

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 10

II Samuel

Objects to have:

The sign reading: II SAMUEL

King David

Several objects, in pairs, one of each pair being inferior to the other; for example, you could have:

Two apples, one smaller than the other and not so pretty. The larger, prettier apple has a soft spot on it.

Two pieces of candy, chocolate preferred. The one piece of candy is smashed; the whole, better-looking piece of candy has pepper on it.

Other pairs of objects

A picture to represent a shepherd: A man with a staff and some sheep

A picture of a king's crown

Your Bible.

Introducing the story:

(Review with the children the names of the first eight books of the Bible. Remind them that the book about which they heard last Sunday is one of two books by the same name; they are First and Second Samuel. Remind them that these books are named for a man. Remind them that this man had promised to serve God after his mother had promised God that she would give him to God.

(Ask the children to play a little game with you. Hold up the two apples; ask the children to choose which apple they would rather eat—which one looks best. Hold up the two pieces of candy; have them choose the better one. Hold up other pairs of objects which you may have brought. Then tell them that at the end of the story you will tell them which one is really better.)

In our story for today God chose the best. Let's see if He chose what would look best to us. Some of our story for today is in the book of I Samuel, and some of it is in the book of II Samuel.

Telling the story:

Samuel was very busy for God. He had become a grown-up man. He had many jobs to do for God. One of the first and most important jobs which he had to do was to choose a king for Israel. God told Samuel whom to choose. God said to Samuel, "Samuel, choose Saul to be the king of Israel." Remember that this is an Old Testament story; this is not the Saul whose name was changed later to Paul.

Samuel went to Saul. Saul was a very tall young man. (Pull yourself up tall; stand like a king.) He stood taller than anybody else, and he was a very handsome young man. He looked like a king. Samuel chose Saul to be king.

A king has many duties to perform. One of these is to lead his armies to battle. Whenever there are enemies to push out of the land, the king gives the order for his armies to go. (Act out the following.) Saul told his armies, "There is a battle which we must fight. God is telling us to go fight our enemies." King Saul got ready to go to war. He put on his armor: The heavy metal helmet on his head, the big metal breastplate over his chest, the iron sleeves on his arms, the metal pieces on his legs. He picked up his sword and his shield after he had put his armor on over his clothes.

The King Saul stood in front of his army to tell them which way the divisions of the army should go. One division was to go fight in the east; the other division was to fight in the west. (Indicate these directions by pointing.)

God talked to Samuel, "Samuel, go tell Saul something for Me. Tell him that when he goes to battle, he should completely destroy the enemy. The enemy are wicked people; they will not trust Me." After destroying all the enemy people, tell Saul that he is supposed to destroy everything that belonged to the enemy. He and his men are not to take any of the sheep or any of the oxen or anything that belonged to the enemy."

Samuel went to Saul as God told him to do. Samuel said, "Oh, King Saul, I have a message for you. The message is from God. God said, 'King Saul, go and fight the enemy. The enemy is wicked; they will not trust Me. When you fight them, kill them all. Then kill all their animals and completely ruin everything that is theirs.' Tell your soldiers this, King Saul."

King Saul and his army fought the battle. They fought hard, and they fought well. God was with them.

Samuel went to see Saul when the battle ended. Samuel said, "Saul, has the battle ended? Have you fought well?"

King Saul said, "Yes, Preacher Samuel, we have fought well. The enemy has been completely destroyed as God commanded."

Then Samuel heard something. He heard some sheep making noise. He also heard some oxen. Samuel said, "Then, King Saul, what is the meaning of the sheep calling and the oxen lowing? Whose are these sheep and oxen?"

"Oh, Samuel," said Saul, "my people decided to take the best of the sheep and the oxen; they wanted to sacrifice them to God." King Saul had let his people disobey God! And then he was making up excuses for his and their disobedience. King Saul should have commanded someone to kill those animals because God commanded that they were to be killed.

"King Saul," said Samuel, "since you have disobeyed God, you will soon stop being the king of Israel. God will not let you continue to be king. One of these days soon a new king will take your place."

Samuel went home. Samuel was very sad at having to tell King Saul this news from God. Samuel loved King Saul. He knew that God had wanted Saul to be king; now King Saul had disobeyed God. How sad that made Samuel feel!

Samuel prayed. He talked to God about King Saul and how sad he was that King Saul soon could no longer be king. God said, "Samuel, stop crying over King Saul. Get up from your house. Go to Bethlehem. In Bethlehem there is a man with eight sons. That man's name is Jesse."

Samuel, as he always did, obeyed God. He did not ask God, "Why?" He did not tell God, "Later on I'll go." Samuel just went, and he went right away.

Samuel went to Bethlehem. There he met the man named Jesse. Samuel said, "Jesse, God said that He is choosing one of your sons to be the new king of Israel. Bring your sons to me that I may choose the one whom God is choosing." (You could choose children one-by-one to come to the front of the room so that you might demonstrate with them the following.)

Jesse brought his oldest son to Samuel. This son was tall; he was very good looking. Jesse thought for sure that Samuel would choose this son to be king of Israel, for this son looked like a king. Samuel said, "Jesse, I cannot choose this son. God is not choosing him. God does not look on the outside as people do. God looks at the heart. He knows that this man would not make a good king."

Samuel said, "Bring the next son." They brought the next son. God did not choose that son. Samuel told Jesse to bring the third son. The third boy of Jesse's stood in front of Samuel. Samuel shook his head. This was not the boy to be the king of Israel. Jesse brought the fourth boy. Samuel shook his head no. Jesse brought the fifth boy. Samuel shook his head no. Jesse brought the sixth boy. Samuel shook his head no. Jesse brought the seventh boy. Samuel shook his head no. There were no other sons with Jesse. Samuel said, "Don't you have one more boy? God said to choose one of your sons. God has not chosen one of these seven."

Jesse said, "Oh, yes, I have one more boy. He is the youngest of them all. He is just a shepherd. He is outside now, watching the sheep in the fields."

Samuel said, "Bring that youngest son here." Someone ran to get the youngest son. The youngest son, the shepherd, was brought to Samuel. Samuel looked at the youngest son; he learned that his name was David. Samuel looked at David. Samuel said, "God is telling me that He has chosen David to be king of Israel." How surprised everybody was that this youngest son would be the new king! He did not look like a king. God knew that he would make a good king. God had looked on the inside of David, and people had looked on the outside.

David did not become king right away. Before he got to be crowned king, God helped David do many wonderful things. He helped him kill the enemy, the giant Goliath. God helped him in his job as a shepherd to kill a bear and a lion so that his sheep were protected. God helped David sing beautiful songs and to make other people happy. (Hold up the crown.) Then when the crown was finally placed on David's head, and he became king of Israel, he was a good king. He did one terrible thing while he was king of Israel, but he asked God to forgive him and God did. David was a good king of Israel. Samuel had chosen him according to God's directions.

The Bible books that are named First and Second Samuel tell us about Samuel, Saul and David. These are wonderful books of the Bible.

(Pick up the two pieces of candy.) Now, before I told the story, we chose which of these objects we would like to have. You looked at them and by seeing them you chose which object would be best to eat. Look at them again. There is something about this good piece of candy which you chose that you could not see. Before I came this morning, I put pepper on this piece of candy. You would not like it. The smashed piece of candy would taste good. Look at this big beautiful apple which you chose. What you did not see was that on the other side of the apple was a bad spot. The little apple is the better apple to eat. (If you have other objects, discuss them, too.)

Sometimes people say that some people cannot do as good a job for God as someone else can do. As you grow up, you decide to do what God wants you to do and He will choose you to do work for him. God will help you do anything He wants you to do.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: I Samuel 16:7, "...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."