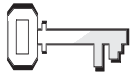


Samuel Speaks for God



References

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



Memory Verse

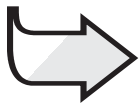
“For the sake of his
great name the
Lord . . . was pleased
to make you his own”
(1 Samuel 12:22, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that grace is
the good news
that Jesus loves them.
Feel awe that God
made them His child.

Respond by thinking what great
things God has done for them.



The Message

God is glad He made
me His child.

Monthly Theme

God’s grace is good news for us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Samuel is getting old. At their request God gives the people a king, and Samuel makes a speech, reminding them of the good things God did in the past. He asks the Lord to send thunder and rain to impress the people that they did wrong in asking for a king. During the storm they are frightened and admit their mistake. God says that He is still glad that they are His children.

This is a lesson about grace.

Because God loves His people, He forgives their past mistakes and invites them to start over again. When they choose to identify themselves as His children, the Lord is very pleased and will give them power to stay that way.

Teacher Enrichment

“At the time of wheat harvest, in May and June, no rain fell in the East. . . . So violent a storm at this season filled all hearts with fear” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 615).

Samuel is not retiring from being the prophet when he presents Israel’s king. He will continue to be God’s mouthpiece to the people and the new king. See also 1 Samuel 12:23, 24 and Nehemiah 9:17.

Room Decorations

Prepare an outdoor setting with trees, rocks, tents, battle shields, etc. Put some “sheep” a distance away from the tents and the battle shields. Or, make a bulletin board on this theme.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>How Bad?</i> B. <i>Love for Me</i>	grocery bag containing breakable items such as a glass, bowl, clock, etc., Bibles Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> "crown bowl" (see activity) raindrop-shaped small pieces of paper, glass bowl
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	spray bottle filled with clean water, Bible-times costumes, Bible 10 raindrop-shaped papers, pen, Bible Bibles, chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Ungrateful Role-Play</i>	adhesive bandage, pens, tissue, clean jacket, dirty jacket
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Ask Me</i>	colored construction paper, scissors, paper cups, markers or crayons

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome children personally at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- large paper bag
- several small breakable objects
- Bibles

A. How Bad?

Place in a large paper bag several things that children could drop and break, such as a drinking glass, glass bowl, clock, framed picture, etc.

Select children to gently take something (one at a time) from the bag and hold it up for all to see. With each item ask: **Would Mom and Dad say that to break this is: 1. Bad; 2. Quite bad; or 3. VERY bad?**

Debriefing

Moms and dads are sad when you break something. They might even get angry, but they still love you. God is even more loving than moms and dads. He never, ever stops being glad that He chose you to be His child. Let's take our Bibles and find 1 Samuel 12:22. Allow time, then read the text together. This is today's memory verse. It tells us that, even though we do something wrong, we can still know that ...



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bibles

B. Love for Me

Say: **The people who love us show their love in many ways. Let's think of all the ways they do. I will start. Someone shows love for me by—hugging me. The next person says, "Someone shows love for me by hugging me and" (add something else).** Continue around the group, each person stating what was already said and adding to it. (Large class: Form groups of 6–8 with adult helpers.)

Debriefing

Say: **We are really loved a lot! Let's read 1 Samuel 12:22.** Help the children find the text, then read it aloud together. **"Make you His own" means to make you His child. If God is pleased to make you His child, how does He feel about you?** (He likes you a lot; He loves you.) **Who are some of the people who love you? Do they love you even if you do something wrong?** (Of course. They may get angry, but they still love you.) **Who loves you most of all?** (God, Jesus) **And how do we know that God never stops loving us? We just read about it in the Bible. Our message for today reminds us that God loves us. It says:**



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review last week's memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

"The Lord Hears Me" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 105)

(Change words to "The Lord loves me.")

"God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13)

"Lord, We Praise You" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 17)

"Father, I Adore You" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 21)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Use a bowl decorated to look like a crown to collect the offering. Ask each child to name one thing they think God may do with the money they are giving.

You Need:

- "crown bowl"



Prayer

Have a raindrop prayer. Ask each child to write (or draw) on a raindrop-shaped paper one great thing God has done for them and for which they want to thank Him. Have the children come forward and drop the raindrops in a glass bowl. As they stand around the bowl, encourage those who want to pray to do so. Close with a prayer of your own in which you thank God for His love and that we are all His children.

You Need:

- raindrop-shaped papers for each child
- glass bowl

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- spray bottle filled with clean water
- Bible-times costumes
- Bible

Experiencing the Story

Dress the children in Bible-times costumes. Before beginning the story, have the children practice lightly drumming their fingers on their chairs to make the sound of rain.

When you get to the appropriate place in the story, read 1 Samuel 12:16-18, NIV, while the children produce the sound effects. Spray a fine mist over the group at that time.

Read or tell the story.

Have you ever wanted to do something, even if it made your mom, dad, or teachers sad? I hope not. The people of Israel did that to Samuel. They wanted a king to lead them instead of Samuel.

So Samuel talked to God, and God gave them King Saul. When the king led Israel and they won a great battle, the people were ready to celebrate their king.

"Let us go to Gilgal," Samuel suggested. "There we will crown the king and sacrifice to the Lord."

So Samuel, King Saul, and all the people gathered in Gilgal for a big celebration. They sacrificed animals and worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel, now a very old man, called for quiet and began to make a speech.

"God has done as you asked," Samuel said. "He has given you a king to lead you. 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. "You never cheated us. You never hurt us."

"Good," Samuel replied. "Now listen to me and think about all the good

things God has done 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. "Remember how Israel forgot about the Lord and worshiped idols?" Samuel continued. "The Lord allowed them to become the 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 again," others replied.

"This happened again and again," Samuel reminded them. "Many times Israel forgot the Lord. 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 must obey him just as you must obey the Lord."

(Read 1 Samuel 12:16-18, NIV; while the children produce the sound effects, spray the children with water.)

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).

"You did wrong," Samuel continued, "but you are still God's people. I will pray for you and I will still be here to help you. Don't worship idols, and remember always to serve the Lord with all your heart."

God's chosen people felt better. And once again they determined always to remember the good things God had done for them.

Debriefing

Ask: **If you had been listening to Samuel make his speech, how would you have felt?**

Read aloud 1 Samuel 12:20. Ask: **Who is the most powerful person you know?** (the leader of your country; the commander-in-chief of your army; a war hero) **How does that person compare with God?** (They are all weak compared to God.) **How do you feel about serving such a powerful God “with all your heart”?** (scared, glad, warm, special, fortunate, etc.) **How do you think God feels about you?** (He loves me.)

Our message says:



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- 10 raindrop-shaped papers
- pen or marker
- Bible

Memory Verse

In advance, write the memory verse, one word or phrase to a raindrop-shaped paper as outlined below.

Help the children find 1 Samuel 12:22. Read the verse aloud and explain it if necessary.

Mix the raindrop-shaped papers. Ask one child at a time to choose a raindrop and place it where they think it should be in the word order. Repeat the activity until the children know the verse. (Large class: Form small groups and give each a set of papers. Have an adult supervise each group.)

**For
of his
name
was pleased
his own.**

**the sake
great
the Lord
to make you
1 Samuel 12:22**

Bible Study

Read aloud 1 Samuel 12, as noted

below. Read or have one child read Samuel's part, and the rest of the children read the people's response. Choose one child to read the narration in verse 18. Go from left to right on each line:

Samuel's Part	People's Response	Narration
verses 1-3	verse 4	
verse 5a	verse 5b	
verses 6-17		verse 18
	verse 19	
verses 20-25		

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard or white board
- chalk or marker

Debriefing

Ask: **What are some of the good things God did for His people?** (verses 8, 11) **How did God get the people's attention when they forgot Him?** (verse 9)

Draw a circle big enough for everyone to see. Say: **God's people and God did some things over and over. Let's look in our Bibles and write these things on this circle. What are they?** (verse 8—people asked God to save them, God helped them; verse 9—people forgot God, God allowed problems to come; verse 10—people repented and asked God to save them; verse 11—God helped them, etc.)

Why does God sometimes let bad things happen to us? Acknowledge the children's answers. Then say: **God doesn't want any of His children to suffer. But, unfortunately, we live in a world in which for many reasons bad things do happen. And we don't always understand why God allows those bad things to happen. But God tells us in His Word that “in everything God works for the good of those who love Him” (Rom. 8:28, ICB). So we can be certain that whatever bad things happen to us, if we will trust God, He will make good things come out of those bad circumstances. Let's say our message together.**



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- adhesive bandage
- two pens
- box of tissues
- neat, clean jacket
- old, dirty jacket

Ungrateful Role-Play

Perform this drama with one child. Never once do you say thank you.

You fall and scrape your knee—child gives you a bandage.

Your pen runs out of ink—child shares his/hers.

You sneeze—child gives you a tissue.

You are cold—child offers to share a clean jacket. This time you rudely refuse the jacket and select an old, dirty one instead.

When the child invites you to sit by him or her, you refuse.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you think when I did not say thank you? How do you feel when people do not thank you?**

Say: **Think about this, but do not answer: Do you sometimes forget to be thankful for God's gifts?**

Have someone read 1 Samuel 12:22 (this week's memory verse). Say: **This verse is saying that even though we don't act like God's children, He is glad He made us His people. He loves us because He is God, and that's the way He is. So what will you remember today? God loves me and** (have the children repeat the message) . . .



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

4

Sharing the Lesson

You Need:

- colored construction paper
- scissors
- paper cups
- markers or crayons

Ask Me

Have the children draw around a paper cup to make a circle on construction paper. Then cut out the circle to make a "button" on which they write, "ASK ME!"

Tape your "button" to your chest. Say: **(child's name) please come up and ask me.**

Child: **"Ask you what?"** (Point to your button.)

Lead the child to say: **"Tell me about your button."**

Answer: **GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.** Explain: **When you wear your buttons, you need to be prepared. People will ask you about**

them. You can tell them today's message. They might also ask WHY God is glad He made you His child.

Find a partner and practice saying today's message and telling how you know God is glad that you are His child. (Because He loves me so much; I just know He feels that way about me; it says so in the Bible.)

Debriefing

Ask the children: **What will you do with the button you are making today? Where will you wear it? Who might ask you about it? What will you say? Let's say the message again:**



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

Story (optional)

Tribal Leader

Once upon a time, an ancient tribe practiced the custom of sacrificing one person on a certain day each year. The decision rested on one thing: who, on that day, was the first person that the village priests spotted wearing red. Now, the village leader didn't like this custom. In fact, the more he thought about it, the more terrible it seemed. How could his own people sacrifice one of their own friends . . . just because he or she happened to be wearing red on that fateful day?

The village leader tried to think of a way to stop this practice. But he knew that nothing he said would change the awful tradition. Year after year, the village priests would continue to kill one unlucky person a year unless . . .

No. He couldn't do it . . . could he? The village leader shook his head, but the thought just wouldn't go away. What if he were to wear red on that day and make himself the sacrifice for that year? Would his brave action stop the terrible custom?

Days passed. The village leader knew his time was running short. At night he lay in bed and stared at the ceiling, wondering if he could die for something he stood for. Much, much before he was ready, the sun set on the day before Sacrifice Morning. The village leader could not sleep. He tossed and turned on his hard bed, watching the stars outside his window grow dimmer

in the coming dawn. Could he do it?

That morning, the village priests were out early, searching the roads for the first sign of red. Who would they sacrifice today? Suddenly, around a corner, they spotted him. A man walked toward them in a red cloak. Quickly, they raised their bows and shot him.

"Who is it?" cried one priest. They ran toward the body, and suddenly they all grew very silent.

"It is our leader," someone murmured. "He gave his life so nobody else would have to die."

Soon the word spread throughout the village. "Our beloved village leader chose to die to save all of us!" From that day onward, the custom of sacrificing one person a year was discontinued. The village leader's bravery had accomplished his purpose.

Debriefing

Ask: **In what way was this man like Jesus?** (He died in place of his people.) **What have you learned from this story?** (Accept any reasonable response; it takes a lot of love to die for someone else.) Read aloud John 3:16. If the children know the verse, have them say it with you. Then have them repeat the message.



GOD IS GLAD HE MADE ME HIS CHILD.

Closing

Ask someone to pray and thank God for making us His children.

Samuel Speaks for God

References

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

Memory Verse

“For the sake of his great name the Lord . . . was pleased to make you his own” (1 Samuel 12:22, NIV).

The Message

God is glad He made me His child.

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 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.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- 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).
- Thank God that you are His child.

Sunday

- With a family member read and discuss 1 Samuel 12:6-25.
- 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 a chart and record the weather each day this week.
- Thank God for rain.

Monday

- Put your cloud-shaped memory verse words in the right order and say the memory verse.
- With a family member read what Samuel said in your lesson story (1 Samuel 12:1-3, 5a, 6-17, 20-25).
- Tell your family about three great things that God has done for you. Thank Him for doing them.

Tuesday

- 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).
- 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.

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

Wednesday

- During family worship read together 1 Samuel 12:9 and 12. List the names of Israel’s enemies. Do you have any enemies?
- Discuss with your family how God can help you deal with enemies. Pray for someone who has been unkind to you.
- Say your memory verse together.

Thursday

- Say your memory verse to a friend. In your own words, tell them what it means.
- 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.
- Eat something made from wheat today. Thank God for good food.

Friday

- 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.
- 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 “God Is So Good” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13), then thank Him for His goodness to your family.