



Lesson
23

1st-4th

THE STORY OF KING SAUL

February 1 & 2
**GOD KNOWS
BEST**



LESSON GOAL:

Samuel had been leading God's people, the Israelites, for a long time, but they decided they wanted a king to rule over them like all the other nations, despite God's direction. The Israelites thought they knew what was best even though God always knows best. God gave the Israelites Saul as their first king, and he disobeyed God and wasn't a good king.

The goal of this lesson is for kids to understand that even though we might think we know what's best for our life, God knows best all the time. We need to trust that God knows best for our lives.

1 Samuel 8:1-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Woodmen Worship Night
February 26th at 6:30 pm
Woodmen Heights Campus

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Basketball



KEY VERSE:

Be strong and brave... I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.

Joshua 1:9, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

FEEDING FAMILIES

You can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout El Paso County by bringing non-perishable food items to your campus.

Your non-perishable donations help Woodmen's ACTs team provide weekly food bags to over 300 local families at our partner schools.

While donations are needed year-round, sometimes our Feeding Families bins get low this time of year.

During the month of February, let's see if we can fill the Feeding Family bins!



10 min
after the start of
service

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*

When you're done, grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

20 min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God Knows Best!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.

SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God Knows Best**. This story comes from the Bible in **1 Samuel 8:1-9**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?

DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer **THE BIG 3** questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Samuel, Saul, & God

2. What was the problem?

The Israelites wanted to have a king like every other nation

3. What did God do?

God gave the Israelites a king, but he warned them that it was not what was best for the Israelites because God knew best



MAKE: Saul Gets Anointed Craft Page

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: craft page, crayons/markers, God Statement Sticker



DO:

Pass out one craft page per child. Have them color their paper. When finished, add the God Statement sticker to their craft.



SAY:

Today we get to learn that God knows best! Saul was anointed to be king, even though God knew a king wasn't what the Israelites needed. Let's create a special craft to prepare us for our lesson.

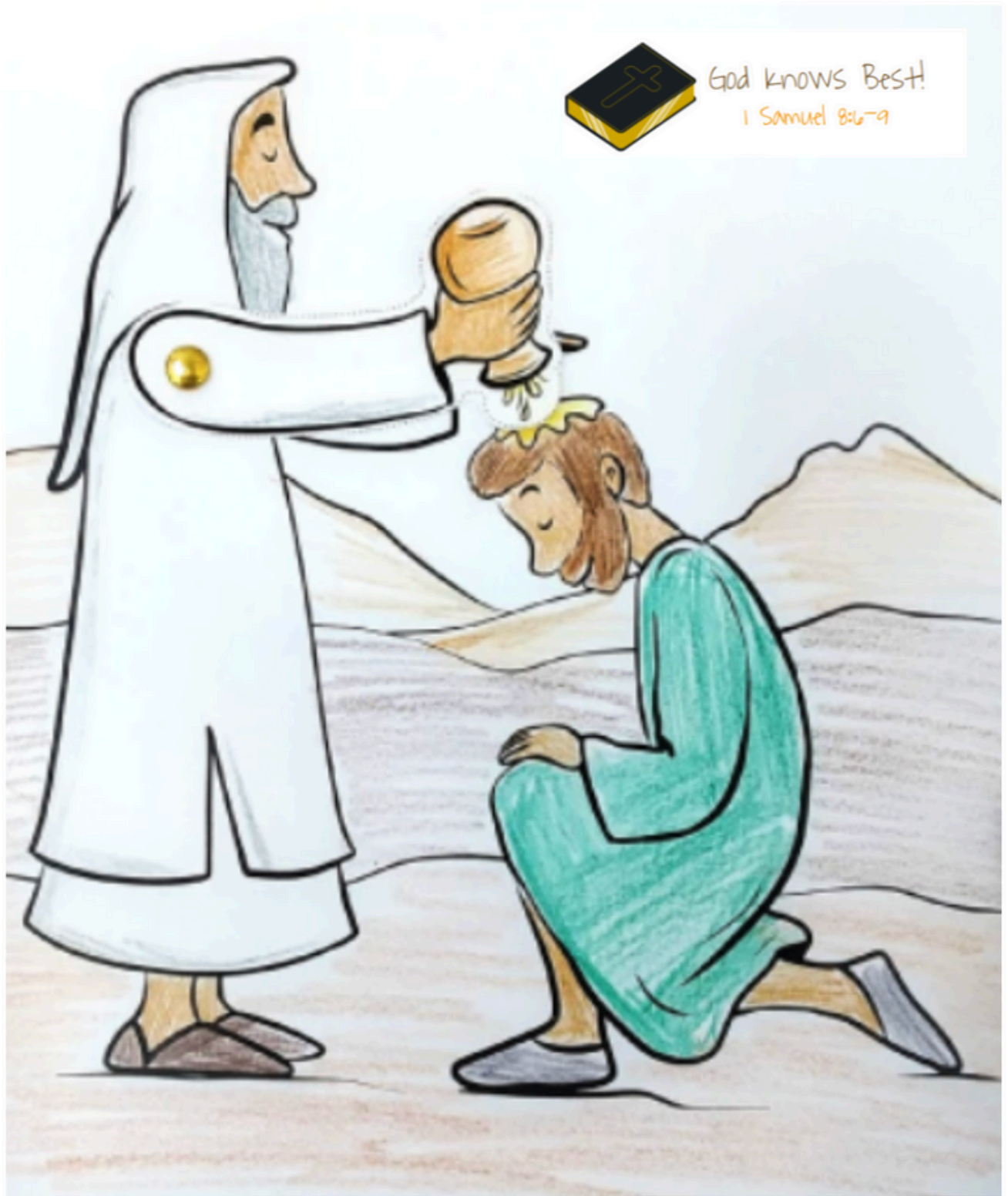


CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



25
min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Look What God Has Done

SONG 2: Awesome God



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

*May you trust that God knows what is best for you because God loves you!
May you follow God's direction always!*



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God Knows Best!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: repentance cards, markers/pens, cross station



SAY:

The Israelites really wanted a king to rule over them like all the other nations, even though God told them it wouldn't go well. The Israelites thought they knew what was best even though God always knows best. God gave the Israelites Saul as their first king, and he disobeyed God and wasn't a good king. Even though we might think we know what's best for our life, God knows best all the time. We need to trust that God knows best for our lives.



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***Just like the Israelites, sometimes we think we know what's best for ourselves and we disobey God. That's called sin - anything we think, say, or do that makes God sad.***
 - ***God loves and cares about us so much, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins!***
 - ***If we believe in and follow Jesus, God will always forgive us when we sin. All we have to do is tell God what we did wrong, ask God to forgive us, and ask God to help us do what is right.***
 - ***We all sin - Is there anything you've done that you need to tell God about and ask forgiveness for?***
 - Pass out cards. ***On your card, draw/write a sin you've done.***
 - ***When you're ready, crumple your card up and lay it at the foot of the cross. We do this to remind us that because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we are forgiven!***
 - ***We can trust that God knows best for us because God loves us!***
 - Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY:

*May you trust that God knows what is best for you because God loves you!
May you follow God's direction always!*

15
min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Samuel, Saul, & God

2. What was the problem?

The Israelites wanted to have a king like every other nation

3. What did God do?

God gave the Israelites a king, but he warned them that it was not what was best for the Israelites because God knew best

4. Why does this matter to me?

Even though we might think we know best for our lives, God knows best all the time and we need to trust Him

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can pray and ask God what to do; I can follow what the Bible says to do, even though it may not be what I want to do



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.