



Samuel and Saul

Lesson Aim: To know God helps us do what He chooses us to do.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Knows Our Hearts

THE WORD

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-8, 20-24

What He has done: God chose Saul to be king.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "God will help you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." John 14:1

Unit 8: The King Who Knows Our Hearts			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Samuel and Saul, 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-8, 20-24	God chose Saul to be king.	To know God helps us do what He chooses us to do.
39	David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4-9, 32-45, 47-50	God helped David defeat the giant.	To know we can trust God to help us with our problems.
40	David and Jonathan, 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:17, 42	God gave David and Jonathan each other as friends.	To know God sends us friends.
41	David's Heart: David Praises God, 2 Samuel 6:5, 12-15	God saw David praise Him.	To explore ways to praise the Lord.
42	David and Mephibosheth, 2 Samuel 9:1-11	God helped David include Mephibosheth.	To learn the importance of showing kindness to everyone.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 139. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for loving us. Fill us with Your Spirit and change our hearts so we may teach and lead Your children in building Your kingdom. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a crown
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God will help you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Sing Praises" "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "My God Is So Big" "Jesus Loves Me" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarmont Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 38
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-8, 20-24	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at 1 Samuel 10:22 Visual: Crown or a picture of a crown
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Saul's Hiding Place	White and light brown sturdy paper, glue or glue sticks, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Long Live the King	Crown (plastic or cut from cardboard), optional: large sack or stuffed pillowcase
		Game: God Will Help You Charades	"God Will Help You" game cards (made from index cards or slips of paper)
		Snack: The King's Cookies	Frosted cookies and colorful candy (jelly beans, candy covered chocolates or gumdrops)
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 38 Color This Story: "God Chooses Saul to Be King"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-8, 20-24	None
	Up to 10	Game: Trust in God!	None
	Up to 10	Game: "Trust in God" Cheer	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God helping someone with a difficult task

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God will help you

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or a sticker of a crown. **Let this sticker of a crown help you remember that God will help you, just like God helped King Saul! Today's Whisper Verse is "God will help you."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "God will help you."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

"God"	The right hand is lowered and then slightly raised in front of face with palm facing left and fingers together.
"(will) help"	The right hand makes a fist with the thumb pointing up. Place the left palm under the right fist. Push the right fist up with the left palm.
"you."	The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "God will help you," 1 Chronicles 12:18. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who knows our hearts

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.



It’s Praise Time—that means it’s time to praise God as the King who knows our hearts. He always knows what you are feeling because He made you and He made your heart. Let’s show God how much our hearts love Him by giving our offering to help build His kingdom. Sing: “Jesus Loves Me” while collecting the offering.

God chooses us to do special things. Today, we will hear how Samuel told Saul that God had chosen him to be king. Saul was worried he couldn’t do it. God helped Saul when Saul needed help and He will help you, too. That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse, “God will help you.” Let’s whisper it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “God will help you.” Include sign language.



Do you think Delbert and Lello know the story about Samuel and Saul? Let’s call them both to come out for a visit. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 38.



God saw Saul hiding. He knew Saul’s heart was troubled and worried about becoming the king. God helped Saul by changing his troubled heart to a trusting heart. He knows when our hearts are troubled about trying new things. We can trust God to help us. Sing: “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled” and “I Can Do Everything.”

You can trust God will help you do the special things He has chosen you to do. God can do anything! Sing: “My God Is So Big.”



God helped Saul

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

My mouth quiet as can be,

I will listen to hear,

How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned Samuel listened to God. Today, we will hear how God helped Saul. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to 1 Samuel 10:22.

WATCH THE WORD: 1 SAMUEL 10:1, 6-8, 20-24

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a crown or a picture of a crown. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- God told Samuel, "My people want a king;
- I will choose tall Saul.
- My Spirit will come and change his heart,
- And he will lead them all!"

- Samuel told Saul, "You will be our king."
- But Saul wanted to hide.
- "God will help you," Samuel said.
- "He's with you all the time."

- Samuel called to God's people,
- "Come and meet your king."
- They found Saul hiding by the supplies.
- They cheered, "Long lives the king!"



Where was Saul hiding? (By the supplies or baggage.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.

Read 1 Samuel 10:22 from the teacher's Bible.

Who helped Saul? (God.) God will help you, too. That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together:
"God will help you." Include sign language or hand motions.



God will help you

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: SAUL'S HIDING PLACE

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Samuel and Saul.

Supplies: White and light brown sturdy paper, glue or glue sticks, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: From white sturdy paper, print and cut out a 9" tall Saul. From light brown sturdy paper, cut out the shape of two 7-inch x 8-inch bags of grain. Cut one bag of grain down the middle vertically. Print the Whisper Verse: **"God will help you."** on the other bag of grain.

Optional: Cut the bag of grain from fabric such as burlap.

Directions:

1. Color Saul.
2. Fold Saul in half at the waist.
3. Tape the two pieces of the cut bag of grain to the edges of the other bag of grain so they open like two doors.
4. Open the doors of the bag of grain.
5. Glue the back of the bottom half of Saul inside the doors.

Craft Discussion:

- **God chose Saul for a special job. What did God choose Saul to do?** (Be the king.)
- **Saul was worried he would not be a good king.**
- **He was very tall, but he still wanted to hide. Where did Saul hide?** (By the supplies or baggage.) **Make Saul hide in your bag of supplies!** Show children how to fold Saul down and close the doors to the bag of grain.
- **Who promised to help Saul be king?** (God.) **God helped Saul.**
- **Help Saul pop out of the bag!** Open the doors and unfold Saul so he is standing.
- **God helps you, too. That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: LONG LIVE THE KING

Purpose: Children will pretend to be Saul.

Supplies: Crown (plastic or cut from cardboard), optional: large sack or stuffed pillowcase

God chose Saul to be king. At first, Saul hid. Let's take turns pretending to hide like Saul.

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be Saul.
2. **Saul, God chose you to be the king.**
3. Children cover their eyes. Help Saul hide in the hiding place (behind a large sack, stuffed pillowcase, table, chair, or other item).
4. **Do you see the man God chose?**
5. Children open their eyes and look around the room for Saul.
6. Gently lead Saul out of the hiding place.
7. Children say, **"Long live the king!"**
8. Repeat steps 1-7 until each child has a turn as Saul.

GAME: GOD WILL HELP YOU CHARADES

Purpose: Children think about ways God will help them.

Supplies: "God Will Help You" game cards (made from index cards or slips of paper)

Prepare: On several index cards or slips of paper, write one new action children may be soon expected to try— writing their name, reading, riding a bike, tying shoes, playing soccer, swimming, jumping rope, telling time, making the bed, setting the table, meeting a new friend, flying on a plane, etc. Create one card per child. If you have more children than cards, cards may be used more than once.

God helped Saul be king. God will help you, too. Let's show each other some of the things God will help you do.

Directions:

1. Seat children on the floor in a semicircle.
2. First child chooses a card.
3. Teacher whispers the action on the card to the child.
4. Child pretends to do the action.
5. The remaining children guess what it is.
6. When someone guesses the correct action, all children say and sign, **"God will help you."**
7. Play until each child has a turn to act out an action.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: THE KING'S COOKIES

Purpose: Children decorate the cookies in a special way as a reminder that Saul was a king.

Snack Suggestion: Frosted cookies and colorful candy (Sprinkles, candy-covered chocolates, jelly beans)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to the Whisper Verse: "God will help you."
 - **God helped Saul be king. Let's decorate cookies as if they are special cookies for King Saul.** Children decorate cookies by placing candies on the frosting.
 - **Saul did not think he would be a good king. What do you think you cannot do very well?** After each child's response, lead the children in saying and signing the Whisper Verse "God will help you."
 - **Have you ever felt worried or troubled about trying something new?** (Children respond.)
Do not let your heart be troubled. When God chooses you to do something, He will help you do it!



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Saul's Hiding Place" craft. Tell someone God helped Saul become king.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God helps you do what He chooses you to do.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "God Chooses Saul to Be King." Discuss Bible story and play Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: 1 SAMUEL 10:1, 6-8, 20-24

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **God told Samuel, "My people want a king;** (Put hands on head as a crown.)
- **I will choose tall Saul.** (Point to self.)
- **My Spirit will come and change his heart,** (Put hand on heart.)
- **And he will lead them all!"** (March in place.)

- **Samuel told Saul, "You will be our king."** (Put hands on head as a crown.)
- **But Saul wanted to hide.** (Cover eyes as if hiding.)
- **"God will help you," Samuel said.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **"He's with you all the time."** (Point to heaven.)

- **Samuel called to God's people,** (Cup hands around mouth as if shouting.)
- **"Come and meet your king."** (Put hands on head as a crown.)
- **They found Saul hiding in the supplies.** (Cover eyes as if hiding.)
- **They cheered, "Long lives the king!"** (Raise fist to cheer.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." John 14:1

GAME: TRUST IN GOD!

Purpose: Children will realize they can trust in God.

Supplies: None

The Bible says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." To trust in God is to know He will do what is best. Can you help each other remember to trust in God?

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Choose one child to be the "Troubled Heart."
3. Child stands and says, **"I am troubled when I child's activity."** (For example: try to ride a bike, tie my shoe, go to a new place, play a hard game, tell time, etc.)
4. Children say, **"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." John 14:1**
5. Give a gentle group hug to the Troubled Heart.
6. Play until each child has a turn as the Troubled Heart.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "TRUST IN GOD" CHEER

Purpose: Children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." That means "Don't worry!" Then it says, "Trust in God." To trust in God is to know He will do what is best. Let's tell each other our Bible Memory Verse!

Directions:

1. Say Bible Memory Verse pausing after each word for children to repeat it. Practice verse twice.
2. Divide children into two groups (give each group a name, for example the Bears and the Lions). Each group stands on opposite sides of the play area.
3. From across the play area, the Bears whisper, "**Do not let your hearts be troubled!**" to the Lions.
4. The Lions answer by whispering, "**Trust in God!**" to the Bears.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 three more times, getting louder each time, until the children are using their strongest voices.
6. Play again. This time the Bears whisper, "**Trust in God!**" and the Lions whisper, "**Do not let your hearts be troubled!**"



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God helping someone with a difficult task.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 8, Lesson 38: Samuel and Saul

PONDER! Read 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-8, 20-24 with your family. Talk about how God chose Saul to be king. Why did Saul hide? Who did Samuel say would help Saul be king? God will help you, too. What are some things that are hard for you to do? God will help you do those things!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for choosing me. Help me do things that are hard for me to do. Amen."

PLAY! Play "God Will Help You Charades." Think of something new you must do that makes you want to hide like Saul did. Maybe you are worried about doing a new chore for the first time or learning how to write your name. Act it out. Ask your family to guess what you are doing. Let everyone in your family take a turn. Talk about how God will help you do all of those things!

Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse: John 14:1

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God."