



JUNE 8, 2025

SAUL RESCUED ISRAEL

1 SAMUEL 11-13

CHRIST CONNECTION

God is our good and kind King.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD rules over everything. Psalm 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.

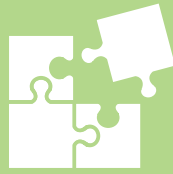
After Saul's victory over the Ammonites, Samuel gathered the people of Israel for a final public speech. Samuel acknowledged the callousness of the people's hearts after the threats of Nahash, going so far as to call their actions evil in the sight of God (1 Samuel 12:17). Samuel reminded the people 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.

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

The LORD rules over everything,
everything, everything.
The LORD rules over everything.
Psalm 103:19

(Repeat)

CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “The LORD rules over everything.” God chose Saul to be king over the Israelites, but God is our good and kind King who rules over everything!

CONNECT THE DOTS



Great job following/obeying directions! Saul was a great warrior, but chose to disobey God. Samuel told Saul he made a wrong choice, and God had chosen someone else to be king. God wanted someone who would listen to Him. Saul was a good king, but he disobeyed God. Jesus always obeyed God. Jesus saves us from our sin and gives us life with God forever.

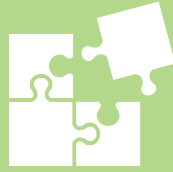
ACTIVITY #2: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Play this game outside, if weather permits!

Invite children to watch and follow you. If space is limited, do actions such as clapping, patting your head, wiggling your fingers, or making silly faces. If you have more room, consider actions such as hopping, tiptoeing, or dancing around the room.

Play additional rounds and give each child the chance to be the leader, as time allows.

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

ACTIVITY #3: PLAY DOUGH FACES

Place play dough and popsicle sticks on a table for children to explore. Invite children to use the popsicle sticks as shaping tools for the play dough. Lead them in flattening the dough and making faces or carving facial features, such as a nose, a mouth, and eyes.

Demonstrate how to draw different expressions in the dough. Roll it into a snake shape and invite younger children to create faces by forming the snake into a mouth that is smiling (happy), frowning (sad), or surprised (scared).

Tell parts of the Bible story and encourage children to make the appropriate faces with the dough.

CONNECT THE DOTS



I am going to tell part of the Bible story. I want you to make a face with the play dough that matches the story. The people of Jabesh-gilead were in danger. They sent a message saying, "Help us!" (scared). Saul wanted to help. He sent out his army, and they won (happy). Everyone was happy Saul was their king (happy). Saul made an offering to God even though he was not supposed to (sad). Samuel told Saul that God had chosen someone else to be king because Saul made the wrong choice (sad). Saul was a great warrior but chose to disobey God.

BIBLE TIME



Review the Bible story with your class.

SAUL RESCUED ISRAEL

A man named Nahash was the leader of an enemy army. Nahash and his soldiers wanted to take over a city in Israel called Jabesh-gilead.

The people in Jabesh-gilead were in danger! They sent messages out: “Help us!” they said. Saul heard the message and wanted to help. Saul gathered a big army. They went and fought Nahash and his soldiers. Saul’s army won! Everyone was happy that Saul was their king.

Samuel wanted to talk to God’s people one last time. He said, “If you listen to God and do what is right, everything will be okay. But if you don’t, bad things will happen.”

One day, enemies called the Philistines wanted to fight Israel. Saul tried to wait for Samuel to come to make an offering to God, but Saul got scared. Saul made an offering to God even though he wasn’t supposed to.

When Samuel came, he asked Saul why he did that. Saul acted like he tried to do the right thing, but he did the wrong thing. Samuel said, “You made the wrong choice. God wants someone who will listen to him. Now, He’s chosen someone else to be king.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul sinned by disobeying God. When we sin, we choose ourselves instead of God. Jesus came to save us from our sins so we can follow God. **God is our good and kind King.**

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What was Saul's punishment for disobeying God?
4. Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!