Samuel

“Saul Fails as King”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The story of how Saul became Israel’s first king
* The story of how Saul failed as a king
* The story of David becoming Israel’s second king
* The story of David saving Saul’s life

Series Theme Verse: “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.” – Isaiah 33:22

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that even as God’s chosen king over Israel, Saul was human and failed to be a king over Israel as good as God.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 13:1-14

Materials Needed: Bibles, Multi colored sand, small jars or bottles with lids, hot glue sticks and guns, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

* How old was Saul when he became king? (30)
  + Give some examples of 30 year olds in Church to help kids visualize 30
* How long was Saul king of Israel? (42 years)
* How old was he when he was no longer king? (72)
* Immediately we see Saul will be a warrior type king. Who does his son, Jonathan, and soldiers attack? (The Philistines)
* Do you remember any Philistines from the Bible? (Goliath)
* When the Philistines lined up for war with Israel after Jonathan’s attack, how many were there? (3,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, troops as sand on the seashore)
* How did Israel respond when they saw the Philistine numbers? (They hid everywhere)
* Why did they hide? (They were scared)
* Saul waited to attack the Philistine camp. What was he waiting on? (Samuel the priest to join him and offer a sacrifice to God before going into battle)
* How long did Saul wait? (7 days)
* After 7 days, what did Saul do? (Made the offering himself)
* Why did he quit waiting on Samuel? (His troops were leaving him)
* Should Saul make the sacrifice? (No, only a priest was supposed to)
* As soon as Saul offered the sacrifice, what happened? (Samuel arrived)
* Was Samuel glad Saul offered the sacrifice? (No, and he did not accept Saul’s excuse for offering the sacrifice)
* If Saul had waited on Samuel, what did Samuel say God would have done? (God would have put Saul as the permanent king of Israel)
* Since Saul did not wait, what did Samuel say God had chosen to do? (Saul’s rule would not last and God had chosen another king to rule Israel who is faithful to God)

The Story Retold:

* Give each student a jar.
* Allow students to use funnels to fill their jars with multicolored sand.
* Hot glue the top on the bottle.
* Ask students why we are filling jars with sand?
  + Help them understand that the sand reminds us of the overwhelming odds of the Philistine army and how Saul should have trusted God.
  + Explain to them that the sand is a reminder that even in our toughest times, we should look to God as our King and protector, having faith that God will walk with us through any troubles.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Ask the students how the verse speaks to our story today? (Israel should have kept God as their King, a human king like Saul would ultimately sin and fail Israel)
* In spite of overwhelming odds (Philistines as numerous as the sand on the seashore), Saul should have had faith in God. Do we ever have times in our lives that are scary and there seems no way to succeed? (Yes)
* You might tell your own Philistine story and how you responded.
* Have students stand in a circle and begin to say the verse one word at a time going around the circle. See if they can do it without the poster after doing it a few times.