



UNIT 10 | SESSION 3

SAUL SINNED AND WAS REJECTED

1 SAMUEL 13–15

CHRIST CONNECTION: King Jesus obeyed God in everything He did.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: My eyes have seen the Lord. Isaiah 6:5

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Saul did not obey God.
- God was going to choose a new king.
- Jesus is our King who always obeyed God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

The Philistines had more soldiers, chariots, and horses than the Israelites. In a battle with the Philistines, the Israelites were afraid. King Saul wanted to make an offering to God. Saul waited for Samuel to come, but then he decided to make the offering himself. When Samuel came, he asked, “Saul, what are you doing? You will not be king for very long. God will choose a king who will obey Him.”

Later, the Israelites won another battle. God told Saul to destroy everything, but Saul did not obey. He kept the best animals. Samuel told Saul, “You did not obey God, so God is going to make someone else king.”



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 13. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A FAMILIAR SONG

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” As you sing, use simple hand gestures for “king” [pretend to place a crown on your head] and “world” [make a large circle with your arms].

“God sent Jesus to be King, to be King, to be King.

God sent Jesus to be King over all the world.”

SAY “God chose Saul as king, but Saul did not always obey God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the whole world. King Jesus obeyed God in everything He did.”

2 EXPLORE THE LETTER J

Make several tactile letter cards. Print large Js on heavyweight paper. Decorate the letters using items such as sandpaper, air bubble packaging, glitter glue, sand, or pom-poms. Place each letter in a gallon-size ziplock bag and seal. Lay the bags on floor and allow babies to explore.

SAY “Jesus is our King. His name starts with the letter J. Jesus always obeyed God. He always did what was right.”

3 PLAY WITH ANIMALS

Provide different types of age-appropriate animal figures or stuffed animals (including horses, cows, and sheep) for babies to play with. Encourage babies to make corresponding animal noises as they play. Review the Bible story.

SAY “Saul was the king, but he did not obey God. Saul said he destroyed the animals, but he really kept the best ones. God was not happy with Saul. God was going to choose a new king.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 13. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 SIMON SAYS

Instruct toddlers to stand arm's lengths apart around the room. Call out simple actions for toddlers to obey. Sample actions include hop, touch nose, touch toes, clap hands, and so forth. Explain how we are to listen to and obey God's instructions. Review the Bible story.

SAY “King Saul did not obey God’s instructions. When Jesus lived on earth, He always obeyed God. God wants us to obey His instructions too.”

3 FIND THE ANIMALS



Fill a plastic container with sand, rice, shredded paper, pom-poms, or any other age-appropriate filler. Hide toy animals or pictures of animals in the bin. Guide toddlers to find the animals using their hands, large spoons, or tongs. Play, ensuring no child places filler in his mouth.

SAY “In our story, God told Saul to destroy everything after his army won the battle. Saul did not obey God. He kept the best animals. Because of Saul’s sin, God was going to choose a new king.”

4 LISTEN AND OBEY

Print Jump, Zoom, March, Walk, Crawl, and Spin on index cards (one word per card). Glue each card to the side of a square tissue box. Choose a toddler to gently toss the box. Read the motion that lands faceup. Encourage toddlers to move around the room doing that motion until you say, “Stop!” Repeat the activity as time allows, ensuring each toddler has a turn.

SAY “We need to listen to and obey instructions. Saul did not obey God. Unlike Saul, King Jesus obeyed God in everything He did.”

5 LOOK THROUGH BINOCULARS

Tape or glue two cardboard tubes together or provide child-friendly binoculars. Invite toddlers to look through the binoculars and tell what they see. Place a key passage phrase card at Isaiah 6:5 in your Bible. Read it aloud using binoculars (“My eyes have seen the Lord”).

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘My eyes have seen the Lord.’ We look with our eyes. Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne. Jesus is Lord. When King Jesus was on earth, He always obeyed God.”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: BUILD THE CROWN

Use painter's tape to make several basic crown outlines on the floor. Spread foam or cardboard blocks on the floor. Guide toddlers to fill in the crown outlines by placing blocks inside the tape.

SAY “Kings often wear crowns. King Saul did not obey God. The only king who obeyed God in everything He did is King Jesus.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“Jesus obeyed,
Jesus obeyed,
Jesus obeyed,
Everything God said.”

3 PLAY WITH KINETIC SAND

Spread kinetic sand in a shallow bin. Provide sand toys or round cookie cutters. Draw the letter O in the sand using your finger. Explain that the word obey begins with the letter O. Remind the toddlers how we can obey, just like Jesus. Allow children to play as you review the Bible story.

SAY “God gave King Saul instructions to obey. Saul did not obey God. Because Saul did not obey, God was going to choose a new king. Jesus obeyed God in everything He did.”

4 PARK THE CARS

Make a parking lot by gluing squares of different colored paper on a sheet of poster board. Lead toddlers to park toy cars on the squares. Call for children to arrange the cars on the squares by color and type (truck or car). Explain that God gives us instructions to keep us safe.

SAY “You did a great job following the instructions to park the cars safely! You obeyed my instructions. King Saul did not obey the instructions God gave him. King Jesus, however, obeyed God in everything He did.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.