

Samuel Speaks for God

1 Samuel 12; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 603–615

5 Lesson

Have you ever wanted to do something, even if it made your mom, dad, or teachers sad? The people of Israel did that to Samuel.

The people of Israel decided that they wanted a king to lead them instead of Samuel.

So Samuel talked to God. And God gave them King Saul. When the king helped Israel win a battle, the people were ready to celebrate having their king.

“Let us go to Gilgal,” Samuel said to all the people. “We can crown the king and make a sacrifice to the Lord.”

So Samuel, King Saul, and all the people gathered for the celebration. They sacrificed animals and worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel, now an old man with gray hair, called for quiet and began his speech.

“God has done as you asked,” Samuel said. “He has given you a king to be your leader. And what about me? I was your leader since my youth. Tell me: Have I ever cheated you? Have I ever stolen from you?”

“No,” the people answered. “We can honestly say that you did not

cheat us or hurt us.”

“Good,” Samuel replied. “Now stand here and listen. I am going to remind you of all the good things God did for you and your fathers and grandfathers when the Lord was your King.”

Samuel reminded them of how God had sent Moses and Aaron to lead the people from Egypt. And the people remembered.

“Remember how Israel forgot about the Lord and worshiped idols?” Samuel continued. “The Lord allowed them to become the



The Message

God is glad He made
me His child.

Memory Verse

“ ‘For the sake of
his great name the
Lord . . . was
pleased to make you
his own’ ”

(1 Samuel 12:22, NIV).

slaves of Sisera. What did the people do then?”

“They asked the Lord to save them,” some of the people said.

“They promised to serve the Lord,” others replied.

“This happened again and again,” Samuel reminded them. “Many times Israel forgot the Lord and worshiped idols and became slaves. Each time they said, ‘We did wrong; we are sorry. We will serve You, Lord.’ And each time the Lord forgave them and saved them.

“Now,” Samuel continued, “you have asked for a king. And the Lord has given one to you. You will not always like what your king asks you to do. But you must obey him just as you must obey the Lord.

“Now look and see what the Lord is about to do. It is harvest time. I will pray to God for thunder and rain. This is to show you what an evil thing you did when you asked for a king instead of letting God lead you.”

Samuel called out to the Lord. That same day the thunder rolled overhead and the rain fell in great sheets. The people huddled together, cold, wet, and frightened.

“Save us,” they cried to Samuel. “We were wrong to ask for a king.”

“Don’t be afraid,” Samuel tenderly replied. “ ‘For the sake of his great name the Lord . . . was pleased to make you his own’ ”
(1 Samuel 12:22, NIV).

The people began to feel better. Just knowing that God was glad He chose them to be His people made them feel warm inside.

“You did wrong,” Samuel said, “but you are still God’s people. I will pray for you. And I will still be here to teach you how to follow ‘the

way that is good.’ Remember always to serve the Lord with all your heart. Don’t worship idols.”

Then God’s chosen people felt better. They promised again to remember the good things God had done for them.





S A B B A T H

READ With a family member, find a quiet place—if possible, near a river or a waterfall. Read the Bible lesson story together. Imagine that you are standing in a waterfall and can feel the water falling over you. Read aloud the memory verse from the Bible (1 Samuel 12:22, NIV).

PRAY Thank God that you are His child.

M O N D A Y

DO Put your cloud-shaped memory verse words in the right order and say the memory verse.

READ With a family member read what Samuel said in your lesson story (1 Samuel 12:1-3, 5a, 6-17, 20-25).

DO Tell your family about three great things that God has done for you. Thank Him for doing them.

S U N D A Y

READ With a family member read and discuss 1 Samuel 12:6-25.

DO Make one cloud-shaped cutout for each word of the memory verse. Write each word of the memory verse on a different cutout. Mix up the “clouds,” then try to put them in order. Save the cloud words for another day.

MAKE Make a chart and record the weather each day this week.

PRAY Thank God for rain.

T U E S D A Y

READ During worship today read together what the people said to Samuel (1 Samuel 12:4, 5b, 19). Who was Israel's first king (before Saul)? (1 Samuel 12:12).

DO Think of five great names for Jesus, such as King of kings. Play, sing, hum, or listen to “King of Kings” (*He Is Our Song*, No. 69). Put your cloud-shaped memory verse words in the right order. Then try to say the verse to a family member without looking at the words.

PRAY Ask God to help you remember that you are His child.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During family worship read together 1 Samuel 12:9 and 12. List the names of Israel's enemies. Do you have any enemies?

DO Discuss with your family how God can help you deal with enemies. Pray for someone who has been unkind to you.

DO Say your memory verse together.



T H U R S D A Y

F R I D A Y

DO Say your memory verse to a friend. In your own words, tell them what it means.

READ During family worship, read together Samuel's weather forecast in 1 Samuel 12:16-18. Was it good or bad for the rain to come at wheat harvest? Why? (1 Samuel 12:17). Draw a picture of wheat and some foods made from wheat.

DO Eat something made from wheat today. Thank God for good food.

Samuel poured olive oil on Saul's head to show that God had chosen him for a special job. This is called anointing.



DO During family worship tonight use your memory verse clouds to teach the verse to your family. Explain the verse and tell how it makes you feel.

DO Tell your family three things that you remember from your lesson story. What big lesson did you learn? Together, read 1 Samuel 12:22, 23 and Nehemiah 9:17. What does God want you to do about people who hurt your feelings?

SING Sing "God Is So Good" (Sing for Joy, No. 13), then thank Him for His goodness to your family.

PUZZLE

Directions: The following Scriptures tell us some of the great names of Jesus. Read the texts, find the word, then circle the hidden word in the word search. You may go down or across.



C	H	R	I	S	T
D	I	O	M	A	E
E	J	B	M	V	A
F	K	X	A	I	C
G	L	Q	N	O	H
H	O	T	U	U	E
U	M	A	E	R	R
V	N	P	L	V	M