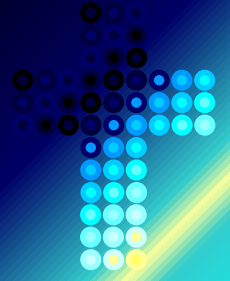


JESUS DISCOVERY PROJECT



TEACHING MATERIAL FOR 5-11 YEARS

SERIES 02:

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST (1 SAMUEL CHAPTERS 1-17)

Discover the exciting story of the miracle child Samuel; how God raised him up as a faithful priest, prophet and judge, trusting God in the midst of a crooked generation; and how he paved the way for the coming of King David and, ultimately, the Messiah,

Jesus Christ

Author: Eleanor Delpont

Samuel: A New Kind Of Priest by Eleanor Delport

First e-book edition 2022

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JESUS DISCOVERY PROJECT



BIBLE STUDY SERIES AGE 5-11 YEARS

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST (1 SAMUEL CHAPTERS 1-17)

10 sessions

Author Eleanor Delpont

This series looks at God's response to a faithless generation of priests from the tribe of Levi, how he uses the prayer of faithful Hannah to raise up a new kind of Priest, Samuel, and eventually a new kind of Priest King, David, who has a heart after God's own heart.

We explore the big theme of faith and trust in God: how Eli and his sons, the Israelites and King Saul struggled to trust and obey God, which led to tragedy and separation from God's presence, but Hannah, Samuel, Jonathan and David, put their trust in God and God uses them to bring about His deliverance for His people.

As well as the big theme of faith, we encounter topics such as obedience, sin, repentance, atonement, God's mercy, worship, prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit in anointing and helping those who put their trust in Him.

The series includes worship activities, times to share the bread and wine together, prophetic activities and opportunity to pray for healing for one another and those you know. The final session takes a broader look at where Samuel and David, both with ancestors from Bethlehem Ephrathah, fit into God's big salvation plan and focuses on how God changed Bethlehem Ephrathah from a place of sorrow to a place of hope and life in Jesus, our great High Priest.

Each session includes a starter and multiple choice question, story, game, craft, prayer activity, memory verse and many have discussions, worship, prophetic activities and additional games too. There is also a list of extra games in Resource 10.

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

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SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 1: 1 SAMUEL 1,
HANNAH'S PRAYER

MAIN POINT

Like Hannah, we can trust God and pray to Him even when situations look impossible. Let's remember to thank Him for His help and love

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What does a Priest do?

1. Lead armies
2. Look after a farm
3. Pray, teach people about God, help people worship in God's house



In this story, Eli the Priest is a man who works in the tabernacle, a special tent where God was worshipped.

INTRODUCTION

The book of Samuel comes at the end of the time of the judges. It is after God's family, the Israelites had gone down into Egypt with Joseph and had been brought up again with Moses. God showed the Israelites His power and love for them when He rescued them from Egypt and when He brought them into the promised land with Joshua. He promised that He would look after them if they continued to follow Him and worship Him, but He also warned them that that if they stopped worshipping Him with all their hearts and started trusting other things to help them, they would fall into the hands of their enemies. God wanted true worshippers.

When the people went into the promised land they all said "We will wor-



ship you!” and they had Priests from Moses’ brother Aaron’s family who helped them worship. After Joshua died, however, they started worshipping other gods. Every now and again the people would realise they had done wrong and turn back to God in prayer and God would send them a judge to help them. However, most of the time they did whatever they felt like and forgot how to love God and how much God loved them. God was longing for someone who would worship Him with their whole heart, rescue His people and lead them to worship Him too. I wonder who He would send...



STORY

Read 1 Samuel 1:4-10 Hannah longed for a son. She was very upset that she could not have children. She was so upset that she cried and refused to eat food. Sometimes we have things in life that upset us. What did Hannah do when she was upset? (She cried, prayed and fasted)

Read 1 Samuel 1:11-20 Even after many years of sadness, Hannah still believes that God can help her. She trusts God and promises to give her son to God, to serve and worship God, if God will give her a baby. Do you think it would have been easy for Hannah to trust God after a long time of waiting?

Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28 Hannah names her son Samuel which means “God hears me”. She gives her son to God just as she promised she would. God was longing for children too. He was longing for children who would love and trust Him. Do you think Hannah was a true worshipper who trusted God with all her heart? Why do you think she gave Samuel back to God? (To say thank you)

Samuel was going to grow up in the tabernacle, God’s special tent where people met with God. Samuel was going to learn to be a priest, but not one from Aaron’s line, not from the tribe of Levi, like all the other priests. He was going to be a new kind of priest.



GAME—RELAY GAME

Hannah was a woman of faith, she trusted God even with impossible looking situations and she remembered to say thank you when God helped her. In this game, we are going to practise saying thank you when we receive the ball/baton/bean bag. The winning team is the one who says the most “thank you”s

You will need: balls/batons or bean bags

Line up the children in two teams at one end of the room. Each child must run to the other end of the room with their ball/baton/beanbag and back to the start line to hand the object to the next person. When each person has run, the team sits down. Remember to praise the most thankful team!

CRAFT—THANKSGIVING BOOK

Fold a piece of paper into a 4 page booklet (half and half again) and think of 4 ways you can say thank you to God or, if that is too tricky, 4 things you are thankful for. Write or draw these one on each page (Ways to give thanks might be things like: sing, give a gift, draw a picture, show kindness, dance, speak)



PRAYER ACTIVITY - ...

Is there anything you have prayed for that God has answered? Let's give thanks for those things

What would you like to pray for this week? Remember that you can ask God for anything and He hears us.



EXTRA PRAYER GAME

Go around the circle and try thanking God for something for every letter of the alphabet (first person: thank you God for aeroplane; next person: thank you God for bananas;... etc.)

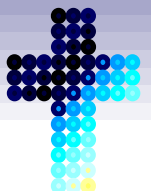
MEMORY VERSE

Hannah trusted in God and poured out her heart to God in prayer. God turned her sadness into joy and Hannah gave thanks. We are going to learn a memory verse that encourages us to trust God and talk to Him about everything. It is from a song in the book of Psalms.



"Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower." Psam62:8

God is like a strong tower for us, because He protects us and keeps us safe. Let's learn the verse together.



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 2: 1 SAMUEL 3,
GOD CALLS SAMUEL

MAIN POINT

Samuel learnt to understand when God was speaking to Him. God speaks to us too and we can learn to understand Him as well.

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? (Hannah prayed for a son, God heard her and gave her a son, Hannah gave thanks)

Has God answered any prayers this week that you would like to share?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What is a prophet?

1. someone who tells stories
2. someone who hears from God and tells others what they have heard
3. someone who performs puppet shows



STORY

Read 1 Samuel 2:11 When Samuel grew up with Eli the Priest in the house of the Lord, what do you think he was training to be? (A priest)

Do you remember what a priest does? (Pray, teach people about God, help people worship, ministers in the house of God)

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 One night when Samuel was lying next to the Ark of the Covenant, which was where God's presence was, God called to Samuel. At first, he didn't recognise God's voice, because he hadn't heard it before, but soon he learnt to hear to God and speak with God.

Read 1 Samuel 3:11-15 God gave him a message about Eli the Priest. What do you understand God's message to mean? Why do you think Samuel was afraid to tell Eli?



Read **1 Samuel 3:16-21** Eli had already been warned by the Lord in chapter 2 that God was not pleased with him and his sons. They were supposed to be God's light to the nation, but they were hurting people and sinning against God. Now Eli was beginning to understand that God was raising up Samuel to be a priest and prophet after God's own heart, who would hear and obey God. We can hear and obey God too.

GAME—GRANDMA'S KEYS

Samuel learnt to listen to God and recognise when He was speaking. We are going to have a listening game now

You will need: a set of keys and a blindfold

Keys in the middle of a circle. Someone closes their eyes. Everyone is quiet. Someone is chosen to take the keys without the person in the circle hearing and go round the circle and back to their space. The person in the circle has to try and point out the sound. (Can use a blindfold)

CRAFT

Colouring sheet (Resource 1, Page 11)

DISCUSSION

What ways does God speak to us? (You might talk about scripture, creation, other people, words, pictures, dreams, visions, any other ways you can think of)

PROPHETIC ACTIVITY

Put some worship music on and give each of the children a pencil and paper

Ask the children to sit or lie with their eyes closed listening

Ask God to give the children a picture or word

When the children want to, they can draw or write something

Ask them to share with the group what they have drawn/written

PRAYER ACTIVITY

Leading on from the prophetic activity, pray into whatever has come up

Ask if there is anything else the children would like prayer for that day

MEMORY VERSE

As Samuel learnt to hear God's voice, he learnt to trust Him





and talk to him about everything in prayer. Can you remember our memory verse?

Let's practice it!

"Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower." Psam62:8

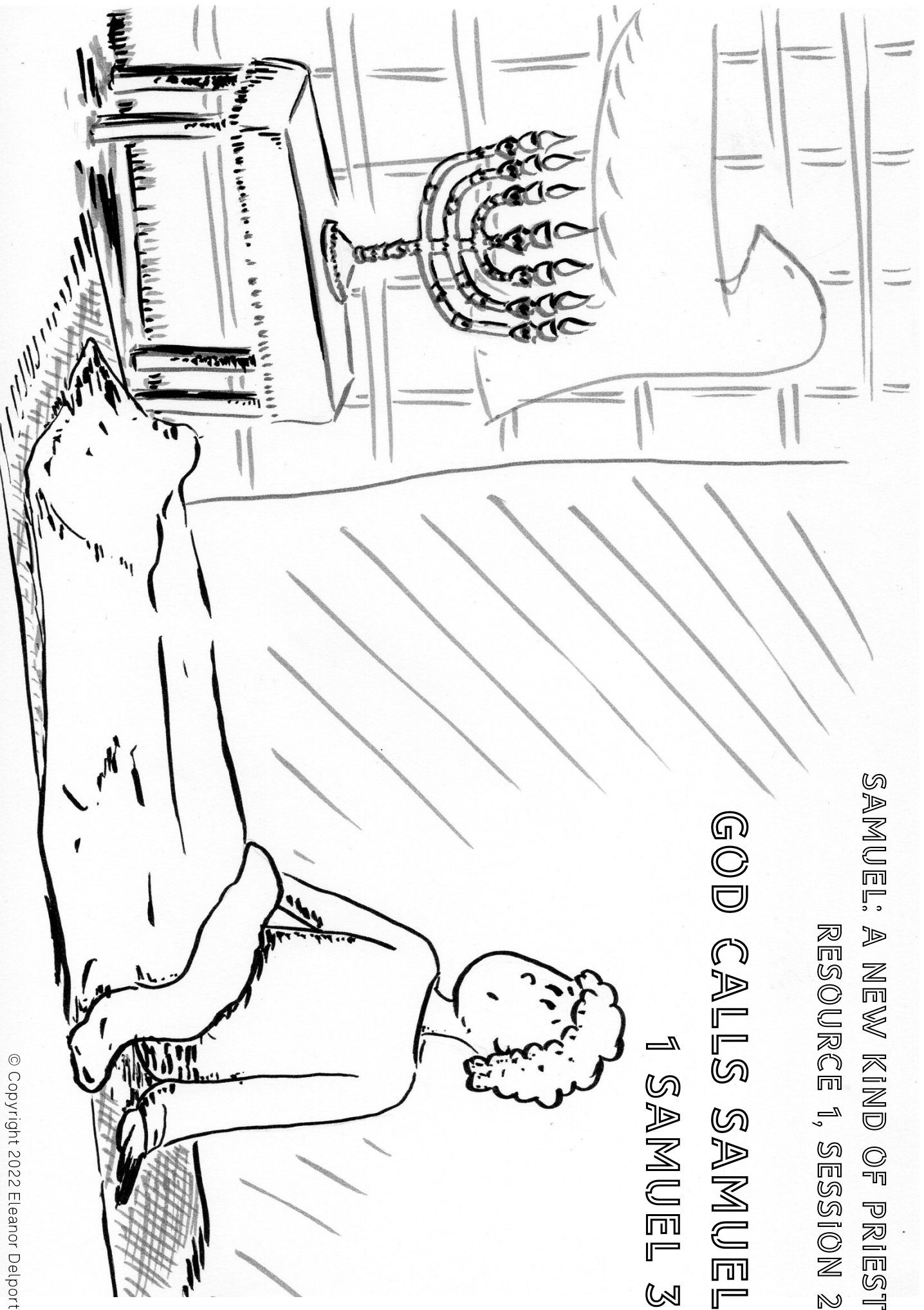


EXTRA GAME

If your group needs an extra running around game, you could use one of the games listed in "Extra Games" (Resource 10, Pages 45-46) .

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST
RESOURCE 1, SESSION 2

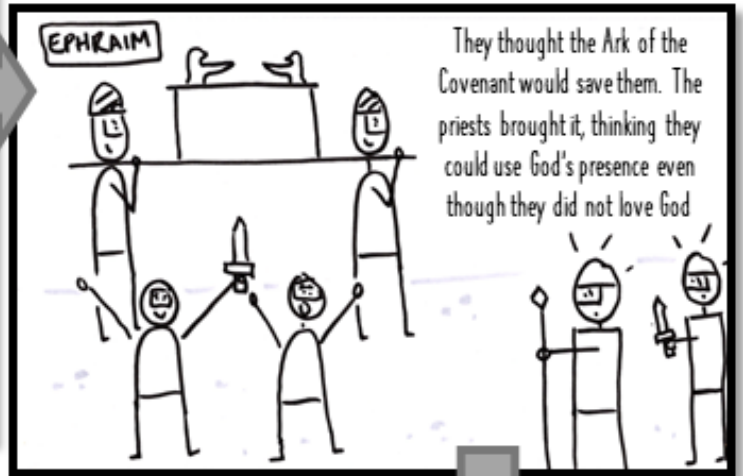
GOD CALLS SAMUEL 1 SAMUEL 3



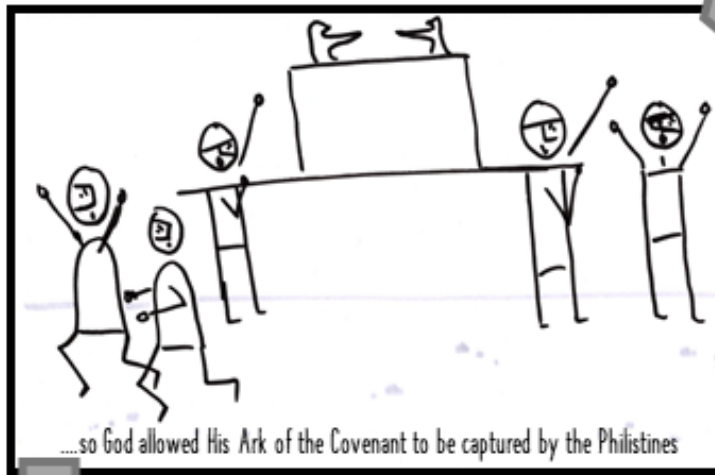


The Israelites were being beaten by their enemies, the Philistines, in battle

1 Samuel chapter 4



They thought the Ark of the Covenant would save them. The priests brought it, thinking they could use God's presence even though they did not love God



...so God allowed His Ark of the Covenant to be captured by the Philistines

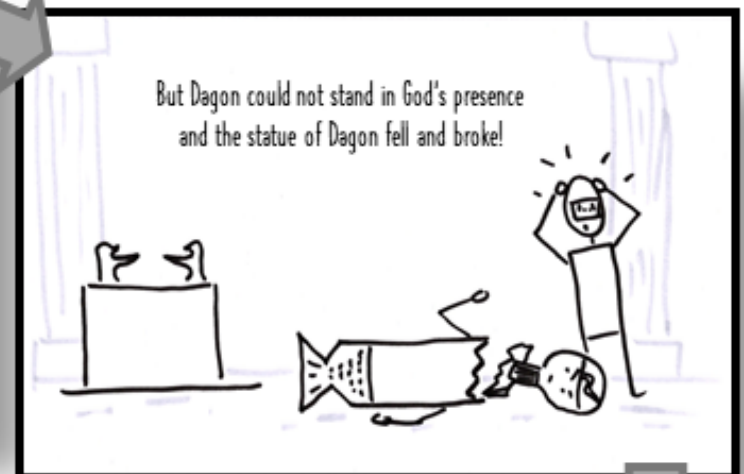


The Israelites had been breaking God's covenant and worshipping other gods...

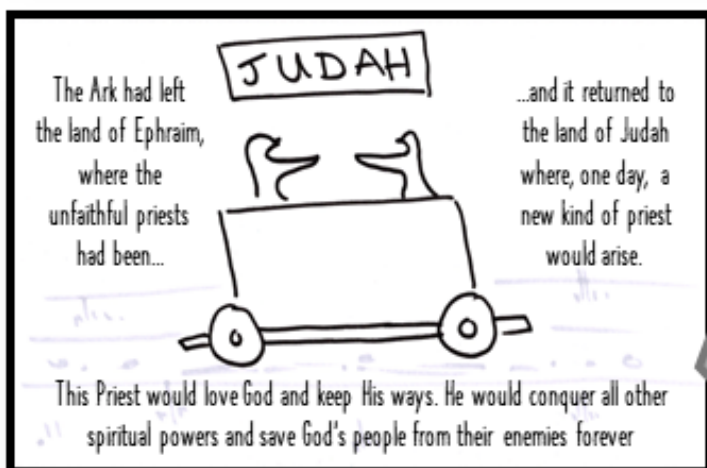
1 Samuel chapters 5-6



The Philistines thought that their god Dagon had beaten Israel's God, so they put the Ark in Dagon's temple



But Dagon could not stand in God's presence and the statue of Dagon fell and broke!



The Ark had left the land of Ephraim, where the unfaithful priests had been...

JUDAH

...and it returned to the land of Judah where, one day, a new kind of priest would arise.

This Priest would love God and keep His ways. He would conquer all other spiritual powers and save God's people from their enemies forever



The Philistines realised that Israel's God was stronger than their gods. They were afraid and sent the Ark back to Israel

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 3: 1 SAMUEL 4-5,
SIN SEPARATES

3

MAIN POINT

Even when we sin, it separates us from God, but God has made a way to wash us clean and come back to Him.



WELCOME

Share news and take register

STARTER QUESTION

What do you remember that we talked about in the last two weeks?

(Hannah praying and giving thanks, Samuel learning to listen to God)

If your parents warn you not to do something and you disobey them, what happens?



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What was the Ark of the Covenant?

1. A boat
2. A circle
3. A box

What was special about this box? It represented God living with His people, by His Holy Spirit.

(Just in case someone asks: It was made of wood overlaid with gold. It contained the 10 commandments written on stone tablets, a jar of manna, Aaron's staff. Had gold winged cherubim on top over the lid, called the "mercy seat", representing God's throne. It had 4 rings for poles to go through for Levites to carry it.)



STORY

Read 1 Samuel 4:1-3 The Philistines were the enemies of the Israel-



ites. On this occasion, they were losing the battle. Why do you think they wanted to get the Ark of the Covenant and bring it to the battle field? (They thought it would make God win the battle for them)

Read 1 Samuel 4:4-8 When the Ark of the Covenant came into the camp, how did the Israelites react? (Excited and rejoiced) How did the Philistines react? (Afraid)

Read 1 Samuel 4:9-11 Why did God allow the Ark of the Covenant to be captured by the Philistines? (The Israelites kept turning against God. The priests, Eli and his sons, were continually sinning and not obeying God's good way of loving people. God warned them again and again that He would remove His presence from them, but they didn't listen.)

Read 1 Samuel 5:1-4 The Philistines thought that they had captured the Ark of God, because their god Dagon was stronger than the God of the Israelites. How did God show them that He was stronger than Dagon? (The statue of Dagon fell over and was broken when the Ark of God was brought into Dagon's temple)



DISCUSSION

After you have told the story ask these questions:

Did the Israelites lose the fight because God was weaker than Dagon, the god of the Philistines? (No)

Why did God allow His Ark of the Covenant to be captured by the Philistines? (The Israelites kept doing bad things and sin separates us from God.)

God didn't give up on the Israelites though. He made sure His Ark of the Covenant came back to Israel in the land of Judah, where one day Jesus would come from.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again to life on the third day. He paid for our sins so that we can be friends with God

Do you do bad things sometimes? Even though we do bad things, Jesus is never going to stop loving us or leave us or give up on us. He made a way for us to be friends with God forever! Let's follow Jesus, because He loves us. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts.



GAME—SIMON SAYS

Tell the children to do something, if "Simon says", they must follow the instruction. If you don't say "Simon says", then they shouldn't follow the instruction



CRAFT

You will need: colouring sheets or duplo/playdough/lego

Either use the colouring sheets (Resource 2, page 12) or make ark of the covenant out of duplo/playdough/lego



PRAYER ACTIVITY—SORRY STONES

You will need: a bowl of water, some pebbles and a tea towel

Take a pebble, say sorry for something.

Wash the pebble with water and thank God that He forgives your sin and washes you clean



MEMORY VERSE

The Israelites in this story were not trusting in God and the battle did not go well. Let's practice our memory verse to help us remember to trust in God at all times.

"Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower." Psam62:8



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 4: 1 SAMUEL 7,
REPENTANCE

MAIN POINT

We can repent and turn back to God and God will forgive our sins

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

What do you remember that we talked about in the last three weeks in church?

(Hannah praying and giving thanks, Samuel learning to listen to God, the Israelites sinning and the Ark of the covenant being captured)

Do you remember what the Ark of the Covenant was and why it ended up tucked away in the territory of Judah rather than in the Tabernacle? (The Israelites were not following God, so God removed His Spirit from them, which is represented by the Ark being hidden away)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What does the word **repent** mean?

1. Jump up and down
2. Turn around and walk back the way you have come
3. Spin on the spot



STORY

When Samuel was a young man, the people of God had turned away from God and were worshipping false gods like Baal and Ashteroth. They were losing to their enemies, the Philistines, because their hearts were against God and God had warned them that this would happen. After 20 years, the people of Israel were sorry and wanted to turn back to God (repent).



Read 1 Samuel 7:3-6 Why did the people fast?(To show that they were sorry)



Read **1 Samuel 7:7-9** Why did Samuel sacrifice a lamb? (To pay for the sin of the people, so they could be forgiven)

Read **1 Samuel 7:10-17** The people of Israel were sad because of their sin. He saw that the Israelites were sorry and that their sin was paid for by the sacrifice. God forgave them and gave them victory against the Philistines. When the people trusted God, God kept them safe from their enemies. What did Samuel do to help the Israelites remember that God had helped them? (Set up an Ebenezer stone)

Samuel continued to serve as a priest to help people worship God, he listened to God and spoke what God said as a prophet and he also judged the people. Because Samuel trusted God, God was always with him, helping him.



GAME—TIME TO REPENT!

This game is based on what's the time Mr Wolf.

The children line up on one wall and one nominated caller (the Prophet) sits or stands the other end of the room with his/her back to the rest of the class. The children shout to the caller "What's the time Mr Prophet?" the caller shouts a number and all the children step forward that many paces. Then they repeat until the prophet says "time to repent!", at which they run to the starting wall trying not to get caught by the caller. Any that are caught become catchers for the next round.

CRAFT—EBENEZER STONE

Samuel set up a big stone and called it Ebenezer, which means "stone of help", to remember that the LORD had helped them.



You will need a stone, paper, pen, selotape, scissors.

We are going to make our own Ebenezer Stones

Find a stone, walnut sized or bigger, write on a piece of paper "The Lord Helps Me". Cut out the words and stick them with selotape on the stone.

Alternatively, draw a big rock on a piece of paper and write inside it the different ways the Lord has helped you.

You will need paper and pens



PRAYER ACTIVITY- BREAD AND WINE

In the story, when the people of Israel turned back to God and said sorry, Samuel sacrificed a lamb to pay for the sins of the people. The lamb received the consequence of their sin instead of





them.

Thank Jesus that He died for our sins and remember that He died on the cross and was raised to life so that we can be forgiven and live in friendship with God

Ask the children what the bread represents and what the juice (wine) represents.

If anyone does not believe in Jesus, suggest that they watch and pray with us, but don't take the bread and juice yet.

MEMORY VERSE

Unlike last week, the Israelites turned back to God and said sorry. They put their trust in God and God kept them safe. He was a strong tower (safe place against their enemies) for them.

Let's practice our memory verse.

"Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower." Psam62:8



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 5: 1 SAMUEL 8
AND 12, DEMAND A KING

5

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST 1 SAMUEL 8 AND 12

MAIN POINT

We can trust God to look after us and keep us safe

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? (When the Israelites said sorry to God and trusted Him, He gave them victory over their enemies)

Who do you trust to keep you safe? (Could be mummies, daddies, teachers, grandparents etc.)



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What does it mean to trust God ?

1. Worry about lots of things
2. Sort out all your problems yourself
3. Listen to and follow God because you know He will look after you

STORY

Read 1 Samuel 8v4-7 When the Israelites trusted in God, God let them live in peace and safety. Despite God looking after them, the Israelites asked God for a king. God told Samuel to give them a king like they asked for but warn the people that a king won't love them like God loves them, but will take their best food, clothing, land and people from them.



Read 1 Samuel 12v12. Why did the people ask for a King? (They saw the Ammonites coming to fight them and were scared. They didn't trust God to look after them) What kind of king do you think the people wanted? (Strong, powerful, good at sword fighting, tall, handsome, etc.) God gave



them a king like they wanted, a man named Saul. Even though Saul and the Israelites did not deserve God's help, God helped Saul defeat the Ammonites.

Read 1 Samuel 12v16-24 God sent thunder and rain to show the people that they had sinned. It was like a mini version of Noah's flood, but God did not destroy them. Even though the people have stopped trusting God, does God abandon them? (No He still invites them and their king to trust Him and He and His prophet Samuel promise to help them.) God does not leave His people, even when they sin, not because they deserve His help, but because they are His people and He loves them still.



CRAFT GAME—MAKE A KING

You will need: 1 pair of scissors, 1 roll of selotape, 2-3 rolls of toilet paper per group

The Israelites demanded that Samuel make them a King. See if you can make a king and then interview that king with a couple of questions at the end.

Divide the room into 3 groups or groups of 3 or 4 students, whichever you think will work better with your group. Each group must choose one person to become the king. The others must dress them up in crown/robe/sword/any other kingly item that they think of using only toilet paper, selotape and scissors. Give them ~10 minutes to complete the task

After the kings or queens have been created and admired (you can make it competitive if you want to), ask each of the kings/queens one of these questions:

Can you promise to keep us safe even if an army of scary people or wild animals attack us?

Have you ever slain a giant? Will you be able to if one attacks us?

Can you make sure that we will have food for our families for the rest of our lives?

Can you teach us every single piece of God's story and God's wisdom?

Can you give us everlasting life?

No human king can do all of those things. Only God can! But the Israelites in the story chose not to trust God, but to trust in a human king instead.





DISCUSSION

Think about your mum or dad. If you make a wrong choice, do they stop loving you? (No!) Why is it better to obey them?

(Example answer: Because you love them and they love you and they are looking after you)

When you make wrong choices and do not trust Jesus, do you think He will abandon you or help you still?

(Example answer: Even when we make wrong choices, God loves us still. He still helps us and looks after us.)

Why is it better to trust God than to make choices against God?

(Example answer: God's ways lead to peace, love and joy and we can please God and enjoy Him)



WORSHIP ACTIVITY

Suggested song: **King of Me** by Rend Collective (<https://youtu.be/7Yt3vPANmVU>)

PRAYER ACTIVITY

Think about anything where you are worried and need extra help trusting in Jesus. Pray for these things and ask God to help you trust Him with this

Thank God that He will never leave you or abandon you, even when you make wrong choices.



MEMORY VERSE

Let's practice our memory verse about trusting God. Remember that when it says God is our strong tower, it means He is the one who truly looks after us and keeps us safe.

"Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower." Psam62:8





SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 6: 1 SAMUEL 9-11,
SAUL ANOINTED

MAIN POINT

God wants to help us by His Spirit

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? (The Israelites were afraid of the scary army of the Ammonites and asked for a King to save them because they didn't think God could. God gave them Saul and helped them even though they did not trust Him.)

Have you ever wanted to do something or help someone but haven't been able to?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What does it mean for God to give us power by His Spirit?

1. He gives us the ability to light up many light bulbs
2. He helps us to do things that we cannot do without His strength
3. He makes our muscles super strong



STORY

Last week we looked at the hearts of the Israelites and why they asked for a king. Today we are going to look at Saul's side of the story and how he became king.

Saul was a tall, handsome, rich man from the tribe of Benjamin. One day his dad's donkeys went missing and Saul and his servant went out to look for them. After 3 days Saul and his servant found themselves near the prophet Samuel's hometown, so they went to ask Samuel if God could tell him where the donkeys were. God had



told Samuel that Saul was coming, so Samuel had saved him a special place at a feast they were having. When Saul arrived, this is what Samuel said to him:

Read 1 Samuel 9v20-21 Samuel told him that all the best things of Israel would be Saul's! Saul was confused! The next day Samuel had another message for him. Samuel told Saul that he would be prince over Israel and that God would give him a series of signs to show him that God had really spoken. One of those signs was that when he went past a place where some prophets were meeting, Saul too would prophesy!

Read 1 Samuel 10v9-11 God sent His Spirit to help Saul with the task of being king over Israel. What effect did the Spirit of God have on Saul? (He gave Saul a new heart and enabled him to prophesy)

Read 1 Samuel 10v17-24 Saul had already been told in private that he was going to be king, but now he was going to stand before everyone in public as king. Why do you think he hid among the baggage? (He was scared) Even though God had given him signs that he really was supposed to be king and he had experienced God's Spirit helping him to prophesy. Saul still found it difficult to trust God and be brave. I wonder if God would still help him after that... let's see...

The Ammonite army marched against Israel and surrounded an Israelite town called Jabesh Gilead. They were going to enslave the Israelites, but when Saul heard about it, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him again and he courageously summoned 330,000 men from all over Israel and Judah to come and fight.

Read 1 Samuel 11v11 Saul defeated the Ammonites and saved the people of Jabesh Gilead. How was it that Saul who had been afraid, suddenly had the power to lead an army? (The Spirit of the Lord had rushed upon him and given him courage)

GAME—PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY: HELPER VS NO HELPER



The Holy Spirit helps us to do what we cannot do by ourselves

You will need two pictures of a donkey, (Resource 3, page 25), two tails with blue tack attached, two blindfolds and a biro

Split the children into two groups. Each child in turn will wear the blindfold, spin around once (or more for the older children!) and then try to place the tail on the donkey. Mark the position of the tail and let them uncover their eyes to see where it was placed.

Group 1 should allow an unblindfolded friend to help the blindfolded child. Group 2 do it without help and then see how the groups did. Then switch over and Group 1 do it without a helper and Group 2 with a helper.

Ask the children afterwards, when you wore the blindfold, did you know where to place the tail? How about when you had a helper? The helper ena-



bled you to do what you could not do by yourself. This is what the Holy Spirit does for us.

CRAFT

Colouring sheet (Resource 4, page 26)



DISCUSSION

When Jesus washed us clean by dying on the cross for our sins, He made it possible for the Spirit of God that empowered Saul to prophesy and be courageous to live inside our hearts! God loves us and wants to help us, so He sends His Spirit to help us do things that we can't do without Him.



What sort of things does the Spirit of God help us do?

He helps us with "spiritual" things like: (invite suggestions from the children...Be courageous, heal the sick, prophesy, release people from darkness, speak in tongues (a special prayer language God gives us to help us pray), interpret tongues when it is shared in a group, love and forgive people, say no to temptation, share our faith with others, understand God's word, worship, pray, be gentle and patient and have self-control, etc.)

He also helps us with our day to day activities like: (invite suggestions...Listening to our teacher at school, eating our dinner, sleeping, having energy for the day, helping us with school work, helping us play and have fun with friends and at home, etc.)

PRAYER ACTIVITY

Thank God that He sends His Holy Spirit to help us and give us power to do what we can not do by ourselves. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and fill each of the children and helpers with His power.



Spend some time practising listening to God and praying for one another.

Get the children to spread out (you might want to ask them to sit or lie down. Put some music on and give space to write/draw prophetic words or pictures. Share the pictures and pray into them

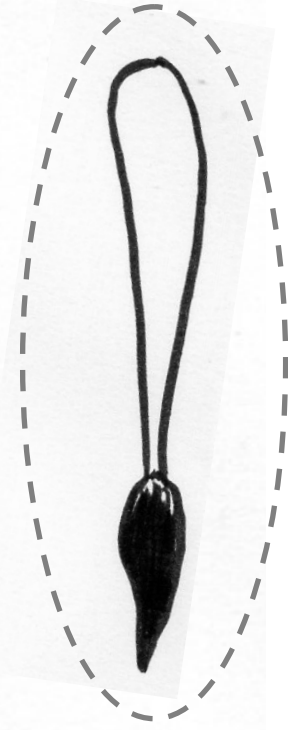
If anyone needs courage for something, ask the Holy Spirit to give that person courage.

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower." Psam62:8



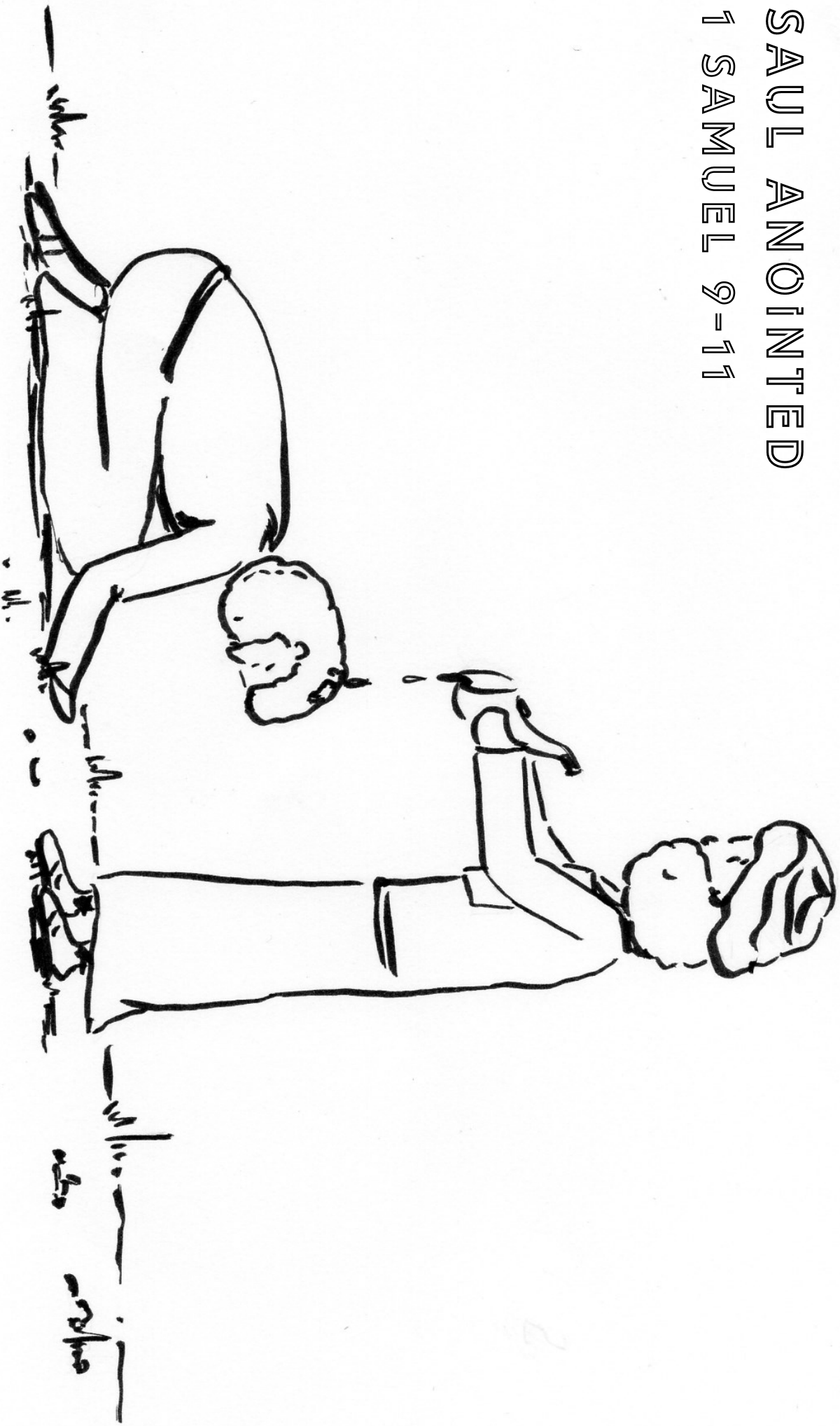
RESOURCE 3
SESSION 6 GAME—PIN
THE TAIL ON THE
DONKEY



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST
SESSION 6, RESOURCE 4

SAUL ANOINTED

1 SAMUEL 9-11



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 7: 1 SAMUEL 13-
14, JONATHAN TRUSTS

7

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST 1 SAMUEL 13-14

MAIN POINT

When we trust God, He can use us to show His love and power

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? God gave His Spirit to Saul to help him do what he could not do and lead the people of Israel. Today we see Saul's faith being tested. I wonder if he is going to trust that God really has given him everything he needs to lead God's people...

Can you think of something that is easy to wait for and something that is difficult to wait for? (E.g. waiting for a bus, waiting for your birthday, waiting for dinner, etc.)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What is a burnt offering?

1. A campfire with marshmallows
2. Candles
3. An animal given to God to cover over people's sin



STORY

After Saul was anointed king, he had to fight the Philistines, who were attacking Israel again. His son Jonathan was learning to trust God, but Saul was struggling to trust God and he hid from the Philistines. One day all the Philistine armies were waiting for battle and Saul was waiting for Samuel to come and pray for his army, but Saul was very nervous. Seven days seemed a long time to wait! Let's read what happened.

Read 1 Samuel 13v8-14 Saul was afraid that everyone in his army would abandon him,



so he offered the burnt offering and prayers that Samuel was supposed to offer. He did not wait patiently for Samuel or for God to help. Do you remember when the Israelites tried to use God before by bringing the Ark of the covenant into the battle, but they did not love God with their hearts? What happened? (The Ark of the Covenant was captured and they lost to the Philistines [see session 3])

This story is like a rerun of that battle we looked at in session 3. This time after Saul tried to use God, without trusting Him with His whole heart, he was left with only 600 men hiding in caves and even tombs, because they were so afraid of the Philistines! But Jonathan still trusted God to help them.

Read **1 Samuel 14v1** Jonathan bravely went with his armour-bearer to climb a rocky cliff. The Philistines were at the top.

Read **1 Samuel 14v6-7** What do you think Jonathan understood about God that gave him courage to fight the Philistines alone? (God could save by lots of people or a few people. God would help those who trust Him)

Jonathan and his armour-bearer decided to shout to the Philistines. If they called to them to come up to the top, they would take it as a sign that God would help them.

Read **1 Samuel 14v12-15 and v20-23** How many of Saul's army had trusted in the Lord with all their heart? (Just 2, Jonathan and his armour-bearer) Through the faith of two people, God brought about a great victory for the Israelites! God can do amazing things through 1 or 2 children who trust Him completely.



GAME—MUSICAL CHAIRS/SQUARES

Saul started out with lots in his army. It got smaller and smaller and, in the end, God only needed two brave people to trust Him in order to win the battle. In this game, we will start with lots of squares/chairs and get fewer and fewer

In this game, we will start with lots of squares and when the music stops, the children must find a square to stand on. Then the music restarts, the children move around the room and a square or two is removed each time. The children must find a square otherwise they are out. You could also do a similar thing with musical chairs.

CRAFT

You will need: a construction toy, such as Duplo, Lego or Megabloks



Makes a scene of Jonathan and his armour bearer scaling the cliff to attack the Philistines



PRAYER ACTIVITY

Saul and all the army had stopped trusting God, but Jonathan and His armour-bearer continued to trust God and God used them to show His power and love. In your classes at school, are there other children or teachers who trust God? How can we trust God and show His love and power in our class? Pray for one another for this and that we would trust God even when others around us do not.



MEMORY VERSE

Jonathan trusted God and God helped him. Can you remember our memory verse?

Let's practice it!

Psalm 62v8 "Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower."





SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 8: 1 SAMUEL 16,
DAVID ANOINTED

MAIN POINT

God is looking for those who have a heart like His heart. The Holy Spirit helps us to worship God and heal the sick.

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? (Saul did not trust God, but Jonathan did.)

How would you describe God's heart?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What does it mean to **anoint** someone in the Bible?

1. Send them on a journey
2. Give them a bath and wash behind their ears
3. Pour oil on their heads as a sign that God's Spirit is with them to help them with a special task



GAME—LINE UP

God was looking for a new king. The first king was Saul, he was the tallest person in Israel, but He quickly stopped trusting God. I wonder how God will choose the next king...?

Line up the kids in order of:

- Height from shortest to tallest
- Birthdays, January to December
- Names alphabetically
- Age youngest to oldest



STORY

Right back in the beginning of the book of Samuel, we met a lady called Hannah who was longing for a baby. God gave her Samuel and Samuel was very special. While the priests of the time from the tribe of Levi, Eli and his sons Phineas and Hophni, were acting sinfully and using their position as priest to hurt God's people, Samuel was being raised up to be a true priest, prophet and judge who served God and loved God and his people well. The people of Israel got scared when they saw the mighty army of the Ammonites coming against them and they asked God for a human king to look after them instead of God and Samuel. God gave them a king as they asked. A king called Saul who looked big and strong, but he, like the people of Israel that he was leading, did not trust God to look after them. Let's recap what God said to Saul when he stopped trusting God.

Read 1 Samuel 13v14 What sort of person is God looking for to be king? (A man after God's own heart.) God was looking for a man after His own heart, someone who knew God and would love like God loves and would try and follow God as best he could. Just as Samuel was being raised up while Eli and his sons' roles as priests were coming to an end, so God was training up a new king while Saul's kingship was coming to an end.

(You might want to act out the story or use a children's Bible for pictures)

Read 1 Samuel 16v1-5 Samuel and Saul were not speaking to each other at this point. Why do you think Samuel was afraid to anoint someone else as king? (Because Saul had become greedy for power and if Saul found out about it, he would try and kill Samuel and the anointed king in order to carry on being king)

Read 1 Samuel 16v6-11 Samuel assumed that Eliab would be king. Why do you think he thought Eliab would be a good king? (He was the tallest, oldest, strongest) God had not chosen Eliab. He was looking at their hearts.

Read 1 Samuel 16v11-13 The Lord chose David, because He saw David's heart and it pleased God.

The Spirit of the Lord came on David, but it had left Saul, because Saul's heart was far from God. Instead, a harmful spirit came on Saul and caused him distress. He asked for someone who could play music well to help bring peace to his mind and David came and played for Saul.

Read 1 Samuel 16v23 The Spirit of the Lord was with David. What did the Spirit of God help David to do for Saul? (Worship, bring healing to Saul's mind and freedom from a harmful spirit)

CRAFT

Colouring sheet (Resource 5, page 33)





DISCUSSION

Do you remember what happened to Saul when the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him? What did God enable him to do that he couldn't before? What did the Spirit of God enable David to do?



(Saul prophesied and had courage to lead the people in battle. David was able to worship and play skilfully with his instrument. His worship brought healing to Saul's mind.)

WORSHIP ACTIVITY

Ask the Holy Spirit to help us worship today like David did and to have hearts like God's heart

Choose a song or two to worship with (See Resource 6, Page 34 for suggestions)

PRAYER ACTIVITY

God gave David the ability to bring healing to Saul's mind.

Sometimes our bodies are sick and sometimes our minds get sick too. We might have thoughts that bring us very low and make us feel sad or angry or afraid and we can't seem to get rid of them or we might have nightmares. Jesus defeated all the works of the enemy at the cross and we can ask Him to heal our bodies, our emotions and our minds.

Ask if anyone in the group would like prayer for their mind that God would help them with their thoughts/fear/anger/sleep and ask if anyone needs healing in their bodies.

After praying for each other, use this repeat after me prayer to finish:

Father God,

I give you my thoughts. I give you my words. I give you my feelings. I give you my actions.

Please fill me with your Holy Spirit. Heal me and help me and love through me today. Make my heart like your heart.

In the name of Jesus. Amen



MEMORY VERSE

Can you remember the memory verse? Let's practice it!

Psalm 62v8 "Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower."



GAME

See Resource 10, Pages 44-45 for extra games



DAVID ANOINTED

1 SAMUEL 16



RESOURCE 6
SESSION 8 WORSHIP

<https://youtu.be/KI2BPjAla6g>

Every Move I Make by Hillsong Kids—lyrics and Actions

<https://youtu.be/Sjld36-B1K0>

King of love by Doug Horley—lyrics and actions

www.duggiedugdug.com

<https://youtu.be/ajczrL5urel>

God Suit On by Cheeky Pandas

<https://cheekypandas.com/panda-praise/>

You can download the action video from the cheeky pandas website

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 9: 1 SAMUEL 17,
DAVID AND GOLIATH



MAIN POINT

God is with us and will help us when we are in trouble

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? (Samuel anointed David as king, because he had a heart like God's heart)

What do you think is the strongest creature on earth?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What are **hosts** of an army?

1. Lots of soldiers
2. People who serve tea
3. People who make the beds



STORY

Saul is on the throne as king of Israel, but David has been anointed king by Samuel in secret. The Spirit of the Lord is on David and today we will tell the story of David's most famous victory.

(You can find this story in every children's Bible, so feel free to read it from a children's Bible, act it out or read it from 1 Samuel 17. When it comes to David's speech to Goliath, read this from 1 Samuel 17v45-47)

Read 1 Samuel 17v45-47 David did not just see Goliath as coming against Saul, but against God. What name does David use for God in verse 45? (LORD of hosts, which means the Lord of angelic heavenly armies, and the God of Israel's armies) David understood that the battle was not just a big human against a little human, but between God with His angelic armies against the evil spiritual powers that the Philistines were





trusting in.

Can you remember the name of the Philistine god and what happened to his statue when the Ark of the covenant was placed in his temple? (The Philistine god was called Dagon and he fell over and his head came off when the Ark of the Covenant was placed in his temple)

When Goliath came against David, a boy filled with the Spirit of God, what happened to him? (He fell over and his head was cut off)

Goliath is like Dagon! Both of them fell over and lost their heads. If Goliath is like Dagon, what does that make David like? The Ark of the Covenant! It wasn't just David that Goliath had to fight against, God was with David, so Goliath when Goliath fought David, he was fighting against God!



GAME—TALL TOWER

You will need: duplo, megabloks or wooden blocks

In groups, can you build a tower out of blocks as tall as Goliath? On the count of three we are going to shout "I come against you in the name of the Lord of hosts" and knock down the towers.

...1...2...3..."I come against you in the name of the Lord of hosts!"

CRAFT—DAGON AND GOLIATH

You will need: either plain paper or colouring sheets (Resource 7, page 38) and pens/pencils



Can you draw a picture of Dagon crashing down in front of the Ark of the Covenant and Goliath crashing down in front of David?

PRAYER ACTIVITY

Just as God helped David fight against Goliath, so God will help us when we are in trouble. Ask each other if there is anything you need God to help you with this week? Is there something you are afraid of or worried about? God can give you courage like he gave David courage. Spend some time praying for these things and thanking God that He helps us and looks after us.



MEMORY VERSE

David trusted that God would use him to protect all of God's people.



Let's practice our memory verse about trusting in God.



Psalm 62v8 "Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower."



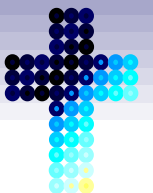
GAME—SAUL, SAUL, DAVID

Saul was too scared to go out and fight, but David was ready to chase off God's enemies

Play Duck, Duck, Goose but with Saul, Saul, David, where David is the person who jumps up and chases.

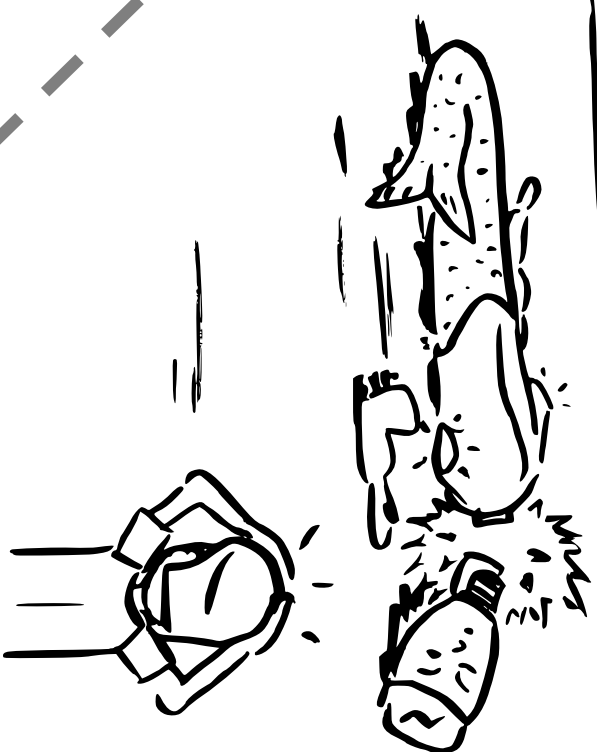
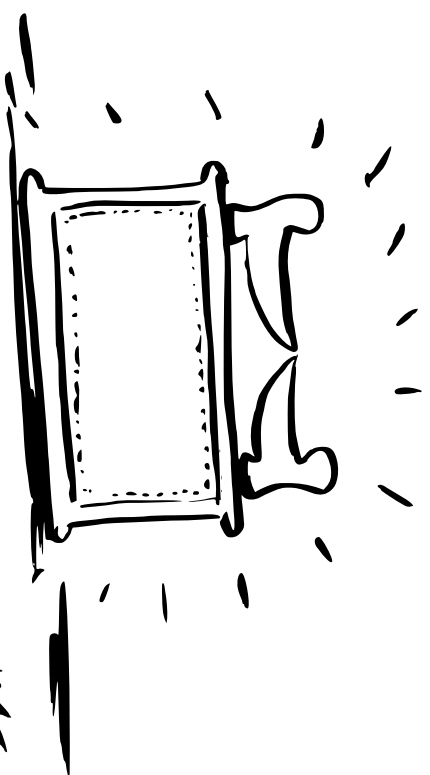
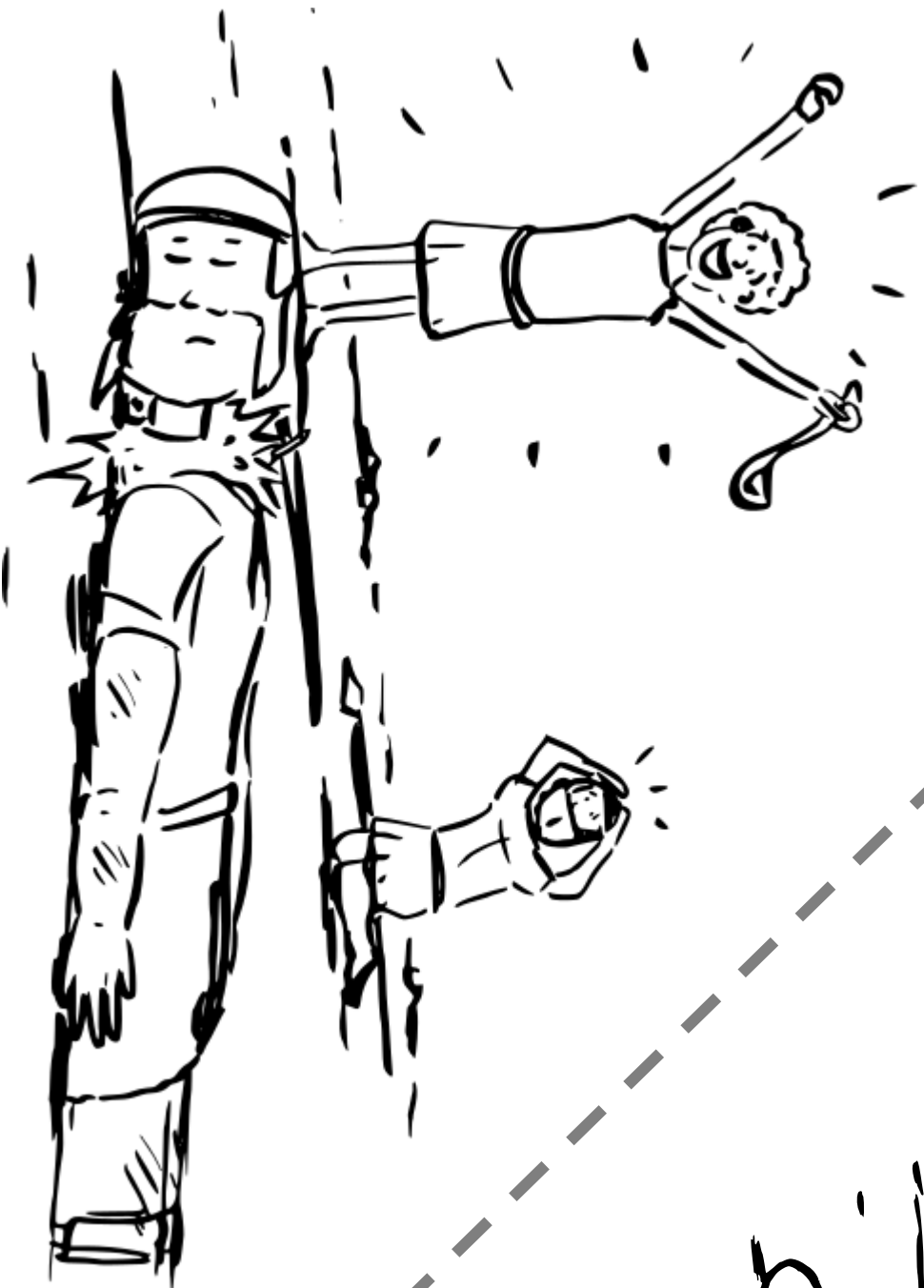


SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST 1 SAMUEL 17



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST
RESOURCE 7, SESSION 9

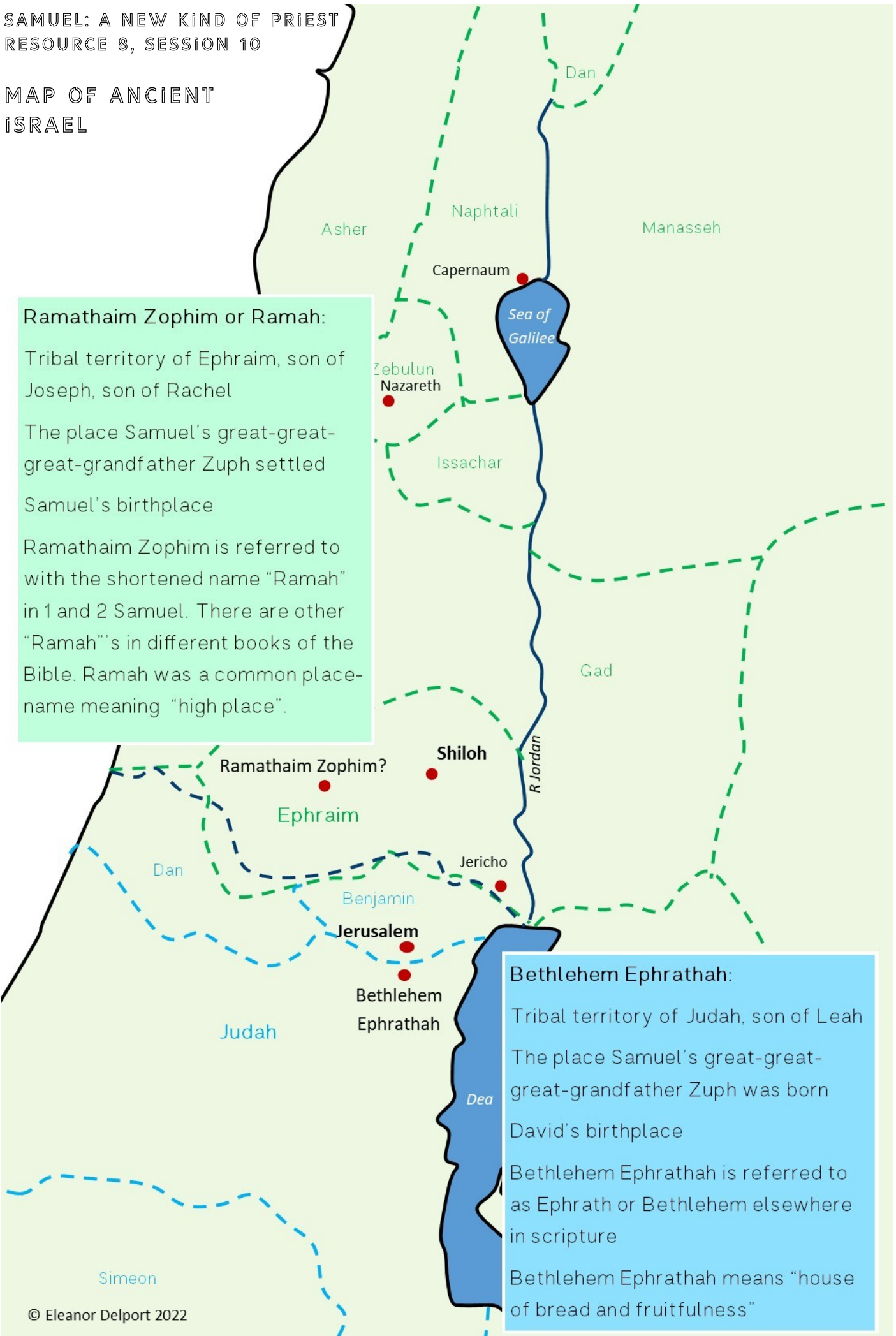
DAVID V GOLIATH
1 SAMUEL 17



YAHWEH V DAGON
1 SAMUEL 5

SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST
RESOURCE 8, SESSION 10

MAP OF ANCIENT
ISRAEL



Ramathaim Zophim or Ramah:
Tribal territory of Ephraim, son of Joseph, son of Rachel
The place Samuel's great-great-great-grandfather Zuph settled
Samuel's birthplace
Ramathaim Zophim is referred to with the shortened name "Ramah" in 1 and 2 Samuel. There are other "Ramah"s in different books of the Bible. Ramah was a common place-name meaning "high place".

Bethlehem Ephrathah:
Tribal territory of Judah, son of Leah
The place Samuel's great-great-great-grandfather Zuph was born
David's birthplace
Bethlehem Ephrathah is referred to as Ephrath or Bethlehem elsewhere in scripture
Bethlehem Ephrathah means "house of bread and fruitfulness"



SAMUEL: A NEW KIND OF PRIEST

SESSION 10: GENESIS 35,
MICAH 5, BETHLEHEM

MAIN POINT

God turned Bethlehem Ephrathah, a place of sorrow, into a place of joy and hope. Samuel and David from Bethlehem Ephrathah, point forward to the promised Priest-Prophet-Judge-King. God turns our sorrow into joy in Jesus

WELCOME

Share news and take register



STARTER QUESTION

Do you remember the story from last week? (God helped David to defeat Goliath.)

What is the town you were born in?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What is a Messiah?

1. A pizza topping
2. A promised anointed King
3. A type of song



INTRODUCTION MAP

You will need: a map of ancient Israel that shows Bethlehem in Judah and Ramah in Ephraim and Jerusalem. (Resource 8, page 39)

Bethlehem has two names in the Bible, Bethlehem and Ephrath. Bethlehem means house of bread and Ephrath means fruitful. Sometimes Bethlehem is called Bethlehem Ephrathah house of bread and fruitfulness. Over the last few weeks, we have met a couple of key people whose family come from Bethlehem. Can you guess who they were? (Samuel and David)

Samuel's great-great-great-grandfather was a man named Zuph who was



born in Ephrath (Bethlehem) and seems to have moved to the Israelite land of Ephraim (Joseph's son). Samuel was raised up as a priest, prophet, and judge after God's heart.

David's father Jesse was also from Bethlehem Ephrathah. David was raised up as a prophet, priest and king after God's own heart.

I wonder why these two special people came from Bethlehem Ephrathah in Judah?

STORY

To see why Bethlehem Ephrathah is such a special place, we must dive back deep into Genesis 35. God had chosen Abraham and his son Isaac and grandson Jacob to carry a special promise. Through their family, a king would come who would save the whole world and defeat evil and death forever. Jacob loved his wife Rachel very much, but she had to wait for many years before she was able to have a child. His name was Joseph and he was Jacob's favourite son. Rachel became pregnant a second time, but this birth was full of trouble.

Read Genesis 35v16-20 Rachel died giving birth to her son, who she tried to call "Ben Oni", "Son of my sadness", but Jacob called him "Benjamin", "Son of my right hand" Do you think Bethlehem represented a happy or sad place for Jacob? (Sad)

Jacob did not want such a hopeless and sad name for his son, so he changed his name from Son of Sadness to Son of my right hand. Son of my right hand, is son who carries my favour and blessing and love. Jacob changed his name from one of sadness to one of hope.



GAME—MUSICAL STATUES

God turns our sadness to joy. We are going to play a joyful game to celebrate! (You can pick any game you like. I have suggested musical statues, but any game will do!)

When the music stops, every stands as still as a statue. Anyone who moves is out of the game.



STORY

After the time of Samuel and David, when the Israelites were in another very difficult time in history, a prophet called Micah spoke about another judge and ruler, like Samuel and David, who would come from Bethlehem.

Read Micah 5v2-5a Who does the prophet Micah prophesy will come from Bethlehem Ephrathah? (The Promised King or "Messiah", Jesus)

Why might God have chosen Bethlehem Ephrathah, a place of sadness, as the place where Samuel and David and Jesus would come from? (He turned it from a place of



sadness to a place of hope)

Just as Samuel and David were faithful and defeated the enemies of God's people, Jesus was the King prophesied about to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Just as David defeated Goliath and the Ark of the Covenant took down the Philistine god Dagon, the Promised King would come from Bethlehem and defeat Satan, sin and death and then go back into Heaven to sit at God's right hand. The place of death and sadness becomes the place of life and joy. Our sadness turns to hope and joy in Jesus!

CRAFT—WORKSHEET AND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

If you are ending the series in advent, you could make some Christmas tree decorations. There is also a worksheet in Resource 9 pages 43-44.



PRAYER ACTIVITY—BREAD AND WINE

Praise God that He turns our sadness into joy.



Bethlehem Ephrathah, house of bread and fruitfulness...Bread and wine!

Jesus turned our sadness to joy by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. He defeated all of God's enemies at the cross. He now sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.

Thank Jesus that He died for our sins and remember that He died on the cross and was raised to life so that we can be forgiven and have joy in God

Ask the children what the bread represents and what the juice (wine) represents.

If anyone does not believe in Jesus, suggest that they watch and pray with us, but don't take the bread and juice yet.

MEMORY VERSE

We have been learning this verse all term! Let's see who can remember it?



Psalm 62v8 "Trust in God at all times, O peoples. Pour out your heart to Him. God is our strong tower."



Can you match the person associated with Bethlehem Ephrathah to the clue?

Boaz
(Ruth 4)



Solomon
(1 Kings 6)



Jacob
(Genesis 35)



David
(1 Samuel 17)



Ibzan
(Judges 12)



Samuel
(1 Samuel 2)



Son of
sorrow to
Son of
strength



The land
shall be
married



The poor
and
foreigners
fed



A faithful
priest



Victorious
in battle



Builder of
a new
temple

Can you find all the words
related to Bethlehem
Ephrathah?

R	E	D	E	E	M	I	G	F	O
S	A	M	U	E	L	B	K	J	D
E	A	D	B	O	A	Z	I	T	F
I	S	A	M	S	J	A	C	O	B
G	B	S	F	H	I	N	J	A	N
Y	R	O	R	E	M	T	P	E	I
R	E	L	O	P	E	F	E	D	M
R	A	O	O	H	T	D	I	N	A
A	D	M	P	E	E	V	U	E	J
M	Y	O	J	R	A	K	B	L	N
U	R	N	U	D	I	K	U	P	E
P	A	Z	D	N	Y	E	J	M	B
L	P	A	G	O	R	O	S	E	E
K	B	L	E	H	C	A	R	T	N

Baby
Benjamin
Bread
Boaz
David
Feed
Ibzan

Jacob
Joy
Judge
King
Marry
Poor
Priest

Prophet
Rachel
Redeem
Samuel
Shepherd
Solomon
Temple

EXTRA GAMES (RESOURCE 10)

A GREAT WIND BLOWS

You will need: One chair or cushion per child

Make a circle of chairs facing and have all the children sit down, facing the middle. An adult calls out "A great wind blows for everyone who..." and ends the sentence with something along the lines of the examples below. Everyone to whom the statement applies stands up and swaps places with someone else in the circle.

If most children stand up, remove one chair and whoever cannot find a seat comes outside the circle and helps the adult choose a sentence.

For example:

A great wind blows for ...

...everyone who has a brother

...everyone who has been camping

...everyone who has a little sister

...everyone who has brown hair

...everyone who has blue eyes

...everyone who has eaten toast for breakfast

...everyone who has a pet cat

...everyone who likes to ride a scooter

...etc.

BLIND MAN'S BLUFF / MARCO POLO

You will need: A blind fold

One child wears the blind fold and has to try and tag the other children.

In Marco Polo, whenever the blind-folded child calls out "Marco", everyone else calls out "Polo", thereby giving away their position.

CAT AND MOUSE

One child is chosen as the cat and one child is the mouse. Everyone else holds hands in a circle with the cat outside the circle and the mouse inside the circle. The children in the ring walk around holding hands and calling out this chant. "What time is it? Just struck nine. Is the cat home? He's about to dine!" Then the children stop and the cat has to chase the mouse by weaving in and out of the children. The cat must follow the mouse's path and cannot take a short cut.

EXTRA GAMES (RESOURCE 10)

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE / NAME CHASE

All children sit in a circle. One is chosen to walk around the outside and tap each person's head saying "duck". On one head the child says "goose" and the "goose" has to jump up and chase the other child around the circle before they sit back in the "gooses" place.

Name chase is a similar idea, but instead of saying "duck", you say each child's name and instead of saying "goose", you say the name of your children's group or church. This is a good way of learning names.

BALANCE CHALLENGE

Children stand back to back in pairs and link arms. Child A leans forward so Child B is flat on their back with legs in the air. Then return to the middle. Then Child B leans forward so Child A is flat on their back with legs in the air. Then, return to middle and, still linking arms. Try to sit down.

MEMORY GAME

Sit children in a circle and ask them to think of one thing they like doing. Then choose someone to start. For example, Katie might say "I like to swim." The person next to her will say "Katie likes to swim, I like to dance." The next person, "Katie likes to swim, Fred likes to Dance, I like to cycle"...and so on.

CREATE A STORY

Sit the children in a circle. One starts off "Once upon a time..." The next adds a bit of the sentence "an octopus swallowed a..." then the next adds a bit more and so on until you are all the way round the circle.

MAN DIDDY WATCHER

One person sits in the middle of the circle, blindfolded, with keys in front of them. Another person from the circle quietly takes the keys and walks around the outside of the circle back to their place. The person in the middle has three attempts to point at the person with their keys. If the stealer gets back to their place unnoticed, the group chants "Man diddy watcher, whose got your keys?" Then the person in the middle opens their eyes and has three guesses as to who has their keys.

BEAN GAME

When bean is called, children do action. Baked bean—lie on the floor. String bean—stretch up tall and thin. Runner bean—run on the spot. Jelly bean—wobble. Jumping bean—jump. Broad bean—stretch wide. French bean—"Bonjour!". Chilli bean—shiver.

