



# Introduction

*About ABC*

## **Mission**

Answers Bible Curriculum was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God's Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

## **Overview**

The 2009 book *Already Gone* by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer (and the scientific study on which the book is based) reveals the reasons why young people are leaving the church. In much of the teaching today in our churches, the Bible is disconnected from the real world, and the authority of Scripture is undermined and replaced with secular reasoning using man's ideas.

The church has failed to teach the Bible as relevant fact. We have, intentionally or unintentionally, taught the Scriptures as nothing but "stories" that relate to spiritual matters but have avoided engaging the challenging questions from the secular world that bombard church children and adults the other 166 hours of their week. As a result, children are beginning to doubt the Bible—and the gospel message that it presents—as early as elementary school. Many studies confirm that more than 60% of young people leave the church after they graduate from high school.

Answers Bible Curriculum was designed and written to provide answers to the questions and issues that confront youth (and adults) in school, in the media, from friends, at work, etc. It is our hope and prayer that God will be pleased to use this curriculum to instill a lifelong trust in the Bible and in the God who authored it.

## Guiding Principles

Certain principles guided our writers, editors, and reviewers as we developed Answers Bible Curriculum. These principles are reflected in the teaching, activities, and illustrations presented throughout the curriculum.

### **We can trust all of God's Word beginning in Genesis.**

- God's Word is true; God does not lie.
- The historical record of the Bible is confirmed often by historical, archaeological, and scientific support.

### **God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.**

- God's sovereignty is demonstrated in history as he fulfills his purposes through people and events.
- God's attributes (including his holiness, justice, love, and mercy) are demonstrated through his dealings with people.

### **The Bible presents true history.**

- The Bible presents real history, showing the unfolding plan of God to redeem a people for himself.
- The historical accounts of the Bible intersect with secular history.

### **We must carefully and accurately interpret the Bible.**

- The proper use of hermeneutics helps us understand the Bible accurately.
- Understanding the Bible requires time and effort.

### **God's plan of redemption is woven throughout Scripture.**

- God's plan of redemption is presented throughout the Bible, beginning in Genesis.
- Many accounts in the Old Testament connect to the New Testament and point to Jesus and the gospel message.

### **We must be ready to give a defense for what we believe.**

- Students and adults must be equipped with answers to questions skeptics ask.
- We can use science, history, archaeology, etc. to confirm the accuracy of the biblical record.

### **We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches.**

- God's Word is applicable today.
- We can learn from scriptural examples of obedience (and disobedience) to God's Word.
- Believers are called to walk in obedience to God's Word.

## Bible Version

Answers Bible Curriculum uses the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible.

## Scope & Sequence

Answers Bible Curriculum is a 200-lesson curriculum that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first 120 lessons survey the Old Testament, and the final 80 lessons survey the New Testament. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

## Summary

- 200-lesson, four-year curriculum (50 lessons per year); but take as long as you need to get through it
- Available in six age levels: Pre-K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Middle School, High School, Adult
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—all ages study the same scriptures each week
- Based on the ESV

# How to Use ABC

## Teacher Kit Components

Answers Bible Curriculum includes all the necessary elements for you to teach your students with excellence while engaging them in the learning process. The Teacher Kit for each unit of lessons includes the following items:

**Teacher Guide**—Ten lessons with lesson overview, background material, preparation instructions, scripted lesson, activity instructions, etc. The tenth lesson of each unit is a review lesson.

Each lesson contains two lesson scripts—one for older students (5–7 year olds) and one for preschoolers (3–4 year olds). Choose the one that best fits your class.

**Student Take Home Sheets**—Sample set of nine full-color, two-page take home sheets with an activity, memory verse practice, review section, and a link to download the Justin & Jessie coloring sheet.

**Lesson Flip Chart**—A 20 x 15 full-color, wire-bound chart to complement the Teacher Guide. It is designed to use during the Lesson Time. It contains the K–1st script for each lesson in the unit, an illustration summarizing the main points of each lesson, a prayer page, memory verse page, and a song page with lyrics of each song in the unit.

**Justin & Jessie Stories**—A set of nine 11 x 17 two-sided posters with a short story on one side and a full-color picture on the other. The adventures of Justin and Jessie show how the truths learned in the lesson can apply to real life.

**Classroom Posters**—These large classroom posters enhance the lessons and provide visual reminders of important truths. The posters for this unit include

- The Books of the Bible
- Exodus to Malachi Timeline
- Game Board

## Optional Resources

You may purchase these additional resources from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling (800) 778-3390.

**Books of the Bible Flashcards**—Sixty-seven 5 x 7 flashcards. Each card has a colorful illustration on the front, and the back features key facts about each book’s author, date of writing, key people, main message, and what each book reveals about God and his character.

**Books of the Bible Trading Cards**—The same as the flashcards, measuring 2.75 x 4.

**Books of the Bible Coloring Book**—Students will have fun coloring these scenes based on the accounts of Scripture. All 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are represented.

## Teacher Digital Resources

When you purchased Answers Bible Curriculum, you received access to a digital library that contains items such as coloring sheets, game and activity instructions, lesson illustrations, video clips, review questions, etc. Be sure to leave enough time to look at the Lesson Preparation section of each lesson so that any needed items can be printed or gathered prior to class.

- Access your resources at [MyAnswers.com/abc-resources](http://MyAnswers.com/abc-resources) using the **Resources Code** inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.
- You may also purchase these resources on a USB flash drive from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling (800) 778-3390.

## Original Songs

We have created original memory verse songs and songs relating to the lessons.

- Access the music at [MyAnswers.com/abc-resources](http://MyAnswers.com/abc-resources) using the **Songs Code** inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.
- CDs of the songs are available for purchase at AnswersBookstore.com to give to students and families.

## Teacher Lesson

Our vision for the preschool class is that the time they spend in church should be time you, as the teacher, are intentionally pointing them to the truths of God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible. They can be taught the truth, and they can enjoy learning about God!

We have designed these lessons so that they are easy to teach and provide everything needed to successfully guide your students. Here is a breakdown of what is included in each lesson and how to get the most out of it as you prepare and teach.

### Lesson Overview

**Lesson Focus**—Each lesson has a short statement summarizing the content of the lesson for that week.

**Key Passages**—These are the Bible passages the lesson is based on. Your teaching will be more rewarding if you familiarize yourself with the key passages before class.

**Memory Verse**—Students will work on memorizing one passage per unit. Our hope is that this will enable the students to really learn these scriptures and to know them well enough that they will be able to recite them from memory not only at the end of the unit but at the end of the year!

### Lesson Preparation

At the beginning of each lesson there are two sections that will help you prepare.

**Lesson Preparation Chart**—This chart shows you everything you will need for each week's lesson. Be sure to consult this chart several days before class so you can gather any supplies and print materials from the Teacher Digital Resources.

All the activity suggestions may be used for Pre-K or K–1st grade. However, those marked with an \* are specifically recommended for Pre-K students.

**Optional Supplements**—Each lesson includes optional hands-on activities. Be sure to plan ahead and gather any necessary items for

the activities you choose, then incorporate them into the lesson wherever you think they fit best. Some lessons also have video clips, which should be previewed and shown when appropriate during class.

All pages that are instructions for the teacher will have the word “Teacher” in the footer, while student pages will have the word “Student.” This should make it easy for an assistant to know which pages need multiple copies for students.

### Prepare to Share

We have provided background information to help you understand the biblical and historical context of the passage being studied. Where appropriate, we have also included apologetics information that will confirm the truth of the Scriptures.

### Lesson Elements

The lessons are broken down into several elements to make it easier for you to teach and to allow for flexibility. We realize that some teachers have the luxury of a full hour for Sunday school, while others may have only 20 minutes of teaching time. We have planned our lessons to take about 30–40 minutes total. Of course, this will vary greatly depending on your individual style, class size, student maturity level, etc.

If you finish the lesson before your time is up we recommend you play another game, review the previous memory verses, use the Flip Chart to review, or sing additional songs.

### Come On In

The Come On In activity is something for the students to do while they are arriving. The intent is to promote order as soon as the students enter the room by providing specific assignments.

Our vision is that the teacher would be at the door greeting the students and their parents while classroom assistants engage the students in the activity and meaningful conversation centered on what was taught last week, what will be taught this week, or just personal greetings. Interaction with the students is key during this time.

There are several options for the Come On In activity.

**Come On In Game**—There are a number of games you can choose from for the students to play. These games use the Books of the Bible Flashcards printed from the Teacher Digital Resources or available in color as an additional purchase.

**Activity Sheet**—Each lesson includes an activity sheet from the previous lesson that you can print out for the students to complete as you review with them.

**Music/Play**—Set out play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc. for students to play with while they listen to music from the lessons.

## Lesson Time

This is the main teaching part of the lesson. The lesson script is written in a Say-Ask format and appears both in the Teacher Guide and on the Flip Chart (K-1st version).

Lesson Time should follow the simple outline as presented in the Teacher Guide. Each lesson includes the sections below.

**Prayer**—This time is designed to present students with simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray. We suggest bringing in a special stuffed animal—a prayer bear—or other object to pass around the circle. Students will get to pray when it's their turn to hold the prayer bear.

There is a Prayer Page in the Flip Chart that reviews four specific types of prayers from the ACTS prayer acronym—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

**Bible Truths**—Each lesson includes four simple questions about God and the Bible. This will set up a routine for your students, and the repetition of questions will solidify the truths in their minds.

**Bible Treasure Hunt**—This simple activity, intended to be repeated weekly, is designed to generate excitement and enthusiasm as you open God's Word for the lesson. Before class, you will hide your Bible somewhere in the room then use different methods from week

to week to keep the students excited about hunting for the greatest treasure—the Bible.

**Lesson Script**—There are two scripts in the main part of each lesson, one for Pre-K students (3-4 year olds) and one for K-1st students (5-7 year olds). Choose the lesson script that is best suited to the children in your class.

It is vitally important that your students review the things they have been taught, so the script begins with a review of previous lessons. The Lesson Flip Chart illustrations are the best way to review the important points you covered. You may also want to show teaching aids from the previous week or activity sheets the students may have worked on.

As you teach, we highly recommend you read the verses from your Bible. Make much of the fact that this is God's Word and they are learning it just like the rest of the family in church. We have presented very simple questions for you to ask from the text. If they listen, your students will be able to answer the questions.

## Lesson Review Game

Review the lesson with your students by playing a fun game. These can be found in the Teacher Digital Resources or in the Appendix at the back of this Teacher Guide.

## Story Time

During this application time, you will read a short story about two children named Justin and Jessie and have a brief discussion to help the students apply the lesson to their own lives. The story text can be found on the back of the Justin and Jessie Posters in your Teacher Kit or printed from the Teacher Digital Resources.

## Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game from the Teacher Digital Resources or in the Appendix at the back of this Teacher Guide.

In addition to the game, use the Memory Verse page at the back of the Flip Chart to help the students practice reciting the verse each week. The verse has been presented with some of

the words illustrated so that pre-readers can associate the pictures with the words and quickly memorize them. Be sure to explain the verse to your students then say each word and point at each picture several times. Allow students to look at this page during the game.

## **Song Time**

These songs will get the students up and moving while reinforcing biblical truths. Feel free to make up hand motions or add clapping or instruments to any of the songs. Song lyrics are on the Song Sheet at the end of each lesson in this Teacher Guide. The lyrics for all the songs in the unit are also found on the Song Time Lyrics Page in the Flip Chart.

- Access the music at [MyAnswers.com/abc-resources](http://MyAnswers.com/abc-resources) using the **Songs Code** inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.

- Extra songs to the tunes of popular nursery rhymes are found in the Additional Songs List.

## **Group Prayer**

We encourage you to pray with your students before they are dismissed. If time allows, you may want to take prayer requests from your students.

## ***Student Take Home Sheets***

Nine lessons in each unit (Pre-K–Grade 5) include a full-color, two-page Student Take Home Sheet. The Student Take Home Sheets are designed to encourage review of the lesson and family discussion. A sample set comes in the Teacher Kit. Additional sheets are available for purchase from [AnswersBookstore.com](http://AnswersBookstore.com).

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# Leading a Child to Christ

Many of the lessons present an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with your students. Every teacher should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming followers of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

## Before

**Pray.** Salvation is God's work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.

**Prepare.** Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

## During

The gospel is clearly presented in many of the lessons. You may give a group invitation or choose to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. When you explain the gospel, please keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- Use your Bible to explain the plan of salvation. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible open and marked ahead of time with the appropriate Scriptures.  
Avoid abstract phrases like "asking Jesus into your heart." Instead, use terminology like "becoming a child of God." Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel, determine if the child has an understanding of his sin. This is very important. A child who cannot verbalize sin, who does not seem to be repentant

toward God because he is a sinner, or who does not realize that he must turn away from his sin cannot fully understand his need for a Savior. Ask questions about sin that require more than "yes" or "no" answers:

- Do you know what sin is? Can you explain it to me?
  - Can you think of some sins you have done?
  - Are you sorry for your sins? Who are you sorry to?
  - Why are you sorry for your sins?
  - What do you think you should do about these sins in your life?
- If you are not satisfied that God has revealed to this child that his sin is an offense against our holy God, we recommend that you present a booklet we have developed for children that explains the gospel further. It is called *How Can I Become a Child of God?* and can be ordered from [AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://AnswersBibleCurriculum.com).
  - If the child does seem to be sincerely sorry for his sins, you can proceed with more questions like the following:
    - Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
    - Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
    - Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what he does but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)
  - When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents (if they are followers of Christ) about what it means to become a child of God. Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no specific prayer that should be prayed. En-



courage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.

- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not be ready to make a decision for Christ but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. Read 1 John 1:9 with children who want to confess sin and encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are forgiven when they repent.

### After

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
  - How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
  - Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)

- What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)

- What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)

- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with the booklet *Growing Up in God's Family* (available at AnswersBookstore.com), and share the following:

- Read your Bible, and obey what you read. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion on the presentation page.)

- Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.

- Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.

- Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.

- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls.

# Unit 8 Syllabus

<b>Lesson 71</b>	God Uses Gideon	Judges 7:2–4, 7:16
<b>Lesson 72</b>	Samson Receives Strength	Judges 14:5–6, 16:19–20, 16:28–30
<b>Lesson 73</b>	God Blesses Ruth	Ruth 1:16–17, 4:13–14
<b>Lesson 74</b>	God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1–18
<b>Lesson 75</b>	Israel’s First King	1 Samuel 13:8–10, 15:7–9
<b>Lesson 76</b>	God Chooses David	1 Samuel 16:7, 16:11–12
<b>Lesson 77</b>	David Defeats Goliath	1 Samuel 16:19, 17:4, 17:24, 17:40, 17:48–49
<b>Lesson 78</b>	Jonathan Warns David	1 Samuel 18:3–4, 18:10–11, 20:36–38
<b>Lesson 79</b>	Saul Hunts David	1 Samuel 21:12–13, 24:4, chapter 26
<b>Lesson 80</b>	Unit Review	



# God Uses Gideon

*God used Gideon to defeat the Midianites and deliver the Israelites.*

## *Lesson Focus*

The Israelites sinned and worshipped false gods, but they cried to God to deliver them from the oppression of the Midianites. God chose Gideon as the judge who would lead the Israelites in battle. God used the fact that Gideon's army was greatly outnumbered to remind the Israelites that he would be the one to bring victory.

## *Key Passages*

Judges 7:2–4, 7:16

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible

Bring the following for the army sizes demonstration:

- A large amount of small objects (e.g., building blocks, dried beans, buttons, coins, etc.)
- Masking tape

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball\*
- Racetrack\*
- Board Game
- Toss for It\*
- Bowling\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- “1 John 1:8–9”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 71*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The recurring cycle of Israel's history during the time of the judges continued for about 300 years. This cycle included the Israelites' disobedience and idolatry, God's judgment on them through neighboring nations, their cry to God for deliverance, God's mercy and compassion in raising up judges to deliver them, and their peace until they again fell back into idolatry. In Judges 6 we find that because the Israelites were once again doing evil in the sight of the Lord, God allowed them to be oppressed by the Midianites. They finally cried out to him for help, and God sent a prophet to tell them why they were being oppressed (Judges 6:6–10). The Lord was about to provide an unlikely hero for them through Gideon.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, who was threshing wheat in secret so that the raiding Midianites would not take it (not a very valiant act). Surprisingly, the angel of the Lord called Gideon a “mighty man of valor.” He told Gideon that he would lead Israel to defeat its current oppressors, the Midianites. Gideon revealed his fear and lack of trust in the Lord as he responded that he was from the weakest clan of Israel and the least in his family (Judges 6:15). But the Lord responded with confidence, explaining that he would be with him. In Judges 6:14, the Lord had told Gideon to “Go in this might of yours,” but God also clearly told him the source of that might—himself. And in verse 34, as Gideon gathered men for battle, it was because the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. Scripture is clear that it was the Lord moving in these events, using Gideon; it was not Gideon's own strength or ability that won the victory. We see, as the account unfolds, that God wanted his power alone to be demonstrated.

In Judges 7, a substantial number of men had rallied to Gideon (though they would still have been outnumbered by the Midianites). God gave Gideon orders to reduce the number of men who would participate in the battle. First, any who were fearful were

commanded to leave. Next, God directed Gideon to accept only those who drank by lapping the water from their hands. Thus, the fighting force was reduced to a mere 300 to face the Midianite army of 135,000. God wanted the victory of this battle to point to him alone as deliverer. He did not want the Israelites to think that this victory was theirs. God knew the Israelites would be tempted to think that they had saved themselves (Judges 7:2).

The account of the battle is dramatic. Gideon's 300 men stealthily approached the Midianites with covered torches. Suddenly, at Gideon's signal, they blew their trumpets, broke the jars that covered their torches and shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon,” inciting panic among the Midianites (Judges 7:20–21). In the midst of this panic, God ordained that the Midianites would turn their swords on each other—this was God's battle, and the victory was accomplished by his power, working through Gideon's obedience (Judges 7:22).

God used Gideon, a simple man, to accomplish a great victory against a fearful opponent. Gideon was obedient and proved to be strong, due to the Lord's strength in him. Gideon was the fifth and one of the greatest judges of Israel. Because of his faith in the Lord, he is mentioned with the great and faithful saints in Hebrews 11.

It could only have been the Lord who would allow 300 men to defeat the vast Midianite army. Gideon realized this. The people, however, were quick to forget, as evidenced when they requested that Gideon rule over them (Judges 8:22). Gideon's loyalty to God shone bright as he turned down this honor and reminded the people of God's sovereignty in his rule over them (Judges 8:23).

Sadly, Gideon compromised his faith by requesting and accepting offerings of gold, plundered by Israel from their enemies, and he used the gold to make an ephod (a kind of ceremonial breastplate). This ephod, set up in Gideon's city of Ophrah, became a snare to Gideon and his family (Judges 8:27).

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Gideon acted faithfully and courageously in battle, but God desires to be the object of his people's worship and gratitude, and he will not share

that worship: “I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols” (Isaiah 42:8). God used people all through history

and continues to use people today to accomplish his will. But he makes it clear that even when he does so, it is he who ultimately deserves the credit: “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Both the desire and the ability to obey God are the results of God working in us.

In Judges 8, we find that the men of Ephraim wanted to share the credit that belonged to God for the battle won. We then find that the men of Succoth and Peniel would not credit God (or anyone) without proof of a certain outcome. And finally, we see that Israel, rather than giving credit to God for using Gideon, gave Gideon credit instead of God. This inclination to overlook and disbelieve that it was God who orchestrated the victory was at the root of Israel’s tendency to fall back into sin, even after a deliverance such as this. God uses his people to accomplish his perfect plans. But when the plans

are accomplished, we must not forget that we are his workmanship created to do the good works he has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Gideon judged Israel for 40 years, and the land had peace from the Midianites (Judges 8:28). Unfortunately, Gideon fell into polygamy, which was never God’s plan for marriage (Genesis 2:24). Gideon’s many wives bore him 70 sons, and a concubine in Shechem bore him a son named Abimelech (Judges 8:30–31). Abimelech became king of Shechem after murdering his 69 brothers (Judges 9:5–6). He judged Israel for three years before God punished him for his sins (Judges 9:22, 9:56). Gideon’s family suffered and was nearly destroyed because of Gideon’s failure to follow God’s plan for marriage. We see a similar pattern of jealousy and murder as a result of polygamy in the families of Jacob and King David. May God guard us from seeking to rob him of glory or walking in willful disobedience to him.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of adoration and give God praise.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.



We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 20 for the Pre-K Lesson.



## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### *Introduction*

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* The Israelites were living in the promised land. But after Joshua died, they turned away from the Lord and ignored his commandments. Their sin began a cycle that kept repeating over and over for many years: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But it didn’t end there. Whenever God gave the Israelites peace and safety, they would forget what God had done for them and turn back to worshipping idols. This started the whole cycle again!

God was merciful, though. He listened to the Israelites’ prayers and helped them even when they kept on sinning. The judges God chose to help the people usually led them into battle against the enemy. That can be a scary job. In today’s lesson, we’ll see how God chose a leader who started out feeling afraid but learned to trust God even when he was outnumbered.

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### **God Calls Gideon**

The Israelites had sinned again by worshipping false gods and idols, so God brought enemies called the Midianites to punish them.

The Midianites were so powerful and there were so many of them that whenever they came the Israelites had to run and hide in caves! The Midianites took everything—all the food in the fields and all the animals. The Israelites were left with nothing!

This kept happening for seven years. Finally, the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help. They had forgotten God, but now they were sorry for their sin.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. So God chose a judge to help the Israelites. His name was Gideon. But he wasn't any superhero. Actually, the Bible tells us that Gideon was hiding from the enemy when the angel of the Lord came to him and said that he would be the one to lead the fight against the Midianites.

Gideon didn't think this was such a good idea, but the Lord promised to go with him. God was going to show Gideon how he would fight for Israel and bring victory, even when it seemed impossible.

- Have the small objects and tape ready for the army sizes demonstration.

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## **God Reduces Gideon's Army**

Place a large amount of small objects on a table or the floor where the students can easily see them. Attach a piece of tape next to the objects for a battle line. It wasn't long before the Midianites came with a huge army and camped in the land of Israel. Their army had 135,000 men—an enormous number of soldiers! They were a scary sight to the Israelites!

The Midianites probably thought they would just come and steal whatever they wanted, like usual. But this time would be different—they would be in for a big surprise because God was fighting for Israel!

Place a lesser amount of small objects on the other side of the tape. Israelite men came from all over to join Gideon in the fight—32,000 in all! But there were still a lot more Midianites.

- ? Refer to the objects. How do you think Gideon felt when he looked at how many soldiers he had and how many the Midianites had? Allow answers.

Gideon began to wonder if he really was supposed to lead this battle. But God helped Gideon trust that he was with him. Finally, Gideon set out for battle with his 32,000 men.

Gideon and his army were ready to go out and fight. But the Lord had a different plan in mind. He stopped Gideon and gave him some instructions—God was about to make his army even smaller!

### **Judges 7:2–3**

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out why from the book of Judges. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Judges 7:2–3.

- ? Why did God want to make Gideon's army smaller? What would the people of Israel say if they won the battle now? My own hand has what? Saved me.

Yes. They would boast that they saved themselves without God's help. God did not want them to think they were the heroes and didn't need to trust in him. God wanted the credit for the victory.

- ? What did God tell Gideon to proclaim to the people? Whoever was fearful and trembling could do what? Go home.

- Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Take away about two-thirds of the objects from the Israelites' side. So, a bunch of men left and went back home. Oh no! Now Gideon's army was even smaller. Yikes! There were only 10,000 men left to fight against 135,000.

### Judges 7:4

So, were they ready to go to battle now? Let's find out in Judges 7:4. *Read the verse.*

- ❓ What did God say to Gideon about the army? *The people are still too many.*

What?! God said the army was still too large, and he was going to make it even smaller! God told Gideon to take his army down to the water where God would test them by how they drank their water. Those who drank from their hands and lapped the water up like a dog were chosen to go with Gideon into battle. The rest had to go home.

*Remove half of the objects left on the Israelites' side. Now there were only 300 men left! But God still said he would help them win and give them victory over the Midianites. With such a small army, the Israelites would know the victory wasn't because of anything they did. They would know the victory would be all because of God!*

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## God Gives the Victory

*Refer to the objects. So, what will happen in this battle? How can 300 Israelites win against 135,000 Midianites? Gideon gathered his 300 men and told them the plan.*

### Judges 7:16

Gideon divided his men into three groups. Listen to Judges 7:16 to find out what he gave his army to use for the battle. *Read the verse.*

- ❓ What three things did Gideon give his men for the battle? *Trumpets, empty jars, and torches.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart. Those seem like strange things to take to a battle! But the men took the trumpets and hid their torches inside the jars (so the light from the fire couldn't be seen) and followed Gideon.*

*Divide the Israelites' objects into three groups and move them out around the Midianites' objects. In the dark of night, Gideon and his men spread out around the enemy camp. When they were all in place, Gideon blew his trumpet and smashed the jar holding his torch, letting the light shine brightly into the night. That was the signal, and everyone else smashed their jars and blew their trumpets! Suddenly, the Midianites were surrounded by torches and the loud sound of trumpets. Then they heard the Israelites give a great shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"*

The Midianites cried out, "We're surrounded! Let's get out of here!" And they started to run. But God made them panic, and they began fighting

and killing each other. When they tried to get away from there, Gideon and his men chased them. Soon the Midianites were defeated!

What a battle! God wanted the glory for this victory, and he would get it! No one could say that 300 men with trumpets, jars, and torches could beat such a huge army on their own. This was a great miracle showing God's power to save his people.

It's true that Gideon was hiding from the Midianites when God came and told him to lead; he was afraid at first. But Gideon and his men were obedient to follow God's instructions, even when they didn't seem to make any sense. And God was faithful to protect them and help them win just as he said he would, even when they were outnumbered. After this battle, Gideon became a brave and mighty man and led Israel as a judge for 40 years!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 23.



## Pre-K Lesson

### *Introduction*

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* The Israelites were living in the promised land. But after Joshua died, they turned away from the Lord and disobeyed his commandments. Their sin began a cycle that kept repeating for many years: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

The judges God chose to help the people usually led them into battle against the enemy. That can be a scary job. In today's lesson, we'll see how God chose a leader who started out feeling afraid but learned to trust God even when he was outnumbered.

---

### *God Calls Gideon*

The Israelites had sinned again by worshipping false gods and idols, so God brought enemies called the Midianites against them to punish them.

The Midianites were so powerful and there were so many of them that whenever they came the Israelites had to run and hide in caves! The Midianites took everything—all the food in the fields and all the animals. Finally, the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* So, God chose a judge to help them. His name was Gideon. But he wasn't any superhero. Actually, the Bible tells us that Gideon was hiding from the enemy when the angel of the Lord came to him and said that he would lead the fight against the Midianites.

Gideon didn't think this was such a good idea, but the Lord promised to go with him. God was going to show Gideon how he would fight for Israel and bring victory, even when it seemed impossible.

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## **God Reduces Gideon's Army**

*Place a large amount of small objects on a table or the floor where the students can easily see them. Attach a piece of tape next to the objects for a battle line. It wasn't long before the Midianites came and camped in the land of Israel. Their army had 135,000 men—an enormous number of soldiers! They were a scary sight! But this time, the Midianites would be in for a big surprise because God was fighting for Israel.*

► Have the small objects and tape ready for the army sizes demonstration.

*Place a lesser amount of small objects on the other side of the tape. Israelite men came from all over to join Gideon in the fight—32,000 in all! But they were outnumbered. There were still a lot more Midianites.*

- ? *Refer to the objects. How do you think Gideon felt when he looked at how many soldiers he had and how many the Midianites had? Allow answers.*

Gideon began to wonder if he really was supposed to lead this battle. But God helped Gideon trust that he was with him. Finally, Gideon set out for battle with his 32,000 men.

Gideon and his army were ready to go out and fight. But the Lord had a different plan. He stopped Gideon and gave him some instructions—God was about to make his army even smaller!

### **Judges 7:2–3**

*Let's find out why. Judges 7:2–3 tells us the reason. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

- ? *Why did God want to make Gideon's army smaller? What would the people of Israel say if they won the battle now? My own hand has what? Saved me.*

*Yes. They would boast that they saved themselves without God's help. God did not want them to think they were the heroes and didn't need to trust in him.*

► Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

- ? *What did God tell Gideon to proclaim to the people? Whoever was fearful and trembling could do what? Go home.*

*Take away about two-thirds of the objects from the Israelites' side. A bunch of men left and went back home. Now Gideon's army was even smaller. Yikes! There were only 10,000 men left to fight against 135,000.*

### **Judges 7:4**

*So, were they ready to go to battle now? Let's find out in Judges 7:4. Read the verse.*

- ? *What did God say to Gideon about the army? The people are still too many.*

What?! The army was still too big, and God was going to make it even smaller! God told Gideon to take his army down to the water to get a drink. Those who drank the water from their hands and lapped it up like a dog were chosen to go with Gideon into battle. The rest were sent home.

*Remove half of the objects left on the Israelites' side. Now there were only 300 men left! But God still said he would give them victory over the Midianites. With such a small army, the Israelites would know that only God could help them win!*

---

## **God Gives the Victory**

*Refer to the objects. So, what will happen in this battle? How can 300 Israelites win against 135,000 Midianites? Gideon gathered his 300 men and told them the plan. He divided his men into three groups and gave each man a trumpet, an empty jar, and a torch.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart. Those seem like strange things to take to a battle, don't they? But the men took the trumpets and hid their torches inside the jars so the light from the fire couldn't be seen and followed Gideon.*

*Divide the Israelites' objects into three groups and move them out around the Midianites' objects. In the dark of night, Gideon and his men spread out around the enemy camp. When they were all in place, Gideon blew his trumpet and smashed the jar holding his torch, letting the light shine brightly into the night. That was the signal, and everyone else smashed their jars and blew their trumpets! Suddenly, the Midianites were surrounded by torches and the loud sound of trumpets. Then they heard the Israelites give a great shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"*

The Midianites cried out, "We're surrounded! Let's get out of here!" And they started to run. But God made them panic, and they began fighting and killing each other. When they tried to get away from there, Gideon and his men chased them. Soon the Midianites were defeated! Hooray!

What a battle! No one could say that 300 men with trumpets, jars, and torches could beat such a huge army on their own. This was a great miracle showing God's power to save his people.

It's true that Gideon was hiding when God came and told him to lead the Israelites into battle—he didn't think he could do it at first. But God was faithful to help them win, even when they were outnumbered. After this battle, Gideon became a brave and mighty man and led Israel as a judge for 40 years!

**Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.**



## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Justin's little sister, Ellie, was in a cycle of doing things she knew were wrong, saying sorry, then doing something wrong again.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

Jessie felt a little outnumbered when she tried to take care of four pets. Although she didn't want to just give up, Jessie knew she needed help.

- ? What did Jessie's mom suggest they do about the problem? *Pray about it.*

Right! They prayed, and God sent Emily to help her the next day. And together they finished the job.

We heard in our lesson how Gideon was afraid, and maybe even frustrated, knowing how small his army was compared to the huge army of the enemy. They were outnumbered! But because he trusted God, Gideon won the battle and became a great leader.

Sometimes we might feel outnumbered or overwhelmed by something we're supposed to do. But instead of becoming afraid or frustrated, God wants us to trust him to help us. He still wants us to do our best, but he is faithful to give us the help we need to get the job done.



## Memory Verse Game

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## Song Time

*Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.*

*You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!*

## 1 John 1:8–9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's learn the new memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.



## Group Prayer

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that we can ask him for help anytime.
- Ask God to help us trust him even when we feel overwhelmed or outnumbered.

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## Song Sheet

### 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9





# Samson Receives Strength

*God gave Samson supernatural strength to fight the Philistines.*

## *Lesson Focus*

God set Samson apart from birth to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Samson lost his strength when Delilah became more important to him than God, and he was captured by the Philistines. When Samson prayed for forgiveness and strength, God enabled him to collapse a building, destroying 3,000 Philistines.

## *Key Passages*

Judges 14:5–6, 16:19–20, 16:28–30

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- A dozen or more books for the strength competition

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Bible Baseball\*
- Board Game
- Bowling\*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack\*
- Toss for It\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo\*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader\*
- Freeze\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Popcorn\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 72*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The period of the 14 judges extended over about 300 years. It began around 1400 BC with the first judge, Othniel, and ended with the prophet and judge Samuel (see table below). The period of judges occurred during a very dark time of backsliding in Israel's history. Within the book of Judges, we see the repeated themes of the Israelites' disobedience to God and God's faithfulness to forgive and deliver the people when they repented. We also see the recurring theme that God uses people—even the wicked, idolatrous enemy nations of Israel and the imperfect judges—to bring judgment, to promote reconciliation with his people, and to fulfill his perfect will however he deems necessary.

Judge	Reference	Period
Othniel	Judges 3:9–11	40 years
Ehud	Judges 3:15–30	80 years
Shamgar	Judges 3:31	10 years
Deborah	Judges 4:4–5:31	40 years
Gideon	Judges 6:7–8:35	40 years
Tola	Judges 10:1–2	23 years
Jair	Judges 10:3–5	22 years
Jephthah	Judges 11:1–12:7	6 years
Ibzan	Judges 12:8–10	7 years
Elon	Judges 12:11–12	10 years
Abdon	Judges 12:13–15	8 years
Samson	Judges 13:2–16:31	20 years
Eli	1 Samuel 4:18	40 years
Samuel	1 Samuel 7	21 years

Despite Israel's repeated sin, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they would not listen to their judges but abandoned the Lord and bowed down to false gods. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the Lord. And when the Lord

raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. When the judge was dead, they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from evil or from their stubborn ways.

The evil of idolatry caused the Lord to deliver the Israelites into the hand of the Philistines for 40 years (Judges 13:1). It was at this time that God appeared to the barren wife of Manoah and promised a son who would deliver the people. God also specified that the boy would be set apart by following the laws of a Nazirite, which included drinking no wine, eating no unclean thing, and not shaving his head (Judges 13:4–5). The son born to Manoah and his wife was Samson, who received God's blessing and supernatural strength. Samson was the twelfth judge and the last one recorded in the book of Judges. God used even Samson's sinful choices to accomplish his will against the Philistines. Samson's failed marriage to a Philistine woman eventually led to a battle in which Samson defeated 1,000 Philistines using just the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:14–15). He judged Israel for 20 years.

Despite his victories and feats of strength, Samson had a weakness for ungodly women with loyalty to the Philistines. His love for Delilah led to him revealing his special relationship to God as a Nazirite. Delilah betrayed him to the Philistines, and God removed his empowering Spirit. Samson was captured, blinded, and forced to grind at the mill in a Philistine prison (Judges 16:15–22). Because of God's mercy, Samson's account does not end there. God listened to Samson's prayer for strength to destroy about 3,000 Philistines who gathered to worship their false god, Dagon, and to mock Samson and the true God. Blind Samson, positioned between two pillars, was given the strength to collapse the whole building filled with Philistines (Judges 16:23–30). Samson had his failings, but he repented and showed great faith, as noted in Hebrews 11:32–34.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Samson was born to a barren woman and dedicated to God from the womb. The Nazirite vow described in Numbers 6:1–21 was typically done for a specified time. The term “Nazirite” comes from a Hebrew term that indicates dedication by separation. The Nazirite vow, which could be made by a man or a woman, included separation to the Lord by avoiding grape products, hair-cutting, and contact with a dead body. In Judges 13, Manoah’s wife followed Nazirite restrictions while she was pregnant, and God told her and her husband that Samson would be a Nazirite to the day of his death (Judges 13:7). It is important to note that Samson’s long hair was not the source of his strength—God was. Scripture repeats that the Spirit of the Lord enabled Samson to do his miraculous deeds, including killing a lion with his bare hands (Judges 14:6), striking Philistines (Judges 14:19, 15:14–15), transporting a city gate (Judges 16:3), and bringing down a building (Judges 16:28–30). Samson acknowledged God’s hand in his victory when he prayed for water after killing 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:18). However, his desire to fulfill the lusts of the flesh led to poor choices in women: first the Philistine woman in Timnah, then a Philistine prostitute in Gaza, and finally Delilah in the Valley of Sorek,

who would be his downfall. These women showed loyalty to the Philistines over Samson.

The Philistines are first mentioned in the listing of nations descended from Noah’s son Ham (Genesis 10:13–14). The Greek version of their name is where we get the name Palestine. It is believed that the Philistines migrated from the island of Crete and the Aegean region to the area of Canaan along the Mediterranean coast. They controlled land in Canaan as early as the time of Abraham and Isaac (see Genesis 21:32–34, 26:1). God later directed Moses and the Israelites around the land of the Philistines to avoid war (Exodus 13:17). By the time of the conquest, the Philistines had moved inland and controlled five city-states: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron (Joshua 13:3). Each city was controlled by a “lord” or “king.” It was significant that the lords of the Philistines, likely the rulers of these cities, came to Delilah and each offered her a large sum of silver if she would discover the source of Samson’s strength and tell them (Judges 16:4–6). Delilah appeared to care more for material gain than for Samson, while Samson cared more for Delilah than being obedient to God. May God strengthen us to avoid the desires of the flesh and of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:16), which all end in destruction.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry for our sins.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 34 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## **K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

### ***Introduction***

We're going to talk about strength in today's lesson, so let's start with a strength-testing competition! I need two volunteers to start. *Choose two students to come up front. If you have a large class, you may choose more volunteers. If there's time, you may want to do several rounds.*

Okay! I'm going to give each of you a book to hold. Then I'll add another book. I'll keep adding books until you say, "No more!" Ready? *Have volunteers hold out their hands in front of them. Start stacking one book at a time onto each student's hands until they cannot hold any more.*

- ?** Great job! How many books did you each hold? *Count how many books each volunteer was able to hold before they said, "No more!"*

We tested your strength today because we're going to talk about someone in the Bible who was given supernatural strength from God. But first, let's see what we remember from the last lesson.

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* So far in the book of Judges, we've seen how God sent enemies against the Israelites to punish them for worshipping false gods. But whenever they cried out to God for help, he would choose a judge to rescue them.

- ?** *Refer to Lesson 71 Flip Chart.* Who did God choose to lead the fight against the Midianites? What was his name? *Gideon.*

Gideon started out with a pretty big army, but God made it smaller and smaller because he didn't want the people to think they won by themselves. One night, Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianite camp. They smashed their jars, raised their torches, and blew their trumpets. With God's help, the Midianites were defeated! This was a victory that could only happen through God's power!

- Have the books you brought ready for the strength competition.

## Samson's Strength

Today's lesson starts at a time when the Israelites had forgotten God again and were worshipping false gods and idols. Once again, God sent enemies to rule over the Israelites to punish them for their sin. The Israelites were miserable—who would rescue them from the evil Philistines?

One day the angel of the Lord appeared to the wife of a man named Manoah and promised that God would give her a son. This was exciting news since she didn't have any children! God told her that her son would help save Israel from the Philistines. Since God would set him apart for this special purpose, there were certain rules her son should follow: he should never drink wine and should never cut his hair. Soon, Manoah and his wife had a son, and they named him Samson.

God blessed Samson with great strength as he grew into a man. One day when Samson was traveling along a road, something jumped out of the bushes to attack him!

### Judges 14:5–6

? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in the book of Judges to find out what Samson did. Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Judges 14:5–6 starting halfway through verse 5 with "And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring."

? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What attacked Samson on the road? A young lion.

? And what did Samson do to the lion? Tore it to pieces with his bare hands.

Wow! This is amazing! Samson had no weapon or anything to fight the lion with except his bare hands.

? What gave Samson the power to defeat the lion? What rushed upon him? The Spirit of the Lord.

God sent his Spirit to give Samson the strength to save himself from this dangerous lion.

## Samson's Downfall

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. God chose Samson to be a judge who would help Israel by fighting against the Philistines with the great strength God gave him. But Samson had a weakness; he fell in love with an ungodly woman named Delilah. Instead of choosing a woman who worshipped the one true God, Samson wanted to be with Delilah, who worshipped false gods.

When the Philistines found out Samson loved Delilah, they came to her and said, "We will pay you lots of money if you find out the secret of Samson's strength."

► Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.



- ? What was the secret of Samson’s strength? Who made him strong? *God.*

Delilah liked the idea of getting lots of money. She asked Samson to tell her where his strength came from. Samson said, “If someone tied fresh bowstrings (cords) around me, I would become weak.”

So Delilah tied bowstrings around Samson. Then she shouted, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!”

- ? How many of you think Samson got caught? *Show of hands.*

Well, Samson got up and snapped those bowstrings right off. That wasn’t the secret of his strength.

Delilah asked two more times for Samson’s secret, and each time Samson lied. Delilah was getting upset. She wanted the money that was promised to her. “Samson,” she whined, “how can you say you love me, and then lie to me about the secret of your strength. Please tell me the truth.”

Delilah pestered Samson day after day to tell her his secret. Finally, one day Samson gave in and said, “Because I am set apart to God, I have never cut my hair. But if my head were shaved, my strength would leave me.”

This time, Delilah knew Samson was telling her the truth. She quickly called for the Philistines saying, “Hurry, bring my money. He’s told me the secret of his strength. I know it will work this time.”

### **Judges 16:19–20**

Uh-oh! Is this going to get Samson into trouble? Let’s find out what happened next. Listen as I read Judges 16:19–20. *Read the verses.*

- ? While Samson was sleeping, Delilah called a man to come in. What did that man do? *Shaved Samson’s head.*
- ? After Samson’s hair was cut, Delilah woke him up. What was Samson thinking he would do this time? *He thought he’d break free as he’d done before.*
- ? Did Samson know that God wasn’t with him when the Philistines attacked this time? *No.*

Samson was given power from God to fight the Philistines, so his strength didn’t come from his long hair. But, God had set Samson apart for a special purpose, and Samson’s long hair was a sign of his special relationship with God. Samson let Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God, so God left him.

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## ***Samson’s Last Feat***

The Philistines captured Samson. They blinded his eyes and bound him in chains, and he was taken to prison. It sure seemed like it was all over for Samson. Now he was blind and suffering in prison. How could he help rescue the Israelites now?

Well, as we’ve seen many times before, God was still in control because he is sovereign—and he wasn’t done with Samson yet. There came a time when many Philistines gathered at a feast to worship their false god. They called for Samson to come up from the prison so they could make fun of him. Because Samson was blind now, he asked the boy who guided him to lead him between the two tall pillars that held up the building they were in.

- ? What do you think Samson was going to do with those pillars? Any guesses? *Allow guesses.*

### Judges 16:28–30

Let’s find out. Listen to Judges 16:28–30. *Read the verses.*

- ? What did Samson pray for? *He prayed for God to remember him and give him strength one more time.*

Samson cried out to God for help and strength. And God answered!

- ? What did Samson do with the last bit of strength God gave him? *He pushed the two middle pillars supporting the house.*
- ? What happened to the house they were in? *It collapsed, killing Samson along with all the Philistines.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* God helped Samson fight against the wicked Philistines one last time. He gave Samson the strength to knock down two enormous pillars and make the whole building fall down. Thousands of Philistines died there that day, and so did Samson.

Samson’s life was different from other judges because God gave him special strength to fight the evil Philistines alone—the other Israelites didn’t join him to fight. But Samson sinned by letting Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God. However, when Samson knew he was wrong and cried out to God, God heard his prayer and answered him one last time.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 37.

- Have the books you brought ready for the strength competition.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

We’re going to talk about strength in today’s lesson, so let’s start with a strength-testing competition! I need two volunteers to start. *Choose two students to come up front. If you have a large class, you may choose more volunteers. If there’s time, you may want to do several rounds.*

Okay! I’m going to give each of you a book to hold. Then I’ll add another book. I’ll keep adding books until you say, “No more!” Ready? *Have volunteers hold out their hands in front of them. Start stacking one book at a time onto each student’s hands until they cannot hold any more.*

- ? Great job! How many books did you each hold? *Count how many books each volunteer was able to hold before they said, “No more!”*

We tested your strength today because we’re going to talk about someone in the Bible who was given supernatural strength from God. But first, let’s see what we remember from the last lesson.

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* So far in the book of Judges, we’ve seen how God sent enemies against the Israelites to punish them for worshipping false gods. But whenever they cried out to God for help, he would choose a judge to rescue them.

- ? *Refer to the Lesson 71 Flip Chart.* Who did God choose to lead the fight against the Midianites? What was his name? *Gideon.*

Gideon started out with a pretty big army, but God made it smaller and smaller because he didn’t want the people to think they won by themselves. One night, Gideon and his men surrounded the enemy camp. They smashed their jars, raised their torches, and blew their trumpets. With God’s help, the Midianites were defeated! Only God could win a battle like this!

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## ***Samson’s Strength***

Today’s lesson starts at a time when the Israelites had forgotten God again and were worshipping false gods and idols. God sent enemies to rule over the Israelites to punish them for their sin. The Israelites were miserable—who would rescue them from the evil Philistines?

One day the angel of the Lord appeared to the wife of a man named Manoah and promised that she would have a son. God told her that her son would help save Israel from the Philistines. Since God would set him apart for this special purpose, there were certain rules her son should follow: he should never drink wine or cut his hair. When their son was born, they named him Samson.

God blessed Samson with great strength as he grew into a man. One day when Samson was traveling along a road, something jumped out of the bushes to attack him!

### **Judges 14:5–6**

- ? *Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster.* Let’s look in the book of Judges to find out what Samson did. Who has the Bible? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Judges 14:5–6 starting halfway through verse 5 with “And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring.”*
- ? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* What attacked Samson on the road? *A young lion.*
- ? And what did Samson do to the lion? *Tore it to pieces with his bare hands.*

Wow! This is amazing! Samson had nothing to fight the lion with except his bare hands.

- Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God’s Word.

- ? What gave Samson the power to fight this lion? What rushed upon him?  
*The Spirit of the Lord.*

God sent his Spirit to give Samson the strength to save himself from this dangerous lion.

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## ***Samson's Downfall***

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* God chose Samson to be a judge who would help Israel by fighting against the Philistines with the great strength God gave him. But Samson fell in love with an ungodly woman who worshipped false gods. Her name was Delilah.

When the Philistines found out Samson loved Delilah, they came to her and said, “We will pay you lots of money if you find out the secret of Samson’s strength.”

- ? What was the secret of Samson’s strength? Who made him strong? *God.*

Delilah wanted the money. She asked Samson three times for the secret of his strength, and each time Samson lied. Delilah was upset. “Samson,” she whined, “how can you say you love me, and then lie to me about the secret of your strength. Please tell me the truth.”

Finally, Samson gave in and told Delilah, “Because I am set apart to God, I have never cut my hair. But if my head were shaved, my strength would leave me.”

Delilah quickly called for the Philistines saying, “Hurry, bring my money. He’s told me the secret of his strength.”

- ? Uh-oh! Is this going to get Samson into trouble? Raise your hand if you think so. *Show of hands.*

While Samson was sleeping, Delilah called a man to shave Samson’s head! After Samson’s hair was cut, Delilah woke him up. He got up and tried to break free from the Philistines, but his strength was gone—God’s Spirit had left him.

Remember, God gave Samson the power to fight the Philistines. His strength didn’t come from his long hair. But Samson’s long hair was a sign of his special relationship with God. Samson let Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God, so God left him.

The Philistines captured Samson. They blinded his eyes, bound him in chains, and took him to prison. It seemed like it was all over! How could Samson help rescue the Israelites now?

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## Samson's Last Feat

Well, as we've seen many times before, God was still in control because he is sovereign—and he wasn't done with Samson yet. There came a time when many Philistines gathered at a feast to worship their false god. They called for Samson to come up from the prison so they could make fun of him. Because Samson was blind now, he asked the boy who guided him to lead him between the two tall pillars that held up the building they were in.

### Judges 16:28–30

Let's find out why he wanted to stand there. *Read the verses.*

- ? What did Samson pray for? *He prayed for God to remember him and give him strength one more time.*

Samson cried out to God for help and strength. And God answered!

- ? What did Samson do with the last bit of strength God gave him? *He pushed on the two middle pillars supporting the house.*
- ? What happened to the house they were in? *It collapsed.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* God helped Samson fight against the wicked Philistines one last time. He gave Samson the strength to knock down two enormous pillars and make the whole building fall down. Thousands of Philistines died there that day, and so did Samson.

God gave Samson special strength to fight the evil Philistines alone. But Samson sinned by letting Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God. However, when he knew he was wrong and cried out to God, God heard his prayer and answered him one last time.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Jessie felt outnumbered when she tried to take care of the neighbor's pets by herself. Although she didn't want to just give up, Jessie knew she needed help. After Jessie and her mom prayed about the problem, Emily came to help her.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

- ? Coach Martin gave Jeremy a special job. What was it? *Helping Justin get ready for the big game.*
- ? But what became more important to Jeremy? *His trading cards.*

Jeremy had been given a special responsibility, but he allowed the cards to keep him from doing what Coach Martin and Justin wanted him to do.

We saw in the lesson today that Samson had been given a special job by God. But he let other things and other people, like Delilah, get in the way. Soon Delilah became more important to him than God.

We need to be careful not to let stuff get in our way. When we have a job to do, God wants us to obey. As you grow older, there will be more things that may seem important. But if we stay close to God by reading the Bible and taking time to pray, we'll be able to serve him better.

## Memory Verse Game

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Song Time

*Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.*

*You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!*

### **1 John 1:8–9**

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.*

*Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.*

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

## Group Prayer

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Thank God that he listens to our prayers.
- Ask God to help us not let other things become more important than him.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9







# God Blesses Ruth

*God blessed Ruth's love and faith by giving her a husband, Boaz.*

## *Lesson Focus*

Ruth proved her loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and to God by returning with Naomi to the land of Israel. God rewarded Ruth's faithfulness by providing a redeemer, Boaz, who married Ruth and took care of her and Naomi. Boaz's redemption of Ruth is a picture of Jesus' redemption of sinners.

## *Key Passages*

Ruth 1:16–17, 4:13–14

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Print one set of Family Pictures

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball\*
- Racetrack\*
- Board Game
- Toss for It\*
- Bowling\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "Clean My Heart"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.

## **Go to Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you for your compassion to sinners. Thank you for the account of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. Help me emphasize the love and faithfulness of Ruth and the compassion of Boaz in a way my students will understand. May they see the parallels between Boaz's redemption of Ruth and Jesus' redemption of us. Open their hearts to receive the gift of salvation.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 73*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

# Optional Supplements

## *Hands-On Activities*

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Gleaning the Fields\*  
Teams will race to fill their baskets with the most grain.
- My Redeemer Door Hanger  
Students will decorate a door hanger with yarn and pom-poms to remind them of today's lesson.

## Notes

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# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

During the time of the judges (Ruth 1:1), Naomi and Elimelech, natives of Bethlehem in Judah, with their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, moved to the country of Moab to avoid a famine. Elimelech died in the land of Moab, and afterward the two sons married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. After about 10 years, the two sons died, leaving Naomi alone with her daughters-in-law.

In that time and culture, life was very difficult for a widow. Naomi told Ruth and Orpah to return to their own people as Naomi intended to return to hers. She explained that she was too old to have more sons, and even if she did, it would take too long for the sons to grow up to be the husbands of her daughters-in-law. Both daughters-in-law protested. Orpah finally did return to her people. But Ruth adamantly refused, declaring determined allegiance not only to Naomi but also to her people and to her God (Ruth 1:16–17). This is to be understood as more than personal loyalty and love to Naomi. Rather, Ruth declared her intent to forsake her family and the false religion of the Moabites and to attach herself to the true God and his covenant people. In that culture, Ruth took a radical and courageous step. Certainly, she must have loved Naomi, but this kind of commitment to Israel and to God, regardless of the lack of familial connections in Israel, was a nearly certain path to poverty. Though beloved by Ruth, Naomi was not in a position to provide for her material needs. Ruth's courage is much to be admired.

When Ruth and Naomi returned to make their home in Bethlehem, they were in the position of little more than beggars. This was evidenced in the manner Ruth obtained food for them, following harvesting field workers and picking up (“gleaning”)

## Historical/Apologetics Background

The redemption of Ruth by Boaz is a touching story of commitment and compassion, but it is much more than that. Boaz is certainly a type of Christ, our Redeemer. While it was costly for Boaz to redeem Ruth, Jesus Christ paid so much more for his bride. He set aside the privileges of his deity (Godhood)

what little they dropped as they harvested. It was customary (and commanded in Leviticus 23:22) to allow the poor to gather food this way. The owner of the field, Boaz, compassionately instructed his young men to leave more than usual for Ruth, and Boaz recognized and admired the path this young Moabite woman had followed. His blessing to her makes it clear that she had not only been loyal to Naomi but had also entrusted herself to the Lord God of Israel: “A full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, *under whose wings you have come to take refuge*” (Ruth 2:12).

Boaz was a close relative of Naomi's husband, one who could be expected to take responsibility for the care of Ruth and Naomi. In chapter 3, after being instructed by Naomi, Ruth came to Boaz by night at the threshing floor in a manner intended to show that she wished to be under his care; and Boaz responded favorably, impressed with Ruth's virtue and her kindness in not pursuing younger men. Boaz was apparently much older than Ruth (Ruth 3:10–11).

The account culminates in chapter 4 when Boaz confronted a closer relative of Naomi with the opportunity he had to “redeem”—to buy back into the close family—the land that had belonged to Naomi's husband. The redemption of the land included, by custom in Israel, the responsibility to care for the widow of Elimelech (Naomi). The care also included Ruth since she was part of the family and, because she was a young woman, involved marriage to her for the continuation of the family name (Ruth 4:5). Naomi's closer relative was unwilling to get involved since it would affect the inheritance in his own family. Boaz was willing to marry Ruth, however, and God blessed them with a son (Ruth 4:13). Boaz's redemption and marriage to Ruth led to her occupying a place in Jesus' ancestry. Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17; Matthew 1:1).

for our benefit (Philippians 2:5–11). For our sakes, he who was rich became poor (2 Corinthians 8:9). He who was without sin became sin for us so that “in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Boaz went beyond the call of duty to show his love and concern for Ruth,

and Jesus more so. Because of Jesus' shed blood, we can have our sins forgiven (Ephesians 1:7) and be adopted into the family of God (Galatians 4:4-5).

Boaz demonstrated a heart of compassion for Naomi and Ruth when he redeemed them from their hopeless situation. According to the laws God gave to Moses, a close relative could redeem (buy back) a family member sold into slavery (Leviticus 25:47-49), land that was sold due to hardship (Leviticus 25:23-28), and the family name through levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). Levirate marriage (meaning "husband's brother") was intended to provide an heir for an Israelite man who died childless. This option applied to unmarried close male relatives, such as brothers and cousins, who wanted to keep the property in the family. In the case of Naomi, Boaz had to defer to a closer relative and give him the option of buying Naomi's land and marrying Ruth. This relative refused because of his own children and gave

up his legal right to the land and Ruth (Ruth 4:3-6), clearing the way for Boaz to redeem the land and marry Ruth to raise up an heir for Mahlon (Ruth 4:9-10).

Both Boaz and Ruth are described as "worthy" (Ruth 2:1, 3:11), which shows their godly character. Some may question the scene described at the threshing floor where Ruth lay at Boaz's feet in the night (Ruth 3:6-14). But Ruth's action did not signify any immorality but rather her desire to marry Boaz, a marriage he probably would not have initiated with a younger woman.

It is also significant in this account that Ruth was a Gentile (a non-Israelite). The picture of her being drawn into covenant in the nation of Israel recalls God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 17:4 that he would be the father of many nations. It also foreshadows God's promise that the Messiah, Jesus, would be a "light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32).



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and give God thanks for his many blessings.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 50 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## **K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

### ***Introduction***

*Refer to the Lesson 72 Flip Chart.* Last time we learned about a man named Samson, who was set apart by God to help rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. God gave Samson great strength. He was able to do many mighty things. But he sinned by letting a woman named Delilah become more important to him than God.

When Samson told Delilah the secret of his strength, she had someone shave Samson's hair off. Then God took Samson's strength away. Samson was captured, blinded, and put in prison.

Later when Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines, he prayed for strength one more time. God answered his prayer, and Samson pushed down the pillars that held up the building they were in, killing thousands of Philistines!

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* Today we're going to look at a book of the Bible called Ruth. The family we're going to read about lived during the same time as the judges. *NOTE: According to the timeline, the lessons may seem out of order. We chose to cover Gideon and Samson first since they are both in the book of Judges. Ruth and Samuel were contemporaries but are found in different books.*

We'll start today's lesson with a few words you'll need to know.

- ?** When a woman marries a man, what does she call her husband's mother?

*Mother-in-law.*

*Show Family Picture #1.* A mother-in-law is the mother of someone's husband or wife.

- ?** And what does the husband's mother call the wife of her son?

*Daughter-in-law.*

*Show Family Picture #2.* The wife is now a daughter because she has married into the family.

► Show Family Pictures as you explain.

- ? Last question: what is the word used for a woman whose husband has died? *Widow.*

*Show Family Picture #3.* A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

So, you've probably guessed that we're going to talk about a widow and a daughter-in-law today.

---

## ***Ruth Stays with Naomi***

This true account begins when there was a famine in Israel. Remember, a famine is when there's not enough food for everyone. A man named Elimelech moved his family to the country of Moab where there was more food. Elimelech lived in Moab with his wife, Naomi, and two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Life seemed to go pretty well for them in Moab—they had food and a place to live.

*Refer to the Family Picture #3.* But things started going bad when Elimelech died, leaving Naomi to live as a widow.

*Refer to Family Picture #1.* Later, Naomi's sons got married. Chilion married Orpah, and Mahlon married Ruth.

*Refer to Family Picture #2.* Then some years later, both of Naomi's sons died. Now Naomi was left alone with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

*Refer to Family Picture #3.* This was a sad and scary time for these three women. They were all widows now. It would be very difficult to survive without their husbands. In those days women couldn't go out and get a job to earn money for food and clothes like they can now.

- ? How many of you have moms that go out to a job every day? *Show of hands.*

It's much easier now for women to get jobs, but it was very hard for Naomi and Ruth and Orpah.

One day, Naomi heard that the famine in Israel was over. So she decided to move back to her hometown of Bethlehem. She told Ruth and Orpah to go back to their families where they would be cared for. Orpah decided to go back to her own mother, but Ruth loved Naomi so much that she did not want to leave her alone.

### **Ruth 1:16–17**

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster.* We're going to find out what Ruth did. We'll look in the book of Ruth in the Bible. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

- ? Where did Ruth say she would go? *Wherever Naomi went.*

Ruth promised to go with Naomi. Ruth also loved the one true God—the same God Naomi worshipped.



- ? How long did Ruth say she would stay with her mother-in-law? *Until they died.* ➤ Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.
- Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Together they traveled back to Bethlehem. But these two women were in big trouble! They were poor and hungry and had no money. Ruth decided to go and pick up grain that was left after the workers finished in the fields. Back then, that was how poor people could get food; the field workers were supposed to leave some grain so that poor people could collect it.*

- ? How many of you believe God was in control and had a plan to help them? *Show of hands.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart. Just as God planned it, Ruth ended up working in the field owned by a man named Boaz. He noticed Ruth picking up grain and told his servants to leave more grain for her so she would have plenty. Then Boaz spoke to Ruth and told her, "Don't go to anyone else's fields. Stay here in my fields to collect food so my workers can protect you and share their water with you."*

Ruth was surprised and asked, "Why would someone like you show me such kindness, especially since I'm from a different country?"

"Well," Boaz replied, "because I have heard about all that you've done to help Naomi." Then he prayed a blessing on Ruth, asking the Lord to protect her and reward her.

Hey! Things are looking up, aren't they? Do you see how God sovereignly brought Boaz and Ruth together?

- ? Who remembers what sovereign means? *God is in complete control of everything.*

---

## ***Boaz Redeems Ruth and Naomi***

It turned out that Boaz was a relative of Naomi's husband. Back in those days when a man died, the closest relative was supposed to make sure the widow was cared for. This relative was called a redeemer. Say that with me: redeemer.

A redeemer is someone who buys something back or saves someone from distress. Naomi and Ruth were in distress, which means big trouble. They were widows, so they had no husbands to protect them or provide for them! They needed help. But they had no way of paying anyone to help them.

Since Boaz was a close relative, he knew he could do something to help them. First, Boaz redeemed the land that had belonged to Naomi's husband. She couldn't take care of it herself, so he bought it to help provide for Naomi.

### **Ruth 4:13-14**

But what about Ruth? Let's find out what happened to her. Listen carefully as I read Ruth 4:13-14. *Read the verses.*

- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did Ruth become? *Boaz's wife.*
- ? Right. Ruth and Boaz got married, and God soon blessed them by giving them a child. Was it a boy or a girl? *A boy.*
- ? The women of Bethlehem praised the Lord and said Naomi was not left without a what? *A redeemer.*
- ? Who was Naomi and Ruth's redeemer? *Boaz.*

Naomi was no longer afraid and alone. She had her daughter-in-law, Ruth, her relative Boaz—and she would be the baby's grandmother!

## ***Jesus Redeems Sinners***

We learned that Boaz was a redeemer. He bought Naomi's land and provided for her and Ruth. This was the custom in those days. The closest relative would rescue, or redeem, his family members from distress and trouble even though they had nothing to offer him to pay him back for his help.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Did you know that Boaz is like a picture of Jesus? Jesus is a redeemer, too! He redeems sinners! We are all sinners and deserve to be punished. We have nothing to offer Jesus. But Jesus bought us back from sin. He paid the price when he died on the cross. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve and promises eternal life in heaven to all who trust in him. Isn't that wonderful news? Jesus is our Redeemer!*

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 53.



## **Pre-K Lesson**

### ***Introduction***

*Refer to the Lesson 72 Flip Chart. Last time we learned about a man named Samson, who was set apart by God to help rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. God gave Samson great strength. But he sinned by letting a woman named Delilah become more important to him than God.*

Delilah had someone shave Samson's hair off, and God took Samson's strength away. Samson was put in prison. Later, Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines, and he prayed for strength one more time. God gave him strength to push down the pillars that held up the building they were in, killing thousands of Philistines!

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Today we're going to look at a book of the Bible called Ruth. The family we're going to read about lived during the same time as the judges. NOTE: According to the timeline, the lessons may seem out of order. We chose to cover Gideon and Samson first since they are both*

in the book of Judges. Ruth and Samuel were contemporaries but are found in different books.

We'll start today's lesson with a few words you'll need to know.

► Show Family Pictures as you explain.

- ? When a woman marries a man, what does she call her husband's mother?  
*Mother-in-law.*

*Show Family Picture #1.* A mother-in-law is the mother of someone's husband or wife.

- ? And what does the husband's mother call the wife of her son?  
*Daughter-in-law.*

*Show Family Picture #2.* The wife is now a daughter because she has married into the family.

- ? Last question: what is the word used for a woman whose husband has died? *Widow.*

*Show Family Picture #3.* A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

So, today we're going to talk about a widow and a daughter-in-law.

---

## ***Ruth Stays with Naomi***

This true account begins when there was a famine in Israel. That means there was not enough food for everyone. One man, named Elimelech, took his wife, Naomi, and two sons and moved to the country of Moab where they found food and a place to live.

*Refer to the Family Picture #3.* But then Elimelech died, leaving Naomi to live as a widow.

*Refer to Family Picture #1.* Later, Naomi's sons got married.

*Refer to Family Picture #2.* Then some years later, both of Naomi's sons died. Now Naomi was left alone with her two daughters-in-law named Orpah and Ruth.

*Refer to Family Picture #3.* This was a sad and scary time for these three women. They were all widows now. It would be hard to live without their husbands. In those days women couldn't go out and get a job to earn money for food like they can now.

One day, Naomi decided to move back to her hometown. She told Ruth and Orpah to go back to their families where they would be cared for.

Orpah decided to go live with her own mother, but Ruth loved Naomi so much that she did not want to leave her alone.

### **Ruth 1:16**

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster.* Let's find out what Ruth did. We'll look in the book of Ruth in the Bible. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Ruth 1:16.

? Where did Ruth say she would go? *Wherever Naomi went.*

Ruth promised to always stay with Naomi. Ruth also loved the one true God—the same God Naomi worshipped.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Together they traveled back to Bethlehem where Naomi was from. But these two women were poor and hungry and had no money.

? How many of you believe God was in control and had a plan to help them? *Show of hands.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Ruth decided to go and pick up grain that was left after the workers finished in the fields. As God planned it, Ruth ended up working in the field owned by a man named Boaz. He saw Ruth and told his servants to leave more grain for her so she would have plenty. Then Boaz spoke to Ruth and told her, “Stay here in my fields to collect food where you will be safe.”

Ruth was surprised and asked, “Why are you being so kind to me?”

“Well,” Boaz replied, “because I have heard about all you’ve done to help Naomi.”

Hey! Things are looking up, aren’t they? Do you see how God sovereignly brought Boaz and Ruth together?

? Who remembers what sovereign means? *God is in complete control of everything.*

---

## ***Boaz Redeems Ruth and Naomi***

It turned out that Boaz was a relative of Naomi's husband. Back in those days when a man died, like Naomi's husband, the closest relative, a cousin or an uncle, was supposed to make sure the widow was taken care of. This relative was called a redeemer. Say that with me: redeemer.

A redeemer is someone who buys something back or saves someone in big trouble. Naomi and Ruth were in trouble because they had no husbands to protect them or provide for them! They needed help, but they couldn't pay anyone to help them.

Since Boaz was a relative, he decided to help them. First, Boaz redeemed the land that had belonged to Naomi's husband. She couldn't take care of it herself, so he bought it to help provide for Naomi.

### **Ruth 4:13–14**

But what about Ruth? Let's find out what happened to her. *Read Ruth 4:13–14.*

? *Refer to the Flip Chart.* What did Ruth become? *Boaz's wife.*

- ? Right. Ruth and Boaz got married, and God blessed them by giving them a child. Was it a boy or a girl? *A boy.*
- ? The women of Bethlehem praised the Lord and said Naomi was not left without a what? *A redeemer.*
- ? Who was Naomi and Ruth's redeemer? *Boaz.*

► Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Naomi was no longer afraid and alone. She had her daughter-in-law, Ruth, her relative Boaz—and she would be the baby's grandmother!

## ***Jesus Redeems Sinners***

So, we learned that Boaz was a redeemer. He bought Naomi's land and provided for her and Ruth. This was the custom in those days. The closest relative, like a cousin or an uncle, would rescue, or redeem, his family members from trouble even though they had nothing to offer him to pay him back for his help.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Did you know that Boaz is like a picture of Jesus? Jesus is a redeemer, too! He redeems sinners! We are all sinners and deserve to be punished. We have nothing to offer Jesus. But Jesus bought us back from sin when he died on the cross. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve and promises eternal life in heaven to all who trust in him. Isn't that wonderful news? Jesus is our Redeemer!

**Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.**



## **Lesson Review Game**

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## **Story Time**

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Jeremy was given a special job to help Justin get ready for the big game on Saturday. But Jeremy let his new trading cards become more important than the responsibility his coach had given him. Jeremy finally realized he was wrong and promised to help Justin.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

- ? Who did Justin redeem? *Cookie, the dog.*

Right! Cookie didn't have a home. He needed help. Justin bought Cookie back from the animal shelter with his own money and gave him a home.

- ? Now think back to our lesson today. Because Boaz bought back Naomi's land and rescued Ruth and Naomi from their terrible trouble, what new word did we call him? *A redeemer.*
- ? Because Jesus bought us back from sin and rescued us from punishment, what do we call him? *Our Redeemer.*

## **Memory Verse Game**

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **Song Time**

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

### **1 John 1:8–9**

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### **Clean My Heart**

Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought us back from sin so we could have clean hearts. Let's learn a song about that. Teach the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

## **Group Prayer**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the real people in the Bible who were faithful and obedient to him, even in tough times.
- Praise God for giving Jesus to be our Redeemer.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## Clean My Heart

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!  
Please, clean my heart today!







# God Calls Samuel

*God gave Samuel a message of judgment on Israel and the house of Eli.*

## *Lesson Focus*

God called Samuel as a young man and gave him a message of judgment on Eli's family and the nation of Israel. God's prophecy came to pass during a battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. God let the Philistines defeat the Israelites, kill the wicked sons of Eli, and capture the ark of the covenant.

## *Key Passages*

1 Samuel 3:1–18

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

- Bible

Bring the following for the skit:

- Two printed copies of the God Calls Samuel Skit
- Props: two bathrobes (or pajamas), two pillows, two towels/blankets

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball\*
- Racetrack\*
- Board Game
- Toss for It\*
- Bowling\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "Clean My Heart"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 74*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

As the book of 1 Samuel opens, we meet Hannah, wife of Elkanah. She was in distress at being childless. During an annual visit to the tabernacle in Shiloh, Hannah breathed a prayer to God, asking him for a son. She vowed to the Lord that if he would grant her a son, he would be given to the Lord's service for his whole life, and no razor would touch his head. Her wordless prayer was mistaken by the high priest Eli for drunkenness. But after Hannah shared her grief and prayer with the priest, he blessed her, asking God to grant her request. The Lord did remember her, and she conceived. Her son was born, and she "called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the Lord'" (1 Samuel 1:20). Hannah cared for him in the family's home until he was weaned. Then she gave him into the care of Eli so that Samuel would be devoted to serving the Lord as a helper to the priest, just as Hannah had promised the Lord.

Eli seemed to be a devout man, but he was weak regarding his responsibilities. His sons were wicked, corrupt, immoral, and self-serving (1 Samuel 2:12–17, 2:22), and though Eli admonished them, he failed to restrain them (1 Samuel 3:13). God's judgment was pronounced not only on Eli's house but also on Israel (1 Samuel 2:27–36) because the people had again turned to idols.

The entire period of the judges shows a cycle of behavior in Israel: wickedness and idolatry, judgment, cries for mercy, deliverance by God through the means of a judge, and then a lapse back into wickedness, which started the cycle all over again. During Eli's lifetime, God sent the Philistines against the Israelites as punishment for turning to false gods.

Through these events, Samuel played a faithful part. God had chosen to reveal his plan of judgment to this young man under Eli's care. Samuel was lying down and thought that he heard Eli call him. The priest had not called, and at the third visit from Samuel, Eli realized that the Lord was the one speaking. Eli instructed Samuel to be receptive and obedient: "You shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears'" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this context, Samuel

was "hearing" with a will to obey. Samuel received fearful news from the Lord that night, news of God's plan to judge Eli's household (1 Samuel 3:11–12). The judgment foretold to Samuel would prove to be God's final judgment on Israel during this dark era of history under the judges. Sadly, even in the next period of Israel's history under kings instead of judges, Israel continued to be unfaithful to God, and both Israel and Judah ended up in captivity.

Eli's response to the judgment intended for him and his family may seem noble at first: "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him" (1 Samuel 3:18). But at closer look, Eli's history of failing to manage his own household after repeated pronouncement of judgment indicates that Eli was unrepentant and inappropriately passive—unmoved to act by the Lord's warning, just as he had been previously.

After the pronouncement of God's judgment, Israel went out to battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 4). Israel was defeated. The people responded by sending for the ark of the covenant to be brought to the battlefield (1 Samuel 4:3–4), apparently thinking that it would serve as a kind of spiritual force of protection and power.

The people believed that the Lord's power was necessary to defeat the Philistines. But this belief seems distorted when we consider the corruption in the tabernacle, perpetrated by Eli's sons, and the continuing cycle of the nation's idolatry recorded in the book of Judges. Their intent in this instance was to use the ark as assurance of victory through God's power. However, the living and true God will not be used; he will not allow even his covenant people victory if they attempt to use him for their own ends rather than serving and glorifying him. God intends that his power and might—not the power and might of men—be revealed and praised.

The Philistines did, in fact, fear the outcome of the battle when the ark was brought to the camp of the Israelites. But they had no idea that God's judgment on his people was about to be executed. The Philistines won that battle, killing 30,000 Israelite soldiers, and captured the ark of the covenant. Both of Eli's sons died in the battle (1 Samuel 4:10–11). Eli, upon hearing that his sons were dead and the ark was taken, fell backward off his seat, broke his neck, and died (1 Samuel 4:18). These events fulfilled the

word of the Lord delivered by Samuel, whom God raised up to be a faithful prophet, priest, and judge.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

There are many parallels between Samuel and Christ. Both were conceived by God's intervention, though only Jesus was conceived in a virgin by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:34–35). Both were to be instrumental in the deliverance of Israel, though the kinds of deliverance were different (1 Samuel 7:3–13; Matthew 1:21). Both were used by God to usher in a kingdom. Both arrived on the scene at a time in history when God's dealing with Israel was to change dramatically. Both spoke God's words; they were his prophets (Samuel was also a priest and judge while Christ is a priest and king). Their mothers showed great faith and obedience to God. The song of Hannah bears remarkable resemblance to the song of Mary, who likely was familiar with Hannah's

prayer of praise and borrowed from its imagery. (1 Samuel 2:1–10; Luke 1:46–55).

There are other similarities in descriptions and phrases, such as both being described from childhood as growing in stature and in favor with God and men (1 Samuel 2:26; Luke 2:52). Samuel is a type—a pattern, a living illustration—foreshadowing God's unfolding plan to bring Jesus to save his people from their sins. By definition, types are necessarily incomplete, imperfect illustrations, but the similarities are still striking; and as we look back from our time, they show how God was graciously preparing Israel for the time in which the Messiah would come.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God for something.

I'll start. Dear God, would you please . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 65 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## **K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

### ***Introduction***

Okay! Let's start with a quick review of what we've been learning.

*Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart.* In our last lesson, we learned about Ruth, who lived during the time of the judges. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, were in trouble because they had no husbands to care for them. They were poor and needed food. But God is sovereign; he's in control of everything. God arranged for Ruth to work in Boaz's field. Boaz was their redeemer. He was able to buy Naomi's land, marry Ruth, and take care of both women.

In our lesson today, we'll hear about a young man who heard someone calling his name. But it turned out not to be who he thought it was. We're going to play a quick game to get us started. I need a volunteer. Who thinks they can guess who is calling their name without seeing who it is?

*Choose a volunteer to come to the front. Put a blindfold on him and have him sit in a chair facing the wall.*

Now I will point to someone, and all you have to do is say (volunteer's) name three times, but don't say anything else. We all have to be very quiet so he can figure out who is calling him. Ready? *Point to a student to call out the name of the blindfolded volunteer three times. Remove the blindfold and ask the volunteer to guess who it was. Then reveal the person who did the calling.*

It can be hard to tell who is speaking when we can't see them. Let's find out what the young man in our lesson did when he heard someone calling his name in the middle of the night.

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### ***Samuel's Birth***

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* Our lesson begins near the end of the time of the judges, about 300 years after God helped Joshua and the Israelites get the promised land.

? *Refer to Lessons 71 and 72 Flip Charts. We talked about two of the judges already who helped fight enemies. Do you remember who they were? Gideon and Samson.*

Right. The judge who was leading Israel at this time was a priest named Eli. He served in the tabernacle of the Lord in a town called Shiloh. This was the place where people came to worship the God of Israel. They came to offer sacrifices to God and to celebrate feasts every year.

At one of these feasts, Eli, the priest, saw a woman who was praying. Her name was Hannah. She was deeply troubled and sad because she had no children and wanted a son very badly. She cried and promised the Lord that if he gave her a son, she would give him back to God to be his servant. God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. Hannah named him Samuel.

When Samuel was still a young boy, Hannah kept her promise to give her son back to the Lord. She brought Samuel to the tabernacle and left him with Eli so he could stay and serve God as Eli's helper.

It must have been hard for Hannah to give up her son like that. But she visited every year and brought him new clothes, and God also blessed Hannah with other sons and daughters.

Eli, the priest, was glad to have Samuel there because he was a great help. But Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were not helpful at all; they were wicked men. As priests, they were supposed to love and serve God, but they were greedy and selfish. They stole offerings that were supposed to be for God! God was not pleased with Hophni and Phinehas, and neither was their father, Eli.

Eli knew his sons were doing evil things and leading the people into sin. Eli tried to tell them to stop sinning, or God would have to punish them. But Hophni and Phinehas would not listen to their father's warning.

Samuel, however, was obedient. God knew he would make Samuel a judge, a priest, and a prophet someday. Let's see how it all began.

## ***Samuel's Calling***

God first spoke to Samuel when he was a young man, probably a young teenager. He was still living with Eli and serving in the tabernacle. Let's find out how the Lord got his attention.

? **Who has the Bible? Will you please bring it up?** *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We will be acting out what happened in 1 Samuel chapter 3. I need two volunteers for a skit. Choose students to be Eli and Samuel. Set up the scene as directed.*

- ▶ Have copies of the skit, props, and costumes ready.



## God Calls Samuel Skit (Based on 1 Samuel 3:1–18)

As you read the skit, have an assistant direct the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished with the skit, continue the lesson.

---

### God's Judgment

So, Samuel received his first message from the Lord, and Eli believed it. But how would this punishment, or judgment, come on Israel and Eli's family?

The Bible tells us the Israelites were fighting against the Philistines. The Israelites asked Eli's sons to take the ark of the covenant into battle. They wanted to use it like a good luck charm, hoping it would help them win. But that wasn't God's plan. The Israelites lost the battle—30,000 soldiers died, Hophni and Phineas were killed, and the Philistines stole the ark of the covenant.

God judged the people of Israel for their sin, letting them lose against the Philistines. God also judged Eli's sons, who were doing wicked things and leading the people into sin. After the battle, Eli heard that his sons had been killed and the ark was captured. He was so shocked at the news that he fell over and died!

God's message to Samuel happened like he said it would. People now knew that Samuel was God's new prophet. Samuel was chosen by God to be not only a prophet but also a priest and the last judge of Israel. He was the only man to be all three—prophet, priest, and judge.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 67.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

- ? Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we learned about a woman who lived during the time of the judges. Who was she? *Ruth*.

Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, were in trouble because they had no husbands to care for them. They were poor and needed food. But God is sovereign; he's in control of everything, and he arranged for Ruth to work in Boaz's field. Boaz was their redeemer because he bought Naomi's land, married Ruth, and took care of both women.

In our lesson today, we'll hear about a young man who heard someone calling his name. But it turned out not to be who he thought it was. We're going to play a quick game to get us started. Who thinks they can guess who is calling their name without seeing who it is? *Choose a volunteer to come to the front. Put a blindfold on him and have him sit in a chair facing the wall.*

Now I will point to someone, and all you have to do is say (volunteer's) name three times, but don't say anything else. We all have to be very quiet so he can figure out who is calling him. Ready? *Point to a student to call out the name of the blindfolded volunteer three times. Remove the blindfold and ask the volunteer to guess who it was. Then reveal the person who did the calling.*

It can be hard to tell who is speaking when we can't see them. Let's find out what the young man in our lesson did when he heard someone calling his name in the middle of the night.

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## ***Samuel's Birth***

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Our lesson begins near the end of the time of the judges.*

- ? *Refer to Lessons 71 and 72 Flip Charts. We talked about two of the judges already who helped fight enemies. Do you remember who they were? Gideon and Samson.*

The judge who was leading Israel at this time was a priest named Eli. He served in the tabernacle. This was where people came to worship God. They offered sacrifices to God and celebrated feasts every year.

At one of these feasts, Eli, the priest, saw a woman praying. Her name was Hannah. She was very sad because she had no children and really wanted a son. She cried and promised the Lord that if he gave her a son, she would give him back to God to be his servant. God did give Hannah a son, and she named him Samuel.

When Samuel was still a young boy, Hannah kept her promise to give him back to the Lord. She brought Samuel to the tabernacle to live with Eli so he could stay and serve God as Eli's helper.

It must have been hard for Hannah to give up her son like that. But she visited every year and brought him new clothes, and God also blessed Hannah with other sons and daughters.

Eli was glad to have Samuel there because he was a great help. You see, Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were not helpful at all. They were wicked men. As priests, they were supposed to love and serve God, but they were greedy and selfish. God was not pleased with them, and neither was their father, Eli.

Samuel, however, was obedient. God knew he would make Samuel a judge, a priest, and a prophet someday. Let's see how it all began.

---

## Samuel's Calling

When Samuel was a young man, probably a young teenager, God spoke to him for the first time. Samuel was still living with Eli and serving in the tabernacle. Let's find out how the Lord got his attention.

- ? Who has the Bible? Will you please bring it up? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We will be acting out what happened in 1 Samuel chapter 3. I need two volunteers for a skit. Choose students to be Eli and Samuel. Set up the scene as directed.*

► Have copies of the skit, props, and costumes ready.

### God Calls Samuel Skit (Based on 1 Samuel 3:1–18)

*As you read the skit, have an assistant direct the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished with the skit, continue the lesson.*

---

## God's Judgment

So, Samuel heard his first message from the Lord and told Eli. God would punish the Israelites, Eli, and his sons. But how would this punishment, or judgment, happen?

The Bible tells us God judged the people of Israel for their sin by letting them lose terribly in a battle against the Philistines. God also judged Eli's sons, allowing them to die in the battle. Then Eli fell over and died when he heard all the horrible news of the battle.

God's message to Samuel happened like he said it would. People now knew that Samuel was God's new prophet. Samuel would become a faithful prophet, priest, and judge.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*
- ? What did Justin end up with? *A new dog.*
- ? What was the dog's name? *Cookie. Cookies and Cream.*

Right! Justin was able to redeem Cookie from the animal shelter and bring him home as his own.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

- ? Justin was trying to help his mom serve in the church nursery when he got the bottles mixed up. Was it easy for Justin to find out which bottle was right and bring the message back to his mom? *No!*
- ? **What made it so difficult to do?** *Allow answers. He got caught in a crowd; he got his foot stepped on; he was hit by a purse; he was slowed down by Mrs. Blewitt; he got milk all over Mrs. Blewitt; the adults laughed at him.*

Justin had a job to do that turned out to be pretty hard. But he kept going, even when he wanted to quit. He knew it was important to find out which bottle was the right one and bring the message back to his mom—she was counting on him, and so was baby Joey.

In our lesson, we saw how Samuel was just a young teenager when God called him to become the new prophet. He would have a great responsibility. His job would be to listen to God and tell others what God said. The first message God gave him was a difficult first job for Samuel. But even though he was afraid to tell Eli of God's judgment, Samuel did it because he knew it was important to obey God and deliver the message.

- ? **Have you ever had a job to do that seemed really hard?** *Allow discussion.*

There will be times when we have hard jobs to do like Justin or Samuel. We might even feel like quitting. But when we are doing our best to help others and obey God, he will give us the courage and strength we need to get the job done.



## Memory Verse Game

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## Song Time

*Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.*

*You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!*

## 1 John 1:8–9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### Clean My Heart

Our memory verse says God will cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and we can have clean hearts. Let's sing about that. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.



## Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for helping us serve him and do the jobs he gives us.
- Ask God to help us hear and obey him when he calls us.

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## Clean My Heart

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!  
Please, clean my heart today!



# Israel's First King

*God chose Saul to be Israel's first king,  
but Saul disobeyed the Lord.*

## *Lesson Focus*

Israel rejected God as king and instead asked Samuel for a human king. God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. Saul began his reign in humble obedience to God, but then he disobeyed specific commands God gave him. For his disobedience, Saul would lose the kingdom, the Spirit of God, and his friendship with Samuel.

## *Key Passages*

1 Samuel 13:8–10, 15:7–9

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Print one set of Choice Pictures.

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball\*
- Racetrack\*
- Board Game
- Toss for It\*
- Bowling\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "Clean My Heart"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.

## **Go to Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you for your mercy and grace when I make poor choices. Help me pass the tests of obedience you put in my life. May my students understand the danger of trying to copy the world as the Israelites did when they wanted a king. From the account of Saul, help my students see how important it is to obey you, even in challenging circumstances. Increase their faith and love for you.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 75*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.





# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Samuel's allegiance to God during his leadership in Israel established a time of peace between Israel and the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:13–14). Samuel appointed his sons as judges after him. Unfortunately, they did not follow Samuel's example. They became greedy, taking bribes and perverting justice (1 Samuel 8:3). This was when the elders of Israel gathered to ask Samuel to appoint a king who would rule them like all the other nations (1 Samuel 8:3–5).

The Israelites' desire for a king—a permanent ruler who would be responsible for the well-being of the nation in a comprehensive way and who would therefore have comprehensive authority—revealed their desire to switch their loyalty to a man rather than depending on and obeying God. It was this inclination that God addressed when he said to Samuel, “They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them” (1 Samuel 8:7). Samuel warned the people that the king would tax them and take their children and possessions. Despite the warnings, the people reaffirmed that they wanted an earthly king to lead them and fight their battles; they wanted to be like all the other nations. God declared that he would grant their desire; Samuel was to appoint a king (1 Samuel 8:10–22).

1 Samuel 9 and 10 give the details of Samuel choosing and anointing Israel's first king, Saul. In God's providence, they met and Samuel anointed Saul (1 Samuel 10:1). God's message to Saul through Samuel was that the Spirit of God would come upon him and he would become another man (1 Samuel 10:6). In this way, God transformed Saul and prepared him to be king.

1 Samuel 13 picks up two years after Saul became the king. Israel was afraid of the multitude of Philistines who seemed about to attack. Saul was in Gilgal, and the people with him were trembling with fear (1 Samuel 13:7). Saul felt the need to offer a burnt offering to request the Lord's protection in the coming conflict. However, Samuel had told Saul to wait for him seven days (1 Samuel 13:8), and Samuel had not yet arrived.

Disregarding Samuel's instructions, Saul decided that it would be better to offer the sacrifices himself rather than to wait for Samuel (1 Samuel 13:9). This might appear reasonable. Saul was apparently seeking to honor the Lord and to ask for his protection, and the people were scattering from him (1 Samuel 13:11). However, when Samuel arrived, he made it clear that Saul had acted foolishly (1 Samuel 13:13). Saul had not obeyed the Lord. In spite of what Saul perceived as real, imminent danger, he should have obeyed and trusted God to prevail. The anxiety and concern Saul felt over the Philistines was the product of his lack of trust in God, which led to his disobedience. And we will see that God's priority is always a trusting, obedient heart, not the outward performance of religious duty.

God still gave Saul and his son Jonathan victory over the Philistines (1 Samuel 14), and Saul fought against his enemies on every side (1 Samuel 14:47–48). He had not, however, learned the lesson of obedience to God. The events of 1 Samuel 15 show again Saul's tendency to trust his own judgment rather than to obey God. In this chapter, Israel fought against and defeated the Amalekites. God had clearly commanded Saul to destroy all of that tribe, including women, children, and animals (1 Samuel 15:3). But again Saul considered his own wisdom greater than God's wisdom. In disobedience to God's direct command, Saul kept the king and the best of the animals alive, presumably for the purpose of showing off the defeated king and making sacrifices to God (1 Samuel 15:15). Samuel confronted Saul again with God's priority, declaring plainly that God desires obedience from his people more than even the sacrifices that are meant to honor him (1 Samuel 15:22). Saul not only disobeyed, but he also set an example for the people of Israel that God would not tolerate, trusting self as opposed to trusting God.

Saul suffered severe consequences for his disobedience. The Lord rejected him from being king over Israel (1 Samuel 15:26). The Lord promised that the kingdom would be taken from him and given to a better man, a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14, 15:28). Saul would no longer benefit from the wise counsel of Samuel, his friend and God's prophet and priest (1 Samuel 15:35). The Spirit of the Lord

departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord troubled him (1 Samuel 16:14).

As we consider the life of Saul and his failure to trust and obey God, we know that the unchanging God still demands obedience from his people. In simple terms, John 14:15 states this critical biblical principle: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” A

## Historical/Apologetics Background

In order to appreciate what the people were asking when they wanted a king, it is helpful to consider the difference between a judge and a king. A judge was called by God for one main purpose—deliverance from enemies. A king, in that culture, was sovereign over all the affairs of the tribe or nation. A judge led by persuasion—the people followed him or disregarded him as they thought best. (The book of Judges repeats the phrase “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”) A king ruled by right—the people owed unconditional allegiance to the king. A judge’s rule was limited to accomplish a particular purpose of deliverance. A king’s rule was unlimited and included succession from generation to generation. The judges, we have seen, were led by God to deliver Israel in a way that would specifically show its dependence on God alone.

Saul’s anointing as Israel’s king begs the question: why would God grant this desire of Israel’s people for a king, when we know that the desire constituted a rejection of God? Consider that King David succeeded Saul after Saul failed. Now consider the details of God’s covenant made to David—that his throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16). That throne would one day be occupied by Jesus

heart that loves God will produce a life that keeps his commands—not perfectly, but characteristically. And if good fruit is lacking, the answer is not in self-effort, but examining oneself to see if he really is in the faith, turning in repentance and faith to Christ.

Christ, who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16). Jesus is not only man, but God. He is the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

The inescapable conclusion is that God turned the sinful desire of Israel to his own purposes. The people rejected God’s reign in favor of a man (Saul) to be king. But that rejection of God led to the fulfillment of God’s plan of redemption through Jesus Christ—the final and everlasting King. How often God works in this way! Man’s sins are not excused at all, but regardless of man’s failures, God works out his perfect will. Joseph was sold cruelly into slavery by his brothers, but that act was used by God for good, to save the brothers later (Genesis 50:20). Peter and John were beaten for teaching about Jesus, but their faithful, courageous endurance of suffering was used to bring great boldness to the church (Acts 4:18–31). And most importantly, Jesus, the Christ, was delivered to be tortured and crucified. But that very act, the worst murder ever committed, was carried out according to God’s “definite plan and foreknowledge” (Acts 2:22–23) to be the atoning sacrifice that saves God’s people from their sins and brings them God’s righteousness (see 2 Corinthians 5:21).



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of adoration and give God praise.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 80 for the Pre-K Lesson.



## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Introduction

Refer to Lesson 74 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we were introduced to Samuel, who went to live at the tabernacle when he was a young boy.

- ? What was the name of the priest Samuel helped at the tabernacle? *Eli.*

Yes, it was Eli's job to lead the Israelites in worshipping the Lord. But Eli's two sons did wicked things.

- ? What was Samuel doing when God first spoke to him? *Sleeping.*

- ? What did Samuel do three times when he heard God call his name? *Ran to Eli's room, thinking it was Eli calling him.*

After the third time, Eli figured out it was God calling Samuel, and he told Samuel what to say if he heard his name again. God gave Samuel a serious message to tell Eli. He said Israel and Eli's family would be judged for their sin. Everything happened just as God said.

Samuel continued to listen to God as he grew up. He became a prophet, a priest, and a judge, and God helped him in all he did.

In today's lesson, we'll be talking about making good choices and bad choices. But first, we're going to practice making choices. I'm going to show you some pictures, and you have to tell me which choice you would make and why you'd choose it. *Show each Choice Picture one at a time and read it aloud. Call on students to decide which choice they would make and discuss why it would be a good choice or not.*

► Have Choice Pictures ready.

We may make a lot of good choices, but one or two bad ones can ruin everything. Bad choices come with consequences. That's when something bad happens because of a poor choice we made. Today, we're going to look at how an important person made some choices that had terrible consequences.

---

## ***Israel Chooses a King***

Samuel was leading Israel as a judge. But when he got older, the Israelites decided they didn't want any more judges to lead them after Samuel. They came to him and said, "We want a king so we can be like all the other nations!"

They didn't want God to be king over them anymore. They wanted a man to be their king instead of God. This idea displeased Samuel, so he prayed, and God told him to do what the people wanted.

- ? Were the Israelites making a good choice when they asked for a king instead of God? *Allow discussion.*

The Israelites' choice was not good. They were being impatient and unwise, wanting to do things their own way instead of trusting God. And their choice would have consequences.

Samuel warned the people that their kings would make them pay taxes and take the best land, animals, and servants for themselves. But the Israelites wouldn't listen to Samuel's warning; they still wanted a human king to rule them and lead them into battle. They thought since everyone else in the countries around them had kings, why shouldn't they have a king, too?

But God was still in control, and he chose a tall man named Saul from the tribe of Benjamin to be Israel's first king.

---

## ***Saul Offers a Sacrifice***

Saul was given a big responsibility when he was made king. Things started out pretty well. Samuel helped Saul and prayed for him to follow God and make good choices. God sent his Spirit to help Saul and gave him victory over his enemies. But Saul soon began to make unwise choices that were not pleasing to God.

Remember the Philistines? They hated the Israelites and had fought against them for years. This time they gathered against Saul and the Israelites with a huge army of 30,000 chariots and 6,000 men on horses and so many soldiers—it was like trying to count sand on the seashore! Have you ever been to a sandy beach? There's A LOT of sand there.

The Israelites were terrified of the Philistine army! They were hiding wherever they could—in caves, in holes, behind rocks! The men who stayed with Saul were so scared, they were shaking and trembling.

What would Saul do? He was the king, the commander of his army. How could he fight the enemy when his men were running away to hide?

## 1 Samuel 13:8–10

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll look in 1 Samuel chapter 13 to see what Saul did. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.

- ? King Saul knew they were in trouble. But he was waiting for someone to come meet him. Who was it? *Samuel.*
- ? How long did Saul wait? *Seven days.*
- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did King Saul do when he saw that his men were scattering from him? *He offered the burnt offering.*
- ? Who came right after Saul made the offering? *Samuel.*

► Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Saul wanted to offer a sacrifice to God so he would bless and protect him and the men going to battle. But only a priest like Samuel was supposed to offer sacrifices. Saul should have waited for Samuel to do it. Instead, he got impatient and did it himself and disobeyed God's commands.

- ? Did Saul make a good choice or a bad choice? *A bad choice.*

---

## ***Saul Disobeys God's Command***

Let's look at another choice Saul made. We'll read from 1 Samuel 15 when Saul was headed for another battle. This time, the Israelites were attacking the Amalekites. Samuel told Saul that God wanted them to completely destroy the Amalekites. He wanted everyone and everything gone! So, Saul gathered the Israelites and led the attack.

### 1 Samuel 15:7–9

Listen carefully so you can tell me what Saul did. *Read the verses.*

Saul attacked the Amalekites as God told him to. That was a good choice.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. But did Saul obey completely? Who did Saul keep alive? *Agag, the king of the enemy Amalekites.*
- ? Did Saul obey God's command to destroy everyone? *No.*
- ? What else did the people keep alive? *The best of the animals (sheep, oxen, calves, lambs, and all that was good).*

Saul and the Israelites destroyed everything THEY thought was worthless, but they kept everything THEY thought was good.

Uh-oh! Saul made another bad choice, didn't he? He disobeyed God's command to completely destroy the Amalekites and everything they owned. Instead of trusting and obeying the Lord, Saul trusted himself and what he thought was right.

When Samuel asked Saul why he disobeyed, Saul tried to make his bad choice sound better by saying that he planned to use the animals as

offerings to God. But that wasn't what God had said to do. Samuel told Saul that it's better to obey completely than to do things your own way—even when we think our way is a really great idea.

Saul's bad choices had consequences. Now God would take the kingdom away from Saul and choose someone else to be king. Not only that, but Saul would never see Samuel again, so he'd be losing a great friend. But even worse—Saul lost the Spirit of the Lord, which had been working in his life helping him do great things! All these gifts were taken from Saul, and he was left with a harmful spirit that troubled him.

Wow! Did you know how important obedience is to God? God would rather we obey him than try to please him our own way. God wanted Saul to obey completely, and he expects the same from us.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 82.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

*Refer to Lesson 74 Flip Chart.* In our last lesson, we were introduced to Samuel, who went to live at the tabernacle when he was a young boy to help Eli, the priest. It was Eli's job to lead the Israelites in worshipping the Lord. But Eli's two sons did wicked things.

- ? What was Samuel doing when God first spoke to him? *Sleeping.*
- ? What did Samuel do three times when he heard God call his name? *Ran to Eli's room, thinking it was Eli calling him.*

After the third time, Eli figured out it was God calling Samuel, and he told Samuel what to say if he heard his name again. God gave Samuel a serious message to tell Eli. He said Israel and Eli's family would be punished for their sin. Everything happened just as God said.

Samuel continued to listen to God as he grew up. He became a prophet, a priest, and a judge, and God helped him in all he did.

- Have Choice Pictures ready.

In today's lesson, we'll be talking about making good choices and bad choices. But first, we're going to practice making choices. I'm going to show you some pictures, and you have to tell me which choice you would make and why you'd choose it. *Show each Choice Picture one at a time and read it aloud. Call on students to decide which choice they would make and discuss why it would be a good choice or not.*

We may make a lot of good choices, but one or two bad ones can ruin everything. Bad choices come with consequences. That's when something bad happens because of a poor choice we made.

Today, we're going to look at how an important person made some choices that had terrible consequences.



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## ***Saul Offers a Sacrifice***

Samuel was leading Israel as a judge. But the Israelites decided they didn't want any more judges to lead them after Samuel. They said, "We want a king so we can be like all the other nations!" They didn't want God to be king over them anymore. Now they wanted a man to be their king instead of God.

- ? Were the Israelites making a good choice when they asked for a king?

*Allow discussion.*

God was still in control, and he chose a tall man named Saul to be Israel's first king. Samuel helped Saul, and God sent his Spirit to help, too. But Saul soon began to make unwise choices that did not please God.

Remember the Philistines? They hated the Israelites and had fought against them for years. This time they gathered against Saul and the Israelites. They had a huge army with chariots, horses, and so many soldiers! Yikes!

The Israelite soldiers were terrified! They ran and hid wherever they could—in caves, in holes, behind rocks! Saul was the commander of his army, but how could he fight the enemy when his men were running away?

### **1 Samuel 13:8–10**

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll look in the book of 1 Samuel chapter 13 to see what Saul did. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

- ? King Saul knew they were in big trouble. But he was waiting for someone to come meet him. Who was it? *Samuel.*
- ? How long did Saul wait? *Seven days.*
- ? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did King Saul do when he saw that his men were scattering and running away? He offered the burnt offering.*
- ? Who came right after Saul made the offering? *Samuel.*

Saul wanted to offer a sacrifice to God so he would bless and protect Saul and his men as they went to battle. But only a priest—like Samuel—was supposed to offer sacrifices. Saul should have waited for Samuel to do it. Instead, he got impatient and did it himself and disobeyed God's commands.

- ? Did Saul make a good choice or a bad choice? *A bad choice.*

► Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

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## ***Saul Disobeys God's Command***

Let's look at another choice Saul made when he was going to another battle. This time, the Israelites were attacking the Amalekites. Samuel told Saul that God wanted them to completely destroy the wicked Amalekites. He wanted everyone and everything gone! So Saul and his army attacked the Amalekites as God told him to. That was a good choice.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* But Saul did not obey completely. He kept the enemy king, Agag, alive.

? Did Saul obey God’s command to destroy everyone? *No.*

Saul and his men kept the best of the animals alive too, like sheep, oxen, calves, and lambs. They thought these animals were good, so they kept them. Saul and the Israelites destroyed everything THEY thought wasn’t worth keeping, but they kept everything THEY thought was good.

? Is that what God said to do? *No.*

Uh-oh! Saul made another bad choice, didn’t he? He disobeyed God’s command to completely destroy the Amalekites and everything they owned. Instead of trusting and obeying the Lord, Saul trusted himself and did what he thought was right.

When Samuel asked Saul why he disobeyed, Saul said that he planned to use the animals as offerings to God. But that wasn’t what God had said to do. Samuel told Saul that it’s better to obey completely than to do things your own way—even when we think our way is a really great idea.

Saul’s bad choices had consequences. Now God would take the kingdom away from Saul and choose someone else to be king. Saul would never see Samuel again either; he lost a great friend. But even worse—Saul lost the Spirit of the Lord, which had been helping him do great things! All these gifts were taken away from Saul, and he was left with a harmful spirit that troubled him.

Wow! Did you know how important obedience is to God? God would rather we obey him than try to please him our own way. God wanted Saul to obey completely, and he expects the same from us.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Justin had a job to do that turned out to be pretty hard. He had to find out which bottle was the right one for baby Joey.

? Did Justin succeed? Did he get the message back to his mom in time? *Yes.*

Let’s find out what today’s story is about! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

? Uh-oh! Did Jessie and Emily obey completely? *No!*

- ? Who else didn't obey completely? *Justin didn't clasp the chain to his dog's collar.*
- ? What was the consequence of their disobedience? *Cookie messed up the garbage, and the girls had to pick it up.*

Emily and Jessie weren't careful to follow all of the instructions. And they ended up having to clean up a mess. Eww! That was yucky, wasn't it?

- ? Do you suppose there would be consequences for Justin since he didn't obey completely either? *Allow discussion.*

In our lesson, we saw how King Saul made some bad decisions and only obeyed God—mostly. But mostly isn't good enough. He should have obeyed completely instead of doing things his own way.

Jesus explained obedience very simply in John 14:15. He said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." If we love God—really love him—we will keep his commandments. We won't do a perfect job because we are sinners and only Jesus was perfect. But our lives will be different because we'll want to obey him. As we get to know God better, we will love him more. He will help us obey and make choices that please him.

## Memory Verse Game

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Song Time

*Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.*

*You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!*

### **1 John 1:8–9**

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.*

### **Clean My Heart**

**When we disobey, we should confess our sins and tell God we're sorry. God promises to forgive us and clean our hearts. Let's sing about that.**  
*Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.*

*Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.*

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## Group Prayer

*Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.*

- Thank God for forgiving us when we make bad choices.
- Ask God to help us obey him completely.

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## Song Sheet

### 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

### Clean My Heart

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!  
Please, clean my heart today!



# God Chooses David

*God sent Samuel to anoint David as the next king of Israel.*

## *Lesson Focus*

God sent Samuel to Jesse's family to anoint the next king of Israel. Samuel looked at the outward appearance of Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, and thought he would be king. But God rejected him—and all the other brothers—until the youngest son, David, came. He was the one God chose because he had a heart after God's own heart.

## *Key Passages*

1 Samuel 16:7, 16:11–12

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
  - Bible
  - Stuffed animal for prayer time
  - Two heart-shaped cookies, one well-decorated salty cookie
- and one poorly decorated tasty cookie (see Review section for details)

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Bible Baseball\*
- Board Game
- Bowling\*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack\*
- Toss for It\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "God Looks at the Inside"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 76*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Recall in the last lesson that the first king God chose to rule Israel, King Saul, demonstrated through his disobedience that he thought himself wiser than God. Saul's heart was not right with the Lord, and because of his rebellion, God would take his kingdom away. But who would take Saul's place? God sought a man after his own heart to lead his people (1 Samuel 13:14). God found such a man in David.

God sent Samuel to anoint the man God had determined to take Saul's place. This new king would come from the household of Jesse, a man from the tribe of Judah living in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1). God promised to reveal to Samuel which of Jesse's eight sons was the one whom God had selected (1 Samuel 16:3).

As Jesse presented his sons to Samuel, we see that they must have been impressive young men! Samuel immediately thought that surely God must have chosen Eliab, Jesse's oldest son, as Israel's new king (1 Samuel 16:6). But the Lord revealed that what impressed Samuel was not important to God. Eliab's good looks and height were the focus of Samuel's admiration, but the Lord sees things differently: "man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Rejecting the seven older sons, God was about to reveal Jesse's youngest son, David, as the one to replace Saul as king. Jesse apparently didn't even think enough of David to bring him in from the fields where he was shepherding to attend this sacrifice and meeting with Samuel. And yet, because of David's heart, he was the one God had chosen. God knew that David would seek him.

David was skillful in playing music, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, and prudent in speech; the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 16:18). David was ruddy and handsome, but he was not chosen for his appearance but his heart. David was the one God intended to be the next king (1 Samuel 16:12). At David's anointing, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in a special way "from that day forward" (1 Samuel 16:13). The Spirit would give David the power he needed to accomplish God's will.

While the Spirit of God entered David, God's Spirit left Saul, and a harmful spirit overcame him, causing him much anguish (1 Samuel 16:14). In God's sovereign plan, David was called to Saul's court to comfort and soothe Saul by playing the lyre. David obediently came to serve the king, and Saul loved him and eventually made him his armor-bearer (1 Samuel 16:21).

Looking ahead in David's life, we find that he did fall into sin during his reign (e.g., his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband in 2 Samuel 11). David's heart was not perfect—no man's heart is. But David loved and trusted God rather than his own ways and judgments, as shown in his repentance over his sin (Psalm 51). This cannot be said of Saul, who rebelled against God and made excuses rather than seeking forgiveness through humble repentance.

A striking passage that shows David's heart is found in 1 Chronicles 29. Here, David exhorted Israel to give gifts to support the building of the temple. The people responded generously, and David gave thanks in 1 Chronicles 29:10–19. David asked the Lord, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you" (1 Chronicles 29:14). David knew that all things come from God, including the gifts they were giving for the temple. Though he was king, David knew that God was the true Ruler of all: "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all" (1 Chronicles 29:11).

This heart of faith and adoration is what led David to be brave in battle with Goliath: "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37). It is this heart that led David to act honorably toward King Saul and spare his life when Saul was seeking to kill him (1 Samuel 24:12). The characteristic pattern of David's heart was to trust that the Lord was in control over all things. David served, honored, and loved the true God with all his heart. Such is a heart that is fashioned after God's own.



## Historical/Apologetics Background

In 1 Samuel 16, we learn that Jesse had eight sons, with David being the youngest. Seven sons passed before Samuel and were rejected by God as the next king. Only when Samuel asked if all his sons were present did Jesse remember David, who was keeping the sheep (1 Samuel 16:10–11). The listing of only seven sons of Jesse in 1 Chronicles 2:13–15 indicates that one of the eight likely died after David’s anointing. David isn’t the only example of God choosing the youngest son; God often chose the younger or the least (e.g., Jacob, Joseph, Gideon) to lead.

David’s first anointing was before his family. His second anointing would be before his tribe, Judah, and the third would be before the nation of Israel. When the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David, this operation of the Holy Spirit was to empower him to accomplish God’s plan for Israel. As David’s ascent to the throne began, so did Saul’s descent (1 Samuel 16:13–14). God sovereignly allowed an evil spirit to torment Saul for the purpose of bringing David into Saul’s service and eventually to his throne. This demon spirit attacked Saul from without and does not appear to have possessed or indwelt Saul. This

was not the only time God demonstrated his power and authority over demons. God used evil spirits and Satan for specific purposes in the lives of Abimelech (Judges 9:23), King Ahab (1 Kings 22:19–23), and Job (Job 1:6–12).

God’s sovereignty is also seen in the fulfillment of prophecy. In Genesis 49, as Jacob was approaching death, he called his sons together and prophetically blessed them. These blessings were not just for the individual sons, but for their families, which would become the tribes of Israel. Jacob’s blessing on Judah is recorded in Genesis 49:8–12. In verse 8, Jacob said, “Your father’s sons shall bow down before you,” and in verse 10 he said, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah.” Israel’s first king, Saul, was from the tribe of Benjamin—not the tribe of Judah. We see the fulfillment of Jacob’s blessing as the “scepter,” or kingdom, was taken from Saul and passed to David, who was of the tribe of Judah. The Lord’s intent was that a descendant from the tribe of Judah would reign permanently. And ultimately, that descendant from the tribe of Judah and the Son of David is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior forever.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry.

I'll start. Dear God, I am sorry for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 94 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## **K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

### ***Introduction***

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.* Let's review where we are in our timeline. Samuel was God's prophet, a priest, and a judge. But the Israelites didn't want to be ruled by judges or by God anymore. They wanted a human king.

- ?** What was the name of the first king God chose? *Saul.*

*Refer to Lesson 75 Flip Chart.* Yes, God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. But Saul's heart was not right, and he disobeyed God. He offered a sacrifice that only Samuel was supposed to do. Then when God said to completely destroy their enemies, the Amalekites, Saul kept the king and the best animals alive.

Saul made some bad choices and disobeyed God. Now there would be consequences for his sin. Saul lost the kingdom and his friendship with Samuel. Then the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and a harmful spirit was sent to trouble him.

God told Saul that his kingdom would be taken away. But who would take Saul's place as king? Today, we'll find out who God chose to be the next king of Israel. Before we do that, I need a volunteer to help me. *Choose a volunteer.*

*Bake and frost two heart-shaped cookies before class. Add extra salt to the frosting on one cookie (either mixed into frosting or sprinkled on top) and decorate it to look nicer than the other cookie. Make the other cookie with the unsalted frosting look messy with no decorations.*

**I have two cookies here for you to sample.** *Show class the two cookies.*

- ?** Which cookie looks yummier? *The nicely decorated cookie.*

**Take a bite of this cookie.** *Have volunteer take a bite of nicely decorated (but salty!) cookie.*

- ?** How did it taste? *Allow volunteer to describe the taste.*

► Note: This taste test uses the same supplies as the Heart Cookies activity, so you can prepare for both at the same time. See Heart Cookies instructions for more details.

Now, take a bite of this cookie. *Have volunteer sample the poorly decorated (but tasty!) cookie.*

**?** How did this one taste? Better than the other one? *Allow answer.*

*Refer to the cookies.* One cookie looked really nice on the outside; its frosting and decorations were perfect. But it didn't taste good! It was too salty. But the other cookie that didn't look as good tasted better! *Have volunteer return to his seat.*

**?** What do you think I wanted you to learn from the two cookies? How do we usually decide whether something is good or bad? What do we look at? *Allow discussion. How it looks on the outside.*

We look at the outward appearance. We look at food, toys, books, and other things and decide if they are yummy or gross, good or bad, pretty or ugly, exciting or boring. Sometimes we are right, but many times, what we think about something just by looking at it is wrong.

You know, we also do this with people. We may not want to be near a person who looks poor or dirty, but we might try to be near people who seem really smart or dress in fancy clothes.

In our lesson today, we'll see that God's prophet, Samuel, did the same thing! He looked at the outward appearance of a man and thought he would be a good king because he looked good on the outside. But God had to remind Samuel that he looks at what a person is like on the inside—the heart.

---

## ***Samuel Chooses Eliab***

Samuel was sad that King Saul was not following and trusting God anymore. But the Lord told Samuel to quit feeling sorry about Saul and go see a man named Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. Jesse had eight sons, and God had chosen one of them to be the next king.

*Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart.* Remember Ruth from a few lessons ago? She left her country and family to go to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law, Naomi.

**?** Who did Ruth end up marrying? *Boaz.*

Right! Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed, and Obed's son was Jesse. So, Jesse was Ruth and Boaz's grandson! And that's who Samuel was going to see.

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he invited Jesse and his sons to join him for a sacrifice. When Jesse and his sons got there, Samuel wondered which one of these fine-looking young men would be the next king.

**?** *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Eliab was the oldest son. How many of you think Eliab would be the king? *Show of hands.*

► If you plan to do the Heart Cookies activity, you may want to tell the students that they will decorate their own cookies later.

## 1 Samuel 16:7

? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out if you're right. Who has the Bible? We'll read from 1 Samuel again today. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

Samuel saw right away that Eliab was tall and strong. "This must be the one!" Samuel thought.

- ? But was Eliab the one God had chosen to be king? What did God mean when he said, "I have rejected him"? *God did not choose Eliab.*
- ? The Lord explained to Samuel that he did not see people the same way a man would. What did God say man looks at? *Outward appearance.*
- ? That's right! Samuel could only see what Eliab looked like on the outside. But what does the Lord look at? *The heart.*

God looked deeper than the outward appearance of Eliab. He didn't care about what Eliab looked like on the outside. He looked into Eliab's heart to see if he loved the Lord and wanted to obey him. But God said Eliab would not be the next king.

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## God Chooses David

One by one, Jesse's sons walked by Samuel. "Oh, maybe it's this one," Samuel thought as each son passed before him. But God said, "No" to all seven of them! Hmm. Samuel knew he was in the right place, but so far, God had not told him to anoint any of these men as the new king.

### 1 Samuel 16:11–12

So now what? Let's keep reading and find out who God chose! Read 1 Samuel 16:11–12.

- ? What did Samuel ask Jesse? *Are all your sons here?*
- ? Which of Jesse's sons had not come? *The youngest son.*
- ? What was the youngest son doing? *Keeping the sheep.*
- ? What did Samuel tell Jesse to do? *Send someone to get him.*
- ? What did this son look like? *Ruddy, beautiful eyes, and handsome.*

Ruddy means healthy-looking, kind of like when your cheeks are rosy after you've been outside on a chilly day.

- ? Was this son the one God chose to be the next king? *Yes!*

This young man's name was David. He was the youngest of Jesse's sons—probably only about 15 years old. He was the one God had chosen to be the next king.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Samuel poured oil on David's head to anoint him as the next king of Israel.

? Do you think David's family was surprised? *Yes.*

His family probably was surprised that God chose David. Usually the oldest son was chosen to lead back then, but here God chose the youngest son to lead the whole nation of Israel as their king!

? Did God choose David because he was ruddy and handsome on the outside? *No!*

No, it didn't matter what David looked like on the outside. The Bible tells us that God wanted a king who was a man after God's own heart. The word "heart" here means the part of a person deep down inside that controls how he feels, what he thinks, what he wants, and the choices he makes. The man God chose as the next king would want the same things that God does. He had a heart that would try to do whatever God wanted. And God knew that man was David.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 97.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Let's review where we are in our timeline. Samuel was God's prophet, a priest, and a judge. But the Israelites didn't want to be ruled by judges or by God anymore. They wanted a human king.

? What was the name of the first king God chose? *Saul.*

Refer to Lesson 75 Flip Chart. Yes, God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. But Saul's heart was not right, and he disobeyed God. He offered a sacrifice that only Samuel was supposed to do. Then when God said to completely destroy their enemies, Saul kept the king and the best animals alive.

There were consequences for Saul's sin. Saul lost the kingdom and his friendship with Samuel. Then the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and a harmful spirit was sent to trouble him.

So who would take Saul's place as king? Today, we'll find out who God chose to be the next king of Israel. Before we do that, I need a volunteer to help me. *Choose a volunteer.*

*Bake and frost two heart-shaped cookies before class. Add extra salt to the frosting on one cookie (either mixed into frosting or sprinkled on top) and decorate it to look nicer than the other cookie. Make the other cookie with the unsalted frosting look messy with no decorations.*

**I have two cookies here for you to sample.** *Show class the two cookies.*

► Note: This taste test uses the same supplies as the Heart Cookies activity, so you can prepare for both at the same time. See Heart Cookies instructions for more details.

**?** Which cookie looks yummiest? *The nicely decorated cookie.*

Take a bite of this cookie. *Have volunteer take a bite of nicely decorated (but salty!) cookie.*

**?** How did it taste? *Allow volunteer to describe the taste.*

Now, take a bite of this cookie. *Have volunteer sample the poorly decorated (but tasty!) cookie.*

**?** How did this one taste? Better than the other one? *Allow answer.*

*Refer to the cookies. One cookie looked really nice on the outside; its frosting and decorations were perfect. But it didn't taste good! It was too salty. But the other cookie that didn't look as good tasted better! Have volunteer return to his seat.*

**?** What do you think I wanted you to learn from the two cookies? How do we usually decide whether something is good or bad? What do we look at? *Allow discussion. How it looks on the outside.*

We look at the outward appearance. We look at food, toys, books, and other things and decide if they are yummy or gross, good or bad, pretty or ugly, exciting or boring. Sometimes we are right, but many times, what we think about something just by looking at it is wrong.

You know, we also do this with people. We may not want to be near a person who looks poor or dirty, but we might try to be near people who seem really smart or dress in fancy clothes.

In our lesson today, we'll see that God's prophet, Samuel, did the same thing! He thought one man would be a good king because he looked good on the outside. But God reminded Samuel that he looks at what a person is like on the inside—the heart.

► If you plan to do the Heart Cookies activity, you may want to tell the students that they will decorate their own cookies later.

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## **Samuel Chooses Eliab**

Samuel was sad that King Saul was not following and trusting God anymore. But the Lord told Samuel to go see a man named Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. Jesse had eight sons, and God had already chosen one of them to be the next king.

Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to come for a sacrifice. When Jesse and his sons got there, Samuel wondered which one of these fine-looking young men would be the next king.

**?** *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Eliab was the oldest son. How many of you think Eliab would be the king? Show of hands.*

### **1 Samuel 16:7**

**?** *Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out if you're right. Who has the Bible? We'll read from 1 Samuel again today. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

Samuel saw right away that Eliab was tall and strong. “This must be the one!” Samuel thought.

- ? But was Eliab the one God had chosen to be king? What did God mean when he said, “I have rejected him”? *God did not choose Eliab.*
- ? The Lord explained to Samuel that he did not see people the same way a man would. What did God say man looks at? *Outward appearance.*
- ? That’s right! Samuel could only see what Eliab looked like on the outside. But what does the Lord look at? *The heart.*

God didn’t care about what Eliab looked like on the outside. He looked into Eliab’s heart to see if he loved the Lord and wanted to obey him. But God said Eliab would not be the next king.

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## **God Chooses David**

One by one, Jesse’s sons walked by Samuel. “Oh, maybe it’s this one,” Samuel thought as each son passed before him. But God said, “No” to all seven of them! So now what?

Samuel asked Jesse, “Are all your sons here?”

“No,” Jesse replied. “My youngest son is in the fields keeping the sheep.”

“Well, send someone to get him,” Samuel said.

A little while later, Jesse’s youngest son came to see Samuel. This young man’s name was David. He was only about 15 years old, but he looked healthy and handsome. God told Samuel, “Get up and anoint this man, he is the one.”

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Samuel obeyed God and poured oil on David’s head to anoint him as the next king of Israel.

- ? Do you think David’s family was surprised? *Yes.*

David’s family probably was surprised because the oldest son was usually chosen to lead back then. But this time, God chose the youngest son to lead the whole nation of Israel as their king!
- ? Did God choose David because he was handsome on the outside? *No!*

No, it didn’t matter what David looked like on the outside. The Bible tells us that God wanted a king who was a man after God’s own heart. That means the man God chose would love God and want the same things that God does. He had a heart that would try to follow God. And God knew that man was David.

**Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.**





## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Emily and Jessie were not careful to follow all the instructions when they took out the garbage. Because they disobeyed, they ended up having to clean up all the icky mess that Justin's dog made—eww!

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

- ? What talent did God give Justin? *Drawing.*

Justin could draw really well. But he had to decide how he would use this talent. Would he just draw so he could become famous and rich, or would he try to please God by using his drawings to help people?

- ? When Justin's mom told him that God could see his heart, what did Justin want to do? *Make God happy.*

Right. And Jessie helped Justin understand that using his drawings to make people happy was a great way to make God happy, too.

In our lesson, we learned that God looks at a person's heart. He chose David to be the next king because he knew David's heart. David would use his abilities to please God.

We can do our best for God, too, if we don't just show off so people will think we're great at what we do. Give God the glory for the talents he gives you! Thank him and ask him to show you what he wants you to do with them.



## Memory Verse Game

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **Song Time**

*Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.*

*You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!*

### **1 John 1:8–9**

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.*

### **God Looks at the Inside**

**We heard from the Bible that God looks at our hearts. Let's learn a new song about that. Teach the words then sing the song together once or twice.**

*Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.*

## **Group Prayer**

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

*Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.*

- **Thank God for not looking at us on the outside like people do but looking at our hearts.**
- **Ask God to help us have faithful, obedient hearts like David.**

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## God Looks at the Inside

For the Lord does not see  
Like you and I see.  
The Lord does not see  
Like you and me.

We look at the outside—  
“He’s tall and strong!”  
God looks at the inside—  
He knows what’s wrong.  
We look at the outside—  
“She’s pretty and smart!”  
God looks at the inside—  
He sees our heart.

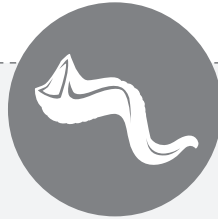
Don’t be fooled by what’s on the outside.  
Don’t be fooled by only what you see.  
God says what’s important’s on the inside,  
That’s why I need him inside of me.

We look at the outside—  
“He’s big! She’s fast!”  
God looks at the inside—  
Says, “The first will be last.”  
We look at the outside—  
“They’re rich! They’re smart!”  
God looks at the inside—  
He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the outside.  
Don’t be fooled by only what you see.  
God says what’s important’s on the inside,  
That’s why I need him inside of me.  
(repeat)

God looks at the inside—  
He sees our heart.





# David Defeats Goliath

*God gave David victory over the giant, Goliath, because David trusted in him.*

## *Lesson Focus*

Goliath, the Philistine champion, challenged Saul's entire army, causing great fear. But David wasn't afraid. His faith in Israel's mighty God led him to fight Goliath. David put his trust in God who helped him defeat the giant with just one stone.

## *Key Passages*

1 Samuel 16:19, 17:4, 17:24, 17:40, 17:48–49

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Printed Illustrations
- Bible
- Printed Target Sheets taped together and attached to the wall
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- One or two beanbags

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball\*
- Racetrack\*
- Board Game
- Toss for It\*
- Bowling\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "Clean My Heart"
- "God Looks at the Inside"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 77*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes.

Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

David had great faith in God, and God used him in a mighty way to accomplish his perfect plans. David had been chosen by God to take the throne of Israel after Saul had failed to lead Israel in a God-honoring way (1 Samuel 15:10–26). Samuel had anointed David in the presence of his father, Jesse, and his older brothers, and David was now the king in waiting (1 Samuel 16:11–13).

From the time of David's anointing, the Spirit of the Lord was with him, but the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul (1 Samuel 16:13–14). God had rejected Saul and set his favor on David. In his wisdom, God had sent a harmful spirit to harass Saul, and David was brought into Saul's service to play soothing music for him. When David played his lyre, the evil spirit left Saul, and he was refreshed. David became a part of Saul's household and was appointed as his armor-bearer (1 Samuel 16:21–23).

Although Saul loved David greatly at the beginning (1 Samuel 16:21), he soon became envious and despised the talented, courageous, godly young man. Saul's jealousy toward David began in the account we are studying today—the account of David's defeat of Goliath, the Philistine from Gath (1 Samuel 17:23).

How is it that the shepherd David, the youngest of the sons of Jesse, would be the one used by God

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Even though David was the youngest son of Jesse, he was not small and frail by any means. The common depictions of David and Goliath in Sunday school materials, coloring books, animated movies, and even paintings are of a tiny young boy facing a giant man. While this makes for a good “story,” it is not what the Bible presents. In 1 Samuel 16:18 one of Saul's servants gives a description of David some time before his encounter with Goliath:

One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.”

to display trust, courage, and faith? The entire army of Israel was not able to exhibit this degree of valor against its enemy (1 Samuel 17:24). The Israelite soldiers had no courage because their confidence was not in the omnipotent God of Israel. Yet David, who had no armor or sword or status as a soldier, volunteered to go and fight the one who would dare to defy the army of the living God (1 Samuel 17:36).

And on he went—armed with the tools of a shepherd and trust in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel (1 Samuel 17:40, 17:45). David's faith was in his God, not in sword and spear. His purpose was not glory and honor for himself but a desire to display that God's power alone can save (1 Samuel 17:47). God rewarded David's faith and gave him the victory over Goliath with one perfectly aimed stone to the giant's forehead. With their champion dead, the Philistines fled, and the Israelites pursued them (1 Samuel 17:49–52).

Throughout history, we see God using imperfect people to accomplish his plans. While the entire Israelite army feared one Philistine giant, a God-fearing young man came forward to kill the enemy. From the family line of this young man, David, would come the Messiah (Jesus Christ) to provide forgiveness, mercy, and grace to sinners—and the promise of eternal life.

This description portrays David as a valiant young man who was quite capable of fighting.

Another point often raised is the description of David trying to wear Saul's armor. We know that Saul was a head taller than the average Israelite (1 Samuel 9:2). Many people assume that David refused to wear Saul's armor into battle because it was much too big for him (1 Samuel 17:38–39). Looking carefully at the text, however, David said that he had not “tested” the armor—he was not comfortable fighting in gear he had not trained in. Also, Saul would not suggest David wear his armor if it was much too big for him. To do so would put David at a disadvantage. We need to purge the little-boy image and have a biblical perspective of the young man,



David, who was probably in his late teens when he faced Goliath.

Although David was no undersized boy, he might have appeared so next to Goliath. This warrior from Gath was probably a descendant of the giants who caused the 10 spies to be fearful of entering the promised land. Like those spies, the warriors of Israel did not trust God to fight for them, and they stood in fear of a mere man. The details of Goliath are indeed impressive—he stood 9 feet 9 inches tall, his coat of mail weighed 125 pounds, and his spearhead weighed 15 pounds. There was not a man among the Israelites in his own strength who could defeat Goliath.

We should note that there is some debate about Goliath's height due to the textual variants in ancient manuscripts. Most English translations follow the Masoretic Text in listing his height at "six cubits and a span" (approximately 9 feet 9 inches). However, the NET Bible puts Goliath at "close to seven feet tall." The reason for the discrepancy is that the Masoretic

Text differs from some ancient texts, including the Septuagint and an ancient manuscript found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, which list Goliath's height as "four cubits and a span" (approximately 6 feet 9 inches). More than nine feet definitely qualifies as a giant, but even a man approximately 6 feet, 9 inches in David's time, when the average height was around approximately 5 feet 4 inches, might have been considered a giant.

Over the years, many falsified photos have circulated showing giant skeletons being excavated around the world. Unfortunately, some well-meaning Christians have used these to "prove" that someone as tall as Goliath could have lived in the Middle East. We must remember that we can trust God's Word when it refers to giants, and we should not start with outside sources to demonstrate the Bible's trustworthiness. If these archaeological finds (were they even real) could prove the Bible to be true, then we'd no longer be looking to the Bible as the authority. We must always look to Scripture as our ultimate authority.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and tell God thank you.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

K–1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 110 for the Pre-K Lesson.



## K–1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### *Introduction*

In our last lesson, God told the prophet Samuel to go to the town of Bethlehem and see a man named Jesse. This man had eight sons, and God had chosen one of them to be the next king of Israel.

- ? Samuel saw Eliab, the oldest son, first and thought he would be the king. Why did he think that? *Eliab was tall and strong.*
  - ? Samuel was looking at the outward appearance. He thought Eliab looked good on the outside. But what did God say he looked at? *The inside, the heart.*
- Seven of Jesse’s sons walked by Samuel, but God said no to all of them. Finally, Jesse sent for his youngest son, and God told Samuel that he would be the new king.
- ? What was the name of this son? *David.*

Right! David had a heart after God’s. He loved God and wanted the same things God wanted. So God chose David to be the next king of Israel.

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### *David Serves the King*

God let Saul be the king for a while longer, so David didn’t become king right away. But his life began to change.

*Refer to Lesson 75 Flip Chart.* Do you remember how Saul sinned against God? His bad choices led to terrible consequences. God took the kingdom away from him. But even worse than that, God took his Spirit away from Saul and sent a harmful spirit that troubled him.

Saul’s servants noticed that he was troubled, so they told him, “There is a young man who could come and play music for you to help you feel better. He is also brave and courageous, and the Lord is with him.”

*Show Illustration #1.* In this picture, we see a person playing a lyre. It looks a lot like a small harp. King Saul's servants said that the young man they were talking about knew how to play a lyre very well.

- ? Saul listened to his servants and sent for the young man. Any guesses who he was? *Allow guesses.*

### 1 Samuel 16:19

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out! 1 Samuel chapter 16 tells us who came to play the lyre for the king. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

It was David, Jesse's youngest son! Now David would work for King Saul, playing music for him. But he traveled back and forth from King Saul's house to his father's house so he could still watch the sheep for his father.

Taking care of the sheep was important. Although David was a young man, about 17 years old now, he could take good care of his father's flock. Whenever bears or lions tried to come and take a sheep or a lamb, God helped David fight them and win!

*Show Illustration #2.* One of the ways David protected the flock was by using a sling. He would put a stone in the sling and throw it at the animal that was trying to take one of his sheep. The stone would fly through the air—super fast—and strike the animal down!

*Show Illustration #3.* This kind of sling was different than the slingshot toys you might see today.

We don't have a sling like David's, but let's pretend this target on the wall is a lion, and we have to throw these beanbags at it to make it go away. Let's see how well we can hit the target. *Tape the Target Sheets together and attach the finished poster to the wall. Choose several volunteers or the whole class to line up a few feet from the target. Allow each student to throw one beanbag at the target. Keep track of whose beanbag comes the closest to the bullseye in the middle.*

You all did a great job! Let's go back to our lesson now and find out how David used his sling later when the enemy came to fight.

---

## **David Fights the Giant**

It wasn't long before a battle broke out between Israel and their enemies, the evil Philistines. King Saul led the army of Israel and camped on a hill. And right across the valley on another hill was the Philistine army.

Three of David's older brothers joined King Saul's army and went to battle. So David's father sent him to the camp to take food and supplies and see how his brothers were doing. While David was there, he heard someone shouting. David went out to see who it was.

- Have the target taped together and attached to the wall and have beanbags ready.

## 1 Samuel 17:4, 17:24

Let's find out who David saw in 1 Samuel chapter 17. *Read verses 4 and 24.*

- ? Who was shouting? What was his name? *1 Samuel 17:4. Goliath of Gath.*

This guy was a giant! He was nearly 10 feet tall! That's taller than your dad. If Goliath came into our room, he would have to bend over just to get through the door!

- ? What did the Israelites think of Goliath? *1 Samuel 17:24. They were afraid and fled.*

That's right! The Israelites were afraid of Goliath. He was the champion of the Philistine army, and the Israelite soldiers all ran away from him.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Goliath was tall and strong and wore heavy armor from his head down to his legs! He carried a throwing spear, called a javelin, on his back—plus he had another huge spear and a sharp sword.

Goliath came out and shouted at the Israelite army, "I dare you to send someone out to fight me!" He wanted a one-on-one fight between himself and a brave Israelite soldier. The army of the loser would become the slaves of the army of the winner. Goliath was sure he would win.

By daring the Israelites to fight, Goliath was making fun of them and of God. Goliath wanted to see if the Israelites really believed that their God was more powerful than he was. But the Israelites were too scared to fight Goliath! He was so big and strong. Even his weapons were much bigger and better than theirs!

David heard Goliath and knew he was mocking God. David knew someone had to stop Goliath. It wasn't long before David stood in front of King Saul and said, "I will go and fight this Philistine."

At first Saul thought David was too young to fight someone like Goliath. But David told Saul how God always helped him protect his sheep from lions and bears. And he believed God would help him strike down the giant, too. Saul finally said David could go and gave him armor and weapons to take with him. But David wasn't used to those, so he decided to take something else.

- ? What do you think he took with him? *Allow guesses.*

## 1 Samuel 17:40

Let's read about what David took into battle with him. *Read the verse.*

- ? What weapons did David choose to take to fight Goliath? *Staff, five smooth stones, and his sling.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Right! David took the weapons he always used as a shepherd. He knew how to use them very well. David walked bravely toward Goliath. He stopped and bent down at the stream and picked out five stones to use in his sling.

The giant man cursed and shouted at David when he saw him coming with just his shepherd's staff and sling. Compared to Goliath and his strong, shiny armor and weapons, David looked like he didn't have a chance!

But David knew who would win this fight. He was trusting God to win. "The battle is the Lord's," David shouted at Goliath, "and he will give you into our hand!"

- ? Who thinks Goliath the Philistine will win? *Show of hands.*
- ? Who thinks David will win? *Show of hands.*

### 1 Samuel 17:48–49

The battle had begun. Listen to this. *Read the verses.*

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Who won the fight? *David.*

Yes, David won! Hooray! *Have students shout "hooray" with you.*

- ? How many stones did it take for David to knock down Goliath? *Just one.*

*Refer to Illustration #3.* Remember, David was very good with a sling. Back in Bible times, slings were important weapons, not just toys like we have today. A stone from a sling could fly at 60 miles per hour! That's fast—like a car driving on a freeway.

- ? Where did David's stone hit the giant? *In the forehead.*

A perfect shot! David was good with a sling, but he knew it was God who made the stone hit just right. When the Philistine army saw that their champion giant was dead, they all started to run away. King Saul led his army after them, and God helped them win the battle that day.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 113.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

In our last lesson, God told Samuel to go see a man named Jesse. This man had eight sons, and God had chosen one of them to be the next king of Israel.

- ? Samuel saw Eliab, the oldest son, first and thought he would be the king. Why did he think that? *Eliab was tall and strong.*
- ? Samuel was looking at the outward appearance. He thought Eliab looked good on the outside. But what did God say he looked at? *The inside, the heart.*

Seven of Jesse's sons walked by Samuel, but God said no to all of them. Finally, Jesse sent for his youngest son, and God told Samuel that he would be the new king.

- ? What was the name of this son? *David.*

Right! David had a heart after God's. He loved God and wanted the same things God wanted. So God chose David to be the next king of Israel.

---

## ***David Serves the King***

God let Saul be the king for a while longer, so David didn't become king right away. But his life began to change.

*Refer to Lesson 75 Flip Chart.* Do you remember how Saul sinned against God? His bad choices led to terrible consequences. God took his Spirit away from Saul and sent a harmful spirit that troubled him.

Saul's servants noticed that he was troubled, so they told him, "There is a young man who could come and play music for you to help you feel better. He is also brave and courageous, and the Lord is with him."

*Show Illustration #1.* This picture shows a person playing a lyre. It's like a small harp. King Saul's servants said that the young man they were talking about knew how to play a lyre very well.

- ? Saul listened to his servants and sent for the young man. Any guesses who he was? *Allow guesses.*

### **1 Samuel 16:19**

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster.* Let's find out! 1 Samuel chapter 16 tells us who came to play music for the king. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

It was David, Jesse's youngest son! David would work for King Saul, playing music for him. But he traveled back and forth from King Saul's house to his father's house so he could still watch the sheep for his father.

Taking care of the sheep was important. Although David was only about 17 years old now, he was a good shepherd. Whenever bears or lions tried to come and take a sheep or a lamb, God helped David fight them!

*Show Illustration #2.* One of the ways David protected the flock was by using a sling. He would put a stone in the sling and throw it at the bear or lion. The stone would fly through the air—super fast—and strike the animal down!

*Show Illustration #3.* This kind of sling was different than the slingshot toys you might see today.

We don't have a sling like David's, but let's pretend this target on the wall is a lion, and we have to throw these beanbags at it to make it go away. Let's see how well we can hit the target. *Tape the Target Sheets together and attach the finished poster to the wall. Choose several volunteers or the whole class to line up a few feet from the target. Allow each student to throw one beanbag at the target. Keep track of whose beanbag comes the closest to the bullseye in the middle.*

- Have the target taped together and attached to the wall. Have beanbags ready.

You all did a great job! Let's go back to our lesson now and find out how David used his sling when the enemy came to fight.

---

## ***David Fights the Giant***

A battle broke out between Israel and their enemies, the evil Philistines. Three of David's older brothers joined King Saul's army. So David's father sent him to the army camp to take food and supplies and see how his brothers were doing. While David was there, he heard someone shouting and went out to see who it was.

### **1 Samuel 17:4**

Let's find out who David saw in 1 Samuel 17:4. *Read the verse.*

- ? Who was shouting? What was his name? *Goliath of Gath.*

This guy was a giant! He was almost 10 feet tall! If Goliath came into our room, he would have to bend over just to get through the door!

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Goliath was the champion of the Philistine army, and all the Israelites were afraid of him. He was tall and strong and wore heavy armor from his head down to his legs! He carried a throwing spear, called a javelin, on his back—plus he had another huge spear and a sharp sword.

Goliath came out and shouted at the Israelite army, "I dare you to send someone out to fight me!" Goliath was making fun of the Israelites—and of God. David heard what Goliath was saying and knew someone had to stop Goliath.

It wasn't long before David stood in front of King Saul and said, "I will go and fight this Philistine." At first Saul thought David was too young. But David told him how God helped him fight lions and bears to protect his sheep. And he believed God would help him strike down the giant, too.

Saul finally said David could go and told David he could wear his armor and use his weapons. But David wasn't used to those, so he decided to take the weapons he always used, his shepherd's staff and his sling.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* As David walked bravely toward Goliath, he stopped at the stream and picked up five stones to use in the sling. The giant man cursed and shouted at David when he saw him coming with just his staff and sling. Compared to Goliath and his strong, shiny armor and weapons, David looked like he didn't have a chance!

But David knew who would win this fight. He was trusting God to win. "The battle is the Lord's," David shouted at Goliath, "and he will give you into our hand!"

- ? Who thinks Goliath the Philistine will win? *Show of hands.*
- ? Who thinks David will win? *Show of hands.*



## 1 Samuel 17:48–49

The battle had begun. Listen to this. *Read the verses.*

? Refer to the Flip Chart. Who won the fight? *David.*

Yes, David won! Hooray! *Have students shout “hooray” with you.*

? How many stones did it take for David to knock down Goliath? *Just one.*

? Where did David’s stone hit the giant? *In the forehead.*

A perfect shot! David was good with a sling, but he knew God made the stone hit just right. When the Philistine army saw that their champion giant was dead, they all started to run away. King Saul and his army chased after them, and God helped them win the battle that day.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Justin could draw really well, but he had to decide how he would use this talent: would he just draw so people would think he was great on the outside, or would he try to please God by using his drawings to make people happy?

? What did he decide to do? *He made a card for Mrs. Munson who was sick.*

Justin wanted his heart to be right, so he did what would make God happy.

Let’s find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

? Emily sure got scared of the bees, didn’t she? But who could she trust to help with this problem? *God.*

That’s right. There are many things in this world that might frighten us and seem to be giant problems. We can always trust God to give us courage to face those problems because he is so much bigger than anything we’re afraid of.

Just like we saw in our lesson today, Goliath was much bigger and stronger than David. But David knew God was way bigger and stronger than Goliath. David trusted God, and he was able to fight the giant with courage because he knew God would help him win.



## Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

### 1 John 1:8–9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### God Looks at the Inside

God knew David's heart, and he knows ours, too. Let's sing about that. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### Clean My Heart

David's heart was clean. He trusted God to help him—even when it meant fighting a giant. Let's sing about clean hearts. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.



## Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Praise God because he is able to defeat every “giant” problem that would come against us.
- Ask God to help us trust him like David did.

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
(repeat)

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.  
(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## God Looks at the Inside

For the Lord does not see  
Like you and I see.  
The Lord does not see  
Like you and me.

We look at the outside—  
“He’s tall and strong!”  
God looks at the inside—  
He knows what’s wrong.  
We look at the outside—  
“She’s pretty and smart!”  
God looks at the inside—  
He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the  
outside.  
Don’t be fooled by only what  
you see.

God says what’s important’s on  
the inside,  
That’s why I need him  
inside of me.

We look at the outside—  
“He’s big! She’s fast!”  
God looks at the inside—  
Says, “The first will be last.”  
We look at the outside—  
“They’re rich! They’re smart!”  
God looks at the inside—  
He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the  
outside.  
Don’t be fooled by only what  
you see.

God says what’s important’s on  
the inside,  
That’s why I need him  
inside of me.

(repeat)

God looks at the inside—  
He sees our heart.

## Clean My Heart

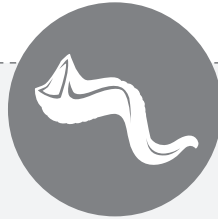
In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need  
help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need  
help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Yes, I need Jesus!  
Please, clean my heart today!  
Please, clean my heart today!





# Jonathan Warns David

*Jonathan warned his friend David that Saul wanted to kill him.*

## *Lesson Focus*

David and Jonathan (King Saul's son) became close friends. God gave David success in everything he did, which made Saul jealous. Saul tried to kill David several times, but God protected him. Then Jonathan warned David when he needed to flee.

## *Key Passages*

1 Samuel 18:3–4, 18:10–11, 20:36–38

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Printed instructions for Friendly Four Corners
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball\*
- Racetrack\*
- Board Game
- Toss for It\*
- Bowling\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze\*
- Echo Echo\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn\*
- Follow the Leader\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "Clean My Heart"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 78*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The account in 1 Samuel 18 picks up right after David's victory over the Philistine champion, Goliath. The Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, and King Saul inquired about David's background, likely because he had promised his daughter in marriage to the victor and wanted to know his lineage. David would enter Saul's service and no longer return home. He would also meet Jonathan and start a long-lasting friendship based on mutual love and trust in the Lord. Their covenant friendship demonstrated true, selfless love. Jonathan gave David his robe, armor, and weapons, which were symbols of his princely status. It is likely that Jonathan was recognizing David would be the next king in his place.

While David and Jonathan's friendship grew, so did Saul's jealousy of David. In whatever David did, God gave him success, and the people loved him. David was made commander of a thousand and married Saul's younger daughter, Michal. But Saul's jealousy turned to violence when David was playing the lyre in his presence and Saul tried to kill him with a spear (1 Samuel 18:10–11). Warning David to hide, Jonathan dared to speak to his father and convince him to spare David's life. Saul listened to his plea and promised he would not kill David (1 Samuel 19:1–7). However, this promise didn't last long. After another spear-throwing attempt on David's life, Saul commanded his messengers to watch David's house to kill him in the morning (1 Samuel 19:9–11). But David's wife Michal helped him escape their house and stalled for time by claiming David was sick. Her deception using a teraphim in bed to deceive the messengers into thinking it was David is reminiscent of Rachel's theft of her father's teraphim and deception to cover it up (1 Samuel 19:12–17; Genesis 31:19, 31:34–35). Both women deceived their fathers out of loyalty to their husbands.

David fled to Samuel at Ramah, and they went together to Naioth, where a company of prophets, led by Samuel, were prophesying. The messengers Saul sent to capture David were unable to fulfill their mission because the Spirit of God came upon them

and they prophesied (1 Samuel 19:18–21). After his third group of messengers failed to reach David, Saul went himself. But he, too, was overcome by the Spirit of God and prophesied, which enabled David to escape.

David met up with Jonathan and asked why Saul continued to seek his life, but Jonathan thought his father would tell him if that were so. David realized that Saul was keeping his plans from Jonathan because of their friendship. David came up with a plan to ascertain if Saul was still determined to kill him. Jonathan would go to the new moon meal while David remained hidden. When Saul asked where David was, Jonathan would reply that David had gone to Bethlehem to attend a sacrifice with his family. If Saul was fine with David's absence, they would know David's life was safe; but if Saul was angry, they would know Saul still wanted him dead (1 Samuel 20:5–8). Jonathan would then report Saul's response to David. Before Jonathan returned to the city, he asked David to show kindness to his descendants when God made him king and cut off his enemies. David promised, and the friends parted.

At the new moon celebration, Saul did not ask about David's absence until the second night. When Jonathan told him David had gone to Bethlehem, Saul was furious. He insulted Jonathan and told him that he would never have the kingdom as long as David lived. Then he threw a spear at Jonathan and missed. After this, Jonathan knew that his father was determined to kill his friend David (1 Samuel 20:27–33).

Jonathan then had to warn his friend without drawing attention. He took his bow and arrows and a boy to the field in the morning to look like he was going to practice. As he shot the arrows and called to the boy that the arrows were beyond him, he was actually communicating with David, warning him to flee. Jonathan sent the unsuspecting boy back to the city, and then David came out from hiding. The friends wept, renewed the promise of their friendship, and parted ways (1 Samuel 20:41–42). Like Michal, Jonathan chose to be loyal to David over his father, Saul, who was sinning by seeking to kill an innocent man out of jealousy.



## Historical/Apologetics Background

In today's culture, marriage and gender are being redefined by those who reject God's Word. Homosexual and lesbian relationships are granted equal status as heterosexual ones, and the push for acceptance of alternative lifestyles has inundated television, movies, school textbooks, and the church. In an attempt to justify homosexual behavior, some even claim that the Bible condones it, and one of the passages twisted for this purpose is the friendship of David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4). However, the love described between David and Jonathan is a friendship, not a sexual kind of love. David clearly loved Bathsheba and his wives, but his covenant friendship with Jonathan was rooted in both men's love and service for the Lord.

By looking at the whole of Scripture, we see that homosexual behavior goes completely against God's design for human relationships. The basis for marriage is found in Genesis 1-2 when God created male and female and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. This command can only be fulfilled through heterosexual marriage, and the male and female roles in the family complement each other biologically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally. Jesus himself referred to Genesis when questioned about marriage (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12).

Old Testament commands clearly state that homosexual behavior is an abomination (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13), and God's judgment on Sodom and

Gomorrah, as well as Israel's attack on the tribe of Benjamin, were initiated by the great wickedness, including sodomy, in those places (see Genesis 19 and Judges 19-20). In the New Testament, homosexual behavior and other sexual sins are clearly condemned as punishment for rejecting God and are a sign of unbelievers (Romans 1:24-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Our first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in a perfect world where there was no sin. But now, after the fall, sinful desires and behaviors characterize mankind. Because of our fallen nature, all people are born as slaves to sin and have desires contrary to God's law (Romans 6:15-21; Galatians 5:16-21). Some people report that they experience same-sex attraction, but this does not make it normal or moral. People also experience other sinful desires (e.g., greed, improper heterosexual desires, covetousness, envy, etc.). All of our desires and behaviors must be evaluated by God's Word.

Christians who condone a homosexual lifestyle (or any sinful lifestyle) are rejecting the truth given in Scripture. It is not hateful to share the truth in love with them. Those trapped in the lie that they can't control their sexual desires can experience God's forgiveness, grace, and power to live in victory over their sin. Let us be faithful and courageous to share this message in love.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God to help us with something.

I'll start. Dear God, would you please . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 126 for the Pre-K Lesson.**



## **K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

### ***Introduction***

*Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, war broke out between the Israelites and the Philistines.*

- ?** Who was the Philistine champion that dared the Israelites to send someone to fight him? *Goliath.*
- ?** Who gave David courage to fight the giant Goliath? *God.*  
David trusted that the battle was the Lord's, and God would help him win.
- ?** How did David defeat Goliath? *He used his sling, and the stone hit Goliath in the forehead.*

All it took was one stone from David's sling, and the giant fell down. Then the Israelites chased the Philistines back to their cities.

In today's lesson, we'll be talking more about David and someone who became a great friend to him. The Bible has a lot to say about friendship and choosing friends. We're going to play a game of Friendly Four Corners to learn more about our friends in this class! *Follow the instructions for the game then continue the lesson.*

- Have printed instructions for Friendly Four Corners ready.

---

### ***Jonathan and David's Friendship***

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out about the friendship in today's lesson from 1 Samuel chapter 18. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

#### **1 Samuel 18:3-4**

Listen so you can find out who these two friends were. *Read the verses.*

- ?** What was the name of David's new friend? *Jonathan.*

? Does anyone want to guess who Jonathan’s father was? *Allow guesses.*

Jonathan was King Saul’s son, the prince! And he was a brave warrior, like David.

? What do you think it means when it says that Jonathan loved David as his own soul? *Allow answers.*

Jonathan’s love for David was not the romantic kind of love. This love was based on being loyal, trustworthy, and devoted like a best friend; they could count on each other.

? How many of you have a best friend that you can trust and count on? *Show of hands.*

? What did Jonathan give David? *His robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.*

These gifts were very special. Jonathan was a prince of Israel. By giving his royal robe and weapons to David, he was showing that he knew David would be the next king instead of him. It seems that he understood that God chose David to be king, and he was okay with that. Wow! That’s a great friend!

---

## ***Saul’s Jealousy***

Things looked like they were going well for David. He was a hero for killing Goliath, he was best friends with Prince Jonathan, and he fought well in all the battles against the enemies. The women of Israel even sang songs about how great a hero David was! But, King Saul became angry and jealous! Uh-oh! That meant trouble.

### **1 Samuel 18:10–11**

Let’s read what happened next in 1 Samuel 18. *Read the verses.*

? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* What was wrong with King Saul? What rushed upon him? *A harmful spirit from God.*

? What was David doing? *Playing the lyre.*

? What did Saul have in his hand? *His spear.*

Normally, when David played the lyre (an instrument like a small harp), it would calm Saul when the harmful spirit troubled him. But on this day, Saul was too angry and jealous.

? What did Saul do with his spear? *He hurled it at David.*

Saul tried two times to kill David with the spear! But David dodged the spear and got away. Soon Saul became afraid when he realized that God was helping David and protecting him.

Saul decided to send David away. So he made David the commander over a thousand soldiers. The Lord helped David to do a great job, and the people loved David, which made Saul more jealous and fearful.

Finally, Saul had enough, so he figured out another plan to get rid of David. This time he commanded his servants and his son Jonathan to kill David.

Jonathan spoke to his father and reminded him that David had done nothing wrong and that Saul would be sinning if he killed David. It was probably hard for Jonathan to tell his father he was wrong. But he cared enough about his friend David to help by talking to his father. Saul listened to Jonathan and allowed David to come back to his house.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* But it wasn't long before Saul threw his spear at David again! David dodged and ran, and the spear hit the wall. Then Saul sent messengers to get David so he could kill him. But David's wife helped him escape out a window.

---

## ***Jonathan's Warning***

Poor David feared for his life! He kept running from Saul, and finally met up with Jonathan again. Together they came up with a plan to find out for sure what Saul was up to. Instead of coming to a special meal, David would hide out in a field. Jonathan would go to the meal. If Saul didn't mind that David was gone, they would know he was safe. But if Saul became angry, they would know that he did want to kill David. This was a life-and-death situation. Both friends were worried about each other's safety.

- ? The first night that David missed the special dinner, Saul didn't say anything. Hmm. How many of you think David was safe now? *Show of hands.*

On the second night at dinner, Saul noticed that David still was not there. He got angry at Jonathan and said rude, mean things to him! Guess what Saul did next—he grabbed his spear and threw it at Jonathan!

Wow! Saul had thrown a spear at least three times at David, and now he threw one at his own son! Jonathan left the table feeling angry and sad that his father was acting so terribly.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Remember that David was hiding in the field, waiting to hear from Jonathan. Because Saul's servants were all around, Jonathan had to warn David secretly. If he got caught talking to David, he would be in deep trouble. So he set up a special way to give David a message. In the morning, Jonathan went out to the field with a young boy. He took his bow and arrows so it would look like he was going to practice shooting.

### **1 Samuel 20:36–38**

Let's see how Jonathan warned David. *Read verse 36.*

- ? What did Jonathan tell the boy to do? What was his job? *To run and find the arrows he shot.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* David and Jonathan had worked out two messages when Jonathan shot his arrows. One would be the signal that it was safe,

and the other would be a warning. So, whatever Jonathan called out to the boy chasing arrows was actually a message for David!

Listen to the message Jonathan gave to David. *Read verses 37–38.*

- ? What did Jonathan say to the boy? *Is not the arrow beyond you? Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!*
- ? What message do you think Jonathan was giving David: was he safe or in danger? *In danger.*

Yes. Jonathan warned David that Saul was still angry, and he would have to run for his life.

Jonathan sent the boy back home. Then David came out from his hiding spot to say goodbye to Jonathan. They didn't know if they'd ever see each other again. David and Jonathan were grown men, but because they were such close friends, they cried as they said goodbye to each other—maybe forever.

Jonathan went home, but David had to run away from there. In our next lesson, we'll follow David as he gets chased by King Saul.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 129.



## Pre-K Lesson

### Introduction

- ? Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, who was the Philistine champion that dared the Israelites to send someone to fight him? *Goliath.*
- ? Who gave David courage to fight the giant Goliath? *God.*
- ? How did David defeat Goliath? *He used his sling, and the stone hit Goliath in the forehead.*

All it took was one stone from David's sling, and the giant fell down.

In today's lesson, we'll be talking more about David and someone who became a great friend to him. The Bible has a lot to say about friendship and choosing friends. We're going to play a game of Friendly Four Corners to learn more about our friends in this class! *Follow the instructions for the game then continue the lesson.*

- Have printed instructions for Friendly Four Corners ready.

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### Jonathan and David's Friendship

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out about the friendship in today's lesson from 1 Samuel chapter 18. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

## 1 Samuel 18:3–4

Listen so you can find out who these two friends were. *Read the verses.*

- ? What was the name of David's new friend? *Jonathan.*
- ? Does anyone want to guess who Jonathan's father was? *Allow guesses.*

Jonathan was King Saul's son, the prince! And he was a brave warrior, like David.

The Bible says Jonathan loved David as his own soul. The means they were loyal, trustworthy, and devoted like best friends; they could count on each other.

- ? How many of you have a best friend that you can trust and count on? *Show of hands.*
- ? What did Jonathan give David? *His robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.*

These gifts were very special. Jonathan was a prince of Israel, but when he gave his royal robe and weapons to David, he was showing that he knew God chose David to be the next king instead of him. And Jonathan was okay with that. Wow! That's a great friend!

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### ***Saul's Jealousy***

Things looked like they were going well for David. He was a hero for killing Goliath, he was best friends with Prince Jonathan, and he fought well in all the battles against the enemies. The women of Israel even sang songs about how great a hero David was! But, King Saul became angry and jealous! Uh-oh! That meant trouble.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Remember that King Saul had a harmful spirit that would trouble him, so David would play his lyre (like a small harp) to help him feel better. One day while David played his lyre, the troubling spirit rushed upon Saul. Suddenly King Saul was very angry and jealous of David. So he took his long, pointed spear and hurled it at David! Yikes! Saul tried two times to kill David with the spear! But David dodged and got away.

Saul's jealousy grew and grew, and he commanded his servants and his son Jonathan to kill David. Of course, Jonathan didn't want to kill his best friend, so he spoke to his father and reminded him that David had done nothing wrong and that Saul would be sinning if he killed David.

- ? Do you think it was hard for Jonathan to tell his father he was wrong? *Allow discussion.*

It probably was hard for him to speak to his father that way. But he cared enough about his friend David to talk to his father. Saul listened to Jonathan and allowed David to come back to his house.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* But it wasn't long before Saul threw his spear at David again! David dodged and ran, and the spear hit the wall. Then Saul sent messengers to get David so he could kill him. But David's wife helped him escape out a window.

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## ***Jonathan's Warning***

Poor David! He kept running from Saul and finally met up with Jonathan again. They came up with a plan to find out for sure what Saul was up to. Instead of coming to a special dinner, David would hide out in a field. Jonathan would go to the meal and find out if Saul still wanted to kill David.

- ? The first night that David missed the special dinner, Saul didn't say anything. Hmm. How many of you think David was safe now? *Show of hands.*

On the second night at dinner, Saul noticed that David still was not there. He got angry at Jonathan and said mean things to him! Guess what Saul did next—he grabbed his spear and threw it at Jonathan! Jonathan left the table feeling angry and sad that his father was acting so terribly.

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* Remember that David was hiding in the field, waiting for Jonathan to tell him if it was safe or not. Saul's servants were all around, so Jonathan had to warn David secretly. If he got caught talking to David, he would be in deep trouble. In the morning, Jonathan went out to the field with a young boy. He took his bow and arrows so it would look like he was going to practice shooting.

### **1 Samuel 20:36–38**

Let's see how Jonathan secretly warned David. *Read verse 36.*

- ? What did Jonathan tell the boy to do? What was his job? *To run and find the arrows he shot.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* David and Jonathan had worked out two messages when Jonathan shot his arrows. One would be the signal that it was safe, and the other would be a warning. Whatever Jonathan said to the boy who chased the arrows was actually a message for David!

Listen to the message Jonathan gave to David. *Read verses 37–38.*

- ? What did Jonathan say to the boy? *Is not the arrow beyond you? Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!*
- ? What message was Jonathan giving David: was he safe or in danger? *In danger.*

Yes. Jonathan warned David that Saul was still angry, and David would have to run for his life.

Jonathan sent the boy back home. Then David came out from his hiding spot to say goodbye to Jonathan. They didn't know if they'd ever see each



other again. David and Jonathan were such close friends that they cried as they said goodbye to each other.

Jonathan went home, but David had to run away from there. In our next lesson, we'll follow David as he gets chased by King Saul.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



## Lesson Review Game

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.*



## Story Time

? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

? What was Emily so afraid of? *Bees.*

Right! She heard about a friend who was actually allergic to bees, and Emily scared herself and Jessie, didn't she?

? But did she have to be afraid? *No!*

She could trust God to help her get over her fear. The bees may have seemed giant to her, but our God is a giant God—bigger than anything we could ever be afraid of.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

? What did Matt want? *To do things with his brother, Craig, and his friend, Dan.*

? Did Craig and Dan really want to be Matt's friend? *No!*

? Who was Matt's real friend? *Justin.*

That's right. Justin was the real friend. He didn't want Matt to be in trouble, and he didn't want Mrs. Brewster to be sad. Justin showed that he cared about others, and that's what a real friend does.

In our lesson today, we saw how Jonathan was a real, true friend to David. He cared more about David than about whether he would be king. He did a hard thing when he told his father that he was wrong about David. Then even though it was dangerous, Jonathan sent David a message when he realized his father was still trying to kill David.

Jonathan was a great friend, but you know who is the greatest friend we could ever have? It's Jesus! He's always there to listen to your prayers, and he loves you more than anyone else can. Our friends can sometimes disappoint us, but Jesus never will.



## Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

### 1 John 1:8–9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's practice the memory verse song.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### Clean My Heart

Our memory verse says if we confess our sins, God will make us clean from all unrighteousness. **Let's sing about clean hearts.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.



## Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the example of David and Jonathan's friendship in the Bible.
- Ask God for help to care about others and be a good friend to them.

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins

*(repeat)*

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins

*(repeat)*

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## Clean My Heart

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?  
Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?

Does my heart need help, O Lord?  
Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Please, clean my heart today!

Please, clean my heart today!





# Saul Hunts David

*Saul sought to kill David, but David trusted God for protection.*

## *Lesson Focus*

Saul's jealousy led him to hunt David and attempt to destroy him, but God protected David and his men. David had several opportunities to kill Saul, but he chose to trust God and wait for his timing to become king.

## *Key Passages*

1 Samuel 21:12–13, 24:4, chapter 26

## *Memory Verse*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

Bring the following for the skit:

- Two printed copies of the Sleeping Saul Skit
- Broom handle or stick for Saul's spear
- Pitcher/cup
- Optional: pillow, crown, robes, belts, etc.

## **Lesson Review Game**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss\*
- Bible Baseball\*
- Board Game
- Bowling\*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack\*
- Toss for It\*

## **Story Time**

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy along with a coloring sheet for each student.

## **Memory Verse Game**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo\*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader\*
- Freeze\*
- Funny Voices\*
- Popcorn\*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Song Time**

Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- "1 John 1:8-9"
- "God Looks at the Inside"
- "Clean My Heart"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 79*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3-4 years old) and Kindergarten-1st Grade (5-7 years old) classes.

Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

After Jonathan warned David to flee from Saul and the city of Gibeah, David began a journey that would have him crisscrossing the country, even venturing into Moab and Philistia to escape Saul's mad hunt. David's first stop at the priests' city of Nob enabled him to get bread and Goliath's sword from the priest, Ahimelech, who was unaware that David was no longer a trusted commander and son-in-law to King Saul. Ahimelech, a great grandson of Eli, gave David and his men the consecrated bread that was for the priests. Unfortunately, Saul's chief herdsman, Doeg the Edomite, saw David receiving supplies and would later report this to Saul. Saul reacted with anger and violence when he thought the priests were loyal to David and had them killed (1 Samuel 22:11–19). Saul's own servants refused to strike the priests, but Doeg obeyed Saul's command to destroy the city, which fulfilled the curse God pronounced on the descendants of Eli (see 1 Samuel 2:31). Only one priest, Abiathar, escaped and told David what happened. Abiathar served the house of David until Solomon had him removed from the priesthood (1 Kings 2:26–27).

After leaving Nob, David fled to the Philistine city of Gath, Goliath's hometown. The servants of King Achish recognized David as an Israelite commander, so David feared for his life and feigned insanity to be sent away (1 Samuel 21:10–15). After escaping from Gath, David went to a cave in Adullam where his family and a band of disgruntled men gathered to him. David then took his parents to Moab for their safety. David and his men saved the city of Keilah from the Philistines, but God warned him not to stay there. David hid in strongholds in the wilderness while Saul continued to hunt for him (1 Samuel 23:14).

Jonathan visited and encouraged David in the Lord, but then the Ziphites told Saul of David's location. While David and his men were fleeing from Saul on a mountain, Saul was closing in on them, probably with his men divided into two groups to surround him. Again, we see God's providential protection of David when a messenger arrived to

tell Saul that the Philistines had made a raid, forcing Saul to give up his pursuit of David and leave (1 Samuel 23:26–28).

David's first opportunity to get revenge occurred in a cave at the oasis of Engedi. When Saul entered the cave to relieve himself, he was unaware that David and his men were hidden farther back inside the cave. Ignoring the advice of his men to kill Saul, David cut off a piece of Saul's robe and then later showed it to Saul to prove he could have taken his life but chose not to (1 Samuel 24:8–15). Saul showed remorse for his actions and returned home.

Before Saul's next attempt to capture David, the faithful prophet Samuel died and was mourned by all of Israel (1 Samuel 25:1). David also met Abigail, the wise wife of foolish Nabal, who refused to give supplies to David's men. Abigail appealed to David and talked him out of taking vengeance on Nabal's household. David listened to her and left with the supplies she gave, and God punished Nabal with death (1 Samuel 25:37–38). David asked Abigail to be his wife, and she agreed. David's other wife, Ahinoam of Jezreel, is also mentioned at the end of 1 Samuel 25.

Reneging on his word, Saul again pursued David when the Ziphites came and gave his location. Saul, Abner (the commander of the army), and 3,000 men of Israel went into the wilderness and camped on a hill. David's spies reported their location, and David went with his nephew Abishai into the camp of Saul. Because God caused all of Saul's camp to sleep deeply, David and Abishai made it to the king undetected. When Abishai wanted to kill Saul with his spear, David refused. He understood that Saul's death was in God's hands, not his, and it would be a sin to kill God's anointed ruler. Instead, they took Saul's spear and jar of water (1 Samuel 26:7–12). After climbing a safe distance from Saul's camp, David called to Abner and reprimanded him for failing to protect the king. He showed the spear and jar to prove that he had once again been given the opportunity to kill Saul but hadn't (1 Samuel 26:13–16). Saul said he'd sinned and wanted David to return, but David knew better than to trust Saul's word. He returned Saul's spear and went on his way, knowing he'd done what was right by sparing Saul's life.



## Historical/Apologetics Background

Engedi is an oasis in the midst of the wilderness that surrounds the Dead Sea. It has fresh water, plants, and limestone caves. It was an area that David used to supply his group and to hide from Saul. Today, Engedi is a nature preserve where visitors can see waterfalls, wildlife, vegetation, and caves like the ones where David and his men hid.

David made some sinful choices during this difficult period of fleeing from Saul. He lied to Ahimelech about his standing with Saul and reason for needing supplies, but he recognized his responsibility in what happened to the priests because of his lie. He also failed to trust God for protection when he fled to Gath and instead relied on his performance as a madman. However, David showed great faith in God and mercy to Saul on two occasions when he could have taken vengeance. David trusted that God would deal with Saul in his timing and that he should not sin by killing the man anointed to rule Israel. The pressure from his men would have been tough, but David restrained them and showed

himself to be more righteous than Saul, who continued to hunt him.

We can see David's faith and reliance on the Lord by reading the psalms he wrote during this difficult time of his life. Psalm 34, which may have been written when David acted insane in Gath, says, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles" (v. 6). Psalm 52 was written when Doeg the Edomite reported that David had been to see Ahimelech at Nob. David wrote, "I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever" (Psalm 52:8). Shortly after that, he wrote Psalm 54 when the Ziphites gave his location to Saul. His plea to God for help and deliverance is a blessing to us today. Many psalms refer to God as a fortress and rock just like the strongholds David sought for protection from Saul (see Psalm 18:1–2 and 31:3–5). By choosing to focus on the Lord in times of trouble, David stands as an example to all believers to cry out to the Lord, wait patiently for him, trust him, and praise him for deliverance.



## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### Prayer

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you because . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### Bible Truths

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

### Bible Treasure Hunt

*Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.*

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today.* Ready? Set! Go!

K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 142 for the Pre-K Lesson.



## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### *Introduction*

*Refer to Lesson 78 Flip Chart.* In our last lesson we saw a great friendship between David and Jonathan.

- ? Who was Jonathan's father? *King Saul.*

Both friends loved and trusted God. They were good friends and knew they could count on each other. God used their friendship to protect David from King Saul, who was very jealous of David.

- ? What did Jonathan do to warn David that his father wanted to kill him? *Pretended to practice shooting arrows in the field where David was hiding. His instructions to the boy gathering the arrows were really messages for David.*

The two friends were very sad when David had to leave in such a hurry. Today, we'll start by talking about some of the places David ran to as he tried to hide from King Saul.

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### *David Flees from Saul*

David ran for his life while Saul chased him every step of the way. First, he ran to a city where many priests lived. The high priest gave David some bread and the sword that had belonged to the giant, Goliath. But David couldn't stay there; he had to keep running.

- ? He finally went to the Philistine city of Gath. Do you remember who the Philistines were? Were they friends or enemies? *Enemies.*
- ? *Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart.* Goliath was a Philistine. And who killed Goliath? *David.*

Right! So these guys hated David and the Israelites. But David wanted someplace to hide, and Saul couldn't follow him into the enemy's city. David was safe at last—or was he? There was one problem. The servants

of the Philistine king knew who David was—the Israelite commander who had killed thousands of Philistines!

? Uh-oh! Do you think this was a good place for David to hide? *No.*

David was afraid for his life! He had to think of something—quick—so they would send him away without hurting him!

### 1 Samuel 21:12–13

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from 1 Samuel 21 to find out what David did so the Philistines wouldn't kill him. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

David pretended to be a crazy person! He scratched at the gate and drooled on his beard. The king saw how David was acting and thought he was crazy and made him leave. Whew! That was close.

David escaped and ran to a cave. While he was hiding there, a group of about 400 men came to join up with him. David was now commander of these men, and they stayed with him and helped him.

With God's help, David and his men kept ahead of Saul. David still helped others even while he was being chased by Saul. He and his men saved a city called Keilah from the Philistines. But Saul found out that David was in Keilah. "Ah ha!" he thought, "David is trapped inside the city. Now I've got him. We'll finally capture David." But God warned David that Saul was coming, so he and his men got away.

*Refer to the top of the Lesson Flip Chart. One time, Saul almost caught up to David again. While Saul was on one side of a mountain, David and his men were hurrying to get away on the other side of the mountain. Just as Saul's men were closing in, a messenger came. "My king," he said, "hurry and come, for the Philistines have attacked the land." So Saul and his men left the mountain, and David was safe—for now.*

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## **David Spares Saul in the Cave**

It wasn't long before Saul went after David again. One day, while David and his men were hiding in the back of a big cave, Saul came in—but he didn't know David and his men were there!

### 1 Samuel 24:4

Let's see what David's men wanted him to do. Listen to 1 Samuel 24:4.

*Read the verse.*

David's men told him that this was God giving David a chance to kill Saul. This was David's chance to get Saul back once and for all.

? Did David kill Saul? *No.*

? What did David do instead? *Cut off a corner of Saul's robe.*

David understood that God had made Saul king and that he would be the next king. He knew God’s timing was perfect, and he was willing to wait for God. He knew God would not be pleased with him if he took revenge on Saul for all he had done.

- ? What is revenge? Does anyone know? *Allow answers.*

Revenge is when you try to get back at someone or make them pay for doing something mean to you.

- ? How about mercy? Does anyone know what that means? *Allow answers.*

Mercy is when you forgive others and don’t punish them for something—even when they deserve it.

After Saul left the cave, David came out and called to him. He showed Saul the piece of robe he had cut off to prove he had been close enough to kill him in the cave—but didn’t.

Saul understood that David showed mercy to him. David did not hurt Saul when he could have taken revenge. Saul finally went home, but David and his men stayed there in the wilderness.

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## ***David Spares Saul in the Camp***

Sometime later, some people came and said to King Saul, “Did you know that David is hiding out in our area?”

Once again, Saul decided to go and hunt David down. He and his army commander, Abner, gathered 3,000 men of Israel, and they came and camped on a hill. David’s spies saw them and told David that Saul was camped nearby.

### **Sleeping Saul Skit (1 Samuel 26)**

- Have props and costumes ready for the skit.

We’ll act out what happened next. *Read the Sleeping Saul Skit. Have an assistant guide the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished, continue with the lesson.*

- ? Who sneaked into Saul’s camp? *David and Abishai.*
- Refer to the Flip Chart. David and Abishai were able to creep into Saul’s camp and get right next to Saul without anyone waking up!*
- ? What did David say when Abishai wanted to kill Saul with his own spear? *David told him no.*
- ? What two things did they take to prove they had been in Saul’s camp, close enough to kill Saul? *Spear and jar of water.*

Right. The men took the spear and jar and left the camp. David went up on a hill across from Saul’s camp and called out to them.

- ? What did Saul think when he saw that his spear and jar were taken by David? What did that prove? *He realized that David had spared his life again.*

This was the second time David spared Saul’s life when he could have killed him. David showed mercy again, even though Saul continued to break his promises and hunt David. But David believed it was more important to obey God and trust him instead of taking revenge on Saul.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 144.



## Pre-K Lesson

### *Introduction*

Refer to Lesson 78 Flip Chart. In our last lesson we saw a great friendship between David and Jonathan.

- ? Who was Jonathan’s father? *King Saul.*

Both friends loved and trusted God. They were good friends and knew they could count on each other. God used their friendship to protect David from King Saul, who was very jealous of David.

- ? What did Jonathan do to warn David that his father wanted to kill him? *Pretended to practice shooting arrows in the field where David was hiding. His instructions to the boy gathering the arrows were really messages for David.*

The two friends were very sad when David had to leave in such a hurry. Today, we’ll start by talking about some of the places David ran to as he tried to hide from King Saul.

---

### *David Flees from Saul*

The first place David ran to was the Philistine city of Gath.

- ? Do you remember who the Philistines were? Were they friends or enemies of the Israelites? *Enemies.*
- ? Refer to Lesson 77 Flip Chart. Goliath was a Philistine. And who killed Goliath? *David.*

Right! So these guys hated David and the Israelites. But David wanted someplace to hide. There was one problem. The servants of the Philistine king knew who David was—the Israelite commander who had killed thousands of Philistines!

- ? Uh-oh! Do you think David was safe there? *No.*

David was afraid for his life! He had to think of something—quick—so they would send him away without hurting him!

So David pretended to be a crazy person! He scratched at the city gate and drooled on his beard. The king saw how David was acting and thought he really was crazy and made him leave. Whew! That was close.

After David escaped, he ran to a cave where a group of about 400 men joined up with him. David was now commander of these men, and they stayed with him and helped him.

*Refer to the top of the Lesson Flip Chart. With God's help, David and his men stayed ahead of Saul. One time, Saul almost caught up to David. Saul was on one side of a mountain while David and his men were hurrying to get away on the other side of the mountain. Just as Saul's men were closing in, a messenger came with bad news. Saul had to leave right away, and David was safe—for now.*

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## **David Spares Saul in the Cave**

It wasn't long before Saul went after David again. One day, while David and his men were hiding in the back of a big cave, Saul came in but didn't know David and his men were there!

### **1 Samuel 24:4**

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read from 1 Samuel 24 to find out what David's men wanted him to do. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

David's men told him that this was God giving David a chance to kill Saul.

- ? Did David kill Saul? *No.*
- ? What did David do instead? *Cut off a corner of Saul's robe.*

David's men told him that he should kill Saul. This was his chance! But David would not do it. Instead, he crept quietly toward Saul and cut off a corner of his robe.

After Saul left the cave, David came out and called to him. He showed Saul the piece of robe he had cut off to prove he had been close enough to kill him in the cave—but didn't.

- ? Have you heard the word revenge? What does it mean? *Allow answers.*
- Revenge is when you try to get back at someone or make them pay for doing something mean to you.
- ? How about mercy? Does anyone know what that means? *Allow answers.*

Mercy is when you forgive others and don't punish them for something—even when they deserve it.

Saul understood that David had shown mercy to him. David did not hurt Saul when he could have taken revenge. After that, Saul finally went home. But David and his men stayed there in the wilderness.

## David Spares Saul in the Camp

Sometime later, Saul decided to go and hunt David again. He and his army commander, Abner, gathered 3,000 men, and they came and camped on a hill. David's spies saw them and told David that Saul was camped nearby.

- ▶ Have props and costumes ready for the skit.

### Sleeping Saul Skit (1 Samuel 26)

We'll act out what happened next. Read the *Sleeping Saul Skit*. Have an assistant guide the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished, continue with the lesson.

- ? Who sneaked into Saul's camp? *David and Abishai.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. David and Abishai were able to creep into Saul's camp and get right next to Saul without anyone waking up!

- ? What did David say when Abishai wanted to kill Saul with his own spear? *David told him no.*

- ? What two things did they take to prove they had been in Saul's camp, close enough to kill Saul? *Spear and jar of water.*

Right. The men took Saul's spear and jar and left the camp. David went up a hill across from Saul's camp and called out to them.

- ? What did Saul think when he saw that his spear and jar were taken by David? What did that prove? *He realized that David had spared his life again.*

This was the second time David spared Saul's life when he could have taken revenge and killed him. David showed mercy even though Saul continued to break his promises and chase David. But David believed it was more important to obey God and trust him instead of taking revenge on Saul.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



## Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



## Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*
- ? What did Matt want? *He wanted to do things with his big brother, Craig, and his friend, Dan.*
- ? What did Craig and Dan tell Matt to do? *Ring Mrs. Brewster's doorbell then hide.*



But when Mrs. Brewster came outdoors, her cat ran away, which made her very sad. Justin helped Matt understand that real friends care about others—and they don't run and hide and leave you alone to get in trouble the way Craig and Dan did.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

- ? When Olivia first came, what did Jessie try so hard to do? *Be friends with Olivia.*

Yes, but Olivia didn't want to be friends. Just when she was about to get back at Olivia, Jessie realized that Olivia was hurt and needed help, so she showed mercy. That was much better than taking revenge. Now Jessie made a new friend.

- ? What do you think would have happened if Jessie had taken revenge and tripped Olivia anyway? *Allow discussion.*

In our lesson, there were two times when David could have gotten revenge on Saul. He could have killed him—twice! Saul had tried to kill David many times for no reason, which was clearly wrong. But David chose to show mercy and forgiveness.

- ? Why did David do this? *He wanted to obey God. He had a heart to do what was right. He was waiting for God's timing.*

The world thinks that revenge is okay and that people who hurt us deserve to be hurt, too. We hear that a lot on TV or in movies. But this is not what the Bible teaches. God wants us to forgive others and to love our enemies, not try to hurt them. Sometimes that can be very hard to do, but we can always ask God to help us obey him and love others the way he wants us to.



## Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

## 1 John 1:8–9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice the memory verse song. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### Clean My Heart

Only God can clean the revenge out of our hearts and give us mercy to share with others. Let's sing about having a clean heart. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

### God Looks at the Inside

God can see our hearts. He knows if we want revenge on someone or if we are willing to show mercy. Let's sing "God Looks at the Inside." Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.



## Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

- Thank God for his protection and help in times of trouble like he gave David.
- Ask God for help to show mercy and forgiveness to those who hurt us.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins

*(repeat)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins

*(repeat)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## Clean My Heart

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?

Does my heart need  
help, O Lord?

Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?

Is it him I want to please?

Does my heart need  
help, O Lord?

Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Please, clean my heart today!

Please, clean my heart today!

## God Looks at the Inside

For the Lord does not see

Like you and I see.

The Lord does not see

Like you and me.

We look at the outside—

“He’s tall and strong!”

God looks at the inside—

He knows what’s wrong.

We look at the outside—

“She’s pretty and smart!”

God looks at the inside—

He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the  
outside.

Don’t be fooled by only what  
you see.

God says what’s important’s on  
the inside,

That’s why I need him  
inside of me.

We look at the outside—

“He’s big! She’s fast!”

God looks at the inside—

Says, “The first will be last.”

We look at the outside—

“They’re rich! They’re smart!”

God looks at the inside—

He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the  
outside.

Don’t be fooled by only what  
you see.

God says what’s important’s on  
the inside,

That’s why I need him  
inside of me.

*(repeat)*

God looks at the inside—

He sees our heart.





# Unit Review

*A review of Lessons 71–79.*

## *Come On In*

Choose a Come On In activity.

## *Lesson Time*

You will use the Flip Chart to quickly review each lesson and sing the songs together.

## *Review Game*

**Bible Baseball:** Students will answer questions and make their way around the bases.

## *Memory Verse*

Students will review the memory verse by singing the memory verse song and taking turns reciting the verse. You may want to offer special prizes or treats.

## *Puppet Review*

Students will watch the special class puppets as they review some of the important points of the past lessons.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match\*
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn\*

Review Activity Sheet

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.\*

## **Lesson Time**

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible

## **Song Time**

Songs are interspersed throughout the review lesson. Remember to use the downloaded music to review the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- “1 John 1:8–9”
- “Clean My Heart”
- “God Looks at the Inside”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.

## **Review Game—Bible Baseball**

Instructions for the game are in the Review Game section later in the lesson.

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use.

Gather the following items:

- Three chairs or other appropriate items for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon or beach ball to use as a ball and bat

## **Puppet Review**

Print the Puppet Review Script for your use.

Make or purchase two puppets. Simple finger puppets work great, too!

Optional: recruit helpers for the puppets and print extra scripts as necessary.

## **Memory Verse**

Bring incentives such as prizes or treats.

## **Go to Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you for people of courage and faith including Gideon, Ruth, Samuel, David, and Jonathan. May my students avoid the sins that led Samson and Saul to lose the power of God in their lives. Help them apply the lessons they are learning to decisions they make and circumstances they face. May they develop a heart after your own heart, like David had.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 80*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (\*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

# Optional Supplements

## *Hands-On Activities*

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Review Puzzles\*  
Students will assemble puzzles made from each lesson Flip Chart.
- Choose a favorite or skipped activity from any of the previous nine lessons.

## Notes

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## Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Lesson Time

*Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.*

### **Prayer**

*This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.*

**We start our Bible lesson with prayer.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry for our sins.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

*Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.*

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

### **Bible Truths**

*These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.*

- ? Who should we worship? *The one true God.*
- ? When can we trust God? *All the time.*
- ? What should we do if we love God? *Obey him.*
- ? What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? *Wise.*

**K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson continues next. Go to page 157 for the Pre-K Lesson.**





# K-1<sup>st</sup> Review

## Lesson 71

Refer to Lesson 71 Flip Chart. The Israelites were living in a cycle of sin. They would sin by worshipping false gods, then God would send enemies to punish them. But when the people called out to him for help, God would send a judge to fight for them.

In this lesson, we learned about a judge named Gideon. But he wasn't any superhero; he was hiding from the enemy when God came to him and told him to lead the fight against the enormous Midianite army.

Gideon started out with an army of 32,000 men, but God didn't want them to think they could win all by themselves without him. So, he made Gideon's army smaller and smaller until there were only 300 men left.

- ? Finally, it was time to attack the enemy. Each of Gideon's men carried three things. Do you remember what they carried? *Torches, jars, and trumpets.*

At night, Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianite camp. They smashed their jars, raised their torches, and blew their trumpets, and with God's help, the Midianites were defeated! This was a victory that could only happen through God's power!

## Lesson 72

- ? Refer to Lesson 72 Flip Chart. The next judge we talked about was given great strength from God. What was his name? *Samson.*

Right! Samson was chosen by God to be a judge who would fight against the enemy Philistines. God wanted Samson to follow some rules, like never cutting his hair, to show that he was set apart for this special purpose.

Samson did many things with his great strength. Once when a lion attacked, he tore the lion to pieces with his bare hands! But Samson sinned by letting a woman named Delilah become more important to him than God. When Samson told Delilah the secret of his strength, she had someone shave his hair off. Then God took Samson's strength away. Samson was captured, blinded, and put in prison.

Later, when Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines, he prayed for strength one more time. God answered his prayer, and Samson pushed down the pillars that held up the building they were in, killing thousands of enemy Philistines!

## Lesson 73

Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart. We learned about a woman who lived during the time of the judges. When her husband died, she stayed with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and helped take care of her.

- ? Do you remember her name? *Ruth.*

- As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart to keep the students engaged.
- Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline as you review.

Ruth and Naomi were in trouble because they had no husbands to care for them. They were poor and needed food.

- ? How did Ruth get food for them? *She collected grain.*
- ? Who owned the field where Ruth got the grain? *Boaz.*

God led Ruth to work in Boaz's field. It turned out that Boaz was their redeemer. He was able to buy Naomi's land, marry Ruth, and take care of both women.

Boaz is like a picture of Jesus. Jesus is our Redeemer because he bought us back from sin when he died on the cross. Jesus took the punishment for sin that we deserve and promises eternal life in heaven to all who trust in him.

- Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson.

### Clean My Heart

Jesus bought us back from sin so we could have clean hearts and love and obey him. Let's sing the song we learned about clean hearts. *Have students stand and stretch then sing the song together.*

## Lesson 74

*Refer to the Lesson 74 Flip Chart.* In this lesson, we learned about Hannah who prayed for a son. She promised God that she would give her son back to him to serve the Lord. When her son Samuel was just a young boy, she took him to live at the tabernacle. His job was to help the high priest, Eli, who was supposed to lead the Israelites in worshipping the Lord. But Eli's two sons did wicked things, and the Israelites sinned against God. Because of their sin and wickedness, God gave Samuel a serious message to tell Eli.

- ? What was Samuel doing when God first spoke to him? *Sleeping.*
- ? What did Samuel do three times when he heard God call his name? *Ran to Eli's room, thinking it was Eli calling him.*

After the third time, Eli figured out it was God calling Samuel, and he told Samuel what to say if he heard his name again. God did call Samuel once more, and Samuel said, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." God told Samuel that Israel and Eli's family would be judged for their sin. Even though it was hard for Samuel to tell Eli such bad news, he obeyed God and gave the message to Eli.

Samuel continued to listen to God as he grew up. He became a prophet, a priest, and a judge, and God helped him in all he did.

## Lesson 75

*Refer to the Lesson 75 Flip Chart.* In this lesson, we saw that the Israelites didn't want to be ruled by judges or by God anymore. They wanted a human king.

- ? What was the name of the first king God chose? *Saul.*

Yes, God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. But Saul's heart was not right, and he disobeyed God. When his army was running away in fear, Saul

became worried and impatient and offered a sacrifice that only Samuel was supposed to do. Then when God commanded Saul and his army to totally destroy their enemies, the Amalekites, Saul kept the king and the best animals alive.

Saul made bad, sinful choices. He tried to do things his own way instead of obeying God completely. Now there would be consequences for his sin.

- ? What is a consequence? *When something bad happens because of a poor choice we made.*

The consequences of Saul's sin included losing his kingdom and his friendship with Samuel. But worse than that, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and a harmful spirit was sent to trouble him. God wanted complete obedience from Saul, and he expects the same from us.

## **Lesson 76**

*Refer to the Lesson 76 Flip Chart.* Since Saul would lose his kingdom, God told the prophet Samuel to anoint a new man to be king. Samuel went to the town of Bethlehem to see a man named Jesse who had eight sons. God had chosen one of them to be the next king of Israel.

First, Samuel saw Eliab, the oldest son, and thought he would be the king because Eliab was tall and strong. But Samuel was looking at the outward appearance and thought Eliab looked good on the outside.

- ? But what did God say he looked at? *The inside, the heart.*

Seven of Jesse's sons walked by Samuel, but God said no to all of them. Finally, Jesse sent for his youngest son, and God told Samuel to anoint him as the new king.

- ? What was the name of this son? *David.*

God chose David to be the next king of Israel because David had a heart after God's. He loved God and wanted the same things God wanted.

### **God Looks at the Inside**

Let's sing about how God looks at our hearts. Everyone stand up now.  
*Sing the song together.*

## **Lesson 77**

*Refer to the Lesson 77 Flip Chart.* David didn't become king right away, but he did begin working for King Saul. Remember, God had given Saul a harmful spirit that troubled him, so sometimes David came to Saul's home to play music for him on the lyre.

- ? What kind of instrument is a lyre like? *Like a small harp.*

David traveled back and forth from King Saul's court to his own home where he took care of his father's sheep. David was very good at protecting the sheep from bears and lions with his sling.

When war broke out, David's father sent him to visit his brothers at the army camp. While he was there, David heard the giant Philistine champion shouting at the Israelites.

? Who was the Philistine champion? *Goliath.*

Goliath made fun of God and the Israelites. He dared them to send someone to fight him, but they were all too afraid of this giant with his heavy armor and weapons.

David wasn't afraid. He trusted that God would help him win, so he faced Goliath with his sling and shepherd's staff. God made the stone fly from David's sling and hit the giant in the forehead—and down he fell! Then the Israelites chased the Philistines away, and the Israelites won!

## **Lesson 78**

*Refer to the Lesson 78 Flip Chart. In this lesson, we saw a great friendship between David and Jonathan.*

? Who was Jonathan's father? *King Saul.*

Both friends loved and trusted God. They were good friends and knew they could count on each other. God used their friendship to protect David from King Saul.

? Why did David need protection from Saul? What did Saul think of David? *He was very jealous of David.*

? When the harmful spirit came upon Saul, what did he do with his spear while David was playing the lyre? *He threw it at David.*

Right! Saul tried to kill David with his spear because he was so angry and jealous. The next time that happened, David had to run away from Saul. But he met up with Jonathan who told him to hide in the field until he could find out what Saul was up to.

? When Jonathan found out his father did want to kill David, what did Jonathan do to secretly warn David? *Pretended to practice shooting arrows in the field where David was hiding. His instructions to the boy collecting the arrows were really messages for David.*

The two friends were very sad as they said goodbye. But David had to go; he had to run for his life.

## **Lesson 79**

*Refer to the Lesson 79 Flip Chart. In this lesson, we followed David as he tried to hide from Saul. David went to the city of his enemies, the Philistines. But when they recognized David, he had to think of some way to get out of there fast—before they killed him.*

? What did David do? *Pretended to be a crazy man.*

After that, about 400 men came to join up with David. They stayed with him and helped him. Saul almost caught up to David again. While Saul and his army were on one side of a mountain, David and his men were

hurrying to get away on the other side of the mountain. Just as Saul's men were closing in, a messenger came and told Saul he needed to come right away, so Saul left.

There were times when David could have gotten revenge on Saul. When Saul came by himself into a cave, he didn't know David was hiding in there. David could have killed him but only cut off a piece of his robe. Later, David could have killed Saul when he sneaked into his camp. But once again, David chose not to.

- ? What did David take from Saul's camp to show him how close he had been without killing him? *Saul's spear and water jar.*

Saul had tried to kill David many times for no reason. But David chose to show mercy and forgiveness instead of revenge. David wanted to obey God. He had a heart to do what was right, and he was waiting for God to make him king at the right time.

Great job remembering our lessons. Let's play a game now!

Continue with the Review Game on page 161.



## Pre-K Review

### Lesson 71

*Refer to Lesson 71 Flip Chart.* The Israelites were living in a cycle of sin. They would sin by worshipping false gods, then God would send enemies to punish them. But when the people called out to him for help, God would send a judge to fight for them.

In this lesson, we learned about a judge named Gideon who led the fight against the enormous Midianite army. At first, Gideon had an army of 32,000 men, but God didn't want them to think they could win all by themselves without him. So, he made the army smaller and smaller until there were only 300 men left.

- ? When it was time to attack the enemy, each of Gideon's men carried three things. Do you remember what they carried? *Torches, jars, and trumpets.*

At night, Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianite camp. They smashed their jars, raised their torches, and blew their trumpets, and with God's help, Gideon won the battle!

### Lesson 72

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Right! Samson was chosen by God to fight against the enemy Philistines. God wanted Samson to follow some rules, like never cutting his hair, to show that God had set him apart for this special purpose.

- As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart to keep the students engaged.
- Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline as you review.

Samson did many things with his great strength. Once when a lion attacked, he tore the lion to pieces with his bare hands! But Samson sinned by letting a woman named Delilah become more important to him than God. Samson told Delilah the secret of his strength, and she had someone shave his hair off. Then God took Samson's strength away. Samson was captured, blinded, and put in prison.

Later, when Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines, he prayed for strength one more time. God answered his prayer, and Samson pushed down the pillars that held up the building they were in, killing thousands of enemy Philistines!

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*Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart.* In this lesson, we learned about a woman named Ruth who stayed with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and helped take care of her. Ruth and Naomi were in trouble because they had no husbands to care for them. They were poor and needed food.

- ? How did Ruth get food for them? *She collected grain.*
- ? Who owned the field where Ruth got the grain? *Boaz.*

God led Ruth to work in Boaz's field. It turned out that Boaz was their redeemer. He was able to buy Naomi's land, marry Ruth, and take care of both women.

Boaz is like a picture of Jesus. Jesus is our Redeemer because he bought us back from sin when he died on the cross. Jesus took our punishment for sin and promises eternal life in heaven to all who trust in him.

#### **Clean My Heart**

Jesus bought us back from sin so we could have clean hearts. Let's sing about that. *Have students stand and stretch then sing the song together.*

### **Lesson 74**

*Refer to the Lesson 74 Flip Chart.* In this lesson, we learned about Hannah who prayed for a son. She promised God that she would give her son back to serve the Lord. When her son Samuel was just a young boy, she took him to live at the tabernacle. His job was to help Eli, the high priest, who was supposed to lead the Israelites in worshipping the Lord. But Eli's two sons did wicked things, and the Israelites sinned against God. Because of their sin, God gave Samuel a serious message to tell Eli.

- ? What was Samuel doing when God first spoke to him? *Sleeping.*
- ? When Samuel heard his name, who did he think was calling him? *Eli.*
- ? What did Samuel do three times? *Ran to Eli's room.*

Eli figured out it was God calling Samuel, and he told Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." When God called Samuel again, he told Samuel that Israel and Eli's family would be punished for their sin

- Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson.

and wickedness. Even though it was hard for Samuel to tell Eli such bad news, he obeyed God and gave Eli the message.

Samuel continued to listen to God as he grew up. He became a prophet, a priest, and a judge, and God helped him in all he did.

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Saul made bad choices. He tried to do things his own way instead of obeying God completely. Now there would be consequences for his sin.

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## **Lesson 76**

*Refer to the Lesson 76 Flip Chart.* Since Saul would lose his kingdom, God told the prophet Samuel to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the next king of Israel.

First, Samuel saw Eliab and thought he would be king because he was tall and strong. But Samuel was looking at the outward appearance and thought Eliab looked good on the outside.

- ? But what did God say he looked at? *The inside, the heart.*

God said no to all seven sons who were there. Finally, Jesse's youngest son came, and God told Samuel to anoint him as the new king.

- ? What was the name of this son? *David.*

God chose David to be the next king of Israel because David had a heart after God's. He loved God and wanted the same things God wanted.

### **God Looks at the Inside**

Let's sing about how God looks at our hearts. Everyone stand up now.  
*Sing the song together.*

## **Lesson 77**

*Refer to the Lesson 77 Flip Chart.* David didn't become king right away, but he did start working for King Saul. Saul had a harmful spirit that troubled him, so David would come and play music for him on the lyre.

- ? What kind of instrument is a lyre like? *Like a small harp.*

David went back and forth from King Saul's court to his own home so he could care for his father's sheep and protect them from bears and lions with his sling.

When war broke out, David visited his brothers at the army camp. While he was there, David heard the giant Philistine champion shouting at the Israelites.

- ? Who was the Philistine champion? *Goliath.*

Goliath made fun of God and the Israelites. But they were all too afraid to fight this giant with his heavy armor and weapons.

David wasn't afraid. He trusted God to help him win, so he faced Goliath with his sling and shepherd's staff. God made the stone fly from David's sling and hit the giant in the forehead, and down he fell! Then the Israelites chased the Philistines away, and the Israelites won!

## **Lesson 78**

- ? Refer to the Lesson 78 Flip Chart. David became best friends with Jonathan. Who was Jonathan's father? *King Saul.*

Both friends loved and trusted God. They were good friends and knew they could count on each other. God used their friendship to protect David from King Saul.

- ? Why did David need protection from Saul? What did Saul think of David? *He was very jealous of David.*

- ? When the harmful spirit came upon Saul, what did he do with his spear while David was playing the lyre? *He threw it at David.*

Right! Saul tried to kill David with his spear. The next time it happened, David had to run and hide from Saul. But he met up with Jonathan who told him to hide in the field until he could find out what Saul was up to.

- ? When Jonathan found out his father did want to kill David, what did Jonathan do to secretly warn David? *Pretended to practice shooting arrows in the field where David was hiding. His instructions to the boy collecting the arrows were really messages for David.*

The two friends were very sad as they said goodbye. But David had to go; he was running for his life.

## **Lesson 79**

Refer to the Lesson 79 Flip Chart. David tried to hide from Saul. He went to the city of his enemies, the Philistines. But they knew who he was, so David had to get out of there fast—before they killed him.

- ? What did David do? *Pretended to be a crazy man.*



There were times when David could have gotten revenge on Saul. When Saul came by himself into a cave, he didn't know David was hiding in there. David could have killed him but only cut off a piece of his robe. Later, David could have killed Saul when he sneaked into his camp. But once again, David chose not to.

- ? What did David take from Saul's camp to show how close he had been without killing Saul? *Spear and water jar.*

Saul had tried to kill David many times for no reason. But David chose to show mercy and forgiveness instead of revenge. David wanted to obey God. He had a heart to do what was right, and he was waiting for God to make him king at the right time.

Great job remembering our lessons. Let's play a game now!

Continue with the Review Game below.



## Review Game—Bible Baseball

*We encourage you to play the following review game.*

### Materials

*Review Questions*

*Three chairs or other appropriate items for bases*

*Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon or beach ball to use as a ball and bat*

### Instructions

*Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student "up to bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.*

*You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.*

*For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon or beach ball for students to hit after they answer each question.*



## Puppet Review

*Use the puppets to act out the Puppet Review Script. The script is written for two puppets and the teacher. You may want to recruit helpers for the puppets.*

**Boys and girls, I'd like to introduce some friends of mine. They heard that we've been learning all kinds of wonderful things from the Bible. So they**

asked me if they could come and talk with us and see if we can answer some of their questions.

Here they are, (Puppet One and Puppet Two). *Introduce their names and have them greet the children. Then continue with the Puppet Review Script.*

## **Memory Verse**

*Sing the memory verse song together and then give students an opportunity to recite or sing the verse without help. You may want to offer special prizes or treats to those who do well or at least give it a good try.*

**1 John 1:8–9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **Group Prayer**

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Thank God for the ways he protects and helps us when we call to him.
- Pray that we will have a heart that trusts God completely.

# Song Sheet

## 1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin,  
If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves,  
we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins

*(repeat)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins

*(repeat)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.

*(to cleanse us, to cleanse us, yeah,  
yeah, yeah, yeah!)*

If we confess our sins,  
If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins.

1 John, 1 John, 1 John 1:8–9

## Clean My Heart

In my heart, what does God see?  
Is it him I want to please?

Does my heart need  
help, O Lord?

Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Please, clean my heart today!

In my heart, what does God see?

Is it him I want to please?

Does my heart need  
help, O Lord?

Clean out sin and make it yours!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Yes, I need Jesus!

Please, clean my heart today!

Please, clean my heart today!

## God Looks at the Inside

For the Lord does not see

Like you and I see.

The Lord does not see

Like you and me.

We look at the outside—

“He’s tall and strong!”

God looks at the inside—

He knows what’s wrong.

We look at the outside—

“She’s pretty and smart!”

God looks at the inside—

He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the  
outside.

Don’t be fooled by only what  
you see.

God says what’s important’s on  
the inside,

That’s why I need him  
inside of me.

We look at the outside—

“He’s big! She’s fast!”

God looks at the inside—

Says, “The first will be last.”

We look at the outside—

“They’re rich! They’re smart!”

God looks at the inside—

He sees our heart.

Don’t be fooled by what’s on the  
outside.

Don’t be fooled by only what  
you see.

God says what’s important’s on  
the inside,

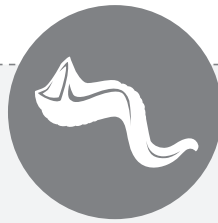
That’s why I need him  
inside of me.

*(repeat)*

God looks at the inside—

He sees our heart.





# Appendix

## *Come On In Games*

Choose one of these games to review the books of the Bible with your class. Use the Books of the Bible Flashcards (additional purchase), or print flashcards from the Teacher Digital Resources.

## *Memory Verse Games*

Choose one of these games to practice the memory verse with your class.

## *Lesson Review Games*

Choose one of these games to review with your class at the end of each lesson.

All game instructions and materials can also be accessed from the Teacher Digital Resources.

# Come On In Games

We recommend that you work with sets of 10 cards at a time then add on the next 10 until the order of all the cards has been memorized.

Allow students to refer to the Books of the Bible Poster during the games.

---

## Bible Book Match

Teams flip over flashcards to make matches.

### Materials

- Books of the Bible Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty

### Instructions

Print two sets of flashcards. Lay the flashcards out on the floor facedown or attach them to the wall. Divide the

class into two teams. Teams will take turns choosing two flashcards, turning them over to see if they match. If they do not match, flip the flashcards back over. Teammates can help each other decide which flashcards to choose. You may want to have the whole class play this game together.

As students find matches, discuss each Bible book (give a few details from the back of the color flashcards if you have those).

---

## Flashcard Take Away

Start with all of the flashcards—but wait! What happens when flashcards are taken away? Can students still say them in order?

### Materials

- Books of the Bible Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty

### Instructions

Print one set of flashcards. Put them in order on the wall or board as you recite them together. Choose a student to remove one card. Recite the books again. Continue to choose students to remove flashcards one at a time, reciting the whole list of books between each one. When all of the flashcards are gone, see if they can say the whole set together!

---

## I Have You Have

Students will respond to each other with the name of the book on their flashcard in the correct order. See if they can get through the whole set without starting over!

### **Materials**

- Books of the Bible Flashcards

### **Instructions**

Print one set of flashcards. Have students sit around a table or in a circle. Pass the flashcards out to the students. The person with the first book will say the name of the book on his card and the next person in order will respond, for

example, “I have Genesis, who has Exodus?” The person with the next card in order will respond with, “I have Exodus, who has Leviticus?” You could play a variation of this by having the whole class ask the question. For example, the student says, “I have Genesis.” Then the whole class can ask, “Who has Exodus?” Continue through the set.

Each student will respond and repeat until everyone has repeated their card. Allow students to help each other and to use the poster. Play with any set of 10 flashcards for an easy amount to remember. But if you have a larger class, add enough flashcards so every student has one or divide into groups.

---

## Popcorn

Students “pop” up as they say the name of the book on their flashcard. Start out slowly and see how fast you can go!

### **Materials**

- Books of the Bible Flashcards

### **Instructions**

Print one set of flashcards. Have students sit around a table or squat down in a circle. Pass the flashcards out to the students in order. Have the person with the first book on his

card begin by popping up and saying the name of the book. As you go around the circle, have each student take turns “popping” up as they say the next book.

Once you get to the end of the set of flashcards you are working on, start over until everyone is standing up. Then go around again and have the students sit back down when they say their book.

# Memory Verse Games

Allow students to refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during the games.

You may want to cover it up after a few weeks for more of a challenge.

---

## Balloon Bop and Pop

Each balloon has a word from the memory verse on it, but what happens when you pop one? You have to say the verse without that word!

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- One piece of yarn or rope for each balloon
- Bop and Pop Cards
- Clothespins or other clips to attach the balloons
- One balloon for every word in the memory verse
- One large safety pin
- Container

### Instructions

Inflate the balloons. Write one or more words from the memory verse on each balloon. Attach the balloons to the yarn or rope with the clothespins in the proper order. Hang the balloon rope low enough for students to reach the

balloons. Print and cut out one set of Bop and Pop Cards. Put the cards into the container. Have a safety pin available during the game.

Practice the verse with the students by gently “bopping” (or tapping) each balloon as you recite the verse. Refer to the words on the balloons. Choose a student to draw a Bop and Pop Card from the container.

If the card says “Bop!” the student will recite the verse while gently bopping each balloon. If the card says “Pop!” the student will choose a balloon to pop with the pin. After popping a balloon, have the students recite the memory verse including the missing word. Continue play until all students have had a turn or until all balloons are popped.

---

## Echo Echo

Do what I do—say what I say! Groups will echo each other as they recite the memory verse together.

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

### Instructions

Divide the class into two groups. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will take turns “echoing” what you say and do as you recite the verse. Repeat several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Switch around and let older students take turns leading.

---

## Egg Hunt

Hunt for all the parts of the memory verse hidden in the eggs! This game can be played all year round. The plastic eggs just happen to be great little containers that can be hidden easily.

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Strips of paper
- Plastic Easter eggs

### Instructions

Write the memory verse on strips of paper with one or two words on each strip. Put one strip inside of each plastic Easter egg. Hide all the eggs around the room.

Have the students search for the eggs and bring them back to the table. They will open the eggs and work together to put the verse in the proper order.

For a larger class, prepare more than one set of eggs (sorted by colors for different teams). Students can work in teams to collect and construct the verse.



---

## Follow the Leader

Follow the leader around the room. Say the verse and do the motion before moving on.

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Follow the Leader Cards
- Tape

### Instructions

Print and cut out the Follow the Leader Cards. Tape each one to walls or furniture randomly around the room. You will lead the students around the room and stop at each card. Read the card and lead the children to do what the card says while reciting the memory verse. Then move to the next one. You may want to repeat this activity or have students take turns leading.

---

## Freeze

Stomp like a dinosaur or spin in circles, but when it's time to freeze, get ready to say the memory verse.

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

### Instructions

Students will move around the room in a specified action you give, such as crawling, skipping, turning in circles, galloping, walking in giant steps, etc. Then when you say, “Freeze!” the students will stop and freeze in position.

Recite the memory verse, then begin again with a different action. You may need to show them how to freeze and hold a position.

---

## Funny Voices

Recite the memory verse together using different voices. Be squeaky like a mouse or whisper as quietly as you can. How many can you do?

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Funny Voice Strips
- Container

### Instructions

Print and cut out one set of the Funny Voice Strips and put them into a container. Choose a student to draw out a strip and lead the whole class in reciting the memory verse using that kind of voice. Have fun with it and repeat several times choosing a new voice each time!

---

## Popcorn

Students “pop” up as they say their part of the memory verse. Start out slowly and see how fast you can go!

### Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

### Instructions

Have students squat down in a circle. Begin by saying the first word in the memory verse. As you go around the circle,

have each student take turns “popping” up to say the next word then squatting back down. Repeat.

You may want to divide the class into two groups. Have the first group pop up together and say the first word then squat back down. Then the second group pops up together saying the next word and squats back down and so on until the verse is completed. Repeat—going faster and faster!

# Lesson Review Games

These games are written for team play, however, they can easily be adapted for smaller classes.

Allow students to refer to the Flip Chart during the games.

---

## Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets

with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

---

## Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Three chairs set out for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon or beach ball

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student

up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon or beach ball for students to hit after they answer each question.

---

## Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the finish wins.

---

## Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans

into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a “lane” from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

---

## Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (more or less

depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first person a review question. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the sheet of paper labeled #1, the first hole. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing teams to answer questions and putt the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the last hole wins.

# Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

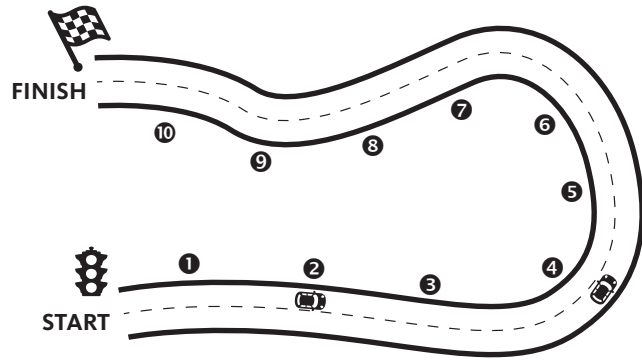
## Materials

- Review Questions
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label “Start” and “Finish” (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track (see example).

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each



team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

# Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

## Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or jokers down, too). Use the

masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue until all students have had a turn tossing the beanbag. Repeat questions and add more cards to the grid as necessary.