

# SAUL RESCUED ISRAEL

1 SAMUEL 11-13



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus is the King who always obeyed God. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from sin and death and gives us life with God forever.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God's people helped their friends and won battles. Everyone was happy!
- But Samuel was worried. He warned God's people to always listen to God and do what is right.
- God wants people who will listen to and obey Him. Jesus always obeyed God.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** Some of the friends of God's people needed help. They sent messages saying, "Help us!" So, King Saul gathered a big army. Saul's army won! Everyone was happy, but Samuel was worried. He warned God's people, "If you listen to God and do what is right, everything will be OK." One day, the Philistines wanted to fight Israel. Instead of waiting for Samuel to ask God for help, Saul prepared for battle anyway. Saul didn't wait. When Samuel found out, Samuel told Saul, "You made a wrong choice. God wants people who will listen to Him. Now, He has chosen someone else to be king."



## 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 11. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

“The LORD is over all things, all things, all things.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.  
He’s faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.”

**SAY** “Is God over all things? Yes! Our key passage phrase says ‘The LORD is over all things.’ God is over everything, and He loves us so much!”

### 2 PRESS HANDPRINT ART

Sit babies at tables, in leaders’ laps, or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Trace each baby’s hands onto a piece of construction paper. Write \_\_\_\_ (Insert baby’s name.) Can Help on the top of each baby’s handprint. If desired, wet each baby’s hand, place it on the construction paper, and then trace the wet handprints. Read the gospel gems as you trace each handprint.

**SAY** “Can we be helpful? Yes, we can be helpful. God’s people helped their friends and won battles. Everyone was happy!”

### 3 HOLD THE BIBLES

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Provide soft Bibles for the babies to hold. Pat the babies’ hands on the Bibles while saying, “The Bible is God’s Word” and “God speaks through His Word.”

**SAY** “Does God want us to listen and obey Him? Yes! God wants people who will listen to and obey Him. The Bible is God’s Word. God wants us to listen to and obey Him. Jesus always obeyed God.”

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.



## LEARNING Activities

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

### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 11. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song "If You're Happy and You Know It" with toddlers. As you sing, clap your hands, stomp your feet, turn around, and say, "Amen!"

**SAY** “ Were the people happy that they won the battle? Yes, God’s people helped their friends, and everyone was happy! ”

### 3 CHOOSE THE RIGHT OR WRONG CHOICE

Place a piece of tape on the floor, dividing the playing area in two parts. Explain that one side of the room is the “Right Choice,” and the other side is the “Wrong Choice.” Give toddlers several scenarios and instruct toddlers to pick a side. Example situations include “Mason shares his toys with Cameron,” “Jack says something unkind to his friend,” and so forth. Repeat, adding situations that best fit your group. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Did Saul make the right choice or the wrong choice? Yes, Saul made the wrong choice. Samuel told Saul, ‘You made a wrong choice. God wants people who will listen to Him.’ Samuel warned God’s people to always listen to God and do what is right. ”

### 4 HELP MOVE BLOCKS

Line up toddlers, and hand a foam or cardboard block to the first toddler in line. Show toddlers how to pass the block along the line until it reaches the last toddler. Instruct the last toddler to drop the block in a box or bin. Say one word of the key passage phrase as the toddlers pass the blocks. (“The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19.”) When finished, say the key passage phrase together.

**SAY** “ Can we help our friends? Yes! We can help our friends. Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things!’ God’s people helped their friends and won the battle. ”

### 5 FIND THE OBJECTS

Provide a bin full of shredded paper with various objects hidden among the paper. Include items such as people figurines, the Key Passage Phrase Card, a small crown, and so forth. If possible, choose items from the Bible story as a way to retell and review the story. Allow toddlers to work together to find the objects.

**SAY** “ Did you help each other find the hidden objects? Yes! You did help each other. God’s people also helped their friends and won the battle. Everyone was happy! ”

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**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus is the King who always obeyed God. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from sin and death and gives us life with God forever.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: HELP THE LEADERS

Arrange the room with chairs out of place, toys on the floor, and papers strewn about. Call attention to the mess the leaders have made. Challenge toddlers to work together to clean the room. Congratulate toddlers who work in pairs to complete certain tasks. Tell the Bible story as the toddlers work together to help the leaders.

**SAY** “What did the friends of God’s people say? Yes, they said, ‘Help us!’ Did God’s people help? Yes! Did you help the leaders clean the room? Yes! You helped each other just like God’s people helped their friends and won the battle. Everyone was happy!”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

“The LORD is over all things, all things, all things.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.  
He’s faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.  
The LORD is over all things. He loves us so much.”

**SAY** “Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ God chose Saul to be Israel’s king, but Jesus is King over all things. We can know and trust Jesus because He is God’s Son.”

### 3 SING AND MOVE TO “I’M IN THE LORD’S ARMY”

Sing “I’m In the Lord’s Army” with toddlers. If you are unfamiliar with the tune, look it up before toddlers arrive. Consider creating motions for the song. Sing with toddlers several times.

**SAY** “What did Saul gather? King Saul gathered a big army. God’s people helped their friends and won the battle. Everyone was happy.”

### 4 PLAY “WALK AND WAIT”

Sing or play a **upbeat worship music** on an **electronic device** for the toddlers. Instruct toddlers to walk around the room. When the music stops, say, “Wait!” and direct the toddlers to stop. Restart the music again, and repeat several times, always saying, “Wait on the Lord” after the music stops.

**SAY** “One day, the Philistines wanted to fight Israel. Instead of waiting for Samuel to ask God for help, Saul prepared for battle anyway. Did Saul wait for the Lord? No! Saul did not wait.”

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.