

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Sunday School online! First, we want to say that we are praying for you and your families and missing our time together on Sundays! We recognize that in this season of uncertainty it is important, especially for our children to maintain some of the “normal” routines of our lives. We also recognize that just because we are not meeting in person, you are still on the frontlines helping your children to navigate this world and want to support you as you continue to “talk with your children when you sit at home” (Deuteronomy 6:7)

So, we have put together this resource that you can use at home to study the Sunday School lesson as a family that we would have studied at church. We have tried to give you a variety of resources and options, knowing that our families have children that span the range of ages from infant to youth, sometimes in the same family, and so age-graded lessons by themselves may not be enough. Feel free to use parts, all, adjust, substitute other things that you know would work well for your family. Mostly, we wanted to offer some resources for studying God’s Word as a family, because we believe that when we are in the Word together, we can’t help but be drawn to God and each other in new and wonderful ways.

Lesson Outline - March 29, 2020
Saul Disobeys the Lord

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 10: 1-8; 13:2-14; 15:1-23; 15:34-35

Bible Truth: To obey God is better than sacrifice

Link to picture and Bible truth: [Picture](#)

Opening:

The toddler through 2nd grade classes usually meet together to sing and pray. Here are some links to songs that we have done in the past. King of the Jungle song is particularly relevant to our lesson this week and Boss of the Cross is a great song for the Lent/Easter season. I added a new song this week - 10 9 8 God is Great

[10 9 8 God is Great You Tube](#)

[King of the Jungle on Youtube](#)

[Boss of the Cross on Youtube](#)

The 3rd - 5th grade classes generally begin with a time of Prayers and Praises. We just ask who has a prayer request or praise this week. They consistently ask for updates about and then want to pray for Kara Dry, our World Partner in Spain; the church plant; Bethany Tennant, our World Partner in Tanzania and Corinne Grant. Other requests come and go with the weeks, but we try and always ask if they have had any answers to those things we have prayed for.

Pray

Pray for any prayer requests and for the time to study God's word together.

Introductory Activity: Throw it Away

Supplies: trash can with an empty, clean liner; several items including some money, candy, or other items kids would want to keep

Instructions:

Ask kids to sit in a circle. Scatter items on the floor in the middle of the circle. Explain that when you give the command, they must gather all the items and throw them away. They may not keep anything. If kids protest throwing away the good stuff, ask why they don't want to.

Say: What if God told you to throw all of it away? Would you? Would it be better to throw it away like God said, or give it to someone who needs it? Interesting. If God told us to throw all of this away, should we trust Him? Should we trust that His plan is perfect? In our Bible story, someone is faced with several choices. We will see if he obeys completely, disobeys completely, or picks and chooses what he will obey.

Review

Ask if they remember who Samuel is? (A prophet)

Ask if they remember what a prophet is? (A messenger for God to men - they are only supposed to say what God tells them to say)

Ask if they remember who Saul is? (The king that the Israelites demanded)

Read the Bible Story

Read 1 Samuel 13: 1 - 14 or Story #55 "*Saul Disobeys the Lord*" from the Gospel Story Bible (Note: The Jesus Storybook Bible combines this story with the next 3 in our series taking you from the demand for a King, Saul disobeying and God choosing David to be the next king)

Bible Story Discussion and Teaching Points:

Use the following questions to involve the children in the discussion

- What happened in this story? (Saul did not wait for Samuel but offered the burnt offering to the Lord himself)

Samuel tells Saul step-by-step the things that are to happen. The story ends with Samuel telling Saul to wait seven days for him at Gilgal. There, Samuel will offer a sacrifice.

You can read more about a peace offering in Leviticus 7:11-15

- Why did Saul disobey? (Saul gets impatient and offers the sacrifice himself.) The older kids should remember that only a priest can offer a sacrifice and Saul is king not a priest.
- What did Samuel say when he arrived? (Saul made a foolish mistake and his kingdom will not last.)

Samuel tells Saul that God is looking for a king whose motive is to do God's will, a man after God's own heart. God will establish his kingship forever.

- What should the men with Saul have done? (prayed and waited for Samuel)

Game: Play Simon Says or some other direction following game

This is a fun way to get the children thinking about following directions and that things don't generally work when we don't follow the directions.

Another idea is to have a flashlight and take the batteries out. Refuse to read the directions and try putting in the wrong batteries, then the right ones in the wrong way, etc. The children should get it that the flashlight only works when you follow the directions.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1 - 23 and 34 - 35

Bible Story Discussion and Teaching Points:

Ask the following questions to guide discussion:

- What did God send Samuel to give Saul in this section? (step-by-step instructions for fighting the Amalekites)
- Does Saul follow his directions? (Some but not all - they don't destroy everything, just what is worthless)
- How does Saul respond to Samuel? (He lies by saying that he followed God's directions when he didn't fully)
- How does God respond to Saul's disobedience? (God says that he is sorry that he made Saul king)

Where is Jesus

Use this information to help the children understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption and is really just one big story!

Luke 22:42

As a king, Saul failed. One day God would anoint another Man to be king who would not fail. Even when it was difficult, Jesus (the King of Kings) obeyed God. The difficult task in front of Jesus was to die on the cross (See Acts 13:22 - 23)

When faced with the cross, Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven saying, "not my will, but your sbe done" (Luke 22:42). Saul placed his own will above God's; Jesus did not. As a result of Jesus' obedience, we have salvation through his sacrificial death.

Additional Ideas and ways to extend learning throughout the week

Long Story Short Devotionals:

Follow the devotionals that go along with this lesson in the "Long Story Short" devotional. This weeks devotions are on pages 366 - 372 titled: "Week 55: Saul Disobeys the Lord"

Activity: Help Children learn the books of the Bible in order

There are lots of ways to do this. Find your favorite books of the bible song; put the names of the books on clothespins and clip them in order to a line; put the names of the books on the lips of styrofoam cups and stack the cups in order... You get the idea.

Activity: Make a picture with sheep

Supplies needed: paper, crayons and cotton balls

Here is a great one for younger children:

<http://www.preschoolactivities.us/sheep-craft-idea-for-kids/cotton-ball-sheep-craft/>

Older kids can draw a picture of Samuel and Saul with Agag and the sheep in the background. You can use cotton balls for the sheep bodies.

Sword Bible Memory Verse for March:

Learn this month's Memory Verse:

Preschool: Proverbs 2:6

Grades 1 - 2: Proverbs 2:6 - 8

Grades 3 - 5: Proverbs 2:1 - 5

Ideas for memorizing Scripture:

- 1) Make up actions to go with the words. It is proven that when we engage more than one sense at a time we are more likely to remember something.
- 2) Put the words on strips of paper and make a paper chain of the verse
- 3) Put the words or phrases on post-it notes. Start with all of the notes in order and recite/read the verse several times. Remove the post-it notes and recite the verse again filling in the "blank" from the missing post-it. Continue until all the post-it notes have been removed and you can still recite the verse!

Worksheets/Puzzles/Coloring Page

[Coloring Page](#)

[Crossword Puzzle](#)

[Maze](#)

[Word Search](#)