

# FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

1 SAMUEL 7



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that we can be forgiven. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God gives us all we need in Jesus. Philippians 4:19

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God's people were sorry for not listening to God. They wanted to hear Him again.
- Samuel said, "Love God and listen to Him. Then He will help you."
- The people told God they were sorry, and God helped them.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** God's people felt sorry for not listening to God. They wanted God to talk to them again. Samuel told them, "Love only God and listen to Him. Then He will help you." So, the Israelites came together. They told God they were sorry. The Philistines heard God's people were meeting to pray, so they came to fight them. God's people were scared. Samuel prayed, and God heard him. As the Philistines came closer, God made a big thundering sound that scared the Philistines! God helped the Israelites win the battle. Then, Samuel set up a big rock to remind everyone how God helped them.



## 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 7. 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 the song below to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”:

“God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]  
God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]  
God gives all that we need through His Son who set us free. [Cross arms over your chest.]  
God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase reminds us, ‘God gives us all we need in Jesus.’ When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin. ”

### 2 MAKE A BIBLE STORY POSTER BOOK

Print out the Bible Story Posters from this unit, including today’s. Glue the pictures side by side on two 11-by-17-inch pieces of paper. Fold the papers and staple along the seams. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows and allow babies to flip through the pages. Review the Bible stories, pointing out key parts of each story (Boaz, Ruth, Naomi; Samuel, Hannah; the cart and cows; and the altar). Read today’s gospel gems.

**SAY** “ Our Bible stories have shown us that God sees and hears us. God’s people were sorry for not listening to God. They wanted to hear Him again. ”

### 3 ROLL THE ROCK

Before the session, tape gray paper around an inflated beach ball to resemble a rock. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows in a circle. Roll the “rock” gently toward the babies. Let them explore the rock, listening for the sound the paper makes as it moves on the floor. Allow babies to try to roll it back to you. Say the gospel gems while rolling the rock back and forth.

**SAY** “ When the people told God they were sorry, did God help them? Yes, God helped them. Samuel used a rock in the story to remind the people how God helped them. God helps us when we listen to Him. ”

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 7. 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 with you. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 EXPLORE ROCKS

Gather a variety of rocks in different sizes and shapes. Challenge toddlers to stack the rocks to make different shapes. Allow toddlers to continue designing shapes as you review the Bible story. Monitor safety. Ensure no rock is small enough for any child to put in his mouth.

**SAY** “ Did God’s people listen to Him? No! God’s people were sorry for not listening to God. They wanted to hear Him again. So, Samuel set up a rock to remind the people how God helped them. ”

### 3 LISTEN AND GUESS

Play loud sounds like thunder, fireworks, car engines, and so forth on an electronic device. Make sure the sounds are loud enough for the toddlers to hear, but quiet enough not to frighten or overstimulate them. Allow toddlers to guess each sound. Explain that ears help us listen to sounds around us. Challenge the toddlers to listen closely as you read the story.

**SAY** “ Is thunder loud? Yes! Who made a big thundering sound in our Bible story? Yes, God! God made a big thundering sound to scare the Philistines away. God helped His people. God helps us too! When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin. ”

### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”:

“God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]  
God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]  
God gives all that we need through His Son who set us free. [Cross arms over your chest.]  
God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]”

**SAY** “ In our story, the people told God they were sorry, and God helped them. Do we need help too? Yes! God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so we can be forgiven. Jesus is all we need. ”

### 5 WORK A BIBLE STORY PUZZLE

Print the Bible Story Poster and glue it to an 8½-by-11-inch piece of cardboard. Cut the picture into several pieces to create an easy-to-work puzzle. Allow the toddlers to put together the puzzle as you retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ The people told God they were sorry, and did God help them? Yes! God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that we can be forgiven. ”

# FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

## 1 SAMUEL 7

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that we can be forgiven. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God gives us all we need in Jesus. Philippians 4:19

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SIT-DOWN CHALLENGE

Form a circle with the chairs in the room. Guide the toddlers to stand in front of a chair. Instruct toddlers to sit down when you name something they have done. Name different things toddlers may do that are wrong (not pick up toys, be mean to a sibling, and so forth). Repeat for the things toddlers do that are right (help a friend, say thank you, say “I’m sorry” to a friend, and so forth). Review the Bible story while the toddlers play.

**SAY** “Were God’s people sorry for not listening to God? Yes, they were. But God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that we can be forgiven. When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.”

### 2 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”:

“God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]  
 God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]  
 God gives all that we need through His Son who set us free. [Cross arms over your chest.]  
 God gives us all we need in Jesus. [Point up to the sky.]”

**SAY** “Our key passage phrase reminds us, ‘God gives us all we need in Jesus.’ When we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.”

### 3 LISTENING EARS

Print “Ears” printable (one per toddler). Provide colorful pom-poms to glue on their ears. Let them continue to create a unique ear as you review the Bible story.

**SAY** “Were God’s people sorry for not listening to God? Yes! They wanted to hear God again. Samuel said, ‘Love God and listen to Him!’ God wants us to love and listen to Him too!”

### 4 WATER TRACING

Use chalk to write God gives us Jesus on a piece of construction paper. Provide cups of water and paintbrushes or cotton swabs for toddlers to trace the message. Keep paper towels handy for easy cleanup. Retell the Bible story as toddlers trace the message.

**SAY** “Who did God give us? Yes, Jesus! Our key passage phrase says, ‘God gives us all we need in Jesus.’ The Israelites were sorry for not listening to God. Do we always listen to God? No! But when we know and love Jesus, God forgives our sin.”

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, and gospel gems throughout the week.