

Samuel meets Saul



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 9:6-10,14-27
Saul meets Samuel



Aim:

To learn how Samuel showed kindness to Saul



In today's session we meet a reluctant future king who could not see what God saw in him.

Saul lacked confidence in his call from God, but the kindness of Samuel gave him encouragement. Today we'll explore how we can share the kindness of God with others.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper - for notetaking, drawing and writing
- Memory verse wristband
- *Kindness Scriptures* handout
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A flip chart / large piece of paper and pens



Start it

Tell the children they are going to watch a Horrible Histories clip telling them all about some strange laws put in place by Queen Elizabeth I. Give the children a piece of paper and a pencil and ask them to write down every strange Tudor law put in place by Queen Elizabeth I and the reason behind it.

After the clip discuss the different laws and what the children thought of them.

Video

Horrible Histories Strange Tudor Laws uploaded by gazza6359(1:49)

Discuss

Ask the children how they normally react when they are asked to do something. Do they tend to do as they are told? Does it depend on who is asking them to do it? Whose rules are they willing to follow? Why are rules and guidelines usually put in place?

Say:

Our Bible stories this month remind us that following God's rules is a wise thing to do. Although we might not always like to follow God's guidance, he knows what is best for us. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that, unlike Queen Elizabeth I, God's rules are always in our best interest.

Memory verse

Give each member of the group a memory verse wristband. Share the verse together and, if it helps the group, make up some actions to go with the words.

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 ICB)



Sing it

Say:

Our song for today reminds us how important it is to follow Jesus.

Song

'I have decided' dance-a-long by CJ and Friends (Stop at 2:41)



Tell it

Ask:

Which Bible story do you think of when you hear the name Samuel?

Say:

When Samuel was a small boy he heard the voice of God in the Temple. As Samuel grew, he continued to serve God. Our Bible story for today involves Samuel, but it is one that you may not have heard before. Let's watch the clip to find out the story so far.

Video

Samuel anoints Saul by Bible Stories for Kids

Watch: 0:00 to 2:58 'Then the Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."'

Say:

Samuel led the people of Israel as one of God's judges. (In those days 'judges' were not only local magistrates, but could also be leaders or prophets.) In the Bible Samuel is described as a 'man of God'.

Ask:

What do you think are the qualities of a 'man of God'? How would a person like this speak, think and behave?

Say:

When Samuel was older he appointed his two sons to lead the people 1 Samuel 8:1-3).

Ask:

- What kind of leaders were Samuel's sons?
- What did the elders of Israel say to Samuel?

Say:

When Samuel prayed, God told him to listen to the people and give them the king they wanted. He told Samuel to warn the people about what it would mean to have a king in charge of them.

Ask:

What would life be like for the Israelites if they decided to have a king?

Say:

The people didn't listen to Samuel and decided that they wanted a king, just like all of the other tribes.

Watch: 2:59 to 3:59 'Afterwards they went to the rooftop of Samuel's house and talked a very long time.'

Ask:

What was Saul doing when Samuel spotted him?

Say:

Samuel's words must have taken Saul by surprise. One minute he was chasing around the town looking for missing donkeys, and the next minute he was listening to a wise old man saying, 'Don't worry about the donkeys you lost three days ago. They have been found. Israel now wants you and all your father's family.' (1 Samuel 9:20 ICB)

Ask:

How did Saul react to Samuel's words?

Read:

‘Saul answered, “But I am from the tribe of Benjamin. It’s the smallest tribe in Israel. And my family group is the smallest in the tribe of Benjamin. Why do you say Israel wants me?”’

(1 Samuel 9:21 *ICB*)

Say:

Saul found it difficult to understand how God could ever want him to lead the people of Israel.

Ask:

- Why do you think Saul pointed out that he was from the smallest family group of the smallest tribe of Benjamin?
- How do you think Saul felt about Samuel’s words?

Say:

Samuel could see that Saul was struggling to understand the news that he would be the new leader of Israel.

Read:

‘Then Samuel took Saul and his servant into a large room. He gave them a chief place at the table. About 30 guests were there. Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the meat I gave you. It’s the portion I told you to set aside.”

‘So the cook took the thigh and put it on the table in front of Saul. Samuel said, “This is the meat saved for you. Eat it because it was set aside for you for this special time. As I said, ‘I have invited the people.’” So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

‘After they finished eating, they came down from the place of worship. They went to the town. Then Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house.’

(1 Samuel 9:22-27 *ICB*)

Ask:

How did Samuel show kindness to Saul?

Say:

Saul had a lot of new information to get his head around. Samuel looked after him, gave him something delicious to eat and listened to his concerns.

Action it

Say:

Every day we have opportunities to show kindness to others just as Samuel showed kindness to Saul.

Ask:

What different ways can we show kindness to others? Let's make a huge list.

Using a flip chart or large piece of paper, write down all the ideas from the children. Ask them to think about their home, school, community and church and all the ways they could show kindness in those places. Try and collect as many ideas as possible.

Kindness Scriptures

Give each child a *Kindness Scriptures* sheet. Ask the children to take turns reading through the Bible verses. Which one stands out for them?

Give the children paper and felt-tips / colouring pencils and ask them to create a kindness reminder – a picture that includes at least three acts of kindness that they could carry out in the coming week and a kindness Bible verse that will give them encouragement as they help others. Perhaps they can create a picture of themselves carrying out the acts of kindness and write their chosen Bible verse in a creative way.

Explore It ideas will remind the children to keep on track with their acts of kindness.



Pray it

Say:

Think back to the story of Samuel that we watched earlier.

Ask:

What happened when Samuel appointed his sons as judges over Israel?

Say:

Samuel's sons did not follow God's rules for their lives. The elders of Israel wanted Samuel to ask God to appoint a king. Instead of complaining to the people about the situation, Samuel went straight to God and prayed about it. He didn't necessarily get the answer he wanted but he trusted God anyway.

Ask:

Has God ever answered one of your prayers in a way that you didn't expect? What happened and what was it like?

Say:

When we pray, we sometimes want God to put a big tick next to a long list of things we think we need or want to happen. God doesn't work like that. He sees a much bigger picture than we do, and although his answers may be unexpected, they will always be in our best interest.

Encourage the children to think about a situation they have been praying about. As the music plays, encourage them to write a new prayer, trusting God to answer in whatever way he feels

is best for them. When the music finishes, some of the children may feel comfortable sharing their prayer; if not, bring the session to a close with a prayer on behalf of the group.

Listen

'Trust and Obey' Live and acoustic by His Estate (3:51)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Samuel meets Saul

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 9:6–10,14–27
Saul meets Samuel



Aim:

To learn how Samuel showed kindness to Saul



Be kind

During this week's *Explore It* session you thought about three acts of kindness that you could share with others. You also copied out a Bible verse to encourage you to be kind to others. Try and read the verse every day and complete the three acts of kindness before the next session.



Cook

This week we heard a story about Samuel sitting and eating a wonderful meal with Saul. Ask someone at home to help you to create a wonderful meal for your family. This will be the perfect way for you to show kindness to the people you share your life with.



Song for the week

'I have decided' dance-a-long by CJ and Friends



Memory verse

'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'

(Psalm 19:8 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Samuel meets Saul



Bible verses:
1 Samuel 9:22-24



Aim:
To learn that Samuel was kind to Saul



Memory verse

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 *ICB*)



Sing It

'If I were a butterfly' (lyrics and music)
'The butterfly song' by Brian Howard,
uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

'Wonderful Lord' by Doug Horley, uploaded
by Springwood Kids (3:23)



Start it

Samuel gave Saul a good meal. Do you have a favourite meal and who do you eat it with?

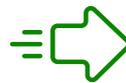


Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Samuel 9:22-24.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- How do people show kindness to you?
- Are you ever kind to someone at home?
- Do you have a special seat at home, either at the table or on a comfy chair?
- Saul became a leader - a king. What does a king do?
- What would you do if you were a king or queen?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Musical chairs
- Guess the food (with your eyes closed)
- Memorise foods under a blanket and remove one each time
- Pretend you are a king/queen and everyone follows your orders
- Think of a kind sentence and go and say it to an adult.

