

# Saul Becomes King

1 Samuel 8:1-22; 9:1-2; 10:17-24

First- and second-graders haven't yet developed an ability to conceptualize a spectrum of possible choices. Instead, they see things as black or white. They like clear-cut rules and options they can categorize as right or wrong, good or bad. Your children will most likely think that the Israelites were bad for choosing against God and that those who choose God's way are good. Children may feel relief and gratitude to learn that God is patient with them and will forgive them even if they choose the "bad" way.



### ► Bible Point

God lets us choose to obey or disobey.

### Key Verse

"He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).


### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will choose to obey.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Obey the King</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game about choosing to obey.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Being Choosy</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game of trading, and then listen to what the Israelites wanted.	Bible, paper bag, assorted wrapped candy, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put candy in the paper bag.
	<b>Going Their Own Way</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Show what the Israelites decided, and think about the choice.	Bible, scissors, newspaper, My Bible Fun, bowl of water, pie tins, tempera paint, CD player, sponges, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Cut the new sponges you've gathered into enough sections for each child to have one. Each section should be a small oval.
	<b>Soaked With Patience</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game with water and sponges to learn about God's patience.	2 bowls of water, 2 empty bowls, 2 sponges	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Which Way Do I Go?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make quick decisions to think about going God's way in their lives.	My Bible Fun, markers	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***







## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Obey the King

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together. Then have them stand in a line at one end of the room. Choose a volunteer to play the “King” or “Queen” and stand at one end of the room with his or her back to the rest of the group.

Say: **Today we’re going to learn about making choices. One of the most important choices we can make is whether or not to obey. We are going to play a game about choosing to obey.**

Explain that the object of the game is to get to the other side of the room. Each child will have a chance to ask the King or Queen, “King [or Queen], may I take [a number of] steps forward?” Each child gets to decide how many steps he or she will ask for—up to 10 steps. Then the King or Queen will answer either “Yes, you may” or “No, you may not.” Tell children that if they forget to ask “May I...?” they must take three steps backward. They must also take three steps backward if they choose to disobey the King or Queen’s orders.

Begin the game. Allow the King or Queen to answer “yes” or “no” five times before having him or her switch roles with another child and continuing the game.

After several children have played the King or Queen, stop the game. Have the children sit together.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was our game like trying to choose whether to obey someone in real life? How was it different?**
- **If you choose to disobey someone like a parent or teacher, how does that person respond?**
- **How does God respond when we disobey?**

Say: **If you chose to disobey during our game, you had to take three steps backward, but you got to keep playing. The same kind of thing happens when we disobey God. We may have to face the consequences or punishments of bad choices that we make, but God forgives us and gives us more chances to obey him.**





## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Being Choosy

### What You'll Do

Say: Today we're going to learn about a choice the Israelites had to make. They had to choose to go either God's way or their own way. They had to choose whether or not to obey God. Before we begin our Bible story, we're going to play a game.

Instruct children to line up side by side against a wall. Explain to children that they are each going to get a piece of candy. If they are unhappy with the candy they get, they can trade it one time for another person's candy. The trading will begin with the second person in line trading with the first person in line. The third person in line can trade with either the first or second person, and so on. After the last person in line makes a trade, the first person in line can trade with anyone he or she chooses.

Begin the game. "Ooh" and "ahh" over each student's pick to encourage students to trade. After the last child has made his or her trade, allow children to eat their candy.

Ask:

- Were you happy with the candy that you ended up with? Why or why not?
- Why did you want to trade your candy?
- What did it feel like to want the candy another person had?

Say: In our Bible story, the Israelites wanted something that other people had. Let's listen to what they wanted.

Play "We Want a King!" (track 8 on the CD), and then have kids answer the following questions.

Ask:

- Why did the Israelites want a king?
- Do you think that's a good reason to want something? Why or why not?
- How was playing the candy-trading game like the Israelites wanting a human king?
- How did the Israelites disobey God by wanting a human king?

Say: We've all wanted something that someone else had. The Israelites thought they should be like the other nations. Those nations had human kings, so they thought they should have a human king, too.

The prophet Samuel talked to God about what the Israelites wanted. God was very sad that they wanted a human king because God was their king. God told Samuel



### Being Choosy Supplies

Bible  
paper bag  
assorted wrapped  
candy  
CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "We Want a King!"  
(track 8); "Samuel's  
Advice" (track 9)

### ALLERGY ALERT

### Being Choosy Easy Prep

Put candy in the paper  
bag.





### Going Their Own Way Supplies

Bible  
scissors  
newspaper  
My Bible Fun  
bowl of water  
pie tins  
tempera paint  
CD player  
sponges  
pens  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Jesus Loves Me  
Rock" (track 7)

### Going Their Own Way Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Cut the new sponges you've gathered into enough sections for each child to have one. Each section should be a small oval.

to warn the people about what it would be like to have a human king. Let's hear what Samuel told the people.

Play "Samuel's Advice" (track 9 on the CD). Then stop the CD.

Ask:

- What might happen if the Israelites choose a human king?
- What might happen if the Israelites choose God to continue being their one and only king?
- What choice do you think the Israelites should make? Why?

Say: **Let's find out what the Israelites decided.** Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 10:17-24, and read the passage aloud.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did the people choose? Why?
- How do you think God responded when the Israelites disobeyed?

Say: **The Israelites wanted what the other nations had. They chose to go their own way instead of God's way. We do the same thing sometimes, don't we? Let's pray about that.**

Pray: **Dear God, sometimes we choose to go our own way instead of your way. We're sorry we don't always choose your way. Thank you for being patient with us. Please help us to make good choices. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Now let's make something to show what the Israelites chose.**

## Going Their Own Way

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute one sponge section to each child. Have children turn to the "Going Their Own Way" section of their My Bible Fun pages. Have children gather around the newspaper-covered table with their pages.

Ask children to point out, on their My Bible Fun pages, God's way (the cross) and then the way the Israelites chose (the human king). Tell students that they're going to make sponge people and paint the people on the path they chose to take.

Demonstrate the process of sponge painting by dipping a sponge into the paint, dabbing it on the newspaper, and then pressing it on the page. When children understand how to sponge-paint on the path to the human king, allow them to begin working.





As students work, play “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 7 on the CD). When children have finished sponge-painting, have them set aside their My Bible Fun pages to dry. Help them rinse their sponges, squeeze out the excess water, and place their sponges with their My Bible Fun pages. Then show kids how to use pens to draw faces, arms, and legs on the paint people.



Say: **God chose for the Israelites a king who was just what they wanted—a king like other nations had. He even looked like the Israelites thought a king should look because he was taller than all the other Israelites.** Point to the man on the My Bible Fun page. **His name was Saul. When all the Israelites gathered together to meet Saul, they were very impressed. They shouted, “Long live the king!”**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did the Israelites think about their decision to go their own way by choosing a human king?**
- **What did God think about their choice?**
- **Why do you think God let the Israelites go their own way? Why didn't God force them to go his way?**

Say: **Let's see what our Key Verse says.** Open your Bible to 2 Peter 3:9, and show children the verse. Read it aloud and then have children repeat it with you. **“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). When we choose a way other than God's way, God is patient with us. God doesn't want anyone to perish or be separated from him forever. He wants us to come to repentance. That means he gives us a chance to be sorry. God wanted the Israelites to choose him instead of a human king. But God let them make their own choice. ► GOD LETS US CHOOSE TO OBEY OR DISOBEY so that we can learn. When we learn that we've chosen the wrong way, we can tell God we're sorry and then choose to go his way. Let's play a game to remind us how patient God is with us.**

## Soaked With Patience

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids form two groups. Have groups form two single-file lines. Set out a new sponge and a bowl of water for each team and an empty bowl at the opposite end of the room. Explain that children will soak up water with their sponges, run to the other end of the room and squeeze the water into the empty bowl, and then run back to their lines. Encourage them to fill up the empty bowl with all the water from the full bowl. Before you begin the game, explain that the water is kind of like God's patience and the empty bowl is kind of like our hearts when we disobey. Begin the game. When everyone has had a turn, have children set the sponges aside and find a partner. Have children discuss the following questions with their partners.

### Soaked With Patience Supplies

- .....
- 2 bowls of water
  - 2 empty bowls
  - 2 sponges





### Which Way Do I Go? Supplies

My Bible Fun  
markers

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to soak up all that water and empty it into the other bowl?
- Did you think your sponge would be able to move water? Why or why not?

Say: **God is full of patience, just as our sponges were full of water. Time after time we disobey God, and time after time he is patient with us. God is patient with us and forgives us—God fills us up again! Let's say our Key Verse again.**

Lead children in saying the Key Verse aloud: **"He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Which Way Do I Go?

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Now let's think about how we make choices in our own lives.**

Have students all stand in a line in the middle of the room. Explain that you're going to read a series of choices and actions. Children should follow the action that fits the choice they would make. Read the following scenarios, moving quickly but giving children time to respond.

- **You stay up late one night watching a movie even though you know church is the next morning. The next morning you're so tired. If you would choose to go to church, go touch the wall to your right. If you would choose to stay at home and sleep, go touch the wall to your left.**
- **You have homework due tomorrow, but tonight you want to go to a friend's house and play games. If you would choose to stay at home and do your homework, stand on your right leg. If you would choose to go to your friend's house and skip the homework, squat on the floor.**
- **Your mom asks you to pick up your room before you go outside to play. If you would choose to clean your room, walk quickly around the room. If you would choose to go outside without cleaning your room, skip around the room.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was making choices during this game like making choices in real life? How was it different?**







- How did you decide which way to go?
- What happens if you make a mistake and go a way other than God's way? How does God respond?

Say: Choices aren't always easy, are they? We don't always know if a choice is taking us God's way or a different way. We can read the Bible and pray and talk to other Christians to help us. The good news is that if we choose a way that isn't God's way, we can tell God we're sorry. God is patient with us and forgives us. Let's draw hearts on our My Bible Fun pages to show that we want to choose God's way.

Let kids use markers to draw hearts on the path to God on their My Bible Fun pages.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► GOD LETS US CHOOSE TO OBEY OR DISOBEY.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Each morning when you wake up, ask God to help you obey him that day.
- Take a walk in your neighborhood and pray for people who don't know Jesus.
- Obey your parents when they tell you to do something this week—the first time.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: Let's remember that ► GOD LETS US CHOOSE TO OBEY OR DISOBEY as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Fun





## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God lets us choose to obey or disobey. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer, asking God to help you obey him this week and thanking him for his patience and forgiveness.

