? (10:17-18)

1. "I want you to follow me now."
2. "I helped you in your time of need."
3. **"I brought Israel up out of Egypt."**
4. All of the above

9 What did Samuel tell the people they did to God, who saved them? (10:19)

1. They followed him.
2. **They rejected him.**
3. They obeyed his rules.
4. All of the above

10 Finish this verse: "For God is the King of all the earth; . . ." (Psalm 47:7)

1. **". . . sing to him a psalm of praise."**
2. ". . . shout your praises all day long."
3. ". . . give him your song of praise."
4. ". . . worship his name; proclaim his glory."

seven

1 Samuel 12:1 — 13:15

Memory Verse

“But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you”

(1 Samuel 12:24).

Biblical Truth

God is faithful to his people and requires obedience.

Focus

In this study, children will learn that God is faithful to his people. In return, God requires us to be faithful to him and to obey him.

Teaching Tip

Tell the children that Saul revealed his true characteristics through his actions. In 1 Samuel 10:8, Samuel told Saul to wait for him for seven days. Yet, Saul did not wait long enough for Samuel. Saul was impatient, and he was frightened. He thought he could strengthen Israel's chances in battle by offering a sacrifice to the Lord, even though it was in violation of God's command. Saul disobeyed Samuel's instructions, and therefore disobeyed God.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 12:1—13:15. In Chapter 11, Saul led the Israelites into battle, and they defeated the Ammonites. Some of the Israelites doubted that Saul was the right king for the Israelites. This victory convinced them that Saul was God's choice for their king.

In this study, Samuel spoke to the Israelites. He asked them if he had mistreated them. The Israelites affirmed that Samuel did not cheat them or misuse his power.

Samuel reminded the Israelites of all that the Lord did for them. When they were faithful to God, he provided for them. God rescued the Israelites from their stressful situations, and the Israelites learned that they could always trust God.

Samuel reminded the Israelites that God agreed to give them a king. The Israelites understood that their human king was under the authority of God, the true King. If the Israelites obeyed God, they would prosper. If the Israelites did not obey God, he would punish them. The people promised to remain faithful to God.

In the next battle, Saul failed a test of trust and of obedience. He wanted someone to perform the ritual of a burnt offering. However, only priests were allowed to offer these sacrifices. Saul did not wait long enough for Samuel to arrive. Instead, Saul performed the ritual. Samuel told Saul that the king failed to keep God's command. Because Saul failed this test, the Lord would establish a different lineage of kings for the Israelites.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God wants us to obey him.
- ✦ God is always faithful.

PEOPLE

Moses was a servant of God who led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Aaron was the brother of Moses.

Jacob was a son of Isaac. He took his family to live in Egypt after his son, Joseph, became a leader in that country.

The **King of Moab** was the king of a nation of people who lived east of the Dead Sea.

Ammonites were the enemies of Israel.

Jonathan was the son of Saul.

PLACES

Hazor was a city north of the Sea of Galilee. In the Book of Judges, the Israelites were abused for 20 years by the armies of Hazor.

Micmash was a city seven miles northeast of Jerusalem.

Geba was a city south of Micmash.

Gilgal was the location where Samuel offered sacrifices after Saul was anointed as king.

ACTIVITY

The teacher will play the role of "Samuel." Stand and face the students. Say, **I am Samuel. I will give to you instructions to do various actions, and I want you to imitate my actions. Listen for these words: "Samuel says." Imitate only the actions that follow the words "Samuel says." If I say, "Samuel says, 'Raise your hand,'" then imitate my action. If I say, "Raise your hand," do not imitate my action because I did not say, "Samuel says." Practice a few times to make sure that the children understand how to play the game.**

Use various commands and demonstrate the action. Sometimes, begin with "Samuel says."

These commands can include the following actions: pat your head, smile, wave hello, flex your muscles, touch your toes, turn around, and sit down. You may add your own commands to make this game longer.

Say, **In this activity, you listened to the command. Then you decided whether to imitate my action. The game forced you to make quick decisions. In today's study, Saul faced a choice, but his choice was more important than the ones in our game.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 12:1—13:15, before you tell it to the children.

The Israelites gathered at Gilgal to reaffirm Saul as their king. Samuel spoke to the people. Samuel told the Israelites that he listened to all of their requests. They had a king to rule over them. However, Samuel was now old and gray. Since his youth, he served as the nation's leader. He asked the Israelites to testify about his faithfulness. He asked, "Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe? If I did any of these, I will make restitution."

The Israelites told him that he did not cheat or oppress them. Samuel did not steal anything from anyone.

Then, Samuel reminded the people of the righteous acts performed by the Lord for them and for their fathers. Here are some of the ways God helped the people of Israel.

After Jacob entered Egypt, the people cried to the Lord for help. The Lord sent Moses and Aaron to lead the people out of Egypt.

However, the Israelites forgot the Lord, so he permitted the army of Hazor, and the Philistines, and the king of Moab to harass them. When the Israelites cried out to the Lord and asked for his help, the Lord delivered them.

Then, the Israelites asked for a king to rule over them, even though the Lord was their king. The Lord permitted them to have a king.

Samuel warned the people that God wanted them to fear him, to serve him, and to obey him. God required the

Israelites to obey his commands. If the king and the people will obey the Lord, their life will be good. But if they do not obey the Lord, he will demonstrate his displeasure against them as he did against their fathers.

It was the time of wheat harvest. Samuel asked the Lord to send the thunder and the rain as a sign to the people of the evil they did when they asked for a king.

The Lord sent the thunder and the rain. The people told Samuel to pray to the Lord for them. Samuel told the people to fear the Lord and to serve him faithfully.

Saul was thirty years old when he became the king. He was the king of Israel for forty-two years. Saul chose three thousand men from Israel to serve in the Israelite army. Two thousand stayed with Saul, and a thousand went with Jonathan. Jonathan and his army attacked the Philistines at Geba. The Philistines then gathered to fight the Israelites. The Philistines brought 3,000 chariots and "soldiers as numerous as the sand" to fight Israel. The Philistines camped at Micmash to wait for the Israelites.

When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was in danger, they hid. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all of the troops with him were afraid. Samuel told Saul to wait for him to arrive and perform the ceremony of the burnt offering. Saul waited for seven days. Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. So Saul ignored God's laws, and he sacrificed the burnt offering. As he finished the burnt offering, Samuel arrived.

"What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied that he felt compelled to perform the burnt offering.

Samuel told Saul that he acted foolishly. Saul's kingdom was doomed, because he did not keep the Lord's command. The Lord

began to look for a different man to be king, one in close fellowship with him.

Then Samuel left Gilgal. Saul counted, and there were six hundred men who remained with him.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Why did Samuel take time to remind the Israelites of what God did for them? What are some ways for you to remember what God did for you? Make a list of the ways God helped the children in your group.
2. Samuel asked the Lord to send the thunder and the rain, and he did it. It was the dry season. What did the thunder and the rain reveal to the Israelites?
3. Read I Samuel 10:8 and then 13:8-14. What did Saul do wrong? What was a better thing to do? If you were Saul, what would you do?
4. How does the memory verse, I Samuel 12:24, relate to this story?

Say, If people are faithful, you can trust them to keep their promises. Samuel reminded the Israelites of God's faithfulness to them. What are some ways that God was faithful to the Israelites?

What are some ways that God helped you, your family, and your friends? God is faithful to you, and he wants you to be faithful to him. We are faithful to God when we obey him. What is one way you can be faithful to God each day? Each day you have choices to make. Choose to be faithful to God and to obey him!

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Begin to make a timeline of Samuel's life. Include the important events of Samuel's life from chapters 1 through 13 of 1 Samuel. **How do the events of Samuel's life show his devotion to God? What did you learn about Samuel as a judge and a prophet?**

2. Read 1 Samuel 10:8 and 13:7-13. **What were Samuel's instructions to Saul?** Think of situations where it is very important that a person follow instructions, even if the person does not fully understand them. **What are some instructions God gives us?**

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 12:1—13:15 to them.

1 Whom did Samuel set over Israel to lead them? (12:1)

1. A priest
2. A judge
3. A king

2 Who said, “Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated?” (12:1, 3)

1. Samuel
2. David
3. Saul

3 Who appointed Moses and Aaron as leaders? (12:6)

1. Samuel
2. The Lord
3. Joseph

4 Of what did Samuel remind the Israelites? (12:7)

1. The righteous acts of the Lord
2. Their families back in Egypt
3. What Moses and Aaron taught

5 How old was Saul when he became king? (13:1)

1. 30
2. 20
3. 40

6 When did the men of Israel hide from the Philistines? (13:6)

1. When they “saw that their situation was critical”
2. When “their army was hard pressed”
3. Both answers are correct.

7 How did some of the men from Saul’s army react when Samuel did not come to Gilgal on time? (13:8)

1. They started to fight the Philistines.
2. They began to scatter.
3. They stayed with Saul.

8 What happened just as Saul finished the burnt offering? (13:10)

1. The Philistines attacked him.
2. Samuel arrived.
3. Darkness filled the camp.

9 Why did Samuel say that Saul’s kingdom would not endure? (13:14)

1. He lost too many battles.
2. He failed to keep the Lord’s commands.
3. He was old.

10 Finish this verse: “But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; . . .” (1 Samuel 12:24)

1. “. . . remember him always.”
2. “. . . worship his name from morning to night.”
3. “. . . consider what great things he has done for you.”

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 12:1—13:15 to them.

1 When did Samuel begin to lead Israel? (12:2)

1. When his sons were born
- 2. In his youth**
3. When he became an adult
4. When he turned 30

2 What did the people say to Samuel when he asked if he cheated them, oppressed them, or accepted a bribe? (12:3-4)

- 1. "You have not cheated or oppressed us."**
2. "You have taken our food without asking."
3. "You should not be forgiven for the sins of Eli's sons."
4. All of the above

3 During his farewell speech, what did Samuel tell the Israelites to do? (12:14)

1. Fear the Lord.
2. Serve and obey the Lord.
3. Follow the Lord.
- 4. All of the above**

4 Why did Samuel ask the Lord to send the thunder and the rain? (12:17)

1. To water the crops
2. To scare the Canaanites
- 3. To show the Israelites how evil it was for them to ask for a king**
4. To flood the Philistine camp

5 Who said, "Do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart"? (12:20)

1. David
- 2. Samuel**
3. Saul
4. Eli

6 What did the Philistines have when they fought the Israelites at Geba? (13:5)

1. 3,000 chariots
2. 6,000 charioteers
3. Soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore
- 4. All of the above**

7 Where did the men of Israel hide from the Philistines? (13:6)

1. In caves and thickets
2. Among the rocks
3. In pits and cisterns
- 4. All of the above**

8 How long did Saul wait for Samuel before Saul offered the sacrifice? (13:8)

1. Three weeks
- 2. Seven days**
3. One month
4. Two days

9 What did Samuel say to Saul because Saul offered the sacrifice? (13:13-14)

1. "You acted foolishly."
2. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you."
3. "Your kingdom will not endure."
- 4. All of the above**

10 How did Samuel describe the man the Lord wanted to lead Israel? (13:14)

1. A man who is tall and handsome
2. A man who is strong
- 3. A man after God's own heart**
4. A man who is confident

eight

1 Samuel 14:1-23

Memory Verse

“Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few”
(1 Samuel 14:6).

Biblical Truth

God has the ability to perform miracles.

Focus

In this study, children will learn that God wants us to trust him in all circumstances. God also has the ability to perform miracles.

Teaching Tip

Remind the children of Saul’s impatience in 1 Samuel 13:1-14. Help them to understand that Saul’s attitude toward God was wrong. Saul’s poor relationship with God caused him to make many mistakes. Help the children to realize that when they have a good relationship with God, they make better decisions.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23. The battle camp of the Israelites was near Gibeah. Ahijah, a member of Eli’s family, served as Saul’s priest. God rejected Eli’s family as priests. So, Saul began to rely on a rejected priest rather than on Samuel. Saul’s decision to rely on Ahijah for advice showed the decline of Saul’s relationship with God.

Saul and his son, Jonathan, were in the camp. While Saul rested, Jonathan and his armour-bearer secretly left the camp to fight the Philistines.

Jonathan was faithful to God. Jonathan believed that the Lord was powerful, and he trusted him to bring the victory. Jonathan waited for a sign from God. When he received the sign, he and his armour-bearer attacked. They defeated twenty soldiers in a 2,000 square meter area. God caused the Philistines to panic, and the Philistines began to fight each other. God brought the Israelites a victory because of Jonathan’s trust and faithfulness to God.

GOD’S CHARACTERISTICS

- God helps those who trust him.
- God has the ability to perform miracles.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

A **miracle** is an amazing event that shows God’s power.

PEOPLE

An **armour-bearer** is a servant who carried extra weapons for his master.

Ahijah was one of Eli’s relatives. He was a priest during Saul’s time as king.

PLACES

Gibeah was the capital of Saul’s kingdom. It is also the birthplace of Saul.

THINGS

To withdraw your hand means to stop seeking the will of the Lord. Saul wanted Ahijah to find the Lord's will for the battle. When this took too long, Saul told the priest to withdraw his hand. Saul did not want to wait for the Lord's answer.

ACTIVITY

For this activity, you will need a piece of string or rope between 50 cm and 100 cm in length. If possible, provide a piece of string for each child.

Before the children arrive, practice the solution for the string puzzle. You will find the solution at the end of the activity.

To begin, give one child a piece of string or rope. Ask the child to tie a knot in the string. To make the knot, the child will make a loop with the string, take one end over and through the loop, and pull the two ends to make a loose knot.

Then say, **Now, I will change the instructions. It will be more difficult.** Have the child attempt to tie a knot while he or she holds both ends of the string at the same time. The child should not release either of the ends. After a short time, let another child try to tie a knot while he or she holds both ends. If there is enough string, permit all the children to try at the same time. If a child successfully ties the knot, have that child wait for the other children.

After a few minutes, demonstrate the solution for the string puzzle. First, cross your arms across your chest, with one hand going up through the second arm, and the second hand going down through the first arm. Hold one end of the string in each hand. (Someone may assist you to grasp the end of the string with your arms crossed.) Then, pull your arms apart while you hold the string. When you uncross your arms, you will tie a knot in the string.

Say, **Many times we experience difficult situations, and we do not know how to**

solve them. But God is able to perform miracles when the circumstances seem impossible to us. In this study, you will learn about a miracle that God performed when someone trusted him.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 14:1-23, before you tell it to the children.

Jonathan, the son of Saul, decided to go to the outpost of the Philistines. However, Jonathan did not tell his father. Saul set up his battle camp under a pomegranate tree near Gibeah. He had 600 men with him. It seemed hopeless for an army of 600 men to fight against the numerous Philistines and win.

The Philistine outpost was across a pass. On each side of the pass was a cliff. Jonathan intended to cross the pass to reach the Philistines on the other side.

Jonathan spoke to his armour-bearer. "Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

The armour-bearer agreed to go with Jonathan. Jonathan said, "We will cross over toward the men, and we will let them see us. If they say, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up the cliff, because that will be our sign that the LORD gave them to us."

Jonathan's plan defied all military logic. Usually, if two soldiers want to attack a large army, it is wise to hide until the right moment. Then, the soldiers strike with a surprise attack. However, Jonathan suggested that they step out in plain sight. This plan required God's help for it to be a success.

Both Jonathan and his armour-bearer revealed themselves to the Philistine soldiers.

The Philistines said, “Look! The Hebrews crawled out of the holes where they hid.”

The Philistines at the outpost shouted to them, “Come up to us, and we will teach you a lesson.” Immediately, Jonathan recognized that this response was a sign from God. Jonathan believed that God could bring them a victory in the battle.

Jonathan said to his armour-bearer, “Climb up after me. The LORD will help us defeat the Philistines.” Jonathan and his armour-bearer climbed up the cliff. They killed twenty men within 2,000 square meters.

Then, God sent a panic among the Philistine’s camp. Saul’s lookouts at Gibeah saw the Philistine army as they retreated in all directions. Saul said, “Gather our army, and determine who left us.” When they recorded the attendance, Saul realized that Jonathan and his armour-bearer were not there. This roll call delayed Saul’s entrance with his troops into the battle.

Saul asked Ahijah to bring the ark of God. Ahijah was a priest from the family of Eli. God denounced all the priests from Eli’s family. Saul asked the priest to perform a spiritual ceremony to find what God wanted the army to do.

While Saul talked to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased. So, Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand.” Saul asked the priest to stop in the middle of the ceremony. Saul was again impatient with God.

Then, Saul and all of his men assembled, and they went to the battle. The Israelites saw that the Philistines were confused. The Philistines struck each other with their swords. The other people who were with the Philistines and the Israelites who hid in Ephraim joined the battle against the

Philistines. By the end of the battle, Saul’s army increased greatly.

So, the Lord rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved beyond Beth Aven.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Jonathan’s armour-bearer went with Jonathan to fight the Philistines. How do you think the armour-bearer felt about their situation?
2. Why did Jonathan not tell his father he was going up to fight the Philistines?
3. Read I Samuel 2:30-36. The Lord rejected all of the priests related to Eli. However, Saul chose Ahijah, a relative of Eli, to be his priest. Do you think this was a wise choice? Why, or why not?
4. Why did Jonathan wait for a sign from the Lord before fighting the Philistines? What does this show about Jonathan’s faith in God?
5. Read I Samuel 14:16-19. What did Saul do that was wrong? What other choices did Saul have?

Say, When we learn about God’s miracles, we understand more about him. Jonathan and his armour-bearer defeated twenty Philistines. God caused the other Philistines in the camp to panic. These events were miracles. What do these miracles tell you about God? Do you think miracles happen only in the biblical stories? Do miracles happen today? Do you know anyone who has experienced a miracle? Have you experienced a miracle in your life? Continue to trust God, and believe that he still does miracles!

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study’s memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

NOTES:

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Say, **Jonathan had great faith. Jonathan and his armour-bearer decided to fight without the other soldiers. They fought when they were outnumbered by ten to one.** Ask, **What are other obstacles Jonathan and the armour-bearer overcame? How did they win despite these obstacles? What kinds of obstacles have you, or someone you know, overcome? How have you observed God's help in these struggles?**

2. Help the children find other examples in the Bible of a person or group who overcame great obstacles with God's help. Read Exodus 13:17—14:29, Judges 7, or 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. Ask, **What are the names of other people who overcame great obstacles? What common characteristics do these people have?**

3. Tell the children, **We have the ability to do great things when God works through us.** Ask the children, **What heroic action have you witnessed? What is the most heroic thing that you have done?** Let the children choose one of these ways to share their stories and memories: discuss them orally, write their stories on paper, or draw a picture of the event.

4. Direct your class to act out the biblical passage. The roles include the following: King Saul, Jonathan, his armour-bearer, and the Philistines at the outpost. Use 1 Samuel 14:1-23 for dialogue ideas. Encourage the children to improvise some dialogue. Challenge the children to create the props from available resources.

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 14:1-23 to them.

1 Who was aware that Jonathan left the group of men sitting under a pomegranate tree? (14:3)

1. Doeg
2. Ahijah
3. No one

2 Who said, “Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few”? (14:6)

1. Jonathan’s armour-bearer
2. Jonathan
3. Saul

3 What action will Jonathan take if the Philistines say, “Wait there until we come to you”? (14:9)

1. They would run back to Saul.
2. They would stay where they were.
3. They would climb up to them.

4 What did the Philistines say when they saw Jonathan and his armour-bearer? (14:11-12)

1. “Wait there. We will come to you.”
2. “Come up to us, and we will teach you a lesson.”
3. Both answers are correct.

5 About how many Philistines did Jonathan and his armour-bearer kill? (14:14)

1. 50
2. 15
3. 20

6 Who sent the panic to the Philistine camp? (14:15)

1. God
2. David
3. Saul

7 What did Saul tell his men to do when he saw the Philistine army was in a panic? (14:17)

1. “Go after the Philistines.”
2. “Muster the forces and see who has left us.”
3. Both answers are correct.

8 What did Saul ask Ahijah, the priest, when the confusion continued in the Philistine camp? (14:19)

1. “Withdraw your hand.”
2. “Help the men fight.”
3. “Hide the ark from the Philistines.”

9 How did the Lord help Israel on the day the Philistine army panicked? (14:23)

1. He did not help them.
2. He rescued them.
3. He told the Israelites where to move.

10 Finish this verse: “Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether . . .” (1 Samuel 14:6)

1. “. . . by many or by few.”
2. “. . . by storm or by rain.”
3. “. . . or not they want to be saved.”

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 14:1-23 to them.

1 What decision did Jonathan make while Saul was near Gibeah under a pomegranate tree? (14:1-2)

1. To go to the Philistine outpost
2. To go home
3. To go to Gilgal
4. To make a covenant with David

2 What did Jonathan tell his armour-bearer that the Lord might do for them? (14:6)

1. Move the cliffs
2. Send the Philistines to them
3. Act on their behalf
4. All of the above

3 What did Jonathan's armour-bearer say to him about the plan to go to the Philistine outpost? (14:7)

1. "I don't want to follow you."
2. "Let's go back to Saul."
3. "I want to kill all the Philistines."
4. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

4 What did Jonathan say to his armour-bearer when the Philistines told them to come? (14:11-12)

1. "Climb up after me; the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel."
2. "I will go there and fight. You wait here."
3. "Get Saul and his army to help us."
4. "We will wait for the Philistines to come to us."

5 What happened to the Philistine army after Jonathan and his armour-bearer killed twenty of them? (14:14-15)

1. The Philistine army killed Jonathan.
2. Panic struck the whole army.
3. The Philistine army ran away.
4. All of the above

6 What did Saul's lookouts see when panic struck the Philistine army? (14:16)

1. The army came toward them.
2. The army melted away in all directions.
3. Jonathan and the armour-bearer ran away.
4. All of the above

7 Who was missing from the Israelite army when Saul mustered the forces? (14:17)

1. Jonathan and his armour-bearer
2. Saul and David
3. Saul and Ahijah
4. Jonathan and Ahijah

8 What did Saul ask Ahijah to bring to him? (14:18)

1. A crystal ball
2. The ark of God
3. A map
4. His sword

9 What did the Philistines do when they were in total confusion? (14:20)

1. They ran away from their camp.
2. They started fighting the Israelites.
3. They killed Jonathan and Saul.
4. They struck each other with their swords.

10 What did the Israelites who hid in Ephraim do when they heard the Philistines ran from the battle? (14:22)

1. They fought the Israelites.
2. They hid deeper in the hills.
3. They joined the battle against the Philistines.
4. They fled with the Philistines.

STUDY **nine**

1 Samuel 15:1-35

Memory Verse

“But Samuel replied: ‘Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams’”
(1 Samuel 15:22).

Biblical Truth

God requires us to account for our actions.

Focus

God requires people to obey him. He punishes those who continually disobey him.

Teaching Tip

Provide some time for the children to explain their feelings about Saul. It is possible that the children think that God harshly punished Saul for a few sins. However, God punished Saul because his attitude did not show reverence and honour for God.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35. Samuel gave Saul a message from the Lord. God told Saul to destroy the Amalekites, and all of their possessions. God punished them because they opposed God, and they threatened to destroy the Israelites. They were also a corrupt nation.

The Kenites were some people who lived among the Amalekites. The Kenites treated the Israelites well. Saul warned the Kenites to move away from the Amalekites.

When Saul attacked the Amalekites, he did not obey God’s command. Saul did not destroy all the possessions of the Amalekites, and he did not kill every living thing. Instead of relying on God’s help, Saul made his own decision about how to deal with the Amalekites.

Because of Saul’s disobedience, God rejected Saul as the king of the Israelites. Both Samuel and the Lord were sad because of Saul’s actions. God regretted that he chose Saul to be the king of the Israelites.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God requires people to obey him.
- God punishes those who continue to disobey him.

PEOPLE

The **Amalekites** were descendants of Esau’s grandson, Amalek. The Amalekites attacked the Israelites while they travelled in the desert after they left Egypt.

The **Kenites** were a tribe of people who showed kindness to the Israelites when they left Egypt.

Agag was the king of the Amalekites.

PLACES

Telaim was the place Saul gathered his men before he attacked the Amalekites.

Gilgal was a city west of the Jordan River and north of the Dead Sea. Samuel killed King Agag there.

THINGS

The **plunder** is a group of items that someone steals or takes by force.

To **waylay** is to attack someone by surprise.

ACTIVITY

For this activity, you will need the following:

- A pair of shoes with laces

Say, **Today, we will learn about how important it is to follow carefully the directions. I need your help to learn how to tie my shoes.** Ask for a volunteer to instruct you on how to tie the shoelaces. Follow the directions literally, and do not allow the child to skip a step.

Make certain the child includes implied steps in their instructions. For example, the child may forget to include the following steps: Bend down to reach the shoes. Grasp one shoelace with one hand. Stand upright again. When the instructions are unclear, attempt to follow the directions in an alternative way. For example, if the child asks you to grasp a shoelace with your hand, grasp the shoelace in the opposite direction of that hand, so that you cross your arms. Allow the child to revise and to add to his or her instructions.

This activity will be fun and challenging. Allow other children to assist the child who gives the instructions.

When you finish tying the shoes, say, **I followed completely your directions. Now, we will study about a time when Saul did not follow completely God's directions.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 15:1-35, before you tell it to the children.

Samuel delivered a message from the Lord to Saul. The Lord wanted Saul to attack the Amalekites and destroy all the people, the cattle, the sheep, the donkeys, and the camels. Many years ago, the

Amalekites attacked the Israelites in the desert on their way from Egypt. God promised at that time to destroy the Amalekites for their crimes. Also, God wanted to prevent them from corrupting the Israelites with their idols.

Saul led a successful ambush in a ravine in Amalek. Saul and his army spared Agag, the king of the Amalekites, and they spared the best sheep and the best cattle. They destroyed everything else. When Saul chose to spare Agag and the best livestock, he disobeyed God's command.

Then, the Lord said to Samuel, "I am sad that I made Saul the king, because he turned away from me, and he did not carry out my instructions."

The next morning, Samuel planned to meet with Saul. However, Samuel learned that Saul went to Carmel. There, Saul set up a monument in his own honour. When Samuel reached Saul at Gilgal, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I followed the LORD instructions."

Samuel said, "If you followed the LORD's instructions, why do I hear the noise of the sheep and the cattle?"

Saul answered, "The soldiers brought some animals from the Amalekites. They spared the best of the sheep and the cattle to sacrifice to the LORD. We totally destroyed the rest."

Saul blamed his soldiers. He said that they kept some of the sheep and the cattle. He tried to take credit for the destruction of everything else.

Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent you on a mission. He told you to destroy completely those wicked people, the Amalekites. Why did you disobey the LORD?"

Saul protested and said, "But I obeyed the LORD. I destroyed completely the Amalekites, and I brought back Agag, their

king. We planned to sacrifice the sheep and the cattle to the LORD.”

Samuel said to Saul, “To obey is better than to sacrifice. Because you rejected the word of the LORD, he rejected you as the king.”

Saul said to Samuel, “I was afraid of the people, so I yielded to them.” Saul feared his people, and he desired their approval. Saul cared more about the opinion of the people than about God’s commands.

Then Saul said, “I beg you to forgive my sin, and to come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

Samuel told Saul that he would not go back with him. As Samuel turned to leave, Saul seized the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, “Today, the LORD tore the kingdom of Israel from you.”

Saul asked Samuel again to return with him, so he could worship God. Finally, Samuel agreed and returned with Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel asked to see Agag. Samuel followed God’s command, and Samuel did what Saul did not do. Samuel killed Agag.

Samuel never went to see Saul again, even though Samuel mourned for Saul. The Lord was sad that he made Saul the king over Israel. God did not make a mistake when he chose Saul to be the king. God allowed Saul to choose to follow him. God was sad that Saul chose to disobey him.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. The Amalekites attacked the Israelites when they left Egypt. How do you think the Amalekites felt when God punished them for something their ancestors did?**
- 2. Do you think that Saul did the right thing when he spared the Kenites? Why, or why not?**

- 3. In 1 Samuel 15:12, Saul set up a monument in his honour. What does this say about Saul’s attitude and character? What does this say about his attitude toward God?**

- 4. What excuses did Saul give when he spared King Agag and some of the best livestock? What might you do in the same situation?**

- 5. How did God feel about his choice to make Saul the king? Why did he feel this way? Do you think God was right to be sad?**

Say, Today, we learned that Saul disobeyed God. Saul decided that he could make his own decision about how to fight the battle with the Amalekites. Saul did not complete the mission in the way God commanded. God punished Saul, because Saul disobeyed him. God knows what is best for us. We should trust God and obey him.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study’s memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children’s biblical study.

- 1. From the time Saul became king until the time God rejected him as king, how often did Saul disobey God? In what ways did Saul disobey God?** Read the stories of King Saul in chapters 9-15 of 1 Samuel to find the answer.

- 2. The Lord told Samuel, “I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid the Israelites as they came up from Egypt” (1 Samuel 15:2). Read about the ongoing war with the Amalekites in Exodus 17:8-16, Numbers 14:41-45, Deuteronomy 25:17-19, Judges 3:12-14; 6:3-5; 7:12; and 10:11-12.**

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 15:1-35 to them.

1 How did the Kenites help the Israelites when they came from Egypt? (15:6)

1. They helped the Israelites fight the Canaanites.
2. They gave jobs to the Israelites.
3. **They showed kindness to the Israelites.**

2 What did Saul do to King Agag? (15:8)

1. He killed him.
2. **He took him alive.**
3. He sent him to be a slave in Canaan.

3 After the Israelites fought the Amalekites, how did God feel about Saul? (15:11)

1. **He grieved that he made Saul the king.**
2. He was happy that he made Saul the king.
3. He worried that someone injured Saul.

4 What did Saul say to Samuel when Samuel arrived in Gilgal? (15:13)

1. King Agag escaped.
2. Tell me what to do.
3. **I carried out the Lord's instructions.**

5 Why did Saul say that the army brought back the best sheep and the cattle from the Amalekites? (15:15)

1. They needed them for food.
2. They wanted to increase their herds.
3. **They wanted to sacrifice them to the Lord.**

6 What did Samuel say is better than sacrifice? (15:22)

1. To hear the Lord
2. To speak to the Lord
3. **To obey the Lord**

7 Why did the Lord reject Saul as the king? (15:23)

1. He rejected Samuel's help.
2. **He rejected the word of the Lord**
3. Both answers are correct.

8 What did Saul say to Samuel after Samuel told him God rejected him as the king? (15:24)

1. I sinned.
2. I violated the Lord's command.
3. **Both answers are correct.**

9 To whom did Samuel say God gave the kingdom instead of Saul? (15:28)

1. **One of Saul's neighbours**
2. Samuel
3. Saul's son

10 Who killed King Agag? (15:33)

1. Saul
2. **Samuel**
3. David

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 15:1-35 to them.

1 How did the Amalekites treat the Israelites when they came up from Egypt? (15:2)

1. They helped them.
2. **They waylaid them.**
3. They gave them food.
4. They gave them a place to live.

2 What did the Lord want Saul to do to the Amalekites? (15:3)

1. To attack them
2. To destroy totally everything they owned
3. To kill all the people, the cattle, the sheep, the camels, and the donkeys
4. **All of the above**

3 During the battle with the Amalekites, what did Saul and his army spare? (15:9)

1. Agag
2. The best of the cattle and the sheep
3. The fat lambs and fat calves
4. **All of the above**

4 Why did God feel grieved that he made Saul the king? (15:11)

1. **Saul turned away from God and did not follow His instructions.**
2. Saul killed too many people.
3. Saul built a palace for himself.
4. Saul stole money from the Temple.

5 What did Saul do in Carmel the morning after the battle with the Amalekites? (15:12)

1. **He set up a monument in his own honour.**
2. He fought the men in Carmel.
3. He worshiped the Lord.
4. He talked to his sons.

6 What message from the Lord did Samuel give to Saul? (15:16-19)

1. The Lord anointed you the king over Israel.
2. Why did you not obey the Lord?
3. Why did you do evil in the eyes of the Lord?
4. **All of the above**

7 How did Saul respond when Samuel asked, "Why did you not obey the LORD?" (15:19-20)

1. "But, I did obey the LORD."
2. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me."
3. "I completely destroyed the Amalekites, and I brought back Agag their king."
4. **All of the above**

8 What did Saul beg Samuel to do after the battle at Amalek? (15:25)

1. "Show me what to do. I want to be the king."
2. **"Forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."**
3. "Please help me say no to the people. They frighten me."
4. All of the above

9 What did Saul do to Samuel as Samuel turned to leave? (15:27)

1. **He tore the hem of Samuel's robe.**
2. He took Samuel as a prisoner.
3. He caused Samuel to fall.
4. He thanked Samuel for coming.

10 Finish this verse: "But Samuel replied: 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD?...' (1 Samuel 15:22). (15:33)

1. "...To obey is not as great as a sacrifice."
2. **"...To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."**
3. "...To disobey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is worse than the fat of rams."
4. **"...To disobey is evil in the eyes of the LORD."**

1 Samuel 16:1-23

Memory Verse

“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart”
(1 Samuel 16:7).

Biblical Truth

God knows our thoughts and feelings.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that a person’s appearance is not as important as a person’s attitude toward God.

Teaching Tip

As you lead the Bible study, tell the students that the evil spirit Saul received was the result of the absence of God’s presence. Because of Saul’s bad choices, God’s presence left him. What Saul felt was the awful effects of separation from God.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-23. God rejected Saul as king. God told Samuel not to mourn for Saul. God told Samuel that he wanted him to go to Bethlehem. God chose one of the sons of Jesse to be the next king. God wanted Samuel to go there and anoint the next king.

Samuel saw the sons of Jesse. Samuel thought Eliab was the son that God chose to be the next king. Samuel believed Eliab possessed the appearance and physical stature of a king. God does not look at a person’s appearance and physical stature. Instead, he looks at a person’s faithfulness to him. God told Samuel to anoint David. David had a good appearance, but David was also faithful to God.

Meanwhile, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul. Saul felt the horrible effects of the absence of God’s Spirit. Saul asked David to play music for him. When David was near Saul and played music for him, Saul felt better.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God knows that the most important characteristic of a leader is a right relationship with him.
- ✦ God knows our thoughts and attitudes, and he wants us to love and obey him.

PEOPLE

Jesse was the father of David. He was also the grandson of Ruth.

PLACES

Bethlehem was a town about five miles from Jerusalem. This was David’s hometown and the place where Samuel anointed him as the next king.

THINGS

A **heifer** is a young female cow.

To anoint is to put oil on someone’s head. It was an action of consecration or blessing for kings, priests, and prophets. This

action showed that God chose the person to do something special for him.

To be ruddy is to have a fresh, healthy red colour to one's skin.

A **horn of oil** is a horn of an animal that the priest filled with oil. The oil was probably olive oil.

ACTIVITY

You will need a blanket large enough to wrap around a person.

Before class, wrap a volunteer in a blanket. Choose a volunteer whom the children may not recognize immediately. Have the children guess who the person is. Then unwrap the volunteer and reveal who the person is.

Say, **With a blanket wrapped around him (or her), this person looked different. However, did the blanket change who the person was? Today, in our study, we will learn that a person's outer appearance does not always tell us about his or her inner attitudes and thoughts. Saul was tall and handsome, so the people thought he that he would be a great king. But Saul had problems inside of him. Many times, he chose not to trust God or to disobey him. Today, we will learn how God recognized the attitude of a true servant in someone who did not look like a king.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 16:1-23, before you tell it to the children.

The Lord told Samuel to fill a horn with oil and to go to Bethlehem to visit Jesse. The Lord chose one of Jesse's sons to be the next king. God wanted Samuel to anoint this young man.

Samuel was afraid to do this. He thought Saul might discover his plan and try to kill him. The Lord told Samuel to take a heifer with him to Jesse's house and sacrifice the

animal to the Lord. God told Samuel to invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice.

Samuel did everything that the Lord requested. When Samuel came to Bethlehem, he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel saw Eliab. Samuel thought that Eliab was the Lord's choice. The Lord told Samuel not to consider Eliab's appearance or his height. The Lord did not choose Eliab as the king. The Lord does not look at a person's outward appearance. Instead, he looks at the heart, the person's attitudes toward him and toward others.

Two more of Jesse's sons, Abinadab and Shammah, passed by Samuel. The Lord did not choose either of them. Seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these sons. Are these all of the sons you have?" Jesse told Samuel that there was one more son, the youngest. This son was a shepherd, and he was in the fields watching the flocks. Samuel asked Jesse to bring the son to him.

Jesse sent for his youngest son, David. David was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. The Lord told Samuel to anoint David. He was the chosen one. So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers. From that day onward, the Spirit of the Lord came upon David.

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. Saul's attendants suggested that he find someone to play the harp to help him feel better. Saul liked this suggestion, and he asked his attendants to find someone.

One of Saul's servants told him about a son of Jesse who played the harp. The servant described the son as a brave man, a

warrior, a well-spoken man, and a fine-looking man. And, the Lord was with this man.

Saul sent his messengers to Jesse. They told Jesse to send David to Saul. Saul liked David very much, and David became one of Saul's armour-bearers.

Whenever the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, David played his harp, and Saul felt better.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. Why was it important for Samuel to listen to God when he chose the next king? How were Samuel's standards for a king different from God's standards?**
- 2. Samuel looked at seven of Jesse's sons before he anointed David. How do you think the older sons felt about the selection of their younger brother?**
- 3. How do you think Saul felt when he knew that the Spirit of the Lord departed from him? What was the one thing that comforted him? Why?**
- 4. How does today's memory verse, I Samuel 16:1-23 relate to today's biblical story?**

Say, **God knows if we are faithful to him. God knows our thoughts, our feelings, our desires, our character, and the choices we make. Some people think that only the actions you see with your eyes are important. God teaches us that he knows if we are faithful to him. Have you chosen to be faithful to God?**

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. Use biblical reference books or the internet to research the meanings of these names: Samuel, Saul, and David. **Are the meanings of the names appropriate for the persons you studied in I Samuel?**

2. **Why is it surprising and ironic that Saul invited David to his palace in I Samuel 16? What did Saul not know about David at that time?**

3. Find and listen to some harp music. Can you understand how it calms someone with a troubled spirit?

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 to them.

1 What animal did the Lord want Samuel to take when he met with Jesse? (16:2)

1. A sheep
2. A heifer
3. A young goat

2 After Samuel asked Jesse to come to the sacrifice, who would show Samuel what to do? (16:3)

1. Jesse's sons
2. Jesse
3. The Lord

3 Which of Jesse's sons did Samuel see first? (16:6)

1. Eliab
2. Abinadab
3. Shammah

4 What did Jesse say when Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" (16:11)

1. "There is still the youngest."
2. "He is tending the sheep."
3. Both answers are correct.

5 With what did Samuel anoint David? (16:13)

1. The fat of rams
2. The jug of water
3. The horn of oil

6 Who came in power upon David after Samuel anointed him? (16:13)

1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. The spirit of the people
3. The spirits of 1,000 warriors

7 What tormented Saul? (16:14)

1. The complaints of the people
2. An evil spirit
3. Both answers are correct.

8 When David entered Saul's service, what did he become? (16:21)

1. One of his cooks
2. One of his armour-bearers
3. One of his shepherds

9 How did David help Saul when an evil spirit came on Saul? (16:23)

1. He played his harp.
2. He read to him.
3. He prepared a meal for him.

10 What happened to Saul when David played the harp? (16:23)

1. Saul felt better.
2. The evil spirit left Saul.
3. Both answers are correct.

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 16:1-23 to them.

1 Why was Samuel afraid to anoint one of Jesse's sons as king? (16:2)

1. He was afraid that the people might get mad at him.
2. He was afraid that Saul might hear about it and might kill him.
3. He was afraid that Jesse might get mad at him.
4. All of the above

2 What was Samuel's first thought when he saw Eliab? (16:6)

1. "This man will not be Israel's king."
2. "I hope the LORD tells me what to do."
3. "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."
4. All of the above

3 What did the Lord say when Samuel thought that Eliab should be the king? (16:6-7)

1. "Do not consider his appearance or his height."
2. "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at."
3. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
4. All of the above

4 How many sons of Jesse did Samuel reject as the new king? (16:10)

1. Three
2. Five
3. Seven
4. Eight

5 How does 1 Samuel describe David? (16:12)

1. Ruddy
2. He had a fine appearance.
3. He had handsome features.
4. All of the above

6 What did the Lord say when Jesse brought David to see Samuel? (16:12)

1. "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."
2. "This is not the one I chose."
3. "Choose one of Jesse's other sons."
4. "Tell David to honour me."

7 In whose presence did Samuel anoint David with a horn of oil? (16:13)

1. In the presence of Saul
2. In the presence of David's sons
3. In the presence of David's brothers
4. In the presence of all of Israel

8 Who departed from Saul? (16:14)

1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. Eli
3. David
4. Jonathan

9 How did Saul's servants describe David? (16:18)

1. "He knows how to play the harp."
2. "He is a brave man and a warrior."
3. "He speaks well, and he is a fine-looking man."
4. All of the above

10 Finish this verse: "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. . . ." (1 Samuel 16:7)

1. ". . . Man looks at meaningless things, but the LORD knows what is truly important."
2. ". . . Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
3. ". . . He sees promise where a man sees disaster."
4. ". . . He cannot see what a man sees."

Memory Verse BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Biblical Truth

God uses his faithful people to accomplish impossible tasks.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God is mighty. When we trust God and have faith in him, we can accomplish things that seem impossible.

Teaching Tip

Help the children to realize the enormity of David’s situation. David was small, and he was young. However, God used him for an amazing feat. David’s courage and his trust in God taught all the people that God is mighty.

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-51. The army of the Israelites and the army of the Philistines were on opposite hills. There was a valley between them. The armies did not want to surrender their position on the hills.

Goliath, a strong and a very tall Philistine, challenged the Israelite army. He asked the Israelites to send one Israelite soldier to fight him. The winner of this challenge would claim a victory for his entire army. Saul and the Israelites were afraid of Goliath, because they lacked God’s presence and his support.

David was not a trained soldier. David was young and worked as a shepherd, a messenger, and an armour-bearer. However, David was loyal, and he possessed faith in God. David also exercised great courage.

David convinced Saul to send him to fight Goliath, and David defeated him. David’s victory over Goliath confirmed that God’s presence was with David.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God wants us to put our trust in his strength.
- ✦ God helps those who trust him to accomplish impossible tasks.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

Faith is a trust in God that leads people to believe what God has said, to depend on him, and to obey him.

THINGS

A **javelin** is a weapon similar to a spear.

A **tunic** is a long piece of cloth folded in half with holes for the arms and the head.

A **sling** is two narrow strips of leather joined in the middle by a wider piece of leather. It was used to hurl stones.

ACTIVITY

You will need these items for this activity:

- + A sock
- + A small ball

Place the ball inside of the sock. Explain to the children that a sling is a weapon that you twirl around your head and then you hurl it at a target. Say, **Today we are going to use this sock to test your accuracy with a sling.**

Have the children line up at one end of your meeting space. Indicate a target at the other end of the space: a bucket, a place on the wall, a stick, or whatever item that you have available. Let the children take turns as they sling the sock at the target. Make sure every child gets at least one turn. For safety reasons, allow plenty of space as the child uses the sling.

Say, **This activity was fun. Imagine that your target was almost three meters tall! Today, we will learn that David fought a giant with a sling and a rock. David had faith that God would help him. God made it possible for David to accomplish something that seemed impossible!**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 17:1-51, before you tell it to the children.

The Philistines and the Israelites prepared for battle against each other. They set up their camps on opposite hills, with a valley between them. A champion named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was almost three meters tall. Goliath wore extensive armour. He carried a javelin, a spear, and a sword. Goliath shouted to the Israelites and told them to choose a man to fight him. Saul and the Israelites were terrified.

Three of Jesse's sons were soldiers in the Israelite army. For forty days, Goliath ap-

peared before the Israelite army every morning and every evening.

David, the youngest of Jesse's sons, tended his father's sheep at Bethlehem. Jesse told David to take roasted grain and ten loaves of bread to his brothers. David's father told him also to take ten cheeses to the commander. Jesse wanted reassurance that his sons were alive and well.

David left early in the morning. He reached the camp as the army went to its battle positions. David heard Goliath shout his usual challenge to the Israelites. All the Israelites ran in fear. David asked, "Who is this Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David was not afraid of Goliath. Some soldiers heard what David said. When the soldiers reported his words to Saul, the king sent for him.

David told Saul that he would fight Goliath. Saul told David that David was only a boy, and that he was not able to fight Goliath. Then, David told Saul how he fought a lion and a bear to save his sheep. David said to Saul, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul gave his tunic, his armour, his helmet, and his sword to David. David tried them, but he could not move. David told Saul that he could not wear them because he was not accustomed to them. So, David took his staff, five stones from the stream, and a sling.

Goliath came closer to David, and Goliath cursed him. Goliath was angry that David came to fight him. David said, "You come against me with your sword and your spear and your javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty."

David took a stone from his bag. He slung the stone, and it struck the Philistine on

the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. David killed the Philistine with a sling and a stone.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. What do you think the Israelites thought when David wanted to fight Goliath with a sling and five stones?** Dramatize the scene, and encourage the children to improvise the conversation.
- 2. Read 1 Samuel 17:47. What weapon did David use that Goliath did not have? How does it make you feel to know that you have this same tool to help you with your problems?**
- 3. How does today's memory verse, 1 Timothy 4:12, relate to today's Bible story?**

Say, **Goliath was very tall and strong. Goliath was a giant. David defeated Goliath with a sling and a stone. David relied on the strength of the Lord. You probably will never defeat a giant in a battle. But some problems in your life might appear to be very big. Have you experienced a problem that seemed very big? God wants you to trust him with every problem. God is strong and mighty. God will help you with the problems that you experience.**

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Complete the following activity to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. Make a poster that measures about 3 meters in length. Draw a line at the 2.75 meter mark.

Hang it on the wall, or place it on the floor. Then measure everyone's height on that poster to compare the children's height to Goliath's height.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 17:1-51 to them.

1 How tall was Goliath? (17:4)

1. Almost three meters tall
2. Almost four meters tall
3. Almost five meters tall

2 What did Goliath tell the Israelites to do? (17:8)

1. To go home
2. To choose a man to fight him
3. To prepare for battle

3 How did Saul and the Israelites feel after they heard Goliath's threats? (17:11)

1. Dismayed and terrified
2. Angry and offended
3. Amused and peaceful

4 What did Saul say to David about his willingness to fight Goliath? (17:33)

1. "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him."
2. "You are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."
3. Both answers are correct.

5 What was David's reply to Saul about fighting Goliath? (17:37)

1. "I'm strong. I'm not afraid to fight."
2. "I am scared, but someone has to fight."
3. "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

6 What did David take into battle against Goliath? (17:40)

1. A sling, five stones, and a staff
2. A bow and arrow
3. A sword and a shield

7 Who said, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" (17:43)

1. David
2. Goliath
3. Saul

8 What did David say to Goliath before he slung the stone? (17:45-47)

1. "I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty."
2. "The battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
3. Both answers are correct.

9 Where did the stone hit Goliath? (17:49)

1. His chest
2. His leg
3. His forehead

10 What did the Philistines do when they saw that Goliath was dead? (17:51)

1. They charged the Israelites.
2. They turned, and they ran.
3. They cried out to their gods.

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 17:1-51 to them.

1 Who lined up for battle to fight the Philistines? (17:2)

1. The Amalekites
2. Samuel and the priests
3. Saul and the Israelites
4. The Amorites and priests

2 What did Goliath say about the man whom Israel should choose to fight him? (17:8-9)

1. "I will kill him, and then we will feast in your Tabernacle."
2. **"If he is able to fight and to kill me, we will become your subjects."**
3. "I am afraid of the one whom you have chosen."
4. All of the above

3 What did the Israelites say that the king would give to the man who killed Goliath? (17:25)

1. Great wealth
2. The king's daughter in marriage
3. Freedom from taxes for his father's family
4. **All of the above**

4 What did Eliab say when he saw that David spoke to the Israelite men? (17:28)

1. "Why have you come down here?"
2. "I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is."
3. "You came down only to watch the battle."
4. **All of the above**

5 What is the first thing that David said to Saul about Goliath? (17:32)

1. "Why haven't you already killed this Goliath?"
2. **"Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."**
3. "Your armies bring shame on the LORD."
4. "Goliath is a mean enemy. Let us pray to the LORD."

6 What did David say to Goliath after Goliath threatened him? (17:44-45)

1. "I am a mighty warrior."
2. "This day shall be your last."
3. **"I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty."**
4. "You come against me with threats, but I am not scared."

7 What did David say to Goliath before he slung the stone at him? (17:46-49)

1. "This day the LORD will hand you over to me."
2. "It is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves."
3. "For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
4. **All of the above**

8 What happened when David slung the stone at Goliath? (17:49-50)

1. Goliath became angry, and he ran toward David.
2. **The stone hit Goliath's forehead, and Goliath died.**
3. The stone hit Goliath's chest, and Goliath screamed.
4. The stone hit Goliath's eye, and Goliath could not see.

9 Why did the Philistines turn and run when Goliath fell to the ground? (17:49-51)

1. They saw David coming toward them.
2. They felt bad for mistreating the Israelites.
3. They went to pray to their god.
4. **They saw that their hero was dead.**

10 Finish this verse: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set . . ." (1 Timothy 4:12)

1. ". . . an example so that people can look at your life and know how to serve God."
2. ". . . a standard of living that pleases God."
3. **". . . an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."**
4. ". . . before you all those who have been against you, and prove them wrong."

STUDY **twelve**

1 Samuel 18:1-16, 28-30; 19:1-18

Memory Verse

“Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other”
(Galatians 5:26).

Biblical Truth

God wants us to love and to respect people and not to be jealous of them.

Focus

This lesson will help the children to learn that God watches over those who love and obey him. God does not want his people to be jealous of others.

Teaching Tip

Tell the children that jealousy hurts relationships. If you feel comfortable, share examples of times when you were jealous, and tell how you overcame those feelings.

Discuss ways that the children can recognize and can overcome their feelings of jealousy.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 28-30; 19:1-18. David impressed Jonathan, Saul’s son. Jonathan gave David his robe, his tunic, and his weapons, and he made a covenant with David. Jonathan was loyal to David. He acknowledged that David was God’s choice as the next king of the Israelites.

Saul sent David to lead the army, and David did this wisely. The women of Israel sang a song of praise to Saul and David. The women’s praise for David seemed greater than their praise for Saul. Saul became angry when he heard how the women praised David.

Saul understood that David was a valuable leader of the army. Saul also realized that David threatened his position as the king. David’s success and his popularity with the Israelites continued to grow. As a result, Saul attempted to take David’s life on several occasions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- + God watches over those who love and honour him.
- + God wants us to love and respect people and not to be jealous of them.

PEOPLE

Michal was Saul’s daughter and David’s wife.

PLACES

Naioth was the pasture outside of the city walls of Ramah. David and Samuel camped there so that Saul could not trap them in the city.

THINGS

A **lute** was a small harp with three or four strings.

A **covenant** was an agreement in which two people make a promise to each other.

A **campaign** is a series of military attacks during a war.

ACTIVITY

Say, **Today, we will learn more about Saul, Jonathan, and David. Saul was jealous of David, and he wanted to kill David. But, Jonathan, Saul's son, loved David, and Jonathan wanted to protect David.**

Choose one child for each of these roles: Saul, Jonathan, and David. Instruct the remaining children to hold hands, form a circle, and face outward. The child who represents David will stay inside the circle at all times. The children in the circle will protect David. The child who represents Saul will attempt to crawl through the circle and to tag David. The child who represents Jonathan will stay outside the circle and will attempt to tag Saul before Saul tags David.

The game ends with one of these situations: Jonathan tags Saul, or Saul tags David. Then, choose other children to play each of the three characters. If time allows, play the game several times until each child plays at least one of the characters.

Say, **You helped to protect David. Today, we will learn how God helped to protect David from Saul's jealousy.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 28-30; 19:1-18, before you tell it to the children.

Since Jonathan was Saul's son, he was Saul's heir. Jonathan enjoyed a special friendship with David, and the two made a covenant. To express his love for his friend, Jonathan gave David his robe, his tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt. These gifts symbolized that Jonathan handed the kingdom to David. Jonathan recognized that God chose David to succeed Saul as the king.

Whatever Saul sent David to do, David did it successfully. Therefore, Saul gave him

a high rank in the army. After David killed Goliath, the women danced and sang. They sang, "Saul killed thousands, and David killed tens of thousands." The women meant that Saul and David were similar champions. However, Saul was jealous of the fact that the people thought David was his equal. Saul was angry about this song, and he was jealous of David. Saul carefully watched David's actions.

The next day, an evil spirit came to Saul. While David played the harp, Saul twice threw a spear at him. Both times, David avoided the spear. After this, Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with the young man. The Lord was not with Saul. Although David's life was in danger, the Lord was with David, and he was confident that God would protect him.

Saul sent David away to command a thousand men in the army. Saul hoped that David would die in a battle. But, in everything he did, David had great success, because the Lord was with him.

When Saul realized that Michal, his daughter, loved David, Saul became more afraid of him. For the rest of his life, Saul considered David an enemy. Saul ordered his son, Jonathan, and all of his attendants to kill David. However, Jonathan warned David, and he told David to hide.

Jonathan told Saul that David was loyal to the king. David helped Saul to defeat the Philistines, and he was innocent of any crime. Jonathan asked Saul not to kill David.

Saul listened to Jonathan. Then, Saul took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, I will not kill David." So, Jonathan brought back David to Saul.

In another war, David fought the Philistines. He fought well, and the Philistines ran from him. Then, an evil spirit from the Lord came to Saul. Saul forgot his

oath not to harm David. While David played the harp, Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear.

David escaped from Saul. David's wife, Michal, told him that he was in danger. She warned him to run away that night. So, Michal let David down through a window, and he escaped.

Then Michal took an idol, and she laid it on the bed. She covered it with some clothes and put the hair of some goats on its head. Saul's men came to capture David. Michal told them that David was ill. The men thought that the idol in the bed was David.

Saul told his men to bring David to him so that he could kill David. But when the men entered the house again, they realized that David was not in the bed. It was an idol with the hair of some goats on its head.

David fled to Samuel in Ramah. David told Samuel everything that Saul did to him. Then, David and Samuel went to Naioth, and they stayed there.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. **List four important things that happened to David in today's study. Why do you think these things happened to him?**
2. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-9. **How did Saul react to the song of the women? Why did he react this way?**
3. **Why was Saul jealous of David? What did Saul do because he was jealous of David? What did David have that Saul did not?**
4. **As the king's son, what did Jonathan sacrifice when he helped David? Why do you think Jonathan was not jealous of David?**

5. **Michal helped David to escape. She lied to her father and his men to help David. Do you think her method was right? Why, or why not?**

Say, **Were you ever jealous of someone? Jealousy is a common emotion that people feel. What matters to God is how we respond when we are jealous. Saul did not respond to his jealousy of David in the right way. Saul chose to hate him. God wants us to choose the right way to treat others. If you become jealous, ask God to help you respond kindly. To respond with kindness is not easy, but this is what God wants you to do.**

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Jonathan and David made a covenant. Read more about the covenant between Jonathan and David in 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 19:1-7, 20:1-42, and 23:16-18. **What did they promise to do? Why did Jonathan give David his robe, his tunic, and his weapons? What do these passages say about Jonathan's character? What do they say about the friendship between Jonathan and David?**

2. Read about other covenants in the Bible. Start with Genesis 9:8-17 and 15:9-18. **Who made these covenants, and what did the people promise? Make a chart. What do these covenants have in common with the covenant between Jonathan and David? How are the covenants different?**

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 28-30; 19:1-18 to them.

1 Why did David not return to his father's house after he killed Goliath? (18:2)

1. David loved the life at the palace.
2. It was dangerous to journey through Philistine territory.
3. **Saul did not let David return.**

2 Who made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself? (18:3)

1. Saul
2. Samuel
3. **Jonathan**

3 What did the women sing when the men returned home after David killed the Philistine? (18:6-7)

1. "What a mighty king we have in Saul."
2. **"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."**
3. "We are free from the Philistines at last."

4 How did Saul treat David after he heard the women's song? (18:8-9)

1. **He kept a jealous eye on David.**
2. He loved David with all of his heart.
3. He forgot about David.

5 Why was Saul afraid of David? (18:12)

1. Saul realized what David did to the Philistine.
2. Saul had a vision about David.
3. **The Lord was with David, but he left Saul.**

6 Who was in love with David? (18:28)

1. **Michal**
2. Merab
3. Bathsheba

7 What did Saul tell Jonathan to do to David? (19:1)

1. Lock him in prison.
2. Prepare a feast for him.
3. **Kill him.**

8 How did Saul react after Jonathan spoke well of David to him? (19:4-6)

1. **He took an oath that he would not kill David.**
2. He took an oath that he would kill David the next time that he saw him.
3. He wept, because he was sorry for the way that he treated David.

9 After David fled, what object did Michal lay on the bed to trick Saul's men? (19:12-13)

1. A brick with lamb's wool
2. **An idol with the hair of some goats**
3. A jar with dried grass

10 Finish this verse: "Let us not become conceited, provoking and . . ." (Galatians 5:26)

1. ". . . fighting with our brothers and sisters."
2. ". . . **envying each other.**"
3. ". . . annoying those around us."

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 28-30; 19:1-18 to them.

1 Who made a covenant with David because he loved David as much as himself? (18:3)

1. The Lord
2. King Saul
- 3. Jonathan**
4. Samuel

2 What did Jonathan give to David? (18:4)

1. His robe and his tunic
2. His sword
3. His bow and his belt
- 4. All of the above**

3 Why did Saul give David a high rank in the army? (18:5)

1. David asked for a higher rank.
- 2. David successfully did everything that Saul sent him to do.**
3. Saul wanted David to fail.
4. Saul was proud of David.

4 Why did the women's song anger Saul? (18:8)

1. They did not mention David in their verses.
2. They did not mention Saul in their verses.
- 3. They credited David with the killing of tens of thousands, and they credited Saul with thousands.**
4. They credited Saul with the killing of tens of thousands, and they credited David with thousands.

4 What did Saul do when an evil spirit from the Lord came upon him? (18:10-11)

1. He asked Samuel to pray for him.
- 2. He hurled a spear and tried to pin David to the wall.**
3. He cried out in pain.
4. He sent David away from him.

5 Why did all of the people of Israel and of Judah love David? (18:16)

1. He could sing and play the harp.
2. He killed all of the Philistines.
- 3. He led them in their campaigns.**
4. He was a young and a handsome man.

6 What did Jonathan say to David after Saul told Jonathan to kill David? (19:1-3)

1. "My father, Saul, is looking for a chance to kill you."
2. "Go into hiding, and stay there."
3. "I will speak to him about you, and I will tell you what I find out."
- 4. All of the above**

7 When war broke out, who fled when David struck them with force? (19:8)

1. Saul's soldiers
2. The Israelites
- 3. The Philistines**
4. The Amorites

8 What did Michal do when Saul's men came to look for David? (19:11-13)

1. She warned David.
2. She helped David escape through a window.
3. She put an idol with the hair of some goats in David's bed.
4. **All of the above**

9 What did Michal tell Saul's men when they came for David? (19:14)

1. **"He is ill."**
2. "He escaped."
3. "He is traveling to another city."
4. "He is hiding."

10 To whom did David flee after Michal helped him escape from Saul? (19:18)

1. Jonathan
2. His brothers
3. **Samuel**
4. Jesse

thirteen

**1 Samuel 21:1-9;
22:6-23; 23:14-18**

Memory Verse

"The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him"
(Nahum 1:7).

Biblical Truth

God encourages his people in times of trouble.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that we can go to God for help with any situation. God may not remove the problem, but he is always with us. God will give guidance when we ask him for help.

Teaching Tip

There are many things that cause children to be afraid: war, violence, severe weather, separation, and death. Tell the children that fear is an emotion everyone experiences.

However, God will be with them in times of trouble. While he might not take away the problem, we can trust him to be with us in the situation. God wants us to choose to trust him rather than to be afraid.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

David fled from Saul when Jonathan confirmed to his friend that Saul planned to kill David. David arrived at Nob, and he received bread from Ahimelech, the priest. Ahimelech gave David consecrated bread. Ahimelech also gave David the sword of Goliath. The sword encouraged David and reminded him that God's presence will accompany him in the dangerous days.

Doeg the Edomite, was loyal to Saul. He told Saul that David fled to Nob, and that Ahimelech had given David some bread and a sword. Saul sent for Ahimelech and his family. Saul asked Ahimelech why he helped David and David's men. Ahimelech reminded Saul of David's faithfulness to Saul. Ahimelech also said that he was innocent, because he did not know about any conflict between Saul and David.

Saul refused to listen to what Ahimelech said. He ordered his guards to kill Ahimelech and his entire family. The guards refused to kill Ahimelech and the other priests. The Israelites believed an attack on God's priests was an attack on God. The only person who agreed to kill Ahimelech and his family was Doeg the Edomite.

While David was at Horesh, he learned that Saul was planning to kill him. Jonathan went to Horesh and comforted David. Jonathan told David that David would be king, and Jonathan would serve him. Jonathan and David made a covenant with each other before the Lord.

Saul's actions at Nob showed that he would kill anyone who opposed him, even God's priests.

Jonathan's actions toward David showed that Jonathan's heart was true to God. Jonathan accepted that David was God's choice to be the next king.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God is our hope in times of trouble.
- ✦ God will guide us when we ask him for help.

PEOPLE

Ahimelech was the high priest who helped David when he fled from Saul.

Doeg the Edomite was the head shepherd who took care of Saul's animals. The Edomites were enemies of Israel.

PLACES

Nob was a city of priests. It was about four kilometers from Jerusalem.

The **desert of Ziph** was the desert area around the city of Ziph

Horesh was a place in the Desert of Ziph where David hid. It was west of the Dead Sea.

THINGS

Consecrated bread was special loaves of bread that were baked fresh each day and displayed before the Lord in the tabernacle. Usually, priests ate the bread when they replaced the loaves the next day.

To inquire of the Lord was to seek God's guidance through a variety of methods.

ACTIVITY

You will need these items for this activity:

- + A simple obstacle course
- + A blindfold

Set up a simple obstacle course in the room or outside. The obstacle course might require the children to do these things: to climb under a desk, to weave around chairs or trees, to jump over a book or a log, or to navigate through a playground.

Arrange the children in pairs. One child in each pair will wear a blindfold, and the other child will serve as the guide. The guide will use his or her voice to lead the blindfolded child through the obstacles. The guide cannot touch the blindfolded child.

One pair at a time, send the children through the obstacle course.

Say, You could not navigate your way through the obstacle course without the help of a guide. Without your guide, you would tumble, trip, or hurt yourself. Throughout our biblical studies, we learned that Saul did not ask for God's guidance in the choices he made. So, God did not help Saul. Today, we will learn that David asked for God's guidance when he was in trouble. God guided David, and he kept David safe from Saul.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 21:1-9; 22:6-23; 23:14-18, before you tell it to the children.

David went to Nob to talk to Ahimelech, the priest. David told Ahimelech that the king sent him on a mission. David asked Ahimelech for five loaves of bread. Ahimelech told David that he did not have any ordinary bread. He only possessed consecrated bread. So the priest gave David the consecrated bread.

David also asked Ahimelech for a spear or a sword. The only available sword was the sword of Goliath. Ahimelech gave David this sword.

One of Saul's servants, Doeg the Edomite, was in Nob that day. This servant observed that Ahimelech gave David the bread and Goliath's sword.

Saul thought that some of the Israelites knew where David was hiding. Doeg the Edomite told Saul that he observed David with Ahimelech, and that Ahimelech helped David.

Saul sent for Ahimelech and all of Ahimelech's father's family. Saul asked Ahimelech why he conspired against him. He accused Ahimelech of giving bread and a sword to David. Saul also accused Ahimelech of inquiring of the Lord for David.

Ahimelech told Saul that this was not the first time that he inquired of the Lord for David. Ahimelech begged Saul not to accuse him or his father's family. Ahimelech explained that he thought David was on a mission for the king.

But the king said, "You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family." Saul ordered his guards to kill the priests, but the guards refused. Then Saul ordered Doeg the Edomite to kill the priests. So, Doeg the Edomite killed eighty-five priests and the men, the women, the children, the donkeys, the cattle, and the sheep in Nob. But Abiathar, Ahimelech's son, escaped, and he fled to join David.

Abiathar told David that Saul killed the priests in Nob. David felt that he was responsible for the death of Abiathar's whole family. He asked Abiathar to stay with him, because Abiathar would be safe with David.

David stayed in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. He found strongholds, good hiding places, for him and his men. Day after day, Saul searched for David, but God did not permit Saul to find him.

Jonathan went to David at Horesh, and Jonathan helped David to find strength in God. Jonathan told David that Saul would not kill him. The two men made a covenant before the Lord.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There may not be a right or wrong answer. These questions help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. **What reason did David give for coming to Nob? Why do you think David lied to Ahimelech?**
2. **In 1 Samuel 22:22, David saw Doeg the Edomite in the tabernacle. How do you think David felt when he saw this servant of Saul? How would you have responded if you were David?**

3. **How does the memory verse, Nahum 1:7, relate to today's lesson?**

Say, **Everyone gets scared in times of trouble. Everyone is afraid of something. What makes you fearful? What can you do when you are afraid?** After the children answer the questions, if no one mentioned it, say **You can talk to God.**

David was scared when he ran from Saul. David trusted God to help him. God helps his people in times of trouble. God will give guidance if you ask him for help. He will be with you

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. List ways people can find guidance from God. Some possible answers are: prayer, reading scripture, sermons and lessons, and the advice of godly people. Provide materials for the children to make a poster on this topic.

2. Read 1 Samuel 19:4-6 and 1 Samuel 22:14. Compare how Jonathan and Ahimelech defended David. **What happened to Jonathan when he defended David? What happened to Ahimelech when he defended David?**

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 21:1-9; 22:6-23; 23:14-18 to them.

1 What did David ask Ahimelech, the priest, to give him? (21:3)

1. A blessing
2. Five loaves of bread
3. A map

2 Which of Saul's servants was at Nob the day that David met with Ahimelech? (21:7)

1. Doeg the Edomite
2. Ahitub
3. Abiathar

3 What did David say about the sword Ahimelech gave him? (21:9)

1. "I remember well what happened that day."
2. "If it is the only sword you have, I will take it."
3. "There is none like it; give it to me."

4 Who told Saul that David was at Nob with Ahimelech? (22:9)

1. Doeg the Edomite
2. The leader of Saul's army
3. Jonathan

5 What did Ahimelech say when Saul accused him of helping David? (22:15)

1. "Let me tell you all that I know, because I am the king's servant."
2. "Please do not accuse me or my family. I know nothing about this."
3. "I will tell you nothing; the LORD alone shall judge you."

6 What did Saul order his guards to do to the priests of Nob? (22:17)

1. To let them go
2. To kill all of them
3. To kill only Ahimelech

7 Whom did Doeg the Edomite kill? (22:18-19)

1. Eighty-five priests
2. Everyone who lived at Nob, plus many animals
3. Both answers are correct.

8 What did David say to Abiathar after he told David about the murder of the priests? (22:22-23)

1. "Stay with me; don't be afraid."
2. "The man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also. You will be safe with me."
3. Both answers are correct.

9 Why couldn't Saul find David when David stayed in the Desert of Ziph? (23:14)

1. God did not give David into Saul's hands.
2. Saul was not looking in the right places.
3. David hid among the rocks.

10 Who went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God? (23:16)

1. Michal
2. Jonathan
3. Samuel

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 21:1-9; 22:6-23; 23:14-18 to them.

1 What did David say to Ahimelech when he met him at Nob? (21:2-3)

1. "The king charged me with a certain matter."
2. "As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place."
3. "Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find."
4. **All of the above**

2 Whose sword did David borrow from Ahimelech? (21:9)

1. **Goliath's sword**
2. Saul's sword
3. Samuel's sword
4. Jonathan's sword

3 At Gibeah, what did Saul accuse his men of doing? (22:8)

1. Conspiring against Saul
2. Not telling Saul when Jonathan made a covenant with David
3. Not being concerned about Saul
4. **All of the above**

4 How did Saul react after Doeg the Edomite told him that Ahimelech helped David? (22:10-11)

1. **He sent for Ahimelech and his whole family.**
2. He threw his spear at Doeg the Edomite.
3. He told his men to go home.
4. All of the above

5 According to Saul, what will happen to Ahimelech and his father's whole family? (22:16)

1. They will be raised up in Saul's kingdom.
2. They will become slaves.
3. **They will die.**
4. They will be rewarded with wealth.

6 Who refused to follow Saul's orders and strike the priests? (22:17)

1. Doeg the Edomite
2. **Saul's officials**
3. David
4. Jonathan

7 Who told David about the killing of the priests? (22:20-21)

1. **Abiathar, son of Ahimelech**
2. Ahitub, son of Abiathar
3. Ahimelech, son of Ahitub
4. Jonathan, son of Saul

8 What did David say to Abiathar? (22:22-23)

1. "I knew [Doeg the Edomite] would be sure to tell Saul."
2. "I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family."
3. "You will be safe with me."
4. **All of the above**

9 What did Jonathan do for David at Horesh? (23:16)

1. Brought food to him
2. **Helped him to find strength in God**
3. Told him how to escape
4. Gave him a chariot

10 Finish this verse: "The LORD is good, a refuge in . . ." (Nahum 1:7)

1. ". . . troubled waters. He will guide you through the storms."
2. **". . . times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
3. ". . . hard times. He redeems those who place their confidence in him."
4. ". . . all times. He takes children under his wings."

Memory Verse BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

“Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good”
(Romans 12:21).

Biblical Truth

God wants us to respect those in authority even when we disagree with them.

Focus

This lesson will help children learn that God does not want us to take revenge on others.

God wants us to respect those in authority.

Teaching Tip

Remind the children that God will never ask his people to violate his principles. David had an opportunity to kill Saul and become the king, but David refused to kill a king that God chose. David waited for God to solve the problem.

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. Someone told Saul that David was in the Desert of En Gedi. Saul went with 3,000 men to look for David. Saul entered a cave where David hid, but he did not know that David was there.

David quietly crept up to Saul, and he cut off a piece of Saul's robe. However, Saul did not realize that David cut his robe. Some of the men who were with David thought David should kill Saul, but David refused. David told his men that he would not kill a person who was God's anointed king.

David emerged from the cave and called to Saul. David bowed to his king. David told Saul that Saul should not listen to people who said that David planned to harm the king. David showed Saul the piece of the robe. When Saul realized that David held a piece of his robe in his hand, Saul knew that David did not plan to kill him.

When David chose to spare Saul's life, David honoured God. David also exhibited godly behaviour by honouring Saul, his leader, even in the midst of conflict with him. Saul realized that God chose David to be the next king of the Israelites.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God does not want us to seek revenge on others.
- God wants us to respect people in authority.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

Righteous means to have a right relationship with God and to live in such a way that our thoughts, words, and actions please God.

PEOPLE

The Lord's anointed is a person selected by God. Saul was anointed by God to be the king.

Descendants are a person's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, etc.

PLACES

The Crag of the Wild Goats is a steep, rocky cliff in the Desert of En Gedi.

THINGS

An **oath** is a promise or vow.

A **stronghold** is a secure place.

To prostrate oneself is to lay flat on the ground, with one's face toward the ground. David prostrated himself, and this showed honor to Saul.

ACTIVITY

For this activity, you will need the following:

- A cloth
- A pair of scissors

Before the children arrive, cut a small piece of cloth for each child. Choose a place to play a game of hide and seek.

Place the pieces of cloth in a pile or in a container in a central location. Select a different place for the base.

Say, **We will play a game of hide and seek.** Choose one child to seek. The other children will hide. The goal for the children who hide is to return safely to the base with a piece of cloth. The seeker will slowly count to 20 while the other children hide. The seeker will look for the other children. The seeker cannot guard the pieces of cloth or the base.

If the seeker finds another child, the seeker will attempt to tag that child. When the seeker tags a child, that child sits out for the rest of the game. When all the children return to base or get tagged by the seeker, the game is over. If there is time, play the game again with a new seeker.

Say, **Today, we will learn about someone who hid. He cut off a piece of a person's robe.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 24:1-22, before you tell it to the children.

Saul learned that David was in the Desert of En Gedi. So, Saul took three thousand of the best men, and they went to look for David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats.

Along the way, Saul stopped at a cave for a break. David and his men were far in the back of the cave. While Saul relieved himself, David and his men discovered him.

David's men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said, 'I will give you your enemy for you to deal with as you wish.'" The men saw that this was David's opportunity to attack Saul while he was vulnerable.

Then, David crept up to Saul unnoticed, and he cut off a corner of Saul's robe. After this, David felt bad that he cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I shall do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed king."

David respected God and the man God chose as Israel's first king. Because of this, David did not hurt Saul. David rebuked his men, and he refused to allow them to attack Saul. After awhile, Saul left the cave.

When David left the cave, he called out to Saul, "My lord, the king!" David bowed down to Saul. David left his position of safety and approached Saul. He demonstrated complete loyalty to Saul when he humbled himself before his king.

David said to Saul, "Why do you believe the men who say that I am determined to harm you? Today the LORD brought you to me in the cave. I had the opportunity to harm you. Instead, I said, 'I will not harm my master, because he is the LORD's anointed king.'"

David showed Saul the piece of Saul's robe. David said, "Father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe, but I did not kill you. The Lord will judge the wrongs between you and me. But I will not harm you."

David vowed that he would not violently seize the kingdom from Saul, even though Saul wanted to kill David. Instead, David promised that he would wait patiently for God to fulfill his promise to give the kingdom to David.

When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that you, David, my son?" Then Saul wept aloud.

Saul said to David, "You are more righteous than I am. You treated me well, but I treated you badly. May the LORD reward you well for the way that you treated me today. I know that you will be the king. Now, promise me that you will not harm my family or me."

David swore an oath to Saul. Then, Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold. David did not return under Saul's leadership. He waited until the right moment to return as Israel's next king.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. If you were David, how would you respond if you had the opportunity to hurt Saul?
2. David's men told him that God promised that he would deliver Saul into David's hands. The Bible does not say that God said this. Why do you think the men said this to David?

3. What influenced David's decision not to hurt Saul? How did David feel after he cut off a corner of Saul's robe? Why do you think that he felt this way?

4. How did Saul respond to David when he showed him a piece of his robe? How do you think you would respond in Saul's situation?

5. Do you think it would be easy to obey someone in authority over you who treated you badly? What would you do?

Say, A person in authority is someone who has power. Why is it important to respect people in authority? What might happen if we do not respect those in authority? We might disagree with someone who is in authority, but God still wants us to respect them.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. Read these passages about authority: Romans 13:1-7; Hebrews 13:7; Matthew 22:15-22; Daniel 6:1-28. Ask, **Why does God command us to obey those in authority? How can we show respect for those in authority? What will happen if we do not obey those in authority? Does God ever ask anyone to disobey those in authority? Why did Daniel disobey the authorities?**

2. Make a timeline of David's relationship with Saul. Draw symbols that represent the times of tension and the times of peace between them.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 to them.

1 Who came into the cave where David and his men were hiding? (24:3)

1. Saul
2. Jonathan
3. Samuel

2 What did David do to Saul in the cave? (24:4)

1. He hugged Saul.
2. He cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
3. He hit Saul.

3 What did David not allow his men to do while they were hiding in the cave? (24:7)

1. To attack Saul
2. To leave the cave
3. To join Saul

4 What was the first thing David said to Saul after leaving the cave? (24:8)

1. "You mistreated your servant!"
2. "Now, I will fight you!"
3. "My lord the king!"

5 What did David show Saul after Saul left the cave? (24:11)

1. A flower
2. A piece of Saul's robe
3. A knife

6 How did Saul react after David spoke to him outside of the cave? (24:16)

1. Saul wept aloud.
2. Saul cursed his own name.
3. Saul prayed.

7 Who said, "You treated me well, but I treated you badly"? (24:17)

1. Saul
2. David
3. Samuel

8 According to Saul, who will be the next king of Israel? (24:20)

1. Solomon
2. David
3. Jonathan

9 What oath did David make to Saul? (24:21-22)

1. David will not kill Saul's family or wipe out his name.
2. David will not fight against Saul.
3. David will stay away from Saul.

10 Where did David and his men go after David gave his oath to Saul? (24:22)

1. To his home
2. To the stronghold
3. To the cave

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 to them.

1 Where did Saul look for David when David was in the Desert of En Gedi? (24:1-2)

1. The Valley of the Lost Sheep
- 2. The Crag of the Wild Goats**
3. The Crest of the Lone Wolf
4. The Peak of the Cowardly Lion

2 What did David's men say to him when they discovered that Saul was in the cave? (24:4)

1. "Do not be foolish."
2. "Be strong. The LORD will be with you."
3. "Quiet! He'll hear you."
- 4. "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands.'"**

3 How did David feel after he cut Saul's robe? (24:5)

1. Powerful
2. Excited
3. Afraid
- 4. Conscience-stricken**

4 What did David say to his men after he cut Saul's robe? (24:6)

- 1. "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master."**
2. "The LORD gave my enemy into my hands today."
3. "The LORD's will be done."
4. "I am surprised he did not see me. The LORD protected me."

5 What did David do after he went out of the cave and called out to Saul? (24:8)

1. David wept aloud.
- 2. David bowed down with his face to the ground**
3. David promised to serve Saul for as long as he lived.
4. David promised to serve the Lord as long as he lived.

6 What did David say to Saul after he went out of the cave? (24:9-11)

1. "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you?'"
2. "I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'"
3. "I cut off the corner of your robe, but I did not kill you."
- 4. All of the above**

7 According to David, who will avenge the wrongs that Saul did to him? (24:12)

1. David
- 2. The Lord**
3. David's men
4. Jonathan

8 What old saying did David quote to Saul? (24:13)

- 1. "From evildoers come evil deeds."**
2. "Do not bite the hand that feeds you."
3. "Blessed be the tie that binds."
4. "Evil lurks among the darkest shadows."

9 Who said “The LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me”?
(24:18)

1. Saul
2. David
3. Saul’s captain
4. David’s captain

10 Finish this verse: “Do not be overcome by . . .” (Romans 12:21)

1. “. . . the things of this world, but always avoid evil.”
2. “. . . joy, but set aside your happiness in order to stand strong.”
3. “. . . evil things, but rise above them with the strength of your faith.”
4. “. . . evil, but overcome evil with good.”

STUDY **fifteen**

1 Samuel 25:1-42

Memory Verse **BIBLICAL COMMENTARY**

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”
(Romans 12:18).

Read 1 Samuel 25:1-42. David sent messengers to Nabal, a rich man, to ask Nabal for food and supplies for David and his men. David had been kind and protected Nabal’s shepherds when David was in Carmel. David believed Nabal would honour David’s request. Since it was the time to shear the sheep, there were typically extra food and supplies available.

Biblical Truth

God wants us to be peacemakers.

Nabal refused David’s request. Nabal showed that he was ungrateful, greedy, and disobedient to God’s commands regarding hospitality. Nabal did not respect David as God’s anointed one. When David received the news about Nabal, David prepared to kill every male servant who belonged to Nabal.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God encourages us to be peacemakers. We can help others when they are in difficult situations. We can seek God’s help to make wise decisions when we help others to make peace.

Nabal’s wife, Abigail, was not like her husband. Abigail was wise, polite, and generous. Abigail brought David gifts, and she asked David to forgive her husband. David accepted Abigail’s gifts, and he blessed Abigail because she prevented him from committing a terrible sin. David and Abigail agreed to put the situation in God’s hands. Nabal died, and Abigail became David’s wife. Abigail’s actions as a peacemaker brought blessings from God.

Teaching Tip

As children interact with their friends and family members, they will have opportunities to help others resolve problems. Encourage children to seek God’s guidance when they help others to make peace. God wants us to be peacemakers with his help. There are some problems that children are not able to resolve. However, children can pray for God to help those people.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God wants us to be peacemakers.
- God blesses those who show kindness to others.

PEOPLE

Nabal was a wealthy sheep owner.

Abigail was the widow of Nabal. She became David’s wife.

PLACES

Ramah was the birthplace, home, and burial place of Samuel.

Maon was a city in Judah. It was near Carmel.

Carmel was a city about 21 kilometers west of the Dead Sea.

ACTIVITY

Say, **A peacemaker is someone who helps people resolve their disagreements. Abigail was a peacemaker between David and her family. Today we will learn about peacemakers.**

Encourage the children to think of some problems that they face in their relationships. Some examples might be these: Your friend spread a rumor about you. Your best friend is mad at you because you spend more time with a new person at school.

Ask the children to role play the scenarios. As a class, determine how a child could be a peacemaker. Talk about ways to be peacemakers. Emphasize that some problems are too difficult for a child to handle without an adult's help. Provide examples of times children should ask for the help of an adult.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 25:1-42, before you tell it to the children.

Samuel died, and all of the Israelites assembled and mourned for him. They buried Samuel at his home in Ramah.

Then David moved into the Desert of Maon. There was a man in Maon named Nabal. He was very wealthy. His wife, Abigail, was an intelligent and a beautiful woman. However, Nabal was mean.

David sent ten men to Nabal to give him a blessing and a greeting from David. The men reminded Nabal that, when his shepherds were with David's men, no harm came to Nabal's shepherds. In return, David's men asked Nabal for food and water.

Nabal said that he did not know who David was. He was not willing to share anything with David and his men. Nabal com-

pared David and his men to servants who rebelled against their masters.

David's men returned to him, and they reported every word. David told his men to put on their swords. Four hundred men went with David to get revenge.

One of Nabal's servants told Abigail what happened between David's messengers and Nabal. The servant also told Abigail that Nabal insulted David.

Abigail took bread, wine, meat, grain, and other food, and loaded it on some donkeys. She told her servants to lead the way to David, and she would follow them. She did not tell Nabal.

On the way to find David, Abigail met him and his men. Abigail bowed down before David, and she told him to pay no attention to Nabal. She told him that Nabal was just like his name, which means fool. She presented the gifts to David, and she asked him to forgive Nabal's offense.

David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me." David accepted the gifts that Abigail brought to him. David told her that she kept him from bloodshed that day.

The next morning, Abigail told Nabal all that happened. When Nabal heard these things, his heart failed him. Ten days later, Nabal died.

When David heard about Nabal's death, he praised God. Then David sent word to Abigail, and he asked her to become his wife. Abigail got on a donkey, and she went to David to become his wife.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Nabal's name meant "fool." What decision in this story did he make that was foolish?
2. Abigail was a peacemaker. A peacemaker is someone who helps people resolve their disagreements. How did Abigail make peace in this biblical story?
3. How does today's memory verse, Romans 12:18, relate to this story?

Say, **God wants his people to be peacemakers. When you try to be a peacemaker, you might find that some disagreements are too difficult to resolve on your own. When that happens, find a wise person to help you to make peace. You can start to be a peacemaker today. Think of some disagreements that you can help people to solve. Do not forget to ask God for his wisdom and help.**

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. Abigail was a hero. She helped David during a time of need. **Who is your hero? Your hero might be someone in your life who has shown compassion and helped others. Write a thank-you note or make a poster about this person to show that you appreciate your hero.**

2. Abigail was a peacemaker between David and her family. Read Acts 9:26-31. **How was Barnabas a peacemaker?** Read Acts 6:1-7. **How did**

the twelve disciples solve the problem with the widows.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 25:1-42 to them.

1 What did all of Israel do when Samuel died? (25:1)

1. Built a memorial for him
2. **Mourned for him**
3. Rejoiced

2 How does the Bible describe Nabal? (25:2-3)

1. **A wealthy man in Maon who was mean**
2. A poor man from Bethlehem
3. A wealthy king

3 How does the Bible describe Abigail? (25:3)

1. Quiet and caring
2. **Intelligent and beautiful**
3. Both answers are correct.

4 While David was in the desert, what did he hear that Nabal was doing? (25:4)

1. Threshing wheat
2. **Shearing sheep**
3. Tending his vineyard

5 How did Nabal answer David's servants? (25:10-11)

1. "Who is David?"
2. "Why should I give them my bread, water, and meat?"
3. **Both answers are correct.**

6 Who told Abigail that Nabal had insulted David? (25:14)

1. **A servant**
2. One of David's men
3. David

7 Who told David to pay no attention to Nabal? (25:25)

1. **Abigail**
2. Abigail's servant
3. David's servant

8 What did David say to Abigail after she begged forgiveness for Nabal? (25:28-35)

1. "May you be blessed for your good judgment."
2. "I have heard your words and granted your request."
3. **Both answers are correct.**

9 What happened when Abigail told Nabal what she did for David? (25:37-38)

1. **His heart failed him, and he died 10 days later.**
2. He divorced her.
3. He was glad she helped David.

10 What did David ask Abigail to do after Nabal was dead? (25:39)

1. To give more food to his men
2. **To become his wife**
3. To cook for his men

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 25:1-42 to them.

1 What kind of man was Nabal? (25:3)

1. Humorous and cheerful
- 2. Surly and mean in his dealings**
3. Kind and fair with everyone
4. All of the above

2 What did David tell 10 young men to say to Nabal? (25:5-8)

1. "Long life to you!"
2. "When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them."
3. "Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them."
- 4. All of the above**

3 How did Nabal reply to David's request? (25:10-11)

1. "How much food do you need?"
2. "I can't feed this many men?"
3. "Ask my wife about this."
- 4. "Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"**

4 How did David react when his men told him what Nabal said? (25:12-13)

1. David prayed to God for wisdom.
- 2. David said to his men, "Put on your swords!"**
3. David said, "Kill that wicked man."
4. David asked about Nabal's family.

5 What did Abigail do when she learned what Nabal had done to David? (25:18-20)

1. She begged Nabal to give them food.
2. She agreed with Nabal.
- 3. She loaded food onto donkeys, and she took it to David.**
4. She asked David to meet with her.

6 What was David saying just before Abigail met him? (25:21)

1. "I will talk to Nabal myself."
- 2. "Nabal has paid me back evil for good."**
3. "We will steal Nabal's sheep."
4. All of the above

7 When did Nabal die? (25:36-38)

1. Ten years after he refused to help David
2. When Abigail told him that he was a fool
- 3. Ten days after Abigail told him that she helped David**
4. Before Abigail returned home from meeting with David

8 When did David say, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal"? (25:39)

1. When he received the gifts from Abigail
2. When he married Abigail
3. When he heard that Nabal lost all of his livestock
- 4. When he heard that Nabal died**

9 Who traveled with Abigail when she went to David to become his wife? (25:42)

1. A donkey
2. Five maids
3. David's messengers
- 4. All of the above**

10 Finish this verse: "If it is possible, as far as . . ." (Romans 12:18)

1. ". . . you are able, find ways to enforce justice when you have been wronged."
2. ". . . you can, live a life of peace."
- 3. ". . . it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."**
4. ". . . it depends on you, seek peace in the world."

sixteen

1 Samuel 31:1-6; 2 Samuel 2:1-17; 3:1; 5:1-5

Memory Verse

“O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant” (2 Samuel 7:28).

Biblical Truth

God does what he says he will do.

Focus

God rewards those who obey him. He always fulfills his promises.

Teaching Tip

Some aspects of David’s story may confuse the children. The important thing for the children to know is that God kept his promise to David. Through David’s patience and obedience, God fulfilled his promise that David would be the next king. Remind the children that God also fulfills his promises today.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 31:1-6; 2 Samuel 2:1-17; 3:1; 5:1-5. The Philistines attacked and defeated the Israelites. In the fight, the Philistines killed Jonathan and two of his brothers, and they injured Saul. To avoid further pain, Saul committed suicide.

The tribe of Judah anointed David as their king. The tribes in the north of Israel did not accept David as their king. Abner, the commander of Saul’s army, appointed Saul’s son, Ish-Bosheth, to be the king over the Israelites. David fought Ish-Bosheth for the right to be the king over all of the Israelites, because God did not anoint Ish-Bosheth.

After the death of Ish-Bosheth, the northern tribes asked David to be their king. David became the king over all of the Israelites. Despite the trials David faced, he persevered, and God fulfilled the promise that he made to David.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God rewards those who obey him.
- God always fulfills his promises.

PEOPLE

Abner was the commander of Saul’s army.

Ish-Bosheth was Saul’s son. Abner named him king of Israel.

Joab was the commander of David’s army.

PLACES

Mount Gilboa was a ridge of mountains about 30 kilometers west of the Jordan River.

Hebron was a city southwest of Jerusalem. David lived there while he was king over Judah for seven years and six months.

The house of Judah was one of the two nations that the tribes of Israel formed. The nation of Judah recognized David as the king. The other nation recognized Ish-Bosheth as the king.

ACTIVITY

Before the children arrive, prepare a large space for children to run. This activity is best played outside or in a large room.

Instruct the children to line up about 100 meters away from you. If you play in a large room, instruct the children to line up along one wall. You will stand against the opposite wall. While you stand facing the children, they must remain in their place. When you turn your back to the children, they may move toward you. However, as soon as you turn to face the children again, they must immediately stop. If you see any of the children moving, you will send the moving children back to the starting line. Continue to turn back and forth until a child gently touches your arm. Repeat the game as time allows.

Say, **During the game, you waited for me to turn around so that you could come to me. David waited, too. David waited for God to fulfill his promise to make David the king.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 31:1-6; 2 Samuel 2:1-17; 3:1; 5:1-5, before you tell it to the children.

The Philistines fought the Israelites. Many Israelites died on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines killed three of Saul's sons, Jonathan, Malki-Shua, and Abinadab. Ish-Bosheth was Saul's only son to survive. He did not fight in this battle.

The fighting around Saul was fierce, and the Philistine archers critically wounded him.

Saul knew his wound would kill him soon. So, he told his armor-bearer to kill him so that the Philistines would not capture him and abuse him. However, his armor-bearer was terrified, and he refused to kill Saul. So, Saul took his own sword, and he killed himself.

When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also killed himself. The armor-

bearer killed himself to show his loyalty to Saul. So, Saul, his three sons, his armor-bearer, and his men died that day.

After Saul's death, the nation of Israel did not agree about who should be the king. David asked the Lord where he should go. The Lord told David to go to Hebron, a city in Judah. Then, the men of Judah came to Hebron, and they anointed David as the king of the house of Judah. But the northern tribes were not yet loyal to David.

David heard that the men of Jabesh Gilead buried Saul. He sent messengers to say to them, "The LORD bless you because you showed this kindness to Saul, your master, by burying him." David intended this blessing to demonstrate his loyalty to Saul and to win some favor with the northern tribes of Israel. David appealed to them to recognize him as Saul's natural successor.

Meanwhile, Abner, Saul's army commander, made Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son, the king over the nation of Israel. Whereas David consistently asked for the Lord's direction, Abner was the one who chose to make Ish-Bosheth the king of the nation of Israel.

Ish-Bosheth was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he reigned for two years. However, the house of Judah followed David as their king.

The division of Israel caused friction and violence. Abner and Ish-Bosheth's men went to Gibeon. Joab and David's men met them at the pool of Gibeon. Abner and Joab agreed to have twelve men from each side fight in front of all of them. All of the twenty-four men died. Then, the battle became very fierce. David's men defeated Abner and the men of Israel.

The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David and his men grew stronger and stronger,

while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

However, David never seized the northern kingdom by force. When members of his army killed Abner and Ish-Bosheth, David mourned their deaths. David viewed the kingdom as a gift that he should not take by force. He waited for God to give him the kingship.

After Ish-Bosheth died, all of the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. You led us in our military campaigns. Also, the LORD told you that you will be the shepherd of all the people of Israel.” So, the northern tribes asked David to become their king.

David made a treaty before the Lord with the northern tribes at Hebron. Then they anointed David as the king over all of the people of Israel.

David was thirty years old when he became the king, and he reigned for forty years. In Hebron, he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months. In Jerusalem, he reigned over all of Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. Who died in the battle on Mount Gilboa? Why did Saul decide to commit suicide? Do you think Saul was wise to kill himself?**
- 2. Read 2 Samuel 2:1. What does David’s question to God say about his relationship with him? How is David’s response to God different than Saul’s previous responses to God?**
- 3. The tribes in the north did not support David as their king. Whom did Abner appoint as the king? Why do you think**

Abner chose him to be the king? Do you think Abner made the correct decision when he chose Ish-Bosheth to be the king?

- 4. When the house of Saul and the house of David fought, who won? Why do you think they won?**
- 5. Say, God promised David that he would be the king. David waited patiently on God, and he trusted God to keep his word. Eventually, David did become the king. Sometimes your friends or family might not keep their promises. However, God always keeps his promises. Trust God and be patient. You will see that God does what he says he will do.**

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study’s memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children’s biblical study.

1. Study these passages that describe David: 1 Samuel 13:14, 15:28, 16:11-13, 16:18, and 17:33-40. Draw a picture of what you think David looked like. Then, write characteristics of David around the picture.

2. God kept his promise to David that he would be the king of Israel. Read about other promises God kept in Genesis 9:8-17, 21:1-7, Exodus 3:7-8, Jeremiah 32:20-23, and Acts 13:21-37. Ask, **How long did some of these people wait for God to fulfill his promise? How do you think they felt while they waited for God?** Instruct the children to choose one of God’s promises, and write it on some paper. Allow the children to decorate the paper as they desire. Say, **Keep this promise in a special place. Remember that God always keeps his promises.**

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 31:1-6; 2 Samuel 2:1-17; 3:1; 5:1-5 to them.

1 Who wounded Saul very badly? (31:3)

1. His armor-bearer
2. **The Philistine archers**
3. David

2 What did the men of Judah do when they came to Hebron? (2 Samuel 2:4)

1. They asked David to lead their armies.
2. **They anointed David the king over the house of Judah.**
3. They anointed David the king over all Israel.

3 Why did David send a message to the men of Jabesh Gilead? (2:4-5)

1. They killed Saul.
2. **They buried Saul.**
3. They asked about Saul.

4 Whom did Abner, the commander of Saul's army, make the king over all of Israel? (2:8-9)

1. **Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth**
2. Saul's son, Malki-Shua
3. Saul's son, Abinadab

5 How long did Ish-Bosheth reign over Israel as king? (2:10)

1. One year
2. **Two years**
3. Forty years

6 How long was David the king in Hebron over the house of Judah? (2:11)

1. 40 years, 7 months
2. 2 years, 7 months
3. **7 years, 6 months**

7 What did the elders of Israel do after David made a compact with them at Hebron? (5:3)

1. **They anointed David the king over Israel.**
2. They moved to Jerusalem.
3. They made a sacrifice to God.

8 How old was David when he became king? (5:4)

1. 25 years old
2. **30 years old**
3. 33 years old

9 How long did David rule as king? (5:4)

1. **40 years**
2. 45 years
3. 50 years

10 Finish this verse: "O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised . . ." (2 Samuel 7:28)

1. **" . . . these good things to your servant."**
2. **" . . . these terrible things to your children."**
3. **" . . . to be with us always."**

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 31:1-6; 2 Samuel 2:1-17; 3:1; 5:1-5 to them.

1 Whom did the Philistines kill while they fought Saul and his sons? (31:2)

1. Jonathan
2. Abinadab
3. Malki-Shua
4. All of the above

2 Whom did Saul order to kill him with his sword? (31:4)

1. The Philistine captain
2. Saul's eldest son
3. Saul's armor-bearer
4. David

3 What did Saul's armor-bearer do when he saw that Saul was dead? (31:5)

1. He told the elders.
2. He hid among the hills.
3. He ran for help.
4. He fell on his sword, and he died with Saul.

4 Who died on the same day as Saul? (31:6)

1. Saul's three sons
2. Saul's armor-bearer
3. All of Saul's men
4. All of the above

5 Whom did David take with him after the Lord told him to go to Hebron? (2 Samuel 2:2-3)

1. His wife, Ahinoam of Jezreel
2. His wife, Abigail, the widow of Nabal
3. The men who were with him and their families
4. All of the above

6 Who met Abner and Ish-Bosheth's men at the pool of Gibeon? (2:12-13)

1. David and Ish-Bosheth

2. The Philistine women and the Israelite women
3. Joab and David's men
4. All of the above

7 In the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, who grew stronger and stronger? (3:1)

1. The house of Judah
2. The house of Saul
3. The house of Ish-Bosheth
4. The house of David

8 Who said to David at Hebron, "We are your own flesh and blood"? (5:1)

1. All of the tribes of Judah
2. All of the tribes of Israel
3. The elders at Hebron
4. The Philistine captives

9 What did the tribes of Israel remind David that the Lord said to him? (5:2)

1. "You must always honor the Sabbath and keep it holy."
2. "You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler."
3. "You will have many sons."
4. "Your name will become great throughout the land."

10 How long did David reign in Jerusalem over all of Israel and Judah? (5:5)

1. 20 years
2. 33 years
3. 40 years
4. 7 years

seventeen

2 Samuel 5:6 —
6:19

Memory Verse

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake” (Psalm 23:1-3).

Biblical Truth

God blesses our obedience to him.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God wants us to obey him and to honour him.

Teaching Tip

Children may struggle with obedience. They sometimes find it difficult to obey teachers, parents, and other authorities. It is very important for them to obey God. The Israelites did not obey God’s initial instructions about the method to carry the ark of God.

Although it was an accident, Uzzah violated the command. While the punishment was harsh, God wanted to remind the Israelites to obey him and to treat him and the ark with respect.

Although it was an accident, Uzzah violated the command. While the punishment was harsh, God wanted to remind the Israelites to obey him and to treat him and the ark with respect.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 2 Samuel 5:6—6:19. Jerusalem was perfect for a capital city. It was in a central location. It would be easy for David’s armies to defend it. David travelled to Jerusalem, and he took control of the city from the Jebusites .

Hiram king of Tyre honoured David as the legitimate king of the Israelites, and he built David a palace. David realized that the blessings he received from God were for the sake of the Israelites.

David decided to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. The Israelites did not honour God in how they treated the ark. The Israelites chose to put the ark on a cart rather than carry the ark as God instructed. (See 1 Chronicles 15:13-15.) When the cart jostled, Uzzah reached out to steady the ark, and he immediately died. God reminded David and the Israelites that he expected them to obey his commands.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- + God sometimes does things that we do not understand.
- + God expects us to respect and to obey his commands.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

A **blessing** is an action or words that bring pleasure, contentment, or good fortune. God blessed David because of his obedience to God.

PEOPLE

Jebusites were the people of the city of Jebus. Jebus was the ancient name of Jerusalem.

Abinadab kept the ark at his house after the Philistines returned it (1 Samuel 7:1).

Uzzah and **Ahio** were the sons of Abinadab. Uzzah died because he touched the ark.

Obed-Edom kept the ark at his house for three months before David moved it to Jerusalem.

PLACES

Jerusalem was the city David chose to be the capital of Israel.

City of David is another name for Jerusalem.

The Valley of Rephaim was the valley between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

ACTIVITY

You will need these items for this activity:

- Two of any small object, such as feathers, marbles, coins, cotton balls, inflated balloons, rocks, or books

Organize the children into two teams of the same size. Indicate a start line and finish line for this race. Give each team one of the small objects.

Say, **When I tell you to begin, the first runner in each line must balance the object on the back of one hand and race to the finish line. Then the runner will turn around and race back to the start line. The object must stay balanced on the back of the hand until the runner gets back to the start line. If the object falls, the runner must pick up the object and start over at the start line. Once the runner has successfully returned to the start line, the next runner in line will balance the object on one hand and complete the race.**

Allow every child to complete the race. Encourage teammates to cheer for their team. When the race is completed, teams will shake hands and congratulate each other. Everyone is a winner for completion of the race!

Say, **It was difficult for some of you to balance the object on the back of your hand. Imagine that the object you balanced today was a special treasure. You would carefully and respectfully handle it. The Israelites carried a treasure, the ark of God. Today, we will learn about a time when one of the Israelites did not respect the ark of God.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 2 Samuel 5:6—6:19, before you tell it to the children.

King David looked for a city to become his capital city. He like the location of Jerusalem, but the Jebusites lived there. David and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites. They taunted David because they believed that their fortress was indestructible. However, David captured Jerusalem, and he moved into the fortress. He called it the City of David.

David became more and more powerful, because the Lord was with him. David knew that the Lord established him as king over Israel. Hiram king of Tyre built a palace for David.

The Philistines heard that David was the king over all of Israel, so they searched for him. The Philistines were in the Valley of Rephaim. David heard that they were searching for him. So, David asked the Lord, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines?" The Lord said, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." David defeated the Philistines.

Again, the Philistines came to the Valley of Rephaim. So David asked for the Lord's guidance. The Lord said, "Do not go straight up to them, but circle around behind them and attack them." David did what the Lord commanded, and he defeated the Philistines.

David and all of his men went to the house of Abinadab to bring the ark of God to the City of David. They placed the ark of God on a new cart, and Uzzah and Ahio guided the cart. David and the Israelites celebrated.

One of the oxen that carried the cart stumbled. Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God. The Lord's anger burned

against Uzzah because of his irreverent act. God caused Uzzah immediately to die.

David was upset because of the Lord's anger, and he was afraid of the Lord. David did not want the ark of the Lord with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom. The ark remained there for three months.

David heard that the Lord blessed Obed-Edom's household. So David brought the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David. As the priests entered the City of David with the ark, David danced.

The priests placed the ark in a special tent, and David sacrificed offerings to the Lord. Then, David blessed the people in the name of the Lord, and he gave each person a loaf of bread, a cake of raisins, and a cake of dates.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 5:10. How is this description of David's relationship with God different than the descriptions we know of Saul's relationship with God?**
- 2. Why did Uzzah die? How do you think the Israelites responded to God after Uzzah's death? How did David respond? What does irreverent mean? Why was what Uzzah did irreverent?**
- 3. Why did David want to bring the ark from Obed-Edom's house to his palace? What did he do while he brought the ark to Jerusalem?**

Say, The Israelites experienced many blessings from God. The Israelites had a capital city and a new palace for King David. David was eager to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. The ark was the symbol of God's presence. However, the Israelites did not obey God's commands about the

ark, so they failed to honour God. God wants us to obey him and show him honour at all times. If you ask God, he will help you to honour him.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. The memory verses for the next three studies will come from Psalm 23. Provide poster board and markers for the children. Encourage the children to create an illustration of Psalm 23 using pictures in place of the words where it is appropriate.

2. David captured Jerusalem, and he called it the City of David. Using an encyclopaedia or the internet, research the population, land mass, the terrain, the common occupations, and the typical housing arrangements of Jerusalem. Create a comparison chart between what the city was like during the time of David and what it is like today.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 5:6—6:19 to them.

1 How did David surprise the Jebusites? (5:6-7)

1. He took away their food and water.
2. He captured the fortress of Zion.
3. He freed them.

2 What did the Philistines abandon in Baal Perazim? (5:21)

1. Their food and water
2. Their supplies
3. Their idols

3 What did the Lord say the second time that David asked if he should attack the Philistines? (5:23)

1. "Run to the fortress and hide."
2. "Circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees."
3. "Send spies to their camp. Then attack them."

4 Where did the Israelites set the ark of God when they brought it from Baalah? (6:3)

1. On a new cart
2. In a tent
3. In the palace

5 Who reached out and took hold of the ark when the oxen stumbled? (6:6)

1. Ahio
2. Abinadab
3. Uzzah

6 What happened to Uzzah after he touched the ark? (6:6-7)

1. He moved away from Israel.
2. God struck him down, and he died.
3. Nothing happened to him.

7 How long did the ark of the Lord remain at the house of Obed-Edom? (6:11)

1. Three months
2. Two years
3. One month

8 What did David do to the ark when he heard that the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom? (6:12)

1. He left it at Obed-Edom's house.
2. He brought it to the City of David with rejoicing.
3. He took it to Mount Sinai to worship.

9 What did the people hear when the ark of the Lord was brought to the City of David? (6:15)

1. Shouting and the sound of trumpets
2. Booming
3. The sound of jars breaking

10 What did David do after the ark of God arrived in the tent? (6:17-18)

1. He sacrificed to the Lord.
2. He blessed the people in the name of the Lord.
3. Both answers are correct.

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 5:6—6:19 to them.

1 What did the Jebusites say to David when he and his men came to attack them? (5:6)

1. "We hope you do not get in."
2. "Even the blind and lame can ward you off."
3. "The LORD does not want you to attack us."
4. All of the above

2 What did David do after he captured the fortress of Zion? (5:7, 9)

1. He moved into the fortress to live.
2. He called it the City of David.
3. He built up the area around it.
4. All of the above

3 Why did David become more and more powerful? (5:10)

1. The Lord was with him.
2. He practiced how to fight with a sword.
3. He gathered a large army.
4. He made everyone afraid of him.

4 How did the Philistines react when they heard that David was anointed the king? (5:17)

1. They fled to Philistia.
2. They hid in the hills of Moab.
3. They searched for him.
4. The Philistine kings went to Jerusalem to make a treaty with him.

5 What did the Lord say the first time David asked if he should attack the Philistines? (5:19)

1. "Do not go out right now."
2. "Attack the Philistines tomorrow morning."
3. "Wait one week, and then ambush the Philistines."
4. "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you."

6 Why did David bring together 30,000 chosen men from Baalah? (6:1-2)

1. To fight the Philistines
2. To take the ark to Mount Sinai
3. To bring the ark of God from Abinadab's house
4. To help build a temple

7 Who guided the cart with the ark on it? (6:3)

1. Nathan and Solomon
2. Uzzah and Ahio
3. Hophni and Phinehas
4. Abinadab and Obed-Edom

8 What did David say after Uzzah died? (6:9)

1. "Why did the LORD do this?"
2. "Uzzah sinned. He deserved to die."
3. "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?"
4. "I am glad that the LORD did not kill me."

9 Why did David want to bring the ark from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David? (6:12)

1. He saw how the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom.
2. He wanted to take the ark into battle.
3. He wanted the ark of the Lord for protection.
4. All of the above

10 Finish this verse: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me . . ." (Psalm 23:1-3)

1. ". . . to safe places to protect me from harm."
2. ". . . everywhere he wants me to go."
3. ". . . in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."
4. ". . . throughout the land he has promised."

eighteen

2 Samuel 7:1-29

Memory Verse

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Biblical Truth

God is faithful to his people.

Focus

God blesses us when we seek to honour him. He deserves our praise and our gratitude for his goodness and faithfulness.

Teaching Tip

Although there were times when war was necessary, God’s desire is for peace. God wanted a peaceful king to build his temple. See 1 Chronicles 22:7-10 for details.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29. David thought that the ark of God should rest in a temple rather than in a tent. The ark was God’s throne, and God was the supreme king of the Israelites. David wanted God to receive a greater honour than what David possessed.

Israel was an established kingdom. David intended to lead the Israelites in ways that were faithful to their covenant with God. A permanent temple for God’s ark would be a sign to the Israelites that David desired God to be a permanent presence in their lives.

God was pleased by David’s desire to honour him. God promised to give more blessings to David. God, however, did not permit David to build the temple. God planned to give David a son, Solomon, who would build the temple.

God promised never to take away his love from David and his offspring. God promised David that the kingdom that God established through David would be an everlasting kingdom.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God is faithful to keep his promises.
- God deserves our praise and gratitude for his goodness and faithfulness.

PEOPLE

Nathan was a prophet who gave David many messages from God.

THINGS

A palace of cedar was the palace that Hiram king of Tyre built for David. Cedar is a tree that grows 30 meters tall. It was perfect for building projects because the wood did not rot.

A tent as my dwelling means the tabernacle the Israelites built after they left Egypt. It contained the ark of God.

Establish a house for David means that God will establish a royal dynasty through David.

ACTIVITY

Play a game of “Teacher, May I?” Instruct the children to line up behind a starting line. The object of the game is to reach the finish line on the opposite side of the room. To do this, the children always must remember to ask the teacher’s permission before completing the teacher’s command.

To the first child, the teacher will give a command, such as “Take two giant steps.” The child must first ask, “Teacher, may I?” When the teacher says, “Yes, you may,” the child follows the command. If the child fails to ask, “Teacher, may I?” and moves ahead, the child must go back to the starting line.

Continue the game by giving the next child a command. Vary the commands and the number of steps. Be creative in your commands, such as, giant steps, baby steps, jumping steps, or hopping steps. Play until at least one child reaches the finish line. If the time permits, play the game until all of the children reach the finish line.

Say, **You listened carefully to the commands, and you asked for my permission before you moved. In this study, David wanted to build something for God. You will learn if God gave him the permission.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 2 Samuel 7:1-29, before you tell it to the children.

David settled into his palace. The Lord gave him rest from all of his enemies . After awhile, David said to Nathan, a prophet, “I am living in a palace of cedar while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

Nathan said, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.” He said this to David before he consulted the Lord.

That night, the Lord said to Nathan, “Tell my servant, David, that this is what the LORD says. Are you the one to build me a

house to dwell in? I did not dwell in a house when I brought the Israelites from Egypt. I moved from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I went with the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

The Lord told Nathan to tell David, “I was with you wherever you went. I helped you defeat all of your enemies. I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. I will provide a place for my people, so that they can have a home of their own. I will also give you rest from all of your enemies.”

The Lord also promised to establish a house, or royal dynasty, for David. He said, “When your days as the king are over, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you.” God reversed David’s request. David would not build a temple for God. Instead, God would build a dynasty for David.

The Lord promised David that his son would build a structure for the ark of God. The Lord said this about David’s son: “I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take away my love from him. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever.” God’s commitment to David and his descendants was unconditional. God loved David and his descendants regardless of their actions. However, God reminded David that their actions would still have consequences. If they chose disobedience, their relationship with God would not be terminated, but they should expect punishment.

Nathan told David all that the Lord said.

David said to the Lord, “Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you brought me this far? You spoke about the future of the family of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man?”

“How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you. There is no God but you. Who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth that God redeemed as a people for himself?”

“You established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O LORD, became their God. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever.”

“O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you promised these good things to your servant. With your blessing, the descendants of your servant will be blessed forever.”

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

- 1. Why did God not ask the Israelites to build a temple for him?**
- 2. What did God say he did for David? Why do you think God lists the things he did for David?**
- 3. Why do you think it meant so much to David that God was going to bless his descendants? Why did David feel humble when God told him the future of his descendants?**
- 4. David succeeded because God was at work in his life. What successes has God helped you achieve?**
- 5. How did God keep his promise to put one of David’s descendants on the throne forever?**

Say, Have you ever done something nice for someone to express your appreciation and love for them? That is what David wanted to do for God. God gave David many blessings. David wanted God to have the highest honour of all. David wanted to build a temple for God. God had other plans for the building of the temple, but he was pleased with David’s attitude.

It is not necessary to do great things to please God. We please God when we love him and try to honour him.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study’s memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children’s biblical study.

1. The Lord told Nathan that he did not dwell in a house from the day that he brought the Israelites out of Egypt. Read about the ark of the covenant, the table, the lampstand, and the tabernacle in Exodus 25:1-26:37. Instruct the children to draw a picture of one or more of these items.

2. The Lord said that he would make David’s name great. Look in the New Testament. **How many times can you find David’s name?** Here are some examples: Matthew 1:1-17, Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:32, Luke 2:4, Luke 2:11, and Luke 3:31. **What is the most consistent reason for David’s name being mentioned in the New Testament? What does this say about God’s promise to David?**

NOTES:

QUESTIONS BASIC FOR COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 7:1-29 to them.

1 After King David settled in his palace, what did he say to Nathan? (7:1-2)

1. "Bring the ark of God to my palace."
2. "I am living in a palace while the ark of God is in a tent."
3. Both answers are correct.

2 From where did the Lord take David to make him ruler over Israel? (7:8)

1. From the palace
2. From the pasture
3. From the temple

3 What did the Lord say that he would do for David? (7:9)

1. He would make David's name great.
2. He would give David great wealth.
3. Both answers are correct.

4 What did the Lord say He would establish for David? (7:11)

1. A temple
2. A country of servants
3. A house

5 Who did the Lord say would build the Lord's house? (7:12-13)

1. David
2. David's offspring
3. Jonathan's son

6 According to the Lord, what did the Lord say would never be taken from David's offspring? (7:15)

1. Great wealth
2. Great power
3. The Lord's love

7 How did King David react when Nathan told him the word of the Lord? (7:18)

1. He went in and sat before the Lord.
2. He left the palace and went to the pasture.
3. He fled to Philistia.

8 How did David describe God's greatness? (7:22)

1. "How great you are, O Sovereign LORD!"
2. "There is no one like you, and there is no God but you."
3. Both answers are correct.

9 According to David, what did God do for Israel? (7:23-24)

1. He redeemed it as a people for himself.
2. He established Israel as God's own people forever.
3. Both answers are correct.

10 Finish this verse: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod . . ." (Psalm 23:4)

1. ". . . and your hand, they protect me."
2. ". . . and your staff, they comfort me."
3. ". . . is a reminder of your power."

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 7:1-29 to them.

1 When David spoke to Nathan about the ark of God, what did Nathan tell David? (7:3)

1. "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it."
2. "Do not worry about the ark of God."
3. "Move the ark to the house of Abinadab."
4. "Always honour the ark of God."

2 Where did the Lord say he dwelt from the day he brought the Israelites out of Egypt? (7:5-6)

1. In the palace
2. In Canaan
3. In a house
4. In a tent

3 What did the Lord say he did for David? (7:8-9)

1. He was with David wherever he went.
2. He took David from the pasture and made him ruler over Israel.
3. He cut off all of David's enemies.
4. All of the above

4 What did the Lord say he would provide for his people? (7:10)

1. Food and water
2. A home of their own where they would no longer be disturbed
3. Wealth and power
4. Land

5 According to the Lord, who would no longer oppress the Israelites? (7:10)

1. Saul's children
2. Other kings
3. Wicked people
4. David's children

6 Whom did the Lord say he would raise up to follow David? (7:11-12)

1. David's offspring
2. Saul's grandson
3. Jonathan's son
4. David's nephew

7 What did the Lord say he would do when David's offspring did wrong? (7:14)

1. The Lord would remove His love from him.
2. The Lord would punish him with the rod of men.
3. The Lord would tell him to stop being king.
4. All of the above

8 What did the Lord say would endure forever before him? (7:16)

1. David's house and kingdom
2. The temple
3. Israel
4. The Tabernacle

9 What did David ask the Lord after Nathan told him the word of the Lord? (7:18-19)

1. "O LORD, why will you not allow me to build a temple for you?"
2. "O LORD, how long will I be king?"
3. "Why did you speak to Nathan and not to me?"
4. "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you brought me this far?"

10 What did David ask the Lord to keep? (7:25)

1. Israel's gold
2. His promise
3. All of Israel's food
4. The ark of the covenant

nineteen

2 Samuel 9:1-13

Memory Verse

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever”
(Psalm 23:5-6).

Biblical Truth

God keeps his promises, and he wants people to keep their promises.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that it is important to keep promises. God expects us to keep our promises.

Teaching Tip

A promise is a pledge that one person gives to another. Unfortunately, many children have experienced broken promises from adults. When an adult fails to keep a promise, a child often feels devastated. If the child repeatedly experiences broken promises, he or she may doubt that God will keep his promises. Be a positive role model for the children in your class. Model what it means to make a promise and keep it. Point out that David remembered his promise to Jonathan and fulfilled it. Remind the children that God always keeps his promises.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13. God was faithful to the covenant he made with the Israelites, even when the Israelites were not faithful. God continually kept his promises.

David fought against Saul to gain control over all of the Israelite tribes. David could punish all of the living members of Saul's family. Some kings did this to prevent any of the living members of a former king's family from challenging the current kingship.

David, however, made a covenant of loyalty with Jonathan while Jonathon was still alive. David chose to honour that covenant when he provided for Saul's son, Mephibosheth. David took a risk when he permitted a member of Saul's family to live.

David's actions toward Mephibosheth showed that David chose to rule in a way that pleased God. David was a man after God's own heart. David kept his promise to Jonathan.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- ✦ God cares about all people, and he wants us to care for all people.
- ✦ God keeps his promises, and he wants us to keep our promises.

PEOPLE

Jonathan was the oldest son of King Saul.

Ziba was a servant of King Saul.

Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson.

THINGS

Dead dog is an expression that was common in Bible times. It expresses the most extreme self-humiliation. It was also a form of an insult.

ACTIVITY

Organize the children into groups of three. Indicate a start line and finish line for this race. In each group, two children will serve as medical personnel, and one child will be the injured patient. The two medical personnel will create a gurney with their arms to carry the injured patient.

Familiarize yourself with the following instructions so that you can demonstrate the actions.

Instruct the medical personnel to face each other. Ask the children to extend their right arms straight out in front of them. Then, ask them to bend the left arm and grab the elbow of their right arm. The two medical personnel then grab the left arm of their partner with their right hands. This will form a square with their arms, and it will serve as the gurney for the injured patient. The medical personnel will bend down so that the injured patient can sit on the gurney.

Say, **When I tell you to begin, each team will form a gurney and carry the injured teammate to the finish line. Then the team will turn around and race back to the start line. The injured patient must stay balanced on the gurney until the team gets back to the start line. If the injured patient falls or the gurney breaks, the team must start over at the start line.**

Conduct the race multiple times so that every child has an opportunity to be the injured patient.

Say, **It was fun to pretend that we were medical personnel and injured patients. When someone is hurt or in need, we help them. Today, we will learn about someone who needed help and about someone who possibly risked his career and life to help him.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 2 Samuel 9:1-13, before you tell it to the children.

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of Saul's family to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

There was a servant named Ziba who was from Saul's household. David sent for Ziba and asked him if there was anyone left from Saul's family.

Ziba answered, "There is still a son of Jonathan. He is crippled in both feet." So King David sent for Jonathan's son.

When Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, came to David, he bowed down to give honour to David. David told Mephibosheth not to be afraid. David reassured him that, for the sake of Jonathan, Mephibosheth would always receive kindness from him. David promised that he would restore to Mephibosheth all the land that belonged to his grandfather, Saul. Also, for the rest of his life, Mephibosheth would eat at the king's table.

Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

Then David said to Ziba, "I have given Saul's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson will have everything he needs."

Ziba told David, "I will do whatever you command me to do."

So, Mephibosheth and his young son, Mica, moved to Jerusalem, where they inherited Ziba's household as servants. Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. From that time on, Mephibosheth always ate at the king's table.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Read 1 Samuel 20:14-15, 42. **Why did David want to help Jonathan's son?**
2. **If you were Mephibosheth, how would you feel if you were invited to meet with the king? Why was Mephibosheth nervous?**
3. **Why was Mephibosheth surprised that David helped him?**
4. **What did David promise to do for Mephibosheth?**

Say, **Have you ever made a promise? It is not always easy to keep a promise. Long ago, David and Jonathan made a covenant of friendship. David kept his promise to Jonathan when he cared for Mephibosheth.**

David made the right choice when he kept his promises. God keeps his promises, and he expects us to keep our promises.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. How do you think a king typically treated the descendants of previous kings? How were David's actions different?

2. Today we learned about a compassionate act that David did for Jonathan's son. What are some ways that we can help needy people that we know? Choose one or two practical ideas for the children to do. Help the children to create a plan and to put their plan into action.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 to them.

1 Who said, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake"? (9:1)

1. Saul
2. Ziba
3. David

2 Who was a servant of Saul's household? (9:2)

1. Ziba
2. Mica
3. Mephibosheth

3 What did David ask Ziba?(9:3)

1. "How many servants and sons do you have?"
2. "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"
3. "How long were you Saul's servants?"

4 How did Ziba describe Jonathan's son? (9:3)

1. "He is a hard worker."
2. "He is mean to the servants."
3. "He is crippled in both feet."

5 What was the name of Jonathan's son? (9:6)

1. Mephibosheth
2. Hophni
3. Eliab

6 Who was the father of Mephibosheth? (9:6)

1. Ziba
2. Jonathan
3. Saul

7 Who said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?" (9:8)

1. Ziba
2. Mica
3. Mephibosheth

8 How many sons and servants did Ziba have? (9:10)

1. 10 sons and 15 servants
2. 15 sons and 20 servants
3. 20 sons and 15 servants

9 Who was Mephibosheth's son? (9:12)

1. Mica
2. Jonathan
3. Ziba

10 Why did Mephibosheth live in Jerusalem? (9:13)

1. His family lived there.
2. He always ate at the king's table.
3. He grew up there.

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 9:1-13 to them.

1 What did David want to show to someone from the house of Saul? (9:1)

1. Kindness
2. Hatred
3. Jealousy
4. Resentment

2 Why did David want to show kindness to someone from the house of Saul? (9:1)

1. So the people would like David
2. So the people would like Saul
3. For Saul's sake
4. For Jonathan's sake

3 What did Ziba say when David asked if anyone from the house of Saul was alive? (9:3)

1. "There is still a son of Jonathan."
2. "There is still a brother of Saul."
3. "All of Saul's grandchildren are alive."
4. "No one is alive from the house of Saul."

4 Where was Mephibosheth when David first asked about him? (9:4)

1. In the house of Abinadab in Bethel
2. In the house of Makir in Lo Debar
3. In the house of Obed-Edom in Jerusalem
4. In the house of Saul in Gibeah

5 What did Mephibosheth do when he first came to David? (9:6)

1. Mephibosheth sat down at David's table to eat.
2. Mephibosheth bowed down to pay him honour.
3. Mephibosheth played the harp for David.
4. All of the above

6 What promises did David give Mephibosheth? (9:7)

1. David would show him kindness for Jonathan's sake.
2. David would restore to him Saul's land.
3. David would permit him always to eat at his table.
4. All of the above

7 What did David tell Ziba to do for Mephibosheth? (9:9-10)

1. "Farm the land for him and bring in the crops."
2. "Let him stay in your home."
3. "Give him money every month."
4. All of the above

8 What did Ziba say when David asked him to farm Mephibosheth's land? (9:11)

1. "It will be too much work. We cannot do it."
2. "I will hire more servants for Mephibosheth."
3. "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do."
4. "I will only be able to do this for three years."

9 Who were servants of Mephibosheth? (9:12)

1. Ziba only
2. Mica and his sons
3. David's servants
4. All the members of Ziba's household

10 Finish this verse: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love..." (Psalm 23:5-6)

1. "... will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
2. "... will flow over me all of my life, and I will stay with the LORD for all time."
3. "... will come from the LORD, and I will follow his ways all the days of my life."
4. "... will follow me forever, and I will seek the word of the LORD in his house."

STUDY **twenty**

**2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27;
12:1-10, 13-25**

Memory Verse

“Create in me a pure heart,
O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me”
(Psalm 51:10).

Biblical Truth

God punishes sin, but he
forgives and restores those
who repent.

Focus

God does not protect us from
the consequences of our
sins, but he forgives us when
we repent.

Teaching Tip

Inform the
children’s parents that this
lesson is about David and
Bathsheba. Consider inviting
the parents to participate in
the lesson with their
children. If the children raise
questions about adultery or
Bathsheba’s pregnancy,
keep the answers brief and
matter-of-fact. Encourage
students to ask their parents
if they have further
questions.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27; 12:1-10, 13-25. It was common for armies to take a break from war during the winter. When the spring came and weather conditions improved, the battles resumed. Kings typically led their armies into battle. However, this time, David sent his soldiers to battle without leading them.

David made some choices that did not honour God. David failed to resist temptation, and he committed adultery and murder. God sent Nathan, the prophet, to confront David concerning the choices that David made.

When Nathan confronted David, David repented for the choices he made. God accepted David’s repentance, and he forgave David. However, God still punished David for his actions. David and his descendants felt the effects of David’s punishment. Nathan told David that the first son of David and Bathsheba would die.

The death of this child was an example to the Israelites that kings also were accountable for their actions. David showed the depths of his repentance by fasting and praying. He knew that God’s judgment was merciful and just. God gave David and Bathsheba another son, and they named him Solomon. God sent word through Nathan that this son should also be called Jedidiah, which meant loved by God. Because of David’s repentance, God showed mercy to David and restored their relationship.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- God does not protect us from the consequences of our sins.
- God forgives us when we repent.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

To repent is to turn away from sin and to turn to God. This means that the one who repents feels sorry for the sin, asks for forgiveness, and decides to live for God.

PEOPLE

Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah.

Uriah the Hittite was Bathsheba's husband.

Solomon was the second son of David and Bathsheba. He became the next king of Israel.

Jedidiah was the name that God gave to Solomon when he was born. It means "loved by the Lord."

THINGS

A **ewe lamb** is a female lamb.

To fast is to give up something for a time, usually food, in order to pray and focus on God

ACTIVITY

For this activity, you will need the following:

- + two small containers with lids
- + some mud
- + some soap
- + a wet cloth

Before the children arrive, fill one container with clean water. Fill the second container with mud. Coat the outside of the second container with mud.

Set the containers, soap, and cloth on a table. Say, **I want the dirty container to be as clean as the container of water.** Let a volunteer try to wash the dirty container using the soap and the cloth. Ask, **Is the container clean now?** Open the lid and show the class the inside of the container. Say, **We cleaned the outside of this container, but the inside is still dirty.**

Say, **All of us are born into a world full of sin, and we all sin. We try to clean the outside. In our own efforts, we are not able to clean the inside. Only God is able to do that! He does this when we repent of our sins.**

Say, **We will learn about a man who appeared clean on the outside, but he was not clean on the inside.**

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27; 12:1-10, 13-25, before you tell it to the children.

In the spring, when kings usually go to war, David stayed home. He sent Joab to war.

When David stood on his roof, he saw a woman bathing. The woman was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. David sent for her. Bathsheba came to the palace, and David slept with her. Later she sent word to David that she was pregnant. David was the father of her child.

David tried to cover up the wrong things he did. He ordered that Uriah come home from the war. David greeted Uriah, and then he told him to go home. David hoped Uriah would sleep with Bathsheba while he was home, so Uriah would appear to be the child's father. If so, then no one could accuse David of being the father.

But Uriah did not go to his house. Instead, he stayed at the entrance to the palace with all the servants. David asked Uriah why he did not go home. Uriah said, "I could not go home when the ark and all of my king's armies are away at war." Uriah showed his devotion to the Lord, and he remained disciplined. He was faithful in honouring God by avoiding pleasures until the war was over.

David told Uriah to stay one more day. That evening, David became so desperate to hide his sin that he made Uriah drunk. But again, Uriah stayed with the servants, and he did not go home.

Then, David wrote a letter to Joab, and he sent it to the army with Uriah. The letter said, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then retreat from him, so the enemy will kill him."

Joab did what David said. He put Uriah against the strongest soldiers in the enemy's army. During the battle, some of the men in David's army, including Uriah, died.

Bathsheba mourned for Uriah. Then, David brought her to his house. She became his wife, and she gave birth to his son. David believed that he successfully covered up his sin. But David's sin displeased the Lord.

The Lord sent Nathan, a prophet, to David. Nathan told David a story about a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had many cattle and sheep. The poor man had one ewe lamb. The rich man needed to prepare a meal. Instead of using one of his own livestock, he took the ewe lamb from the poor man.

David burned with anger against the rich man. He told Nathan that the rich man deserved to die. Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

David said, "I sinned against the Lord." David did not deny what he did or make any excuses. He immediately confessed his sin. Consequently, God responded quickly and forgave David.

Nathan replied, "The LORD took away your sin. You are not going to die. But the son who was born to you will die." David would suffer the consequences for his sin.

After Nathan went home, the child became ill. David pleaded with God for the child. David fasted and prayed. He hoped that God would change the consequences. But, after seven days, the child died.

After the child's death, David did not mourn any longer. He accepted the reality of the death of his son, worshiped God, and resumed life again.

Later, David and Bathsheba had another son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him. The Lord told Nathan to

tell David to name the child Jedidiah, which means loved by the Lord.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Why did the writer mention that David did not go off to war? Why do you think David stayed home?
2. How did David try to cover up his sin with Bathsheba? What are some sins that children often cover up with another sin?
3. Contrast David and Uriah. How were their character traits different?
4. How did David respond when Nathan said, "You are the man"? How would you respond if someone told you that you sinned?
5. What did David do while his son was sick? What did he do when his child died? What does this say about his relationship with God?
6. The Lord told Nathan to give Solomon the name Jedidiah, which means loved by the Lord. Why did the Lord want Solomon to have this name?

Say, Do you know what temptation is? Temptation is anything that leads you to want to disobey God. Have you ever submitted to temptation? Did your sin hurt you or others in some way?

King David was tempted to commit adultery. He took Uriah's wife, and then he planned a way for Uriah to die. When Nathan confronted David, David repented. David asked God to forgive him, and David promised to live for God.

When David sinned, it hurt David, but it also hurt the people around him. His sin did not please God. Sin destroys relationships with others and with God. The good

news is that if we repent, God will forgive us just as he forgave David.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's biblical study.

1. Compare and contrast Nathan's parable about the poor man's lamb with the three parables of Jesus in Luke 15. **Who was Jesus talking to in His parables?** Summarize each parable's meaning. Also summarize the meaning of the parable that Nathan told in 2 Samuel 12:1-10.

3. Review 1 Samuel 15:1-35. Samuel confronted Saul about his sin. **How did Saul respond?** Nathan confronted David about his sin. **How did David respond? How did David stop the cycle of sin in his life?**

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27; 12:1-10, 13-25 to them.

1 Who was Bathsheba's husband? (11:3)

1. Uriah
2. Nathan
3. Saul

2 Where did Uriah sleep while he was back from war? (11:9, 13)

1. At the entrance to the palace
2. At his house
3. One night at the palace and one night at home

3 What did the letter that David sent with Uriah say? (11:15)

1. "Put Uriah in the front line."
2. "Withdraw from Uriah so he will be struck down and die."
3. Both answers are correct.

4 What did Bathsheba do when she heard that Uriah had died? (11:26)

1. She mourned for him.
2. She moved from Jerusalem.
3. Both answers are correct.

5 In the story Nathan told David, what did the poor man have? (12:3)

1. One little ewe lamb
2. A big house
3. A lot of children

6 To whom did Nathan compare the rich man in the story? (12:7)

1. David
2. Saul
3. Uriah

7 What did David do after his son became ill? (12:15-16)

1. He pleaded with God for the child, and he fasted.
2. He slept day and night.
3. He worshiped the Lord.

8 How did David react when he learned that his son died? (12:20)

1. He fasted and wept.
2. He went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.
3. He held a feast in his son's honour.

9 What did David and Bathsheba name their second son? (12:24)

1. Saul
2. Solomon
3. Jonathan

10 Finish this verse: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew . . ." (Psalm 51:10)

1. "... a covenant of faith with your people."
2. "... a spirit of peacefulness for me."
3. "... a steadfast spirit within me."

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27; 12:1-10, 13-25 to them.

1 Where did David remain while Joab and the army went to war? (11:1)

1. Gilgal
2. Gibeah
3. Jerusalem
4. Hebron

2 What woman did David send for while he was in Jerusalem and his army was off to war? (11:3)

1. Bathsheba
2. Michal
3. Abigail
4. Ruth

3 What did Uriah say when David asked him why he did not sleep at home? (11:10-11)

1. "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents."
2. "My master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields."
3. "As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing."
4. All of the above

4 What did Bathsheba do when the time of mourning for Uriah was over? (11:27)

1. She married David, and she gave birth to his son.
2. She left Jerusalem.
3. She ran away to Ramah.
4. All of the above

5 In the story Nathan told to David, how did the poor man treat his ewe lamb? (12:3)

1. He raised it.
2. It grew up with his children.
3. It shared his food.
4. All of the above

6 In the story Nathan told to David, what did the rich man take from the poor man? (12:4)

1. His ewe lamb
2. His child
3. His crops
4. His house

7 What did David say when he heard the story from Nathan? (12:5)

1. "Bring that man to me."
2. "Take another ewe lamb to the poor man."
3. "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die!"
4. "Give the poor man 1,000 sheep."

8 What did David say to Nathan after Nathan rebuked him? (12:13)

1. "Why are you rebuking me?"
2. "I did nothing wrong."
3. "I sinned against the LORD."
4. "Leave me alone."

9 What did Nathan say to David after David confessed his sin? (12:13)

1. "The LORD took away your sin."
2. "You are not going to die."
3. "The son born to you will die."
4. All of the above

10 Why did the Lord want Nathan to tell David and Bathsheba to name their second son Jedidiah? (12:25)

1. The Lord did not like the name Solomon.
2. The Lord knew that the child would be king.
3. The Lord loved him.
4. David's father's name was Jedidiah.

memory verses

The following verses are the memory verses for each study. You may reproduce this page and distribute it to the children for study purposes.

STUDY 1

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Peter 3:12).

STUDY 2

“Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained” (1 Samuel 2:30).

STUDY 3

“There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God” (1 Samuel 2:2).

STUDY 4

“Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?” (Psalm 77:13).

STUDY 5

“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced” (1 Chronicles 16:11-12).

STUDY 6

“For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise” (Psalm 47:7).

STUDY 7

“But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you” (1 Samuel 12:24).

STUDY 8

“Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6).

STUDY 9

“But Samuel replied: ‘Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams’” (1 Samuel 15:22).

STUDY 10

“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

STUDY 11

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

STUDY 12

“Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:26).

STUDY 13

“The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him” (Nahum 1:7).

STUDY 14

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

STUDY 15

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18).

STUDY 16

“O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant” (2 Samuel 7:28).

STUDY 17

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake” (Psalm 23:1-3).

STUDY 18

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

STUDY 19

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (Psalm 23:5-6).

STUDY 20

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

Choose from the following activities to help the children to learn the memory verse.

1 . Ask the children to sit in a straight line. Tell the first child to stand, to say the first word of the verse, to wave both hands excitedly in the air, and to sit down. Ask the second child to stand, to say the second word of the verse, to wave both hands excitedly in the air, and to sit down. Continue until the verse is complete. If a child forgets a word or says the wrong word, let the other children tell the correct word. Encourage the children to say the verse quickly so that their motions look like an ocean wave.

2 . You will need a chalkboard, marker board, or paper for this activity. Write the memory verse on a chalkboard or marker board. Ask the children to recite the verse. Permit a child to erase one word, and then ask the children to repeat the verse. Continue until all the words disappear, and the children say the verse from memory. If a chalkboard or marker board is not available, write each word of the verse on a separate piece of paper, and ask the children to remove one word at a time.

3 . Prepare papers and hide them in advance for this activity. Write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece of paper. Hide the individual words around the room. Ask the children to find the words and to arrange them in the correct order. Recite the memory verse.

4 . Ask two children who think that they know the memory verse to stand back to back. Ask one child to say the first word of the verse and the other child to say the next word. The children will go back and forth saying the words until someone makes a mistake. The one who missed a word sits down. The remaining child is the champion. Ask the whole class to say the memory verse. Then choose a new contender to compete against the champion.

5 . You will need a blindfold for this activity. Ask the children to stand in a large circle. Select one child to stand in the center of the circle. Place a blindfold on this child. Ask the children in the circle to join hands and walk around the circle as they say, "God's Word helps me each day." Have the children walk and repeat this twice. This action will prevent the child in the middle from remembering where each child in the circle stood. Once the children in the circle have stopped, the child in the middle will point to one child to say the Bible verse. Instruct the child who recites the verse to try to disguise his or her voice by speaking in a high, squeaky voice or a low, deep voice. The child in the center will try to guess who said the verse. If the child fails to guess correctly, he or she will point to another child who will say the verse. Continue until the child in the center guesses the correct child or the child guesses wrong three times. Then choose another child to go into the center.

6 . You will need a small ball for this activity. Ask the children to stand in a circle. The first student says the first word and then tosses the ball to another child. That person says the first word and the second word and then tosses the ball to another child. The children continue to pass the ball around the circle. Each child repeats the verse until the children recite the whole verse. Encourage the children to pass the ball as quickly as possible.

7 . You will need index cards or paper for this activity.

Write a different activity on each index card, such as, to turn around in a circle, to lay on the floor, to pat your head, to stand on a chair, to skip across the room, to stand in a corner, to whisper, to shout, and to say it to a friend in class. Ask each child to choose one of the index cards and to do the activity listed on it while he or she recites the memory verse.

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Clarksdale
Cleveland First
Columbus First
Crossroads
Dayspring Community
Fellowship
Gloster
Greenville First
Grenada First
Gulf Coast Family
Gulfport First
Hattiesburg First
Hazlehurst
Jackson Emmanuel
Laurel First
LifePointe Community
Long Beach Community
Magnolia
Meridian Northside
Oxford
Pearson Chapel
Rosebloom
Southaven
Starkville Wesley Community
Vicksburg First

NORTH CAROLINA

Beaufort Bridgeway
Burlington First
Cary Penny Road
Charlotte Pineville
Charlotte Trinity
Elizabeth City
Fayetteville
Franklin New Life
Gastonia Eastside
Havelock Coastal Beacon
Hendersonville First
 Hickory
Laurinburg

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ashwood
Beaufort New Direction
Community
Great Falls
Hartsville First
Lugoff Faith
Spartanburg First
Summerville
Sumter Calvary
Wallace
West Columbia Central
York

TENNESSEE

Clarksville Park Lane
Fry

Jason Chapel
Lewisburg First
Paris First
White House New Life

ALABAMA NORTH

Birmingham Center Point
Boley
Church at Mercy Hill
Decatur First
Fairview
Faith
Fayette
Gardendale
Huntsville Calvary
Madison First
Mount Zion
New Life
Nitrate City
Salem
Scottsboro
Sheffield First

ALABAMA SOUTH

Auburn Eagle Pointe
Bayview
Columbiana
Excel Enoch Johnson Memorial
Millbrook
Mobile First
Monroeville
Montgomery Capital City
Selma West Village
Sylacauga First
Wallace Chapel

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Brandon First
Haines City
Longwood Parkside Fellowship
Melbourne First
Orlando Center Point
Community
Orlando Union Park
Orlando United
Plant City Community
Sanford Gracepointe
St. Cloud
St. Petersburg Victory
Tampa First

NORTH FLORIDA

Archer
Eustis
Faith Community
Hernando
Jacksonville Oak Hill
Jacksonville University
Boulevard
Lake City
Madison Barbara Memorial
Monticello
New Smyrna Beach
Orange Park
Pensacola First
Port St. Joe
San Mateo First
St. Augustine First
Suwannee River
Tallahassee First

SOUTHERN

FLORIDA

Avon Park First
Bradenton First
Carol City Ebenezer
Goulds First
Hollywood
Miami Peniel
Pahokee First Hispanic

SOUTHWEST USA ARIZONA

Casa Grande New Beginnings
Chandler First
Citrus Road Community
CrossRoads
East Valley
Fort Mohave Christian Joy
Glendale Turning Leaf
Community
Globe
Lake Havasu
Lake Powell
Mesa First
Moapa Valley
New Hope Community
Phoenix First
Phoenix Orangewood
Prescott Valley
Scottsdale First
Sierra Vista
Sun City
Tempe
Tucson Cactus Community
Tucson Central
Verde Valley
West Valley Family

HAWAII PACIFIC

Hanapepe
Honolulu First
Ma'i'i Samoan
LOS ANGELES
Hillside Community
Lancaster Valley View
Los Angeles Grace
Los Angeles Highland Park
Mojave
Monrovia
Newhall
Pasadena Bresee Avenue
Ridgecrest

NEW MEXICO

Alamogordo New Beginnings
Living Stones Community

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Apple Valley
Blythe
Palm Springs
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
Bakersfield - Iglesia Del
Nazareno Nuevo Horizonte
Bakersfield - Ridgeview
Community
Fresno First
Fresno Grace
Mercy Springs
Modesto Eastridge Community

Oakdale Family
Pixley
Riverbank New Life

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Pittsburg First
Sunnyvale
The Point
SACRAMENTO
Fairfield New Hope
Gardnerville Crossroads
Lodi Crossroads/Heartland -
Better Together
Oroville
Paradise Community
Placerville
Rio Linda LifePointe
Sacramento Cordova
Sacramento First
Sacramento Liberty Towers
Sacramento New Covenant
Stockton Horizon Christian
Fellowship
Sutter Creek
Weaverville
Woodland Celebration Center

ANAHEIM

Garden Grove
Long Beach First
Ontario First
San Pedro Peninsula

WESTERN LATIN AMERICAN

Corona
Downey
Fresno
Iglesia de la Comunidad
La Puente
Los Angeles Boyle Heights
Los Angeles Echo Park
National City
Pasadena
Rancho Cucamonga
Riverside
San Bernardino
Selma
Upland

SOUTHWEST LATIN AMERICAN

Phoenix West
Tucson Primera

SOUTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN

Lehi
Nazini
Somerton
Twin Buttes
Twin Hills

ISBN 978-1-56344-554-5



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