

SAUL DISOBEYED GOD

1 SAMUEL 14–15



CHRIST CONNECTION: Our sin keeps us from God. Only Jesus has no sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin so we can be with Him forever.

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

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God's people, the Israelites, won many battles.
- God told Saul to get rid of everything that belonged to the Philistines, but Saul did not listen.
- Because Saul did not obey, God said Saul couldn't be king anymore.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: One day, King Saul and a big army rested under a fruit tree. Saul's son, Jonathan, and his helper left to fight the Philistines. The Philistines were afraid! Saul brought the rest of the army to fight too. Saul told his soldiers not to eat anything until they won; the soldiers were tired and hungry. Jonathan did not know about his dad's rule. When the army went into the woods and found some honey, Jonathan ate it. Saul found out. He wanted to punish Jonathan, but the other soldiers said no. When the Israelites won another battle, God told Saul to destroy everything that belonged to the Philistines, but Saul did not listen. He kept some of the best animals. Because Saul did not obey, God said Saul could not be king anymore.



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 14. 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 “Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ God is faithful, kind, and He loves us so much!”

2 TOUCH THE CROSSES

Provide cross-shape cutouts from cardboard or provide various baby-friendly crosses. Allow babies to hold and play with the crosses on the floor. Call attention to the shape of the cross, and try to spot that same shape around the room. Every time the baby touches the cross or leaders spot the shape, say the word, “Cross.” Read the Christ Connection as babies spot and say, “Cross.”

SAY “What keeps us from God? Yes, our sins keep us from God. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins so we can be with Him forever.”

3 PLAY “STOP AND SQUISH”

Provide small ziplock bags with a small amount of yellow or orange washable paint inside. Tape bags to the floor, reinforcing the opening with duct tape to prevent spills. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Allow babies to pat the bags. As they play, say words like “Stop!” and “Squish” for babies to listen to your commands. Read the second and third gospel gem as babies play.

SAY “Did Saul listen to God? No, Saul did not listen. Because Saul did not obey, God said Saul could not be king anymore.”

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 14. 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 STICK AN O FOR "OBEY"

Provide toddlers with a piece of construction paper. Draw a big O in the middle of the paper. Provide stickers for toddlers to place on the letter O. Write ____ (Insert toddler's name.) Can Obey on the bottom of each paper. Retell the Bible story as toddlers decorate their letters.

SAY “ God loves you! Does He love you when you do something wrong? Yes, He still loves you! Sin is disobeying God. Even when we do not obey God, and we sin, God still loves us. God sent Jesus because He loves us. ”

3 MOVE AND SING

Sing “Trust and Obey” with toddlers. On the word “Trust,” extend your arms out to your sides and make a T. On the word “Obey,” make an O with your arms arched inward to meet in a circle over your head. Move and sing, repeating as interest allows. Review the story.

SAY “ Did Saul obey God? No! God told Saul to get rid of everything that belonged to the Philistines, but Saul did not listen. Because Saul did not obey, God said Saul could not be king anymore. ”

4 PLAY AFRAID HOPSCOTCH

Tape a hopscotch game on the floor. Gather a foam block, and write the letters A, F, R, A, I, and D on each side of the block. Direct toddlers to toss the block onto the squares. Instruct toddlers to hop on each square, but to hop over the square with the block on it. Instruct toddlers to say, “The LORD is over all things!” as they hop over the “afraid” block. Review the Bible story as toddlers play, focusing on how God is over all things—even the things we are afraid of.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is over all things.’ Were the Philistines afraid during the Bible story? Yes. The Philistines were afraid! ”

5 FIND FAVORITE ANIMALS

Provide pictures of various animals or various toy animals. Hold up two animals, and allow toddlers to choose their favorite animals. Narrow down the group's favorites to one or two. Challenge toddlers to make the noises of their favorite animals. Retell the story.

SAY “ Did Saul destroy everything that belonged to the Philistines? No. Saul did not listen. He kept some of the best animals. Because Saul did not obey, God said Saul could not be king anymore. ”

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

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PICK A FRUIT

Draw simple fruit shapes on papers such as an apple, banana, orange, and grapes. Tape one fruit in each corner of the room. Tell the toddlers that the corners are different "fruit trees" and they need to rest under those "trees." Instruct toddlers to stand under their favorite fruit, and choose one toddler to call out a fruit. The toddlers under that tree must then choose another fruit to stand under. Repeat until only one tree remains. Replay as interest allows. Review the Bible story, focusing on how Saul's big army rested under a fruit tree.

SAY "What did King Saul's army rest under? Yes, a fruit tree! Jonathan and his helper left to fight the Philistines, but soon, Saul brought the rest of the army to fight too. God's people won many battles."

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 loved us so much, He sent Jesus to save us from our sins!"

3 REPEAT THE BEAT

Guide toddlers to sit on the floor. Tap an easy beat on your legs. Guide toddlers to listen and repeat the beat. Repeat with several different and challenging beats. Retell the Bible story.

SAY "Did Saul listen to God? No! Saul did not listen. He kept some of the best animals. Because Saul didn't obey, God said Saul couldn't be king anymore."

4 BUILD HONEYCOMBS

Squeeze liquid glue into separate containers. Add a few drops of yellow food color and mix. Provide paper and circle foam shapes for toddlers to make honeycombs. Review the story.

SAY "In the Bible story, what did Jonathan eat? Yes, honey! Saul told his soldiers not to eat anything until they won, so the soldiers were tired and hungry. Jonathan did not know about his dad's rule, so when the army went into the woods and found some honey, Jonathan ate it."

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.