



Saul Becomes King

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




Most of the time, 5- and 6-year-olds enjoy doing things for others. It makes them feel appreciated and valued when they help sweep the floor or set the table. This is a great age to encourage them to keep helping others. Kids this age are growing in empathy and ability to see the needs of others. Use this lesson to help kids make the connection that when they serve others, it pleases God, too.



► **Bible Point**
God's way is best.

Key Verse
"Put your hope in God"
(Psalm 42:11).


Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will look to God because God's way is best.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Hopeful Rhyme Learn a finger play about hope.	Bible Teacher Pack: Plastic Lei 	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a paper crown has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet Teacher Pack: Paper Crown 	Place the paper crown in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time Use sequencing cards to learn about Saul and the Israelites.	Bible Teacher Pack: "Saul Becomes King" sequencing cards 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Kingly Crowns Decorate crowns like the one King Saul might have worn.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, glitter glue, scissors, 1 sheet of construction paper per 3 children, stapler</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Cut one 3x9-inch strip of construction paper for each child to use for the back of his or her crown.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Apple Crowns Create crowns for their snacks.</p>	<p>1 napkin per child, ½ of an apple per child, knife, 6 pretzels and 6 grapes per child</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Building a Kingdom Have kings direct the construction of a castle.</p>	<p>a pile of wooden building blocks, watch with a second hand, crown from the “Kingly Crowns” activity Teacher Pack: Paper Crown </p>	
	<p>Center 4: Leis of Patience Make necklaces, and lead each other in a rhyme about God’s patience.</p>	<p>large plastic beads, 18-inch piece of yarn per child</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Accept a challenge to remember God’s way is best.</p>		
	<p>“Put Your Hope in God” Prayer Sing a song about hope in God.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Are You Listening?”
(track 7); “Love and
Pray” (Matthew 5:44)
(track 4)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play “Are You Listening?” (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of “Frère Jacques” and lead children in doing the motions.



Are you listening (*cup hands behind ears*)

Are you listening (*keep hands behind ears*)

To the Lord? (*lift your right hand up*)

To the Lord? (*lift your left hand up*)

Welcome to our church to (*shake hands with a partner*)

Hear what God will tell us (*shake hands with another partner*)

Through his Word. (*place both hands together like a book*)

Through his Word. (*keep hands shaped like a book*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we’re learning that ► GOD’S WAY IS BEST. Let’s sing “Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44).**

Begin the CD again, and lead children in singing “Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44) (track 4 on the CD). Encourage children to join you in repeating the verses.



And he says,

Love, love, love your enemies.

Love, love, love your enemies.

Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

(Repeat.)

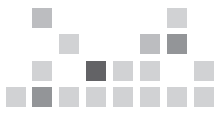
This love is surprising.

This love is unique.

This love comes from Jesus.

Let us hear him speak.





And he says,
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Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

“Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44) by Rob Biagi. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Hopeful Rhyme

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 42:11, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “Put your hope in God.” Let’s say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you.

Ask:
■ **What does it mean to be hopeful?**

Say: **When you’re hopeful, it means you calmly wait for something—it’s like calmly waiting for a turn to play with a toy.**

Ask:
■ **When have you had to wait for something?**

Hopeful Rhyme Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
Plastic Lei





Say: **Let's learn a rhyme to help us remember how we can put our hope in God. Since I'm the teacher, I get to wear this lei around my neck. In a little while, you may get a turn to wear the lei and lead us in the rhyme.** Teach the following finger play to the kids.

You can put your hope in God (*point to each person around the circle*)

Aren't you glad it's true? (*clap your hands to the beat*)

When you're happy, sad, or blue (*make a thumbs up sign, make a thumbs down sign, and then act like you're crying*)

You can put your hope in God. (*point to each person around the circle and end by pointing up at God*)

Place the lei around someone's neck and have him or her lead the others in saying the rhyme again. Continue so several kids have a chance to wear the lei and lead the rhyme.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it easy or hard to wait your turn to wear the lei?
- How does it feel when you get something you hoped for?
- What about when you don't?

Say: **We can always put our hope in God, because he loves us and knows what's best for us.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo found for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the crown around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Theo's News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)
Paper Crown

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the paper crown in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a crown in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, in today’s story Samuel gives someone a crown.

Teacher: Kids, who usually wears a crown?

(Pause to allow kids to answer your question.)

Theo: Sometimes kings or queens wear crowns—even today. In today’s Bible story, you’re going to learn about the first king for the people called the Israelites.

Teacher: Let’s find out who God told Samuel to choose as the new king.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week’s use.

Bible Time

What You’ll Do

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 8, and show the children the words.

Say: **Last week, we learned that we should listen to God. Today’s Bible story tells us ► GOD’S WAY IS BEST.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you.

Choose five children to hold the five sequencing cards for the rest of the children to see, in order from left to right. Begin with Card 1. Have the child holding Card 1 hold the picture above his or her head so the rest of the class can see the picture and you can read the words while standing behind the child. Continue to read each card in the same fashion until you have completed the story.

Call up five new children to help retell the Bible story. This time as you have the children hold up their cards, ask them what they remember about what is happening in the picture they are holding. Encourage kids to be patient as they wait for their turn to tell their part of the story. When you’ve told the story enough times to involve every child, ask the following questions.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why did God’s people want to have a king?**
- **How do you think God felt when the people didn’t want him to be king anymore?**
- **Why is God’s way best for you?**

Say: **God gave the people Saul to be their first human king. God knew that they would have hard times, but he also knew that one day the people would learn that ► GOD’S WAY IS BEST. Let’s always remember that God’s way is best. Let’s do what God wants us to do.**



Bible Time Supplies

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Bible
Teacher Pack
“Saul Becomes King”
sequencing cards





Center 1: Kingly Crowns Supplies

My Bible Playground
glitter glue
scissors
1 sheet of construction
paper per 3 children
stapler

Center 1: Kingly Crowns Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
7 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book. Cut one
3x9-inch strip of con-
struction paper for each
child to use for the back
of his or her crown.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Kingly Crowns

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 7 pages from My Bible Playground and let kids write their names on the pages. Help the children fold their papers lengthwise, and then have kids use glitter glue to decorate the crowns. Staple the construction-paper strips to the crowns so that the crowns fit on the children's heads.

Have kids take turns being the king and telling others what to do. For example, the kings could order: "Clean up the glitter glue," "Throw away the scrap paper," or "Push the chairs back under the table." Gather the royalty and discuss these questions.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did it feel to be a king?
- How did you feel when you had to do what the king told you to do?
- Why do you think the Israelites wanted a human king?
- Why do you think God's way is the best?

Say: **God's way is the best because he loves us and wants the best for our lives. God was patient with the Israelites, and he gave them their king. He knew they would soon learn that ► GOD'S WAY IS BEST. God is patient with us today, too. We may make mistakes, but God is patient. God helps us know that his way is best for our lives.**



CENTER 2:

Apple Crowns

What You'll Do

Each child will need a napkin, a half of an apple or cross section, six pretzel sticks, and six seedless grapes. Have kids wash their hands (or use wet wipes) and then sit down to create their snacks. Tell kids that they'll use the supplies to make "crowns" like King Saul may have worn. Have each child stick six pretzels into his or her apple section. Then have children create "jewels" by sticking the grapes on the ends of the pretzel sticks.

Say: **The Israelites wanted a king to lead them. The Israelites didn't know what was best for them, but God did. We know that ► GOD'S WAY IS BEST.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

Building a Kingdom

What You'll Do

For this activity you will need wooden building blocks, a watch with a second hand, and two crowns.

Say: **God's people thought that King Saul would take care of them and save them from their enemies, but only God could do that. One human king could not have the best plan—only God has the best plan. Let's play a game to see what it's like to have a king.**

Form two teams, and give each team half the blocks. Choose one child in each team to be king and wear the crown. The goal is for each team to use the blocks to build a castle as tall as possible in 30 seconds. Kings may not touch the blocks but can only direct teammates. Teammates can only build as directed by the king. The king must tell one child at a time which block to use and where to put it. For example, "Jamie, put the red block on top of the blue block." Allow kids to build for 30 seconds, and then start over with new kings on each team. After several rounds, put the crowns away and have the children build their castles together, without the directions of a king.

Ask:

- Was it harder or easier to build the castle without a king?

Say: **Sometimes we act like kings and think our way is best. We may decide we don't want to share our toys, or we may decide we want to stay up and play instead of going to bed when mom or dad says.**



Center 2: Apple Crowns Supplies

- 1 napkin per child
- ½ of an apple per child
- knife
- 6 pretzels and 6 grapes per child

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Building a Kingdom Supplies

- a pile of wooden building blocks
- watch with a second hand
- crown from the "Kingly Crowns" activity
- Teacher Pack Paper Crown





Center 4: Leis of Patience Supplies

large plastic beads
18-inch piece of yarn
per child

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What problems could come from not sharing or staying up too late?
- Why do we believe God's way is best?

Say: **We know ► GOD'S WAY IS BEST** because he is very wise and loves us very much. He will always do what is best for us. God helped his people learn that his way is best. We can trust that God's way is best for us, too.

■ CENTER 4:

Leis of Patience

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Earlier today, you hoped for a turn to wear a plastic lei and lead us in saying a rhyme. Now each one of you is going to make your own necklace to wear as we say the rhyme again. You'll have to wait patiently while you get all of your supplies. Once everyone has the supplies, you can start stringing the beads on your yarn.**

Have kids sit around the table. One at a time, give each person a piece of yarn and several beads. Thank the children for patiently waiting their turn to get the supplies and patiently stringing the beads on the yarn. Help the children tie their necklaces and wear them as they all say the rhyme again.

You can put your hope in God (*point to each person around the circle*)

Aren't you glad it's true? (*clap your hands to the beat*)

When you're happy, sad, or blue (*make a thumbs up sign, make a thumbs down sign, and then act like you're crying*)

You can put your hope in God. (*point to each person around the circle and then point up*)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like for you to wait patiently to get all of your supplies?
- How can you be more patient with others?

Say: **The Israelites were not patient. They wanted a human king to lead them. God was patient with the Israelites. Even though they made mistakes, God helped them through the years to learn that ► GOD'S WAY IS BEST.** God is also patient with us as we learn to put our hope in God, because his way is best for our lives.





5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD'S WAY IS BEST.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how God's way is best.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Play a version of Simon Says with your friends. Instead of calling out "Simon says," use "God says." Explain to your friends that God's way is always best.
2. Create your own crown out of household items. Wear your crown around the house, and tell each family member what you learned about how God's way is best.
3. Ask a parent or a grandparent to tell you about a time they listened to God and discovered how God's way is best.

Say: If you want to play Simon Says, circle choice number 1. If you want to create a crown, circle choice number 2. If you want to talk to a parent or grandparent, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs.

"Put Your Hope in God" Prayer

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle, and lead them in singing the following prayer to the tune of "London Bridge."

We can put our hope in God,
Hope in God, hope in God.
We can put our hope in God.
His way is best.

At the end of the song, have all the kids join you in saying "In Jesus' name, amen."



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

