

Saul Makes a Big Mistake 1 Samuel 13:1-14

n healthy children, stress is usually the result of external factors. Research indicates that stress produces a hormone that over time can shrink the area of the brain responsible for learning. Young children are especially sensitive to the effects of stress. But physical contact actually minimizes the damaging effects of stress. God protects young children through the caring hands of those who love them.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player, rattle Teacher Pack: CD	
Bible Exploration	Don't Worry, Be Happy Learn that we shouldn't worry.	mirror, craft stick, tape Teacher Pack: "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture	Fold the "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture on the dotted line, and tape the picture to a craft stick.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Crush Those Worries Crumple paper "worries."	pillowcase, rubber band, variety of papers	Fill a pillowcase with a variety of crumpled papers to make interesting sounds. Try using cellophane from a wrapped package, newsprint, foil, and junk mail. Close the pillowcase with a rubber band.
	God Gives Happiness Play a musical game.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point God says don't worry.

Key Verse

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will begin to learn that they can give their worries to God.

•••••







TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	We Don't Have to Worry Learn that God doesn't want us to worry.	craft stick, tape Teacher Pack: "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture	Fold the "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture on the dotted line, and tape the picture to a craft stick.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Knock Out the Worry Play a game to see that God doesn't want us to worry and be sad.	several paper-towel tubes, ball, marker	Draw sad faces on several paper-towel tubes, and then set the paper-towel tubes up like bowling pins, staggering them in two rows on the floor.
	Don't Be Sad, Just Be Glad Do an action rhyme to see that we don't have to worry.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	We Don't Need to Worry Discover that God doesn't want us to worry.	Bible, craft stick, tape Teacher Pack: "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture	Fold the "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture on the dotted line, and tape the picture to a craft stick.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Toss Out the Worries Find sad faces and throw them away.	1 or 2 ping-pong balls per child, permanent marker, 2 baskets	Gather two baskets and enough ping-pong balls for each child to have one or two. Draw happy faces on half the balls and sad faces on the other half.
	Turn a Frown Upside Down Manipulate a mouth to show happy and sad.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Turn a Frown Upside Down" page (at the end of the lesson), 1 Velcro self-stick circle per child, scissors	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book, and cut out the mouth shape from each handout.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Saul Makes a Big Mistake

1 Samuel 13:1-14



Worried Saul Takes Action, Disobeys Samuel

As the Israelite army gathered to prepare for a counterattack by the Philistines, they began to fear, thinking of the thousands of chariots, horses, and soldiers the Philistines could muster. And as some of the Israelite soldiers began to desert, Saul panicked. Samuel had told Saul to wait seven days for him to arrive at Gilgal before taking action (1 Samuel 10:8). Samuel wanted to offer sacrifices to God and prepare the army spiritually for the battle that was to come.

In his fear and anxiety, Saul overstepped his authority and proceeded with the sacrifices without Samuel. Saul was king, but he was not God's appointed spiritual leader. Saul's impatient actions demonstrated at least two flaws: He trusted his army more than he trusted God, and he thought performing a ritual could take the place of genuine faith.

Saul's Disobedience Costs Him the Throne

Saul could have prayed to God at any time, seeking God's guidance and protection. He could have expressed his fears to God and asked for confidence to proceed at the proper time. Instead, he disobeyed a command of God that had come through Samuel, and he took matters into his own hands because of his lack of faith.

The punishment for Saul's offense was severe: Saul's descendants would not inherit the throne of Israel. God had allowed Israel to have a king, but he wanted that king to honor and follow him. Saul sacrificed his dynasty through his willful disobedience. He was more concerned with consolidating his power and pacifying his people than with obeying God. Had Saul confessed his worries to God and trusted God to take care of him and win the battle for Israel, things may have been different. However, it's impossible to know

if Saul's lack of faith and tendency toward fear would have emerged later even if he had waited for Samuel.

The Jesus Connection

It's easy to get worried and fearful when things don't look like they're going our way, but because we have Jesus in our lives, we don't need to be afraid!

How well does your life demonstrate the faith you have? In what areas does your trust fall short? Pray that you'll show trust in your actions. You can write your prayer here.

-	
-	
-	

Summer Quarter

Lesson 8



INFANT



Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing or listen to "We Don't Worry Anymore" (track 9) to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore" anytime during the lesson. Play the song as you shake a rattle in a baby's line of vision.

We don't worry anymore, hallelujah! We don't worry anymore, hallelujah!

For our God is in control, hallelujah! For our God is in control, hallelujah! (Repeat 2x.)

Sing or listen to "God Takes Our Worries Away" (not on CD) to the tune of "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" anytime during the lesson. Bounce a baby on your lap as you sing.

God takes our worries away.

He is in charge!

Whenever we have doubt,

We can trust and shout,

"We know God takes our worries away!"



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player rattle

Teacher PackCD: "We Don't Worry
Anymore" (track 9)



Don't Worry, Be Happy Supplies

mirror craft stick tape

Teacher Pack

"Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture

Don't Worry, Be Happy Easy Prep

Fold the "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture on the dotted line, and tape the picture to a craft stick.

Crush Those Worries Supplies

pillowcase rubber band variety of papers

Crush Those Worries Easy Prep

Fill a pillowcase with a variety of crumpled papers to make interesting sounds. Try using cellophane from a wrapped package, newsprint, foil, and junk mail. Close the pillowcase with a rubber band.



Don't Worry, Be Happy

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap, and let baby look into a hand-held mirror.

Say: Look at this baby in the mirror. Can you smile at the baby? Turn baby to face you, and smile at the baby. I am smiling because I am happy. God makes me happy. Tickle baby. You can be happy in God, too. Make a sad face. We don't have to worry and be sad. Smile and hug baby. We can be happy because God is in control.

Show baby the "Sad Saul" side of the teaching picture.

Say: Poor sad Saul! He was too worried to trust God. God wanted him to be happy. Show "Happy Saul." GOD SAYS "DON'T WORRY! Trust me."



Crush Those Worries

What You'll Do

Place the "worry bag" you made earlier on the floor in front of a baby. Let baby squeeze and squish it. As baby plays, sing this song to the tune of "Alouette" (not on CD):

Crush those worries; you can crush those worries.
Crush those worries; give your cares to God.
Don't you worry day or night; trust God, things will be all right!
God's Word says, "Faith, not sight." Oh!
Crush those worries; you can crush those worries.
Crush those worries; give your cares to God.

Say: The Bible tells us that ▶ GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 8





God Gives Happiness

What You'll Do

Place a baby on his or her back in front of you. Walk your fingers from baby's toes to forehead as you sing each line of the following song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (not on CD). Pretend to wipe the baby's forehead on the word "whew."

Smiles, laughs, grins, and giggles—whew! Giggles—whew! Giggles—whew! Smiles, laughs, grins, and giggles—whew! Chase all worries away!

Say: ► GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY! He gives us love, joy, peace, and patience—things that make us smile, laugh, grin, and giggle. Gently tickle baby's tummy.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "We Don't Worry Anymore" (track 9)

We Don't Have to Worry Supplies

craft stick tape

Teacher Pack

"Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture

We Don't Have to Worry Easy Prep

Fold the "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture on the dotted line, and tape the picture to a craft stick.

TODDLER



Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Don't Worry Anymore" (track 9) to the tune "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore" anytime during the lesson. Hold hands with a toddler during the song, and sway from side to side.

We don't worry anymore, hallelujah! We don't worry anymore, hallelujah!

For our God is in control, hallelujah! For our God is in control, hallelujah! (Repeat 2x.)

Sing "God Takes Our Worries Away" (not on CD) to the tune "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" anytime during the lesson. When singing, throw your arms to the side on "away," and raise your hands on "shout."

God takes our worries away.

He is in charge!

Whenever we have doubt,

We can trust and shout,

"We know God takes our worries away!"



RIRI F

EXPLORATION

We Don't Have to Worry

What You'll Do

Invite two toddlers to sit with you on the floor. Show them the happy side of the teaching picture.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 8





Ask:

■ Can you make a happy face like this? Smile at the toddlers, and encourage them to smile with you.

Say: God wants us to be happy. Show the sad face.

Ask:

■ Can you make a sad face like this? Frown at the toddlers, and encourage them to frown, too.

Say: This is poor, sad Saul. Sad Saul felt worried. God doesn't want us to worry and be sad. God wanted Saul to do the right thing. Show the happy face again. Smile at the toddlers. Let's smile and be happy.

Say: God doesn't want us to worry. God is in charge, and he wants us to be happy. ► GOD SAYS. DON'T WORRY.



Knock Out the Worry

What You'll Do

Have a toddler stand about three feet away from the tubes.

Say: God doesn't want us to worry and be sad. Let's knock down these sad, worried faces. Give a ball to a toddler, and let him or her "bowl" the ball into the tubes. (The larger the ball, the easier it will be for the child to knock down the paper-towel tubes.) As the child rolls the ball, shout: Don't worry! Set the tubes back up, and let the child play again. Say:

GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY.

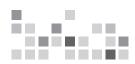
Don't Be Sad, Just Be Glad

What You'll Do

Sing or say the following action rhyme with a toddler to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?" (not on CD). Begin with your hands behind your back.

Why are you sad? Why are you sad? (Bring out one hand at a time while frowning.)

You have God. You have God. (Smile, and point upward.) God is with us always. (Hug self.)



Knock Out the Worry Supplies

several paper-towel tubes ball marker

Knock Out the Worry Easy Prep

Draw sad faces on several paper-towel tubes, and then set the paper-towel tubes up like bowling pins, staggering them in two rows on the floor.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "We Don't Worry Anymore" (track 9) We don't have to worry. (Shake head from side to side.)

Don't be sad. Just be glad! (Shake head; then smile and clap.)

Say: ► GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY!

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD



Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Don't Worry Anymore" (track 9) to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore" anytime during the lesson. Play the song on the CD. Have children form a circle and march clockwise as the song plays.

We don't worry anymore, hallelujah! We don't worry anymore, hallelujah!

For our God is in control, hallelujah! For our God is in control, hallelujah! (Repeat 2x.)

Sing "God Takes Our Worries Away" (not on CD) to the tune of "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" anytime during the lesson. When singing, crisscross arms back and forth in front of your body. Shake your head on the word "doubt," and shout out the word "shout."

God takes our worries away.

He is in charge!

Whenever we have doubt,

We can trust and shout,

"We know God takes our worries away!"

Summer Quarter

Lesson 8







We Don't Need to Worry

What You'll Do

Gather the twos, and open your Bible to 1 Samuel 13.

Ask:

Can you show me a happy face? Can you show me a sad face?

Show the "Happy Saul" side of the teaching picture.

Say: **This is Saul. When he trusted God, he was happy.** Show the "Sad Saul" side of the teaching picture. **When Saul worried and didn't trust God, he was sad.**

I'm going to tell you a story from the Bible about Saul. When I show you Saul's happy face, smile and look happy. When I show you Saul's sad face, frown and look sad.

Saul was a king. God chose him. (Show the happy face.)

Saul trusted God and won many battles. (Show the happy face.)

Saul gathered many men to fight the Philistines. (Show the happy face.)

The Philistines gathered even more men than Saul did. (Show the sad face.)

Saul's men became afraid and hid. (Show the sad face.)

Saul was worried, and he didn't trust God. (Show the sad face.)

But God had a plan. (Show the happy face.)

Saul could have trusted God. He wouldn't have been so worried. (Show the sad face.)

We can trust God and be happy, (show the happy face)

Or we can worry and feel sad. (Show the sad face.)

Show me the face that you want to have! ▶ GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY.

Pray: God, we know you tell us not to worry. Help us trust you and be glad. In Jesus' name, amen.



We Don't Need to Worry Supplies

Bible craft stick tape **Teacher Pack** "Sad Saul, Happy Saul"

We Don't Need to Worry Easy Prep

teaching picture

Fold the "Sad Saul, Happy Saul" teaching picture on the dotted line, and tape the picture to a craft stick.



Toss Out the Worries Supplies

1 or 2 ping-pong balls per child permanent marker 2 baskets

Toss Out the Worries Easy Prep

Gather two baskets and enough ping-pong balls for each child to have one or two. Draw happy faces on half the balls and sad faces on the other half.

Turn a Frown Upside Down Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Turn a Frown Upside Down" page (at the end of the lesson) 1 Velcro self-stick circle per child scissors

Turn a Frown Upside Down Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book, and cut out the mouth shape from each handout.



Toss Out the Worries

What You'll Do

Place the two baskets in the center of the room. Hide the ping-pong balls around the room in plain view of the 2-year-olds.

Say: I need you to help me find some ping-pong balls. When you find a ball, put it in this basket. Point to one of the baskets. Let the twos hunt for the balls. When all the balls have been found, seat the children on the floor in front of the basket with the balls in it.

Some of these balls have happy faces, and some have sad faces. We don't want to keep the worried, sad faces. Let's take out the worried, sad faces and throw them away. Let children take turns taking a ball out of the basket. If the ball has a happy face, say: This is a happy face. God wants us to be happy. Let's keep this ball. Keep the happy-faced balls in the basket. If a child takes out a sad-faced ball, say: This is a sad face. God doesn't want us to worry and be sad. Let's throw this ball away. Let the child throw the sad-faced ball into the empty basket. When all of the sad-faced balls have been removed from the first basket and thrown into the second basket, say: God doesn't want us to worry and be sad. He wants us to be happy. Let's save these balls and make them happy. Remove the sad balls from the basket, and draw happy faces on the other side of them.

GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY.

Turn a Frown Upside Down

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with two or three children at a time. Help each child attach the gripper side of a Velcro self-stick circle to the area below Saul's nose in the picture. Help children attach the soft part of the Velcro circle to the back of the mouth you cut out earlier.

Say: Saul worried and didn't trust God.

Ask:

- How do you think he felt? Wait for the children to respond. Then show them how to attach the mouth upside down to make a frown on Saul's face.
- When Saul trusted God, how did he feel? Wait for children to respond. Then let the children turn the frowning mouth around into a smile.

Say: We don't have to worry; we can be happy and trust in God. ▶ GOD SAYS DON'T WORRY.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 8



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)



Growing With Jesus



Snuggle Breaks

While young children don't worry in the same way adults do, they are still affected by stress. Research indicates that stress produces a hormone that over time can shrink the area of the brain responsible for learning. But there's good news! Physical contact minimizes the damaging effects of stress on young children, so plan for frequent snuggle breaks as your child grows.

Your child learned God says don't worry (from 1 Samuel 13:1-14). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

God Gives Happiness

Place your baby on his or her back in front of you. Walk your fingers from baby's toes to forehead as you sing each line of the following song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Pretend to wipe the baby's forehead on the word "whew."

Smiles, laughs, grins, and giggles—whew! Giggles—whew! Giggles—whew! Smiles, laughs, grins, and giggles—whew! Chase all worries away!

Say: God says, "Don't worry!" He gives us love, joy, peace, and patience—things that make us smile, laugh, grin, and giggle. Gently tickle baby's tummy.

TODDLER

Don't Be Sad, Just Be Glad!

Sing or say the following action rhyme with your toddler to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?" Begin with your hands behind your back.

Why are you sad? Why are you sad? (Bring out one hand at a time while frowning.)

You have God. You have God. (Smile, and point upward.)

God is with us always. (Hug self.)

We don't have to worry. (Shake head from side to side.)

Don't be sad. Just be glad! (Shake head; then smile and clap.)

2-YEAR-OLD

Turn a Frown Upside Down

If your child hasn't already done so, help him or her attach the gripper side of a Velcro self-stick circle to the area below Saul's nose in the "Turn a Frown Upside Down" handout. Attach the soft part of the Velcro circle to the back of the mouth.

Say: Saul worried and didn't trust God. How do you think he felt? Wait for your child to respond, and then show him or her how to attach the mouth upside down to make a frown on Saul's face.

When Saul trusted God, how did he feel? Wait for your child to respond, and let him or her turn the frowning mouth around to be a smile. We don't have to worry; we can be happy and trust in God. God says don't worry.



Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Make instant pudding with your child. When the pudding is ready, let your child finger-paint with it on wax paper. Trace a sad face, and let your child smear it away. Then trace a happy face. Remind your child that God says, "Don't worry."
- Use licorice ropes to make smiles. Remind your child that he or she doesn't have to worry about anything.

OK TO COPY

Summer Quarter

Lesson 8

Infants, Toddlers & 2s







Turn a Frown Upside Down



