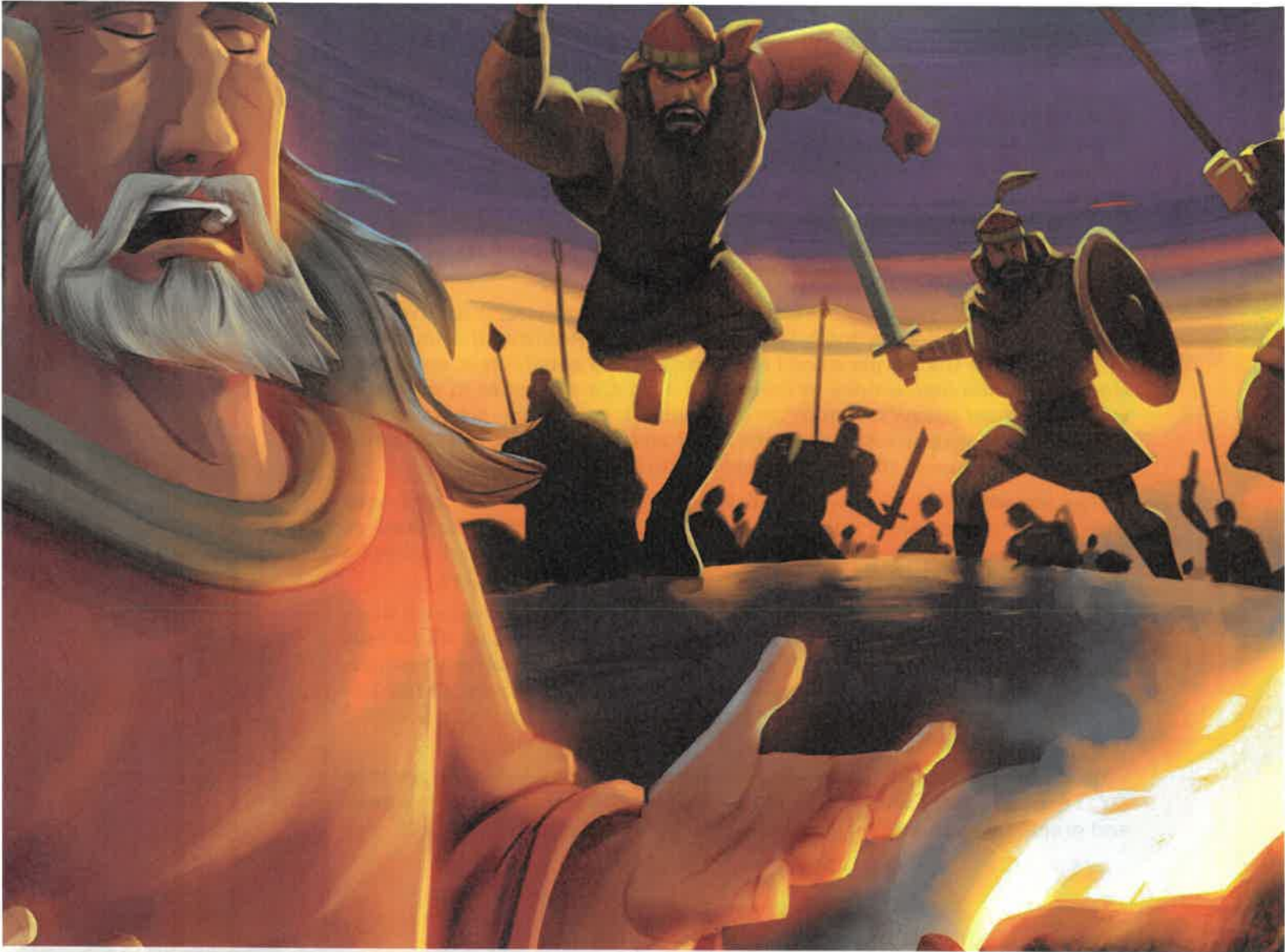


UNIT 9 | SESSION 4

FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

1 SAMUEL 7



CHRIST CONNECTION: God wants people to be sorry for their sin. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.

KEY PASSAGE: My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

STORY POINT: Samuel prayed to God.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

First Samuel 7 reveals the Israelites' victory over the Philistines after God's people turned to the Lord and away from their pagan gods and idols. Samuel interceded for the people as they began to long for the Lord after having pursued the ways of the world for so long. The Lord granted His people victory over their enemies in a way that foreshadowed how He has established an eternal victory for those in Christ.

What did Samuel lead the people to do in their helpless state? How is Jesus an even better intercessor than Samuel was?

After so many chapters of disobedience and helplessness, it is refreshing to read that the Israelites finally longed for the Lord. Realizing the emptiness of idol worship, the people stood before Samuel and sought next steps from their leader. His instructions to the people were not dissimilar to the words we need to hear today: return to the Lord with all your heart, get rid of your false gods, set your heart back on the Lord, and worship only Him. In doing so, Samuel explained, they would again see God's deliverance.

The Israelites did as Samuel instructed, and they fasted and confessed their sins. They pleaded with Samuel to continue interceding for them so that they would experience the victory of God's promise. Samuel offered a sacrifice to the Lord on His people's behalf, and it pleased the Lord.

Although Samuel was an upright man called to prophesy and judge God's people, he was not the Messiah. Instead, Samuel's life points us to the only One able to secure a permanent victory over sin and death through a once-and-for-all sacrifice for God's people. Those who are in Christ do not need an earthly judge to mediate between God and man; instead, they can place their hope in the finished work of Jesus.

Share with boys and girls your story of how the Lord has helped you thus far (1 Samuel 7:12). Lead them to see how Christ has transformed your heart and granted you an eternal victory by faith in His name.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR
Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES
Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES
Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES
Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Stamp and sticker a poster

- Big Picture Question Poster
- bulletin board paper
- assorted stickers
- ink stamps



LEARN

Listen and make thunder

- music device
- thunder sounds
- large rock

Tell the Bible story

- "Freedom from the Philistines" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- large rock

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Talk through a pool noodle

- pool noodles, 1 per 3 or 4 children
- sanitizing wipes

Tell ways that God provides

- "Matching Cards" printable
- heavyweight paper
- plastic bucket



LIVE

Paint a rock

- smooth stones
- washable paint
- paintbrushes
- bowls
- plates
- art smocks

Missions Activity

- "Doug and Evelyn in Tanzania" printable
- toy motorcycles
- painter's tape

Snack and Transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Circle Noisy Things" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Build a big rock

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- cardboard boxes

Create thunder with a toy drum

- hand drum, 1 per 3 or 4 children



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

STAMP AND STICKER A POSTER

Display the Big Picture Question Poster. Place a table just inside the classroom door. Tape the bulletin board paper to the table's top, covering the table completely. Using a marker, write the word GOD in large letters on the paper. Lay stickers, ink stamps, bins of crayons and washable markers on the paper. Display the Big Picture Question Poster near the table. As the children arrive, invite them into the classroom and show them to the table. Demonstrate for the children how to use the ink stamps to stamp on the paper. Help the children to select several stickers to stick onto the paper. Encourage children to use markers and crayons to draw on the paper after they have finished using the ink stamps and stickers.

SAY Welcome everyone. Did you have fun with the ink stamps and stickers? Show me what you have created. The word on our paper says 'God.' We learn about God together at church. In our Bible story today, we will hear about how God's people were facing another battle with the Philistines. God did something amazing that showed His power to both His people and to the Philistines. Our big picture question and answer asks, How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made. Listen carefully during the Bible learning time to see how God cared for His people and showed that He rules over everything.

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Worship songs

- * Light of the world
- * I will trust You God

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 LISTEN AND MAKE THUNDER

Bring the music device and rock to the group-time area. Get preschooler's attention by playing the sound of thunder from an electronic device and speaker. Invite children to sit with you and listen to the sound of thunder. After a time, prompt children to create their own thunder sounds by clapping their hands or patting their legs.

SAY “ Are you ever afraid of the sound of thunder? [Allow responses.] Sometimes it can be a little scary. During our Bible story today, we are going to hear how thunder helped God's people win a battle. When I say 'thunder' during our story I want you to clap your hands really loud. When I say 'rock' I want you to point to the rock in the group-time area. Listen to hear what happens. ”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY Video

Open you Bible to 1 Samuel 7. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

SAY “ God's people, the Israelites, felt sorry for not listening to God. They wanted God to talk to them again. Samuel said, “If you want to hear from God, you must get rid of all your pretend gods.”

Samuel told them, “Love only God and listen to God. Then He will help you.” So, the Israelites came together. They told God they were sorry for not listening.

But when the Philistines heard the Israelites were meeting together to pray, they decided to come and fight them. The Israelites were scared, so they asked Samuel to keep praying for them.

Samuel prayed, and God heard him. As the Philistines came closer, God made a big thundering sound that scared them! God helped the Israelites win the battle.

After the battle, Samuel set up a big rock to remind everyone how God helped them. Then everyone lived peacefully.

Like God helped the Israelites when they said sorry, He helps us too when we tell Him we're sorry. That's because God loves us, and He sent Jesus to help us always. ”

Christ Connection: God wants people to be sorry for their sin. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY



Display the Bible Story Picture Poster for children to see. Instruct the children that you are going to ask them questions. If a child knows the answer, he is to make thunder by clapping his hands and waiting to be called upon. Example questions: What were God’s people sorry for? (They were not listening to God.) What did Samuel tell them to do? (Love only God and listen to Him.) What did the Philistines do when they heard God’s people were meeting together? (They came to fight them.) What did the Israelites ask Samuel to do for them when they were scared? (Keep praying for them.) What did God do to scare the Philistines? (God made big thundering sounds.) Did the Israelites win the battle? (yes) After the battle, what did Samuel set up? (big rock) When we know and love Jesus, what does He forgives us of? (our sin)

SAY “ The Israelites were sorry for not listening to God. They asked Samuel how to hear from God. Samuel told them to love God and to listen to Him. God wants people to be sorry for their sin. Jesus came to save us from our sin. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “This Is the Way”:

My God, my God will supply all your needs,
Supply all your needs, supply all your needs.
My God, my God will supply all your needs,
All your needs in Christ Jesus.

* MY God will supply ' song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE



Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Philippians 4:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the phrase aloud. Encourage children to tell you a time that they were sorry for doing something wrong. Guide children to gather around the rock and put one hand on it as you all repeat the key passage phrase together.

SAY “ Samuel set up a big rock to remind the Israelites how God had helped them. God helped the Israelites because they said they were sorry for their sin. The key passage phrase tells that God will supply all our needs in Jesus. When we love Jesus and are sorry for our sin, God forgives us. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for forgiving us when we make choices that do not please Him.

Transition from LEARN to LOVE





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PLAY FREEZE DANCE

Play upbeat children's worship music. Tell the children to dance around the room while the music plays. Instruct them to stop and quickly freeze in place when the music stops. Play the music and prompt children to dance. Pause the music and encourage the children to freeze. Continue play as time allows.

SAY Thank you for listening to my instructions and following them. In today's Bible story, the Israelites felt sorry for not listening to God. They wanted God to talk to them again. Samuel told them to love only God and listen to Him. The Israelites told God they were sorry for not listening. God wants people to be sorry for their sin. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.

2 TALK THROUGH A POOL NOODLE

Guide a child to hold one end of a pool noodle up to his ear. Place the other end up to your mouth. Speak through your end of the pool noodle. Ask the child to repeat back to you what you said to him. Speak messages such as the key passage phrase, "love God," "listen to God," "Jesus died for our sins," "God forgives sin," and "God will help you." Place your end of the pool noodle to your ear and invite the child to speak a message to you.

SAY Samuel told the Israelites to love only God. The Israelites gathered together and told God they were sorry for not listening to Him. When the Philistines heard the Israelites were meeting together, they decided to fight them. The Israelites were scared, so they asked Samuel to pray for them. **SAMUEL PRAYED TO GOD**, and God heard him.

3 TELL WAYS THAT GOD PROVIDES

Before the session, print and cut one copy of the "Matching Cards" printable. Shuffle the cards and place them facedown in the bucket. Invite a child to pull a card from the bucket, look at the picture, and tell how the picture reminds him of one way that God cares for His creation. Help children as needed by saying things such as "God gives us families, homes, food to eat, friends, His Bible to read, and so forth."

SAY Using our cards, we talked about ways God shows that He cares about His creation. We are His creation. The big picture question and answer says, **How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.** God made us, and He shows that He cares by giving us family, a home, food, a place to sleep, and His Bible.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT A ROCK

Write the key passage phrase on a plate for each child and place a rock on the plate. Lay out plates, paint, and paintbrushes. Invite the children to paint. Assist children in putting on their art smocks. Point to the plate and read the key passage phrase aloud. Show the children how to dip their brushes into the paint and then to paint their rocks. When children finish, set plates with rocks aside to dry.

SAY “In today’s Bible story, Samuel set up a big rock to remind the Israelites how God helped them. Point to your own rocks. These rocks are to remind you of how God has helped you. God has given you Jesus. The key passage phrase say to us, ‘My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19.’”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print and display the “Doug and Evelyn in Tanzania” printable. Lead preschoolers to make roads on the floor with painter’s tape. Add tunnels, bridges, and ramps with blocks. Use toy motorcycles to travel to tell people about Jesus.

SAY “Doug trained five Tanzanian men to be pastors. Doug thought the pastors could do more work in cities that were farther away. Doug provided the five pastors with motorcycles, and the pastors reached many more people with the good news about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.]”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “God wants people to be sorry for their sin. Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LISTEN

Invite the children to join you in group time. Prompt the children to be seated with you and to tightly close their eyes. Guide the children to be quiet and to just listen. After a few seconds, prompt the children to open their eyes. Ask them to tell you something that they heard while they were quietly listening. Say to the children that in today's Bible story, Samuel is going to tell God's people to listen to God.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 7. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

- God's people, the Israelites, wanted God to talk to them. Samuel told them, "Love only God and listen to God. Then He will help you." So, the Israelites came together. They told God they were sorry for not listening.
- When the Philistines heard the Israelites were meeting together to pray, they decided to come and fight them. The Israelites were scared. They asked Samuel to pray for them.
- Samuel prayed, and God heard him. As the Philistines came closer, God made a big thundering sound that scared them! God helped the Israelites win the battle.
- After the battle, Samuel set up a big rock to remind everyone how God helped them. Then everyone lived peacefully.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "This Is the Way":

My God, my God will supply all your needs,
Supply all your needs, supply all your needs.
My God, my God will supply all your needs,
All your needs in Christ Jesus.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Philippians 4:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the phrase aloud. Talk about how Samuel told God's people that God would help them when they loved God and listened to Him. In the same way, as our key passage phrase says, 'My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus.' Invite children to whisper the key passage phrase with you.

5 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help us carefully listen to His words.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 CUT KEY PASSAGE PHRASE HEARTS



For each child, fold a piece of construction paper in half and boldly draw half a heart out from the centerfold using a dark crayon or marker. Prompt children to be seated at a table. Distribute the papers along with blunt scissors to the children. Show the children the dark line on the page and help them to cut along that line using scissors. When the children are done cutting, open the page revealing the heart shape. Write the key passage phrase on each child's heart.

SAY “ You did a great job cutting your heart shapes. Hearts remind us of love. God loves us. Our key passage phrase promises that God will supply all our needs in Christ Jesus. Sometimes, we need to tell God that we are sorry, like the Israelites did. God wants people to be sorry for their sin. ”

7 BUILD A BIG ROCK

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster by taping it to a wall in a corner of the room. Lay blocks or boxes in front of the poster. Invite children to build a “big rock” similar to the one that Samuel set up to remind the Israelites how God helped them. Point to the story poster. Prompt the children to help you to arrange the big rock like the one they see in the picture.

SAY “ **SAMUEL PRAYED TO GOD**, and God heard him. God helped the Israelites win the battle against the Philistines. After the battle, Samuel set up a big rock to remind everyone how God helped them. Like God helped the Israelites when they said sorry, He helps us too when we tell Him we're sorry. God loves us, and He sent Jesus to help us always. ”

8 CREATE THUNDER WITH A TOY DRUM

Show a child a toy drum and demonstrate for him how to pat the head of the drum gently with an open hand creating a deep sound. Prompt the child to see if he can pat the drum and make the drum sound like thunder. Guide the child to experiment with different drum sounds by patting both the middle and the sides of the drumhead with his hand.

SAY “ Were you able to make the drum sound like thunder? In today's Bible story, **SAMUEL PRAYED TO GOD**, and God heard him. As the Philistines came closer the Israelites, God made a big thundering sound that scared them! The big picture question says, **How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.** God was able to show love to His people by making a big thundering sound that scared the Philistines away. This thunderous sound shows that God rules over all He made. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.