

Large Group

Saul Rescued Israel

Bible Passage | 1 Samuel 11-13

Memory Verse | Psalm 103:19

Story Point | Israel rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king.



Countdown Video (3 mins)

Memory Verse Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader connects the lesson to the memory verse, leads the memory verse song with hand motions, and closes in prayer.

Welcome (1 mins)

Large Group Leader tell kids what to expect to happen (1 minute)

- watch the lesson video
- retell the story.
- read the story from scripture

Watch the Lesson Video (4 mins)

Retell the Story (11 mins)

Lead the kids in a fun retelling of the story

Here are some resources to help you formulate this time.

Samuel was the last judge to lead Israel. Samuel was also a prophet. During most of Samuel's leadership, Israel did not have a king. However, God's people saw how all the nations around them had kings. They wanted a king to rule over them too. So, the people chose Saul to be king. Last week, we learned that when the people chose Saul, they rejected God as their king. Today, we will see how Saul led the Israelites to have victory over their enemies, the Ammonites and Philistines. But we'll also see that Saul disobeyed God.

Today's Lesson

Why were the Israelites afraid? Why did they need help? [Allow responses.] The Israelites had enemies, including the Ammonites. Nahash, the Ammonite army's leader, wanted to hurt God's people. So, God's people were afraid and needed rescue from their enemies.

How did God help His people? [Allow responses.] The Holy Spirit came powerfully on Saul, and he was angry that Nahash wanted to hurt God's people. Saul came up with a battle plan, and with God's help, was able to defeat the Ammonites. Saul was a great warrior who saved his people in battle, and the Israelites were glad Saul was king.

Later, Samuel gave a final public speech to God's people. He reminded the people how they begged for a king even though God was already their King. Then Samuel gave the people instructions. What did he tell them to do? [Allow responses.] Samuel told the Israelites to obey God and worship Him with all their hearts. If the people did this, God would be with them.

When the Israelites had to face another enemy, the Philistines, Saul again showed that he was a great warrior and led the people in victory. But Saul also disobeyed God. How did Saul disobey? [Allow responses.] Saul didn't wait for Samuel to arrive, and Saul made a burnt offering. Only a priest was allowed to make a burnt offering, and Saul wasn't a priest. **Saul was a great warrior but chose to disobey God.**

When Samuel arrived, he told Saul that he had disobeyed the Lord. Samuel told Saul that God would have allowed Saul and his family to rule over Israel forever, but because of his disobedience, God would establish another king over Israel. 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.

Gospel Discussion | Saul disobeyed God. We all disobey God because we are sinners. Our sin separates us from God and has the punishment of death. But Jesus came to rescue us from sin and death. When we trust in Him, He forgives our sin and gives us life in Him. Have you trusted in Jesus?

Read from the Bible (4 mins)

1 Samuel 12:13–15; 13:1, 5–14

Remind Kids of Four Questions (1 min)

- What did you like about today's story?
- What did you find confusing?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about God?

Worship Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader briefly introduces self, welcomes kids, leads 1st worship song, and prays for the time.