

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE DEATH OF SAUL (C.1.Fall.8)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 31:1-7 and 2 Samuel 1:12
Key Verse	Ecclesiastes 3: verses 1 and 4 There is a season for everything and a time for every matter under heaven. A time for crying and a time for laughing, and time for mourning and a time for dancing.
Key Concept	Just as there is a time to rejoice, there is also a time for mourning.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Illustrate the events and the reaction of David at the death of Saul</li><li>2. Reflect on times of rejoicing and mourning</li><li>3. Remember that God is with us in both our rejoicing and our mourning</li></ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

We often lift up prayers of thanksgiving to God, but God also knows there are times we need to lift up prayers of mourning, times when we are angry, sad and confused. The reaction of David at Saul's death, a man who was king but was also David's enemy, is an example for us. The children will learn that just as there are times of rejoicing there are also times for mourning and that God is with us in both, providing comfort and assurance.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Investigations	Paper for both drawing and writing, Bibles, pens, markers	20 minutes
Channel 7 news	Studio Accessories	15minutes
Reflections		10 minutes
Bible Verse Game	Paper, markers, scissors	5 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 Key Bible verse for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? 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?

**Investigations:** Divide the class into two groups. Have one group work on a report based on, the battle and how Saul was killed 1 Samuel 31:1-7. Have the other group work on a news report that features David's response to the news of Saul's death 2 Samuel 1:12. Have them figure out creative ways to tell the story and David's reaction. This can include skits, drawings, interviews etc. The investigative reporting might even bring out the fact that the young man spoken of in 2 Samuel lied when he said he mercifully killed King Saul, 2 Samuel 1:10.

**Channel 7 news:** Invite each group to present their report to the other.

**Reflections:** Have students reflect on personal stories of times they were rejoicing and celebrating or sad and mourning. Without saying which, have students share their stories one at a time and have the class determine whether it is a story of rejoicing or mourning. At the end of this time ask them how it makes them feel that God is present during both their times of rejoicing and mourning.

**Bible Verse:** In the following pages you will find instructions for a game that will help reinforce today's key Bible verse. You can play this game in the form of a competition against the clock.

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**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

## GAME

### Puzzle

You can play this by using the key Bible verse. Have them write out the Bible verse on a 8 ½ x 12 in. size paper. After they have written it out they should cut it up into puzzle pieces. After they have cut it up, they should shuffle the pieces and then switch with another classmate and try to put together each other's puzzle. Or they can work in groups to put together the puzzle. See who can put together the puzzle the fastest and say the Bible verse.