



UNIT 10 | SESSION 2

GOD MADE SAUL KING

1 SAMUEL 11

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 6:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God chose Saul to be the Israelites' king. With God's help, Saul brought the Israelites together to defeat their enemy. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus brings together everyone who trusts in Him and gives us victory over sin and death.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE
PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME
GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN
TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE
LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE
LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL



LEADER Bible Study

Gilgal was a place the Israelites knew well. It was the first place their ancestors set foot in the promised land; the place where they built a memorial of 12 stones after crossing the Jordan with the ark of the covenant; a place that they looked back on and remembered the power, greatness, and provision of God. Gilgal wasn't a place of convenience, but rather a place of significance.

Have you ever taken the time to revisit places of your past? Maybe you've driven past your kidhood home and school, your first home, or the hospital where a family member was born. These nostalgic journeys can bring back all sorts of memories of heartbreak and victory, sadness and joy. Revisiting the past might flood your heart and mind with things you had long forgotten as well as things that can never be forgotten.

In the fast-paced world we live in today, we don't go back often enough. For many, thinking about the past only slows down productivity. We rely on timeline photos as reminders but then quickly scroll to the news of the day and our plans for tomorrow.

What if we regularly returned to the past? What if we frequented the memorials of God's power, greatness, and provision? It may be that part of why we run so hard after

the tyranny of the urgent is because we've lost sight of God's faithfulness through the ages.

It may not be a nostalgic drive through your hometown or a trip to the mountaintop where you were first gripped by the greatness of God, but a stroll down memory lane recalling the work that God has done is so very good for the soul.

The Israelites didn't return to Gilgal because it was easy. They returned to Gilgal because in the midst of their present circumstances, they needed to remember. And so do we.

Reflect on the great things that God has done—the ways you've seen His power, greatness, and provision. And as you do, let it grow your gratitude and hopefulness. For, as James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Saul: The first king of a united Israel who reigned from about 1020-1000 B.C. Saul was tall and handsome, from the tribe of Benjamin, and chosen by God.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ Name some tasks that are impossible without help. Why are they impossible? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Only With God’s Help” on the activity page.

| **SAY** “ Were any of these stories possible without God’s help? Could Moses have parted the Red Sea on his own? Could David have defeated Goliath without God’s help? Of course not. Listen in today’s story about another situation that was impossible without God’s help! ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: NEEDS PROVIDED FOR



Form two teams of kids. Choose two volunteers from each team. One volunteer will be blindfolded. Give the second volunteer a list of needs (water, food, clothes, house, a Savior, etc.). The second volunteer will whisper to the first one of the needs, and the volunteer who is blindfolded will try to draw the need on a dry erase board. The first team to guess all five needs correctly first wins.

| **SAY** “ Great job! Out of these needs, which one is the greatest need? [Allow kids to respond.] Because of our sin, we need a Savior, and God provided that need through Jesus. Today, we’ll learn about another story when God provided for His people. ”

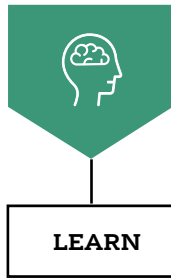
OPTION 2: BUBBLE CATCH

Ask for a few volunteers to play the game. The object of the game is to catch as many bubbles as possible. Whoever has the most bubbles at the end of the game wins. To begin the game, blow bubbles into the air. Quickly, the kids will realize that catching bubbles is impossible. When those kids give up, select more volunteers to try. The kids will learn that the harder they try, the faster they will pop.

| **SAY** “ Trying to catch bubbles without them popping is an impossible task. When we try to do things without God’s help, we will fail. In today’s story, we will see how through God’s power and His help, Saul was able to bring victory to the Israelites over the Ammonites. If Saul had tried to defeat the Ammonites on his own, he would have failed. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 11. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Made Saul King.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD MADE SAUL KING

“**One day, Saul was walking home after working in a field. He heard an unusual sound: The people in his town were weeping loudly.**

“What’s the matter?” Saul asked. “Why is everyone crying?”

The people told Saul, “Some messengers from the city of Jabesh (JAY besh) just came with a message. They said that Nahash (NAY hash), an Ammonite leader, came with his army and surrounded the city. They were going to capture the people, but the men of Jabesh wanted to make a treaty instead. They agreed to serve Nahash, but Nahash made a terrible request. He wanted to take out everyone’s right eye! The leaders of Jabesh asked for time to get help, so Nahash gave them seven days. If no one comes to help, they will have to surrender.”

When Saul heard this report, God’s Spirit came on him, and he was very angry. He sent a message throughout Israel, calling for men to come and fight. The people came together—hundreds of thousands of men from Israel and Judah—to fight against the Ammonites.

So Saul sent messengers back to the city of Jabesh. The messengers told the men there, “Deliverance is coming tomorrow,” and the men of Jabesh rejoiced. Then the men sent a message to Nahash: “We will meet you tomorrow, and you can do whatever you want to us.”

The next morning, Saul organized the troops. They invaded the camp where the enemy army was staying, and they defeated Nahash and the Ammonites.

Saul announced to the people, “Today, the LORD has provided deliverance in Israel.” Then all the people went to the city of Gilgal and there, before the Lord, they made Saul their king. They gave offerings to God and rejoiced.

Christ Connection: God chose Saul to be the Israelites’ king. With God’s help, Saul brought the Israelites together to defeat their enemy. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus brings together everyone who trusts in Him and gives us victory over sin and death. ””

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use voice inflection: While teaching the story, change your volume up and down.

Call for active listening: Instruct the kids to pretend to put a crown on their heads every time they hear the name “Saul” during the story.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “Wow! That story had a big turn of events. Open your Bibles to 1 Samuel 11. How many times throughout the Old Testament had God’s people worried about food, safety, or water only for God to provide for them? No matter how many times God saves His people and provides for them, they continue to doubt God’s plan for them. Think about it, God freed them from slavery. He parted the Red Sea. He provided manna, quail, and water in the wilderness. He protected them from their enemies. He forgave them when they worshiped false idols. God had just given them a king. He had proved time and time again His faithfulness to His people, despite their lack of trust. When we are faced with something difficult in life, sometimes it is hard to remember that God is in control. We should always remember that God is always faithful and is our Helper in time of need.

Let’s compare the beginning of the story with the end.

What did Saul notice the people doing at the beginning of the story in verse 5? Look at chapter 11 verse 5. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Sam. 11:5.]** They were crying because they were worried.

Now let’s look at the end of the story. Were they still crying? **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Sam. 11:15.]** No, they rejoiced and sacrificed peace offerings to God. Why? God had delivered them from the hands of the Ammonites and given victory to His people. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “God chose Saul to be the Israelites’ king. With God’s help, Saul brought the Israelites together to defeat their enemy. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus brings together everyone who trusts in Him and gives us victory over sin and death. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 10, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why does God let some people be in positions of power if they are not good people?
2. Can you think of other times God used people who did evil to ultimately bring about good?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the picture of David Brainerd. Remind kids that God works all things for His glory and our good. The ultimate good He provides is salvation in Jesus. Everyone needs to hear the good news of the gospel.

SAY “David Brainerd was one of the first missionaries to the native people in America. What do you notice about this picture? What are some details you see? **[Pause for kids to respond.]** Let’s