



God Hears Us – King Saul

1 Samuel 10-13

God Statement: God is Our Leader

KEY VERSE: “Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go..”
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Our Leader

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Leader.

SAY:

Sometimes, we get our minds set on doing something, even if those around us, like our parents or teachers, tell us that it’s not the best idea. Maybe we just ate a bunch of sweets and candy, but we really want to go jump on the trampoline and our parent says we should wait a little. Instead of listening and waiting, we do it anyways, even though the outcome isn’t very good.

Just like we sometimes choose to ignore direction and guidance, there were some people in the Bible who also struggled to listen. They really wanted a king to rule over them. Even though God had told them otherwise, they didn't want to listen. So, God heard the people's demands and gave them what they wanted, even if the outcome wasn't great. God is our leader and always knows what's best for us, but He also hears and listens to all we say and ask. We may not always know all the answers, or have all of the pieces figured out, but God has a plan! Let's do an activity to learn about the king in our story!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Puzzle Race

Supplies: cardstock puzzles (2-3)

Say: *Today we are going to learn about two very important people! Samuel and Saul. Let's play a puzzle game before we dive into our story! Let's see if you can tell me who you think is on our puzzle.*

Directions: Have children get into teams of 3,4, etc. Give each team a puzzle. When you say go, have children race to put the picture together! See if they can tell you who is in the story puzzle. What do they see?

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.. ****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Books of the Bible Song

Our current Bible Challenge is for kids to memorize the Books of the Old Testament right now. Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a “Bible Challenge” card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

As kids begin to learn the song, invite kids up to come show what they know during Large Group.

****After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide. Invite the worship leader up to lead the group in worship.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go...”
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Hears Us – King Saul

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: stacks of 10 cups

God had a plan for the people of Israel. He was their leader. He has a plan for you! He is your leader. His plans are for good and not for evil, for a hope and a future.

Do you think God's plans for King Saul were good? ***Give kids a minute to think about this question and respond.***

God's plans are good, but I don't think Saul went along with all of God's plans. He became selfish and proud and wanted to do things his way.

God has plans for our good. What are some of the things God wants us to do? ***Let kids answer.***

Let's look in the Bible. Listen to these verses with your eyes closed and tell me something God wants us to do. ***Read a few of these verses and have kids respond after each verse.***

- Matthew 22:37-39 - God tells us to love Him and love each other.
- Ephesians 4:3 - He wants us to be kind.
- Psalm 100:4 - He wants us to be thankful.
- Micah 6:8 - He wants us to do the right thing, love mercy and to walk humbly with Him.

If kids are still engaged at this point, continue with this activity element by splitting everyone into small groups. If you feel that the kids are not engaged enough at this point, wrap up the worship response time in prayer.

We're going to divide up into small groups of 2-4 people. Work together to build a tower as tall as possible. Take a minute to plan your project. Work together. Try to use all the materials. You'll have 10 minutes so take your time. ***Have leaders take a stack of cups and get kids into groups to lead this activity.***

If you have time, let the kids describe their towers.

Remember, God is your leader. He has plans for you. Plans for good!

Close the time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you always remember that God is your leader. He has great plans for you and He loves you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (1 Samuel: 10-13).**
2. **Who did Samuel anoint as king? (Saul).**
3. **What do you think anoint means? (to pour oil onto).**
4. **Even though Saul was the new King, is there someone the Israelites needed to listen to more than Saul? (Yes, God).**
5. **Who is the true king of our lives? (God).**
6. **When Saul became King, did he follow what God had asked him to do? (No. He attacked the Philistines).**

7. Sometimes we have to follow people who are in charge in our lives too. Who are some people you have to listen to?
8. Sometimes when we disobey or don't follow the rules, we lose fun things or things we have been given. Saul was told that he would be king and then he chose to follow his own wants instead of following what God wanted. Have you ever lost something because you made a poor choice or didn't follow the rules?

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read 1 Samuel 10**

Who did Samuel anoint as king? (Saul). Why did Samuel pour oil onto Saul? (to anoint him so he could be King).

What do you think anoint means? (to pour oil onto).

2. **Read 1 Samuel 11-12**

Even though Saul was the new King, is there someone the Israelites needed to listen to more than Saul? (Yes, God). Who is the true king of our lives? (God).

Sometimes we have to follow people who are in charge in our lives too. Who are some people you have to listen to?

3. **Read 1 Samuel 13**

Did Saul listen to what God had asked of him? (No.)

Why was Samuel upset with Saul? What did Saul do? (He attacked the Philistines).

4. Sometimes when we disobey or don't follow the rules, we lose fun things or things we have been given. Saul was told that he would be king and then he chose to follow his own wants instead of following what God wanted. Have you ever lost something because you made a poor choice or didn't follow the rules?

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Samuel Anoints Saul Craft

Supplies: 1 activity page per child, scissors, crayons/markers, metal brads

Directions: Pass out an activity page and pens/markers etc. for each child. This can also be sent home if there is not enough time in class to complete. Have the children color each part and cut out the arm at the top. Then attach the arm to Samuel using the brad. The children can move the arm up and down to “anoint Saul”.

Say: *It's such a wonderful reminder knowing God promises to hear us when we talk to Him. When we pray, God hears our prayers. Sometimes when we ask God for things, His answer is no, and that's ok! Sometimes, His answer is YES! God loves when we talk with Him. You can tell him about your day, pray for other people, ask Him to help you through something. He is always there, and He always hears us. Let's do an activity to remind us of the story we learned about today!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

Samuel Followed God Jigsaw Puzzle

Cut the puzzle apart on the red lines, mix the pieces up, and put the picture back together.



