

# Saul Makes a Big Mistake

1 Samuel 13:1-14

First- and second-graders often define guidelines in negative terms. When asked about appropriate behavior, for instance, it is easier for them to list what they're not allowed to do than summarize appropriate behavior in positive terms. Today, in Saul's story, kids will hear an example of what not to do. Use this lesson to encourage children to turn to and trust God in every situation.



### ► Bible Point

Give your worries to God.

### Key Verse

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will trust God with their worries.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Giving Our Worries to God</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss waiting and worrying, name their worries, and sing a new song.	Bible, scissors, plain paper, crayons, markers, CD player, one copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Cut sheets of paper into fourths, one section per child.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Saul's Battles</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create puppets of Saul's troops, and hear about his battles.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, markers, My Bible Fun, craft sticks, tape, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Philistine Army" poster 	Make a crown for your head. Cut a sheet of construction paper in half lengthwise, and then tape one piece to the other to form a single long piece. Cut out crown-like points along one long side, in a zigzag fashion. Write "Saul" on one side of the crown, and tape the ends together to fit.
	<b>The Peace of God</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures to serve as reminders to turn to God with their worries.	My Bible Fun, crayons, colored pencils	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	<b>Waiting</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss Saul's situation and his difficulties with waiting.		

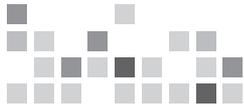
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Our Praying Hands</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make praying hands to hold their paper worries.	construction paper, pencils, scissors, stapler	Fold one sheet of construction paper for each student. Make a 2-inch fold along one long side of the paper using a fingernail or the handle of a pair of scissors to make a sharp crease. Then fold the paper in half the short way, again making a sharp crease, so that you have what looks like a card with a pocket inside.
	<b>Prayers and Petitions</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Pray, offering original petitions, and sing.	paper, crayons, markers, worry strips from Getting Started, praying hands from previous activity, CD player, one copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<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.***





### Give Our Worries to God Supplies

Bible  
scissors  
plain paper  
crayons  
markers  
CD player  
one copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Do Not Be Anxious About Anything" (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 10)

### Give Our Worries to God Easy Prep

Cut sheets of paper into fourths, one section per child.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Give Our Worries to God

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Ask:

- **What are some things we have to wait for in our lives?**
- **When has it been especially hard for you to wait for something?**
- **Sometimes we begin to worry as we wait; what do you worry about?**

Give each child a paper section, and set out crayons and markers. Have kids write or draw on their papers a worry they face. Be prepared to help kids with spelling, and encourage kids to keep their sentences short. For example, if a child says he or she is worried about a spelling test that's coming up, help the child write "spelling" or "school." Make sure kids write their names on their papers.

Ask:

- **What do you do when you're worried?**
- **What should we do when we're worried?**

Open your Bible to Philippians 4:6, and show the passage to the children.

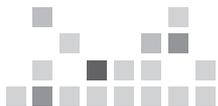
Say: **There are many passages in the Bible that teach us what to do when we're worried. This advice is in the letter that Paul wrote to the Philippians.**

Point out where it says "Philippians," and also point out the passage. Read the passage slowly so children can hear each word: **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).** Then have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

**The Bible tells us that when we feel worried, we should pray and tell God about our worries. When we do that, we can feel God's special peace. Let's do that right now with a fun circle-prayer. We'll give our worries to God by placing our paper worries inside the Bible.**

Explain that as you pass the Bible around the circle, each person can say, "God, I give you my worry about [what's on the paper]." Then have each child place his or her paper inside the front cover of the Bible. When the Bible comes back to you, close the prayer by thanking God for caring about our worries and giving us peace. Set the papers aside for use later in the lesson.





Say: **It's good to ► GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO GOD.** We have a song today about giving our worries to God—and the song is our Key Verse, too! Let's listen to the song once before we all sing it together.

Play "Do Not Be Anxious About Anything" (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 10 on the CD) once for the kids. Then invite them to sing along as you play the song a few more times. (Refer to the copies of the lyrics if necessary.)

 **Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.**  
**Do not be anxious about anything,**  
**But in everything, by prayer and petition,**  
**With thanksgiving,**  
**Present your requests to God.**  
**Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.**

**And the peace of God (peace of God),**  
**Which transcends all understanding (transcends all understanding),**  
**Will guard your hearts (guard your hearts)**  
**And your minds in Christ Jesus (minds in Christ Jesus).**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

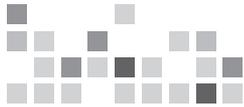
**Do not be anxious about anything,**  
**But in everything, by prayer and petition,**  
**With thanksgiving,**  
**Present your requests to God.**  
**Yeah, yeah.**

**Do not be anxious about anything,**  
**But in everything, by prayer and petition,**  
**With thanksgiving,**  
**Present your requests to God.**  
**Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.**

"Do Not Be Anxious About Anything" (Philippians 4:6-7) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Today you're learning to ► GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO GOD.** In today's lesson we'll learn about a king who had to wait while his enemies were close by. This king got into trouble for letting his worries get the better of him. Let's see what happened!





## Saul's Battles Supplies

Bible  
 construction paper  
 scissors  
 markers  
 My Bible Fun  
 craft sticks  
 tape  
 CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Saul's Battles"  
 (track 11)  
 "Philistine Army" poster

## Saul's Battles Easy Prep

Make a crown for your head. Cut a sheet of construction paper in half lengthwise, and then tape one piece to the other to form a single long piece. Cut out crown-like points along one long side, in a zigzag fashion. Write "Saul" on one side of the crown, and tape the ends together to fit.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Saul's Battles

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 13:1-14, and point out the passage to kids.

Say: **Our Bible story today comes from 1 Samuel 13:1-14. When Saul was king, he had to get ready for battle with the Philistines. The Philistines were the Israelites' biggest enemy, especially during the time that Saul was king.**

**Saul chose 3,000 men to help him fight the Philistines. Two thousand of the men went with Saul, and 1,000 of them went with his son, Jonathan. Let's pretend we're there to help Saul and Jonathan prepare for battle.**

Have children turn to the "Saul's Battles" section of today's My Bible Fun pages. Set out craft sticks and tape. Have kids cut off the bottom of the page on the horizontal cut line. Then have each child cut out just one of the soldiers from the cut-off portion of the student page and tape it to a craft stick so that the soldier can be held like a puppet. Have kids write their names on the backs of the puppets.

Say: **Jonathan commanded his 1,000 men to victory, beating the Philistines in that battle. Saul sounded trumpets to boast of the victory and to let all of Israel know that Jonathan's army had won the battle.**

Place the crown on your head, and explain that you'll play King Saul. Lead kids around the room as they "march" their soldiers in the air. Lead kids in making trumpet sounds as they march, ending the walk with a loud, victorious cheer as they celebrate Jonathan winning the battle.

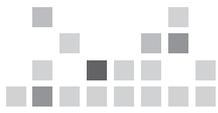
Say: **But the rest of the Philistine army heard about the battle, and they were mad. They wanted to get even with Israel, and they started getting ready for an even bigger battle. So Saul called more Israelites to join his army.**

Have each child cut out the second soldier from the student page and tape it to a craft stick.

Say: **Meanwhile, the Philistines were getting ready for the big battle. Listen to what the Bible says in 1 Samuel 13:5: "The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore." That's a lot of soldiers to have ready! Let's pretend that you're the Israelite army and see how they must have felt.**

Tell the kids that you are at the battle site and that they are to march around the room one time and then march their soldiers toward you.





Say: **Let's listen to what the Israelites might have heard as they marched toward the battle site.**

Play "Saul's Battles" (track 11 on the CD). Have children march around the room as the sounds of the Philistine army grow larger and larger. Listen for a boastful-sounding chuckle followed by a voice proclaiming, "We have as many soldiers as there are grains of sand on the shore!" Pause the CD.

Then unfold the "Philistine Army" poster, fold by fold, emphasizing as you do that the Israelites saw more and more Philistines in that enemy army.

Say: **Look at the size of this Philistine army!**

Ask:

- **The Bible says that the Philistines had as many soldiers as sand on the seashore; how many soldiers do you think that was?**
- **How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw how many soldiers the Philistines had?**

Have kids form pairs. After each of the following questions, have partners pretend that their soldier puppets are talking to each other. Encourage kids to have their soldiers say what they think the real Israelite soldiers said to each other that day.

Ask:

- **How do your Israelite soldiers feel about what they see ahead of them?**
- **What do you think your soldier would've said to King Saul?**

Have kids gather around you, and let their soldiers "talk" to King Saul.

Say: **The Bible tells us that the soldiers of Israel knew that their army was in big trouble. They hid in caves and bushes, among the rocks, and in pits and wells. Some even crossed the Jordan River to get away. Show me what they were doing.**

Start the CD again. As you listen to the jeering sounds of the Philistine army and the fearful statements of the Israelites, allow students to sneak away and hide their puppets under chairs and tables, in corners and closets, in a safe manner. As King Saul, you should stay near the battle site. Then stop the CD.

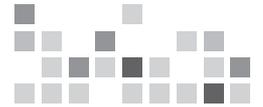
Say: **The Bible says, "The troops...were quaking with fear" (1 Samuel 13:7). Show me what that looks like.**

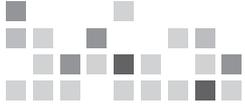
### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think will happen?**
- **Who could help the Israelites?**
- **What do you think Saul should do?**





### The Peace of God Supplies

My Bible Fun  
crayons  
colored pencils

### The Peace of God Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.

Say: **When we're in trouble and feel like everything's going against us, the best thing for us to do is pray! Saul and his army were very worried the day of the big battle. Before we find out what they did, let's find out what they should have done! Let's look at our Key Verse again.**

Have kids repeat the Key Verse with you: **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).** This verse could have helped Saul and his army the day of the big battle. Let's talk a little more about being worried.

## The Peace of God

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Turn to the "Peace of God" section in your My Bible Fun pages.** If appropriate, ask for a volunteer to read the heading in the first box: "Dear God, help me when I am worried." Ask kids to form pairs, and set out crayons and colored pencils. Have one partner in each pair model an expression of intense worry while the other partner draws a picture of a worried person's face in the first box.

Then have partners switch roles. When everyone has finished drawing, call kids together.

Say: **Look at the Bible verse written in the next box. I'll read it for you: "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). Close your eyes and take a moment to picture a person who is feeling very peaceful.** Give the kids five seconds of silence to start thinking.

**Think about what that peaceful person is doing and what he or she looks like.** Give the kids five more seconds of silence, and then direct them to draw a picture of that peaceful person in the second box. Then say that it's time to find out the end of the Bible story.

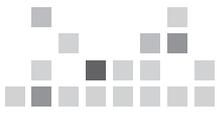
## Waiting

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's find out what happened to King Saul as he faced all those Philistine soldiers, especially since his own army was hiding and running away. According to our Key Verse, what should King Saul have done with his worries?** Pause to let kids answer.

**That's not what Saul did, though. Samuel, the prophet, had told Saul to wait for him to come and he would tell him what to do. Samuel also said he would offer a sacrifice to God when he came. These instructions from Samuel weren't just Samuel's idea; they were instructions from God!**





So, while some of his soldiers were running away in fear, Saul just had to wait... and wait...and wait. Saul waited for seven days, as he was commanded, but when Samuel hadn't come and more and more soldiers were running away, Saul was very worried.

Ask:

- What should we do when we're worried?

Say: Instead of turning to God with his worries and asking for help, Saul tried to solve the problem on his own. He didn't wait for Samuel. Instead, he offered the sacrifice himself. By doing this, Saul broke the special commandment that God had given him through Samuel. When Samuel finally arrived, he was angry because Saul hadn't waited like he had been told. So Samuel had to tell Saul that God was going to pick someone else to be king.

In this story, Saul shows us what not to do when we're worried. He tried to fix the problem himself, instead of turning to God. Let's make something that will help you remember to ► GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO GOD.

### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Our Praying Hands

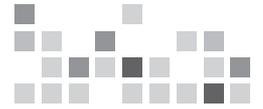
### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: You're going to make your own set of praying hands to remind you to pray to God about your worries.

Distribute the folded pieces of paper, and show the kids how to hold their non-dominant hand on the paper for tracing, with the pinkie edge of the hand and the bottom of the hand at the wrist at the folds of the paper.

Say: You'll be tracing around only part of your hand. You won't trace around the bottom of your hand or the pinkie side of the hand because we want to make sure that we don't cut those folded edges of the paper.

Demonstrate the tracing for the kids, emphasizing how you start tracing at the bottom of the hand under the thumb and finish at the pinkie. Emphasize that kids shouldn't trace their whole hands.



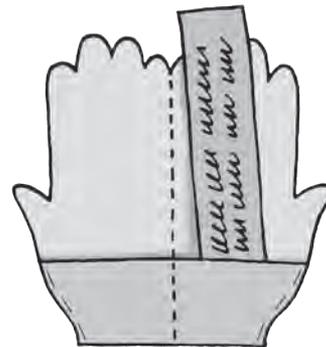
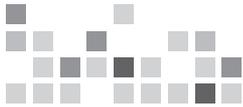
### Our Praying Hands Supplies

- construction paper
- pencils
- scissors
- stapler

### Our Praying Hands Easy Prep

Fold one sheet of construction paper for each student. Make a 2-inch fold along one long side of the paper using a fingernail or the handle of a pair of scissors to make a sharp crease. Then fold the paper in half the short way, again making a sharp crease, so that you have what looks like a card with a pocket inside.





Demonstrate cutting on the traced line, again emphasizing that they are to cut only on the pencil line. After cutting, show how the praying hands open and close like a book and how there is a pocket inside because you didn't cut along the folds. You will use these praying hands to pray with the class at the end of the lesson. Set out scissors, and watch carefully as kids cut out their praying hands.

After each child has finished cutting, open up the praying hands, including those you made for the class, and staple at the edges of the pockets.

### Prayers and Petitions Supplies

paper  
crayons  
markers  
worry strips from  
Getting Started  
praying hands from  
previous activity  
CD player  
one copy per child of  
the lyrics page (at the  
end of the lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Do Not Be Anxious  
About Anything"  
(Philippians 4:6-7)  
(track 10)

## Prayers and Petitions

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Tell students to tuck their first worry (from the first activity) into their praying hands. Then set out paper, crayons, and markers; and let kids write or draw about other worries they have. Have kids put each worry inside their praying hands.

Say: **At home you can sit with your praying hands and tell God about each thing you have written or drawn, asking him for help with your worries.**

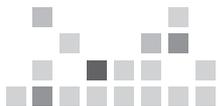
Remind students that the more we give our worries to God, the more we will feel the peace of mind that is promised to us.

Say: **Let's sing our Key Verse song one more time to help us remember what we should do when we worry.**

Play "Do Not Be Anxious About Anything" (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 10 on the CD) and have kids sing the song as a conclusion to the lesson.

 **Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.**  
**Do not be anxious about anything,**  
**But in everything, by prayer and petition,**





With thanksgiving,  
Present your requests to God.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

And the peace of God (peace of God),  
Which transcends all understanding (transcends all understanding),  
Will guard your hearts (guard your hearts)  
And your minds in Christ Jesus (minds in Christ Jesus).

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Do not be anxious about anything,  
But in everything, by prayer and petition,  
With thanksgiving,  
Present your requests to God.  
Yeah, yeah.

Do not be anxious about anything,  
But in everything, by prayer and petition,  
With thanksgiving,  
Present your requests to God.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

“Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**4** LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how you can ► GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO GOD.**

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:

- Find another verse in the Bible that can remind you of how God helps you when you're worried.
- Each time you feel worried, write it down. Then look at that list and pray about each worry before you go to bed.
- Draw or paint a picture of how God helped you when you were worried.

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Fun





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.**

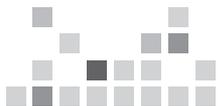
Say: **This week, ► GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO GOD by following through on your Daily Challenges.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we can give our worries to God. 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).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he always takes care of us. Pray: **God, even when things are scary or hard in our lives, we know we can trust you to take care of us. Please comfort us as we bring our worries to you. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Lyrics ■■■■

# Do Not Be Anxious About Anything

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.  
Do not be anxious about anything,  
But in everything, by prayer and petition,  
With thanksgiving,  
Present your requests to God.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

And the peace of God (peace of God),  
Which transcends all understanding (transcends all understanding),  
Will guard your hearts (guard your hearts)  
And your minds in Christ Jesus (minds in Christ Jesus).

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Do not be anxious about anything,  
But in everything, by prayer and petition,  
With thanksgiving,  
Present your requests to God.  
Yeah, yeah.

Do not be anxious about anything,  
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With thanksgiving,  
Present your requests to God.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

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**OK**  
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