



Samuel and Saul

Lesson Aim: To know God has chosen us
to do special jobs for Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Knows Our Hearts

THE WORD

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 10:1, 6-7, 9, 20-24

What He has done: God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel.

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 10:6-7

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ephesians 2:10

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

Unit 8: The King Who Knows Our Hearts			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Samuel and Saul, 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 10:1, 6-7, 9, 20-24	God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel.	To know God has chosen us to do special jobs for Him.
39	David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4-5, 32-40, 47-50	God gave David the victory over Goliath.	To trust God with the challenges we face.
40	David, Jonathan, and Saul, 1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-5; 20:13-24, 30-34, 41-42	God gave David a brave friend that helped him through hard times.	To know God gives us true friends.
41	David's Heart: David Spares Saul, 1 Samuel 24:1-13	God helped David spare Saul's life.	To trust God for justice over our enemies.
42	David and Mephibosheth, 2 Samuel 9:2-3, 5-7	God helped David keep his promise.	To promise to show kindness.

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."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Choose the King	One crown (toy crown, hat, or crown shape cut from sturdy paper) or scepter (stick, baton, or unsharpened pencil), chair
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: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Chosen People" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Change My Heart, O God" "Open the Eyes of My Heart" " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 24:7	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 38 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 10:1, 6-7, 9, 20-24	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, Certificate of Anointments (see Got Time?), ink pens, one flask or small bottle of olive oil
		Christ Connection: Ephesians 2:10	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Certificate of Anointment (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Crown the Snack	Frosted cookies, colorful candy (jelly beans, candy covered chocolates, gumdrops)
	Up to 10	Game: Thumbs Up!	None
	Up to 10	Craft: God's Workmanship	Sturdy paper, foam, glue, large labels, pens or pencils, craft decorations, optional: craft sticks
		Certificate of Anointment	Sturdy paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: My Heart Knows Psalm 23	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd," CD player
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Psalm 23 Balloon Toss	1 inflated non-helium balloon, Bible, optional: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity Discussion: Psalm 23	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the best thing you have ever been chosen to do?

GAME: CHOOSE THE KING

Purpose: This challenging version of the game "Duck, Duck, Goose" introduces the story of God choosing Saul as king.

Supplies: One crown (toy crown, hat, or crown shape cut from sturdy paper) or scepter (stick, baton, or unsharpened pencil), chair

Optional: To make the game more challenging, remaining children may switch seats to make it more difficult for Samuel or Saul to find the empty seat.

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. Place a chair for a throne in the center of the circle.
3. Choose one child to be Samuel. Samuel holds the crown.
4. Samuel walks around outside of circle. He chooses a child to be King Saul by placing a crown on the child's head and saying **"God chose you!"**
5. Samuel runs completely around the circle, enters the center at King Saul's empty seat, and sits on the throne in the center of the circle. Samuel must enter the circle through the empty seat.
6. King Saul chases Samuel around the circle to tag him or her before he or she enters the circle and sits down.
7. If Samuel enters the circle and sits on the throne before being tagged, King Saul becomes Samuel and follows steps 3-6.
8. If Samuel is tagged before entering the circle and sitting on the throne, King Saul sits on the throne and Samuel repeats steps 3-6.
9. **Teacher's Note:** Limit each child to two turns as Samuel. Be sure each child has a turn to play.

In our game, did you know you would be chosen to be king before Samuel put the crown on your head? (No.) That's just like what happened in today's story. Let's see how God sent Samuel to choose Saul to be king.



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 music as children move to the designated area.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."



We worship the King who knows our hearts. He made our hearts to want to be close to Him. He loves us and has chosen a plan for each of us. Through His Holy Spirit, He changes our hearts to follow His plan for us. Sing: "You Will Seek Me" and "Open the Eyes of My Heart."



Read Jeremiah 24:7.



Today, we will learn how the Lord chose Saul to be king. He chooses each of us to be part of His family. He chooses us for a purpose—to declare His praises to everyone. Sing: "Chosen People."

God not only chooses a plan for us, He leads us as we follow that plan. As we give our offering, let's thank God for the way He leads us as a shepherd leads his sheep. Collect offering as "The Lord Is My Shepherd" is played as background music. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on being chosen or changing our hearts.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 8, Lesson 38.



God chose Saul to be king

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Last time, we learned God chose Samuel as judge and prophet over Israel. While Samuel was judge, what did the Philistines steal from the Israelites? (The golden ark of God.) **Why did they return it?** (God destroyed their false god statue named Dagon. Then God made the Philistines very sick until they returned the ark.) **What did God send to frighten the Philistines away?** (Loud thunder.) **What was the name of the stone Samuel used to help everyone remember how God had helped them?** (The Ebenezer stone.)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **Today, we will learn God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul. To anoint is to put oil on a person as a sign that God has chosen him or her to do a special job for God. Saul was king for 42 years.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 10:1, 6-7, 9, 20-24.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

God decided to answer the Israelites' prayer for a king. He chose a man named Saul to be the next king. Saul did not know this. Saul and his servant were searching for his father's lost donkeys. He went to ask if Samuel knew where the donkeys were. Check out what the Lord told Samuel about Saul. Read 1 Samuel 9:15-16.

Samuel told Saul the donkeys had been found. Check out what Samuel said and did as Saul and his servant were leaving. Read 1 Samuel 10:1, 6-7, 9.

Saul was surprised the Lord chose him to be king. After anointing Saul, Samuel presented Saul to the people of Israel as their first king. Read 1 Samuel 10:20-24.



God has chosen you

THE WAY

What was Saul looking for when he went to see Samuel? (His father's donkeys.) **To anoint someone means to put oil on a person as a sign God has chosen him or her to do a special job for God. For what special job did Samuel anoint Saul?** (To serve as king of Israel.) **Just as God chose Saul, God has chosen you. He will give you a special job to do for Him.**

Where did Saul hide when Samuel was about to announce Saul would be the first king of Israel? (He hid in the supplies.) **What did the people say when Samuel announced Saul would be king?** ("Long live the king!")

ANOINTMENT CEREMONY

Purpose: To anoint children with oil as a sign God has chosen them for a special job.

Supplies: One Certificate of Anointment per child (For certificate information, see Got Time?), ink pens, one flask or small bottle of olive oil

Prepare: Sign, date, and write the group or class name on all the certificates.

Optional: Omit the anointing and replace with a commissioning or prayer of dedication.

Teacher Tip: To demonstrate, anoint your helper first. Encourage children who do not wish to be anointed to enjoy the music and think about the story of Samuel and Saul.

Now, just as Samuel anointed Saul, I will anoint each one of you with a drop of oil as a sign God has chosen you to do a special job for Him. After I anoint and bless you, return quietly to your seat and listen to the words of Psalm 23. Think about how the Lord, Your Shepherd, will guide you as you do the special job God gives you.

Directions:

1. Play Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song continuously as background music during ceremony.
2. Give a pen and certificate to each child wishing to be anointed. Instruct them to print their name on the certificate. Optional: Have a helper complete the certificates as each child is anointed.
3. Call the first child to come forward for anointing.
4. Place one small drop of oil on your index finger. Touch the child's forehead and say this blessing:
"May the Lord bless you in the special job He will give to you."
5. Child returns to his or her seat to think about the special job God has for him or her.
6. Continue until every child who desires anointment has been anointed.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

We may not yet know what God has chosen for each of us to do, but we do know it will be good. We know God will make our hearts ready. We know God has already planned everything for us. The Bible promises that to us. Let's check it out.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ephesians 2:10. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Ephesians 2:10.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is your Certificate of Anointment. Keep it as a reminder of this day and of the special jobs God has chosen for you to do.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time?

Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 38 Daily Way 5-day Bible study.

Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Samuel anointing Saul as king.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: CROWN THE SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story of Samuel and King Saul.

Snack Suggestion: Frosted cookies, colorful candy (jelly beans, candy covered chocolates, gumdrops)

God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. God has chosen you to do His good work. As we decorate our cookies with candy to remind us of a king's crown jewels, let's talk about what you think those good works might be for each of you.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Children use candy as jewels to decorate their cookie crowns.
3. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What good work would you like to do for the Lord?"**

GAME: THUMBS UP!

Purpose: Review the facts of the Samuel and Saul story.

Supplies: None

Let's see how much you can remember about today's story. I'm going to read some statements about the story. Raise your thumbs up if you believe the statement is true, give me a thumbs down if you believe the statement is false. If the answer is false, be ready to correct it. Move quickly through these, keeping the pace lively and challenging!

Directions:

1. **The people asked God for another judge.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **What did the people ask God for?** (A king.)
2. **God spoke to Saul and told him that he would be king.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Who told Saul he would be king?** (Samuel.)
3. **Saul was searching for his father's oil.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **What was Saul searching for?** (His father's donkeys.)
4. **Saul came from the tribe of Benjamin.** (Thumbs up.)
5. **Ruth anointed Saul's head with oil.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Who anointed Saul's head?** (Samuel.)
6. **The Spirit of the Lord came in power upon Saul.** (Thumbs up.)
7. **Saul was tall.** (Thumbs up.)
8. **Saul hid in the closet.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Where did Saul hide?** (In the supplies.)
9. **Saul was the first king of the Philistines.** (Thumbs down.) Correction: **Saul was the first king of which nation?** (Israel.)
10. **Saul was king for 42 years.** (Thumbs up.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: GOD'S WORKMANSHIP

Purpose: To remind children that God has already chosen them and prepared good works for them as promised in Ephesians 2:10.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, foam, glue, large labels, pens or pencils, craft decorations, optional: craft sticks

Prepare: From paper or foam cut a frame to fit a standard-size picture. Display for children to copy:

"We are God's workmanship." Ephesians 2:10

Optional: Children can create a picture frame using 4 craft sticks, one stick for each side. Glue the sticks together at the corners. Take instant pictures for the children to put in their frames or allow children to draw a self-portrait for their frames.

What did Samuel do to show God had chosen Saul to be king? (Anointed him with oil.) God chose Saul for a very important job. God has chosen you to do His good works, too. You are God's workmanship! That means He made you for a special reason! Today, you will make a picture frame to remember God made you and prepared special good works for you to do. Be sure to take the picture frame home and put your own picture inside it. You can use a photograph or draw a picture of yourself.

Directions:

1. Copy **"We are God's workmanship." Ephesians 2:10** onto a label.
2. Decorate the photo frame with craft decorations.
3. Attach label to the photo frame.

CERTIFICATE OF ANOINTMENT

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy paper

Prepare: Create a Certificate of Anointment (available at ResourceWell.org or use the sample below) for each child. Sign, date, and write the group or class name on all the certificates.

CERTIFICATE OF ANOINTMENT

**On this day, child's name was anointed with oil by teacher's name
in the presence of the class, group, or grade name class.
This symbolizes the anointing of the kings of Israel during Bible times
for the special jobs God gave them as recorded in 1 Samuel 10:1.
"May the Lord bless you in the special job He will give to you."**

Teacher's signature

Today's date

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

GAME: MY HEART KNOWS PSALM 23

Purpose: Children will learn the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse in four parts.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd," CD player

Prepare: On the Bible Memory Verse poster, draw a large, colored heart at the beginning of each part according to the designations below.

Directions:

1. Play and sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Lord Is My Shepherd."
2. Divide the children into four teams. Assign a part/heart color to each team.
3. Teams practice reciting their part while acting out the motions.
4. Ask each team to sing and act out their part for the whole class as you play the song.
5. Repeat this activity during Lessons 38-41 with children learning a different part each time.
6. During Lesson 42, have the children sing and act out all four parts together.

Part 1—Green heart: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul." One child acts as a shepherd and leads others as sheep. The sheep pretend to lie on cool grass next to water.

Part 2—Blue heart: "He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me." One child acts as an evil villain. The other children pretend not to notice.

Part 3—Gold heart: "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Children hug and then sit down as if at a table together and pretend to eat dinner.

Part 4—Red heart: "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Children pat their hands over their hearts and pretend to walk through a door.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PSALM 23 BALLOON TOSS

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible, optional: Bible Memory Verse poster

Option: To make the game easier, allow each team to tap the balloon two or three times as they recite their verse, and display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Divide children into six teams.
2. Assign one verse of Psalm 23 to each team.
3. Give teams time to memorize their verses.
4. Children stand in a circle.
5. The first team tosses a balloon high into the air. They must recite their verse before the balloon touches the floor. Team members may help one another remember their verse.
6. As soon as the team completes its verse, a member of the next team taps the balloon as high as possible. That team recites their verse before the balloon touches the floor.
7. Continue until all six verses have been recited.

DISCUSSION: PSALM 23

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster

Teacher Tip: For older children, divide the children into seven teams. Assign each team one of the sentences below. Ask teams to brainstorm the meaning of their sentence and share it with the class.

Our Bible Memory Verse is Psalm 23. There are 150 psalms in the Bible. Psalms are songs or poems that were used to worship God. Do you know who wrote many of the psalms? (David.) David was the second King of Israel. He loved to worship God. Let's put each part of Psalm 23 into our own words. Lead children in discussion of each phrase.

- **"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."** (God will take care of all of my needs, just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.)
- **"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul."** (God makes sure my body and soul get rest.)
- **"He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."** (God shows me how to follow Him and do what is right in His eyes so more people will know who He is.)
- **"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."** (Even in hard times, I don't have to be afraid, because You are with me. I don't have to be afraid of evil, of death, or of my enemies. Your rules and the way You lead me will keep me calm when I am worried.)
- **"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."** (You have a good plan for me even when I'm surrounded by those who want to hurt me.)
- **"You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."** (You have chosen a special job for me to do. My heart is like a cup that is filled and overflowing with blessings from You.)
- **"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."** (God will always be good to me and love me. I will always be a part of His family.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Ruth (There is no specific date recorded, but Ruth lived during the time when judges ruled over Israel.) **What was the promise Ruth made to Naomi?** ("Where you go I will go...Your people will be my people and your God my God.") **How did God bless Ruth?** (He made her one of His people, gave her a kinsman-redeemer who became her husband named Boaz, and gave her a son named Obed.)

Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) God called to Samuel when he was a boy in the temple. God chose him to be a prophet and judge for the Israelites. **What did the Philistines capture while Samuel was judge?** (The ark of God.) **Why did they return it?** (Their Dagon statue broke and their people became sick when the ark was in their town.) **What did Samuel name the stone used to remember God's help?** (Ebenezer stone.)

Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul. **What does anoint mean?** (To put oil on a person to show God has chosen him or her to do a special job for Him.) **What happened to Saul's heart when the Holy Spirit came upon him in power?** (God changed his heart.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.