

# Adventures with GOD!

## SAUL (C.1.Fall.3)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 11:1-14:52
Key Verse	1 Samuel 12:14
Key Concept	Even when I suffer consequences from the bad decisions I make, God is with me and doesn't stop loving me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the ways that God worked in the lives of the people of Israel during the reign of Saul</li> <li>2. Tell different examples of the situations in which God was with the people of Israel despite their bad decisions.</li> <li>3. Explain what family life was like during the time Saul was alive</li> </ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

From the life of Saul we can learn many things. The children will discover that even though he won various battles, the consequences of his bad decisions brought sadness and pain. Many times Saul demonstrated a lack of faith in God (called Jehovah by the Israelites), but God kept saving and protecting the people of Israel. The children will see that God is always faithful, even when God's chosen people are not.

\*Tell Kids to come dressed in black next week. (They will find out why next week)

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Investigation	Materials for channel 7 news, books	15 minutes
Channel 7 news	Bibles, illustrations	15 minutes
Bible Story	Paper, pens	15 minutes
Review		10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Investigation:** In this lesson you will find some ideas that the children can use to do their investigations. They can work in four groups and each group will receive an outline of information that they can present in their news program. They will need to add more details that they find in their Bibles or other study helps. Each group will have to decide how they want to present their news, who will take what role, etc.

**Channel 7 news:** As the teacher, you will take the role of director today. Explain to the class that the victory that Saul had in Jabesh is what helped him become a national hero and because of that the people confirmed him as their king. God kept working in the lives of his chosen people, even though God was upset with the decision they had made to have a human king. Saul did not trust in Jehovah but God continued to protect his chosen people. Unfortunately the chosen people had to suffer 42 years of continuous war against the Philistines. The most important concept to get across is that God continues to be with us and love us, even when we experience the consequences of our disobedience. When you've given the class this background information the groups can begin their presentations. While one group presents the others will act as the audience.

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**Bible Story:** After the presentations, each student should write the consequences that Israel suffered for asking for a human king and not trusting in God as the only king. Each consequence should be written on a strip of paper (some of the consequences are: 42 years of constant war even though they won battles with God's help, hatred between Saul and his son Jonathan, the chosen people became disoriented, etc). Once they've written out the consequences (one per strip of paper), put them in a plastic bag. One by one the children will take turns choosing a piece of paper and reading it. After the child has read the consequence written on the paper, the group can talk together about that particular consequence.

**Review:** Using the information from the previous class, they can talk again about the steps they should take to make good decisions that are pleasing to God. After, children can pray to ask God to help them make decisions that are wise and show their love to God.

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## WORKSHEET

### Interview with a typical family in Israel

1. The father – head of the house, the house is like his own little kingdom. His children accept his authority without question, otherwise there is harsh punishment. The oldest son takes the role of authority when the father dies.
2. The mother – under the authority of the husband. Never participates when there are visitors. Serves her husband and others before she eats. Goes to get water, makes clothes, cooks. When there is a trip she walks while the husband rides on a horse or donkey. Her importance in the family is to have children. If she fulfills her responsibility she is loved and respected.
3. The servants – many times they are part of the family. They are seen as property. They are protected under the law so that they will not be oppressed. They have the right to rest on Saturday, to attend national celebrations. Some have many responsibilities. Many times they are treated well, like members of the family. The Israelites treat their servants in a way that's very different to how other countries treat them.
4. The children – a great blessing is to have many children; more children equals more blessing. If women cannot have children it is seen as a curse from God. The male children are seen as a bigger blessing (because they remain part of the family, they help the family to grow when they marry and have children, if they marry well they can bring wealth to the family). Daughters have value because of the roles they fill in the house and for the price their husbands pay the father to be able to marry them. When babies are born they are rapped in cloth (fabric that is 5-6 meters long and 10 to 20 centimeters wide). The mothers think that their arms and legs will grow straighter if they are wrapped like this. 8 days after they are born the male children are circumcised and receive a name. The female children receive their name when they are 8 days old.
5. Becoming an adult – The male children are considered adults when they turn 13 years old.
6. Marriage – It is not uncommon to have more than one wife in Israel. A man needs to be very rich to have more than one wife. Generally only kings and the royal family had more than one wife. The priests only had one wife. Many famous men in Israel's history only had one wife (Noah, Isaac, Joseph, Moses). The religious leaders say that having more than one wife is asking for problems. Generally the marriages are arranged by the parents.

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## OUTLINES

### Group 1 - News from the war

Read 1 Samuel 11:1-11 and write some interesting news about the methods used by Saul in Jabesh.

In the presentation, while giving the news, another announcer can interrupt to give a report of a newsflash – Saul is proclaimed King of Israel (1 Samuel 11:12-15). The announcer should give this news with much enthusiasm as if it were true at this very moment.

### Group 2 - State of the Union address (given by the judge Samuel)

Present the most important points of the speech given by Samuel. It's important to mention a little about each point. Decide in what form you want to give the commentary (interview, news report, etc).

1. Samuel is not guilty of anything (12:5)
2. He affirmed the faithfulness of God (12:6-11)
3. Even though they experienced the faithfulness of God, the chosen people asked for a human king (12:12)
4. Now that they have a king they should support him (12:13-15)

(In this moment that the state of the union is being given, it could be interrupted to with a news update about the weather – bad weather, storms, thunder rain. It's happening according to what Samuel had said would happen – 1 Samuel 12:16-18 )

After the brief newsflash, continue with the report of the state of the union.

5. Despite their bad decision, God kept loving the chosen people (12:9-25)
6. Don't be afraid
7. Don't forget the Lord
8. Serve God with your whole heart
9. Don't worship other Gods
10. God will not reject you
11. Remember the wonders God has done
12. Samuel promises to be praying for them
13. Warning – if anyone continues to do evil, either the people or the king, they will be destroyed.

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## Group 3

### News Report

Breaking news – King Saul has stopped following the commandments of Jehovah (1 Samuel 13:1-15). Saul is impatient. He isn't capable of waiting and following God's commandments. When he sees danger he gets scared and doesn't trust God.

Urgent Information – War! (1 Samuel 13:16) Explain that they are in war with the Philistines and explain what God does to save the Israelites (14:15)

Other News reports-

1. Saul's reign (42 years)
2. Saul's family
3. The war continues during his entire reign