Samuel

“David in Saul’s Service”

Series Objective:

 Students will learn:

* The story of how Eli’s sons and Samuel chose different roads under Eli’s leadership
* The story of how Saul became the first king of Israel
* The story of David serving king Saul
* The story of David and Jonathan’s friendship

Series Theme Verse: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” –Psalm 119:105

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that David grew up serving King Saul, even though God had chosen David to be the next king.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 16

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

 Talking Points: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

* Last week we saw that God chose Saul to be king of Israel, but Saul made some bad choices and God decided that Saul would not be king forever. Where did God send Samuel to find the new king? (Bethlehem, to the home of Jesse)
* Was Samuel scared to go to Bethlehem to search for the new king? (Yes, he was afraid King Saul would find out and have Samuel killed)
* What was God’s plan to protect Samuel? (Take a cow and say he is there to sacrifice/worship and then invite Jesse to the sacrifice)
* Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. Samuel saw the first son, Eliab, was tall and handsome, what did Samuel think about Eliab? (That he must be the new king God was choosing)
* Did God choose Eliab? (No)
* Why not? (God said that, unlike humans, God looks at the heart to find those who will serve God, not what they look like)
* Jesse had Samuel meet seven of his sons; did God choose any of those sons to be the next king of Israel? (No)
* When all the sons had met Samuel and God had said they were not the next king, what did Samuel ask Jesse? (Are these all the sons you have?)
* What did Jesse say? (No, I still have the youngest, but he is taking care of the sheep)
* Samuel had Jesse send for the youngest son and that was the son God had chosen to be the next king of Israel. What was the youngest son’s name? (David)

Talking Points: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

* Because Saul had made such bad choices, God did not lead Samuel anymore and Saul was continually terrified by evil spirits. What did Saul’s helpers think would help Saul? (A musician to soothe him)
* Did Saul agree? (Yes, he sent his attendants out to find a great musician to play the lyre)
* One attendant knew someone who played well, who was that person? (David, the attendant said he played well, was brave, was a warrior, spoke well, and handsome, and that God is with him)
* Saul sent for David and Jesse sent his son to serve King Saul. Did Saul like David? (Yes, he asked Jesse to let David stay with the king)
* What did David do for King Saul? (Served him by playing his lyre whenever the king was terrified by an evil spirit and it soothed Saul)

The Story Retold:

* Remind students that even though David had been chosen by God to be the next king of Israel, he still had to wait until Saul was no longer king. He even served Saul faithfully because Saul was still the king.
* David served King Saul through music.
* As a group, or two groups if you have more than one adult, write a song about today’s story.
* The song does not have to be long, just tell the story.
* The students can be creative and add in motions or claps or whatever else helps them tell the story.
* If there are two groups, have the groups perform their songs for the each other.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board and cut up into puzzle pieces.
* Have the students piece together and tape the puzzle back together and read the verse out loud together.
* Remind students that Saul would have worked as king if he had have followed God’s word, but since he did not, God chose David to be the new king of Israel.
* Allow some students to say the verse from memory if they are able to.