



JUNE 8, 2025

# SAUL RESCUED ISRAEL

1 SAMUEL 11-13

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul defeated enemy armies for Israel but failed to obey God. **Jesus defeated our greatest enemies—sin and death—and always obeyed God.** All who trust in Jesus will be saved and receive changed hearts that desire to obey God.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

## MEMORY VERSE

Psalms 103:19

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The beginning of Saul's reign as king over Israel brought great promise. He was a fierce warrior, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, King Saul was moved to defeat the Ammonite army. However, Saul's foolish choice revealed that Saul was not the king the people needed. We see Samuel's warnings come true: an earthly king could never fulfill the role of the eternal God.

What did Saul's disobedience reveal about his view of God? How do we see the need for Jesus in this passage?

Saul's willingness to defend the people of Jabesh and secure a victory over the Ammonites only served to encourage the people's hope in him as their king. All the people went to Gilgal, where they made Saul their king.

After Saul's victory over the Ammonites, Samuel gathered the people of Israel for a final public speech. Samuel acknowledged the callousness of the people's hearts after the threats of Nahash, going so far as to call their actions evil in the sight of God (1 Samuel 12:17). Samuel reminded the people to continue walking in obedience if they wanted God's protection; however, Samuel also added the warning that if they disobeyed God or turned away from God, both they and their new king would be swept away.

A wise proverb reminds us, "Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18), and Saul's pride led him to a foolish choice. Saul sinned against God by offering a burnt sacrifice of his own accord, rather than waiting for Samuel to perform this duty as priest. Saul did not honor God as holy and ultimately revealed that his heart was not after the things of the Lord but his own selfish desires as king.

Samuel condemned Saul for his foolishness and spoke of the king who would replace him—one who would be a man after God's own heart. Though in the short term, we see this prophetic word fulfilled through King David, its ultimate fulfillment would come through his lineage to bring us King Jesus.

Lead kids to see that only Jesus has ever been able to perfectly obey God and change the hearts of His people. By placing faith in Him as Savior and Lord, we can receive the gift of salvation that leads us to desire the things of the Lord instead of our own selfish gain. Jesus is the perfect King our hearts were made to worship.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSE

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

**Psalms 103:19, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Using the TV in your room, review the motions video for the verse. Practice as a group, then give kids the opportunity to practice on their own.

To continue reviewing, get the provided ball and have kids circle up. Kids will pass the ball to each other as they recite the verse one word at a time.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on June 22!*



# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## SAUL RESCUED ISRAEL

Israel had enemies from other nations. One of their enemies was the Ammonites. Nahash was a leader of the Ammonite army. He and his soldiers surrounded a town in Israel named Jabesh-gilead. Nahash threatened to hurt the people of Jabesh-gilead if they did not surrender to him.

The elders of Jabesh-gilead sent messengers throughout Israel to ask for help to defend their city.

When Saul heard the people needed help, the Spirit of God came powerfully on him, and Saul was angry. He gathered a large army and came and defeated Nahash and all his soldiers. All the people were glad Saul was king!

Then Samuel gave a final speech to all of Israel. He said, "Here is the king you have chosen. If you fear the Lord, worship and obey Him, and don't rebel against His commandments, then both you and your king will follow the Lord. However, if you disobey the Lord, His hand will be against you just as it was against your ancestors. Worship the Lord with all your heart, and do not turn away from Him. He will not abandon His people."

Then the Philistines gathered to fight against Israel, so Saul summoned all his troops to join him at Gilgal. He waited seven days for the scheduled time that Samuel had set, but Samuel had not arrived. Saul's troops began to leave him because they were afraid. So, Saul said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." Then he offered the burnt offering.

As soon as Saul finished making the burnt offering, Samuel arrived and said, "What have you done?"

Saul answered, "When I saw that the troops were leaving and you had not come at the scheduled time, I forced myself to make the burnt offering."

Samuel said, "You have been foolish. You have not kept the command the Lord gave you. Your family would have reigned over Israel forever, but now God has found another leader, a man after his own heart. He will rule over the people because you have not done what the Lord commanded." Then Samuel left him.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

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# K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

Give each kid a “thaumatrope” template, scissors, glue, a wooden dowel, and tape. Have kids decorate and cut out the images on the template.

Glue the two images together so that the crown and heart are both visible on the outside, leaving a small space in the middle to insert the dowel between the papers. Use tape to secure the dowel to the papers if needed.

Once the glue is dry, lead kids to rub the dowel back and forth between their hands to make it spin. When the thaumatrope spins, the crown should look like it's inside the heart.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Samuel gave a final speech to the people of Israel before Saul became king. Samuel warned the people to obey God and worship Him with all their hearts. Unlike Saul, who was not a perfect king, Jesus is the only King worthy of worship.



## CONNECT THE DOTS



The Bible is so important because it's the Word of God! It's also a big book that's hard to understand sometimes, which is why we want to grow in our Bible skills! By growing in these skills, we can better understand God's Word and learn where to turn to find the truth of who God is and how much He loves us.

## BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

On the TV in your room, open the folder labeled “Emoji Game”. Choose the level of difficulty you want to play, then open that folder. The object of the game is to have kids use the emojis to guess the Bible story. You can divide kids into teams or work together as a group!

# 345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with older kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

Split your group into two teams. Place the provided buckets on one side of the room and have the teams line up on the opposite side of the room. Mark a spot on the floor for each team using painter's tape.

Explain to kids that they must carry a cotton ball in a spoon to the other side of the room, dump it into their team's bucket, and walk back. The next person on their team cannot take a cotton ball until they get back in line.

The first team to dump all of the cotton balls into their bucket wins. If kids leave early, or run/fast walk, they have to start over! *(Be strict on the rules for the connection to make sense.)*

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Knowing you had to try and beat the other team, was it hard waiting for your turn? How badly did you want to run instead of walk? No one likes to wait. We are all impatient, and today we learned how Saul's impatience caused him to disobey God's instructions.

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# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. How did Saul's impatience lead to sin? Why did Saul's sin have consequences?
2. What are some ways people disobey God?
3. Why does God want us to obey Him?
4. How can we worship God with all of our hearts?
5. What does it mean that God will not abandon His people?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your room. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your group!



## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**