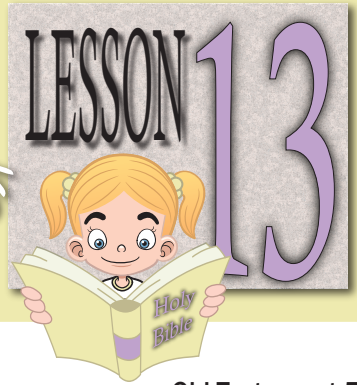


Saul Seeks Answers from the Woman of En Dor

1 Samuel 28:3-25



Old Testament 5
Part 2: Samuel and King Saul

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 5 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1 Samuel 28:3-25; 2 Chronicles 10:13-14; Psalm 73:24; Deuteronomy 18:10-14

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart"
(Deuteronomy 6:5a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 10:12).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Hear, O Israel](#)"
- "[Saul and the Woman of En Dor](#)"

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Judges and King Saul](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "O.T. 5 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- David in Hiding A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; on card 1.7, note that Saul did not enter the cave to sleep)
- 1st-4th Graders: Use drawings of zodiac signs, pictures of witches and psychics, or other items to illustrate witchcraft and the occult. On each drawing or picture, write ways that people search for answers to spiritual questions (including horoscopes, psychics, books, the Internet, etc.) other than from God. Put them on a magnetic board or the wall as you talk about each one.



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must believe in and trust God, because He made me, He loves me, and He will take care of me.

LESSON STARTS HERE


INTRODUCTION:

Review last week's lesson.

God made Saul the King of Israel, but Saul didn't always obey Him, because he didn't have enough faith in God. He didn't trust God to help him as king. So he continued to make bad choices. Today we'll talk about another one of those bad choices.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Just like during the time of the judges, the Israelites needed to be reminded constantly that they were the chosen people of the one true God and that they shouldn't worship idols. The Israelites were also supposed to stay away from people who claimed to have special powers **like** God—but not **from** God (like sorcerers, witches, mediums, astrologers, and psychics). After God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel, his main job was to help the people obey God and stay away from those bad influences.



NOTE: The practice of sorcery (also called “divination”) was widespread in both Old Testament and New Testament times. Isaiah 8:19-22 indicates that the Israelites tried all the practices of the occult (sorcery) that God condemned before they looked to God (“look upward”). “Trouble, darkness, and the gloom of anguish” were their only rewards. Some other examples of sorcery in the Bible: Exodus 7:11; Isaiah 47:9; Malachi 3:5; 2 Kings 17:17; 21:6; Acts 8:9-13.

2. Saul was supposed to lead the people and teach them by his example how to live for God, and only God. Saul did make most of the people who practiced witchcraft or sorcery leave Israel (1 Samuel 28:3). [According to Exodus 22:18, sorcerers, witches/mediums, etc., were supposed to be killed to protect the Jews from those influences. Also see Leviticus 20:26-27; 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:9-22.]
3. The great prophet Samuel tried to help Saul be a good king in other ways, too. But Saul made two very bad choices and disobeyed God's specific instructions (Do you remember what they were, from Lesson 11?). After that, Samuel did not talk to Saul any more (1 Samuel 15:35). Saul became very bitter, moody, and unhappy—even more so when Samuel died. When the Philistines came to fight against Israel, as they had done many times during the history of Israel, Saul was very afraid. He wasn't sure what to do without Samuel's guidance and wisdom.
4. But instead of seeking help from God through prayer, Saul tried to find a “medium,” someone who claimed to speak to the dead. Saul wanted to talk to Samuel again. One of King Saul's servants told him about a medium [KJV translates the word, “witch”] at En Dor [in the territory of Manasseh, about 4 miles south of Tabor]. Saul went to En Dor with two servants. He disguised himself (wore a “costume”), hoping that no one would recognize him as the king. The disguise worked; the woman did not realize who he was at first. When the man entered her home and asked for her help, she accused him of setting a trap for her; she was afraid of being arrested and killed according to the king's orders. He assured her that he had only come

seeking her help; he asked her to “call up” the spirit of Samuel who had died. The woman could not really make the spirit of a dead person appear, but God could—and did!



NOTE: As evidence that the woman never had really been able to summon the dead, note the woman’s surprise when Samuel appeared, as though she was not actually expecting to see anything, and the fact that she did not really know who she was seeing. She described Samuel as being “god” (Hebrew, *elohim*; translated “a spirit” in the NKJV) and needed Saul’s help to determine Samuel’s identity (1 Samuel 28:12-14).



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Exorcism, Demons, Witchcraft, and Astrology](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for deeper study about the truth of such matters. See also:

- “[Afterlife and the Bible](#)” by Dave Miller
- “[What About ‘Out-of-Body Experiences’?](#)” by Dave Miller
- “[You Have Only One Shot](#)” by Dave Miller
- “[One Second After Death](#)” by Dave Miller
- “[How Could the Lawless Work Miracles?](#)” by Eric Lyons

5. When Samuel’s spirit appeared, Saul immediately bowed to the ground. Samuel asked Saul why he was being bothered, and Saul explained that he needed Samuel’s help (verse 15). Samuel told him that all the things happening to him and to Israel were a fulfillment of God’s promise years before: that the kingdom would be taken away from him. Samuel also told Saul that his sons and he would die (“be with me,” verse 19) the next day at Mount Gilboa in a fierce battle with the Philistines.
6. Saul was so frightened that he fell down, full-length on the ground—completely overwhelmed and weak from not having had any food or water since the previous day. The medium offered to prepare food for Saul so that he could regain his strength and leave her house. Saul ate the meal she prepared and left her house during the night.
7. We often see and hear commercials about people who want to predict our future for money (psychics). Many people believe that their daily lives are controlled by the stars (astrological signs), so they read their horoscopes every day. What is wrong with fortunetellers, psychics, palm readers, astrologists, and horoscopes? To seek advice or guidance from anyone other than God is to put that person in God’s place, which is idolatry. “God’s people are to rely on the Lord for guidance and to reject every other supposed source of supernatural aide.... Modern occult practices that promise guidance or supernatural power over others should be repugnant to God’s people. Our trust is in the Lord and we rely only on His unseen control over all the days of our lives” [*Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, p. 232].
8. Debbie Bumbalough wrote in *Ideashop* magazine (Winter 1994, *Gospel Advocate*): “There is no need for anyone to believe that ghosts, Ouija boards, tarot cards, worship of the devil, or talking to the dead will help them in any way. Galatians 5:20-21 says that those who participate in sorcery or witchcraft will not be able to go to heaven and live with God.”
9. God expressly forbade the Jews to have anything to do with sorcerers, diviners, and people who practiced witchcraft because of who **He** is and because of who **they** were—God’s chosen people.
 - Deuteronomy 18:13: “You shall be blameless....”
 - Leviticus 19:31: “I am the Lord....”

- Leviticus 20:26: “Thus you are to be holy to **Me**, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the people to be Mine.”
 - NOTE that in Deuteronomy 18:9-14, sorcerers, etc., are considered under the same condemnation as people who gave their children to be burned for idols! [Read this passage with the older kids.]
10. Having complete trust in the Lord means that we believe He is the **all**-powerful Creator and Sustainer of the Universe Who can and will help us in any situation—if we will trust and obey Him. Many people in both the Old and New Testaments turned to God during bad times, and He helped them—sometimes not in the way they expected or in the time they expected—but He always helped them. He has promised to do the same for us, if we will trust Him completely.
- [Emphasize the words and meaning(s) of the memory verse(s).]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Saul Calls the Woman of Endor Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- True or False? On index cards, write age-appropriate true/false statements about the lessons in this unit. Draw a large smiley face (for true) and a large sad face (for false) on posterboard or on the board. As each child answers a question, he must decide if the statement is true or false and then put the card under the happy or sad face. For 2’s and 3’s, another approach would be to write statements about kids who make good choices and kids who make bad choices. The little ones decide if the behavior is good (happy face) or not (sad face).

1st-2nd Graders:

- As the children come into class, greet them dressed as a fortuneteller. Tell them you’re going to use special cards and a crystal ball to tell their futures. Or show them a video clip from a movie or YouTube of a supposed psychic or fortuneteller.
- [Bible Baseball](#) (questions provided in activity sheets): Before class, write review questions on index cards about lessons in this unit. Divide the questions into “single,” “double,” “triple,” and “homerun” stacks, with the more difficult questions in the triple and homerun groups. Draw a baseball field on a magnetic dry erase board or on a posterboard. Give each student a different color game marker (like a colored spool, colored magnets, lids from markers). Divide the class into two teams. As each student “bats,” let him choose the level of question he wants. If he answers correctly, he moves his game marker to that base; if he answers incorrectly, he is out. After three outs, it’s the other team’s turn to “bat.”
- “[Matching the Verse Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- As the children come into class, greet them dressed as a fortuneteller. Tell them you’re going to use special cards and a crystal ball to tell their futures. Or show them a video clip from a movie or YouTube of a supposed psychic or fortuneteller.
- [Bible Baseball](#) (questions provided in activity sheets): Before class, write review questions

on index cards about lessons in this unit. Divide the questions into “single,” “double,” “triple,” and “homerun” stacks, with the more difficult questions in the triple and homerun groups. Draw a baseball field on a magnetic dry erase board or on a posterboard. Give each student a different color game marker (like a colored spool, colored magnets, lids from markers). Divide the class into two teams. As each student “bats,” let him choose the level of question he wants. If he answers correctly, he moves his game marker to that base; if he answers incorrectly, he is out. After three outs, it’s the other team’s turn to “bat.”

- “[Matching the Verse Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - 1 Samuel 26-28
 - *King David*, Catherine Storr, Raintree Publishers (DISCLAIMERS: change “witch” to “woman” on p. 12; remove “God was angry with Michal for this, and”)

SONGS:

“HEAR, O ISRAEL” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: See Internet)

Hear, O Israel:

The Lord our God is one God.

(Boys:) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy heart, (Girls: REPEAT)

(Boys:) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy soul, (Girls: REPEAT)

(Boys:) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy mind, (Girls: REPEAT)

(Boys:) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy strength. (Girls: REPEAT)

Hear, O Israel!

“SAUL AND THE WOMAN OF EN DOR” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: “Ten Little Indians”)

Saul went to the woman of En Dor,
She called Samuel, Saul’s old mentor.
Saul told Samuel God had left him,
Samuel told him why:

Saul as King did not obey God,
Destroy Amalek, King Saul did not,
David loved God, when Saul would not,
The next day Saul would die.

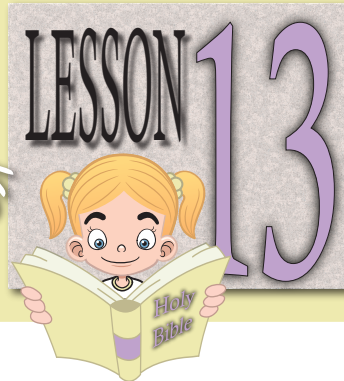
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



Saul Seeks Answers from the Woman of En Dor

1 Samuel 28:3-25



Old Testament 5
Part 2: Samuel and King Saul

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must believe in and trust God, because He made me, He loves me, and He will take care of me.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 5 Bible Facts Flashcard](#) (provided under “O.T. 5 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 5 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Reemphasize that only God knows the future, that God is in control of the Universe, and therefore, that He is the only One to whom we should pray. Only God and His Word (and potentially, those who follow and teach God’s Word) have the correct perspective to give the critical spiritual advice that we need to live this life in such a way as to get to heaven. Remind the children about God’s displeasure with the Egyptian sorcerers/magicians who performed tricks for Pharoah; Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8; Elymas the sorcerer in Acts 13.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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