LESSON 9

SAMUEL PRAYS FOR ISRAEL



Aim: **To show the children how Samuel, the Lord's faithful servant, led God's people back to serving the living God.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 7:2-17**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 1:1**

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked ...

Note: Over the next 13 weeks the children will learn Psalm 1 – one new verse or part of a verse each week. This Psalm tells us what a servant of God is like as well as what he or she is not like.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class what kind of person makes a good leader. If they find this a difficult question to answer, name some characteristics, both good and bad, and let them say which are the good ones. For example: Should a good leader be honest? Wise? Lazy? Helpful? Greedy?

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Samuel was the leader God had appointed over his people. Israel's leaders in those days were called judges. While Samuel was growing up God allowed Israel to lose much land to a fierce heathen tribe called the Philistines. The Israelites realised that God would deliver them from the Philistines only if they turned back to God and worshipped him faithfully. Samuel was the judge or leader who told them what to do (7:2-4).
2. The Israelites obeyed Samuel. Then he called the whole nation together and led them in prayer. The people of Israel showed they were really serious in their desire to follow God by not eating anything and confessing their sins (7:5-6).
3. When the Philistines heard that all Israel was gathered in one place, they saw a chance to come and kill them all at once (7:7).
4. The Israelites were very frightened but they trusted their leader, Samuel, because he served God. Samuel made a special sacrifice. He continued praying for his people, and God answered (7:8-9).
5. **Describe the very exciting events of verse 10.** Samuel was sacrificing and praying to God while the large, well-equipped Philistine army was coming nearer and nearer. Israel was watching Samuel and feeling very afraid. Their army was far smaller than that of the Philistines. Then God sent a thunderstorm. **Show Picture 9.** The Philistine army became so frightened that they ran away. The Israelites chased after them (7:10-11).
6. So that the people would not forget what God had done for them Samuel set up a stone to mark the place and gave it a special name (7:12-13).

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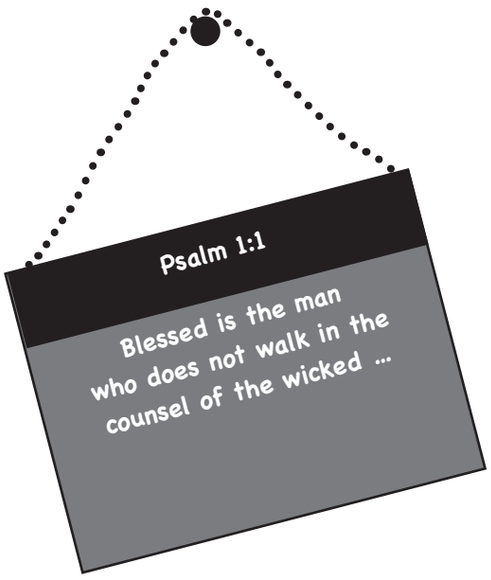
Our Response to the Story

Ask the children why Samuel was a good leader. Suggested answer: He taught the people to serve God faithfully and told them how God wanted them to live (7:3). He not only told them what to do, he also helped them do it (7:9).

Samuel prayed for his people. This is an example for us to follow. God wants us to pray for our family, our friends and our country. Will you do this at home every day in this coming week?

Instil the Memory Verse

Samuel was like the person described in the memory verse.



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