Welcome and Introductory Bible Activity Time

• Greet children as they arrive. Tell preschoolers you are glad they came to church today.

• Introductory Bible Learning Activity:

  FIRST/THIRD HOUR – BIBLE VERSE HANGER

  GATHER: craft sticks, craft glue, buttons or other small cutouts, Bible verse squares, tape, yarn

  PREPARE: Cut Bible verse squares apart. Place supplies on the table.

  DO: Show preschoolers how to glue the craft sticks to make a frame around their Bible verse square.

  Encourage children to choose items to glue around their frame. Tape a piece of yarn for hanging on the back.

  CONNECT: As children work, say the Bible verse. Explain that prayer is talking to God about things that we need.

  SECOND HOUR – PRAYER REMINDERS

  GATHER: craft sticks, paper cupcake holders, glue, crayons, white and green construction paper

  PREPARE: Cut small leaves from green paper. Print the Bible verse at the bottom of the white paper.

  DO: Show children how to make a flower with the craft sticks, cupcake holders and leaves. Guide children in gluing their flowers on the paper. Ask preschoolers to make several flowers.

  CONNECT: Talk about things or people we might pray for. Print each child’s prayer request in the centers of his flowers.

Sing the song, “God is So Good.” “God is so good, God is so good, God is so good. He’s so good to me. God hears my prayers, God hears my prayers, God hears my prayers. He’s so good to me.”

Learn today’s Bible verse. Say, “Our Bible verse today is from the book of Psalm. A man named David wrote a lot of the words in the book of Psalm. Our verse today is: ‘God hears me when I pray.’ Psalm 66:19.” Ask children to whisper the verse to the friend next to him and so on. When the last child has heard the verse, say it aloud together.

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 1 and say, “Our story is about a lady who was very sad. She decided to go to the church and pray to God about why she was sad. Do you think God listened? Let’s get very still and quiet and hear how we know God heard Hannah’s prayer.”

Hannah was very sad. Hannah was sad because she and her husband did not have any children. So Hannah decided to go the church. The pastor of the church was named Eli. Eli saw Hannah come into the church. Hannah was very sad as she began to pray. Hannah cried as she prayed to God. Hannah prayed to God to give her a son. She told God if He would give her a son, she would help him know and love God. As Hannah cried and prayed, the pastor came to her and asked why she was so sad. She told Eli why she was praying. Eli told her that God would answer her prayer. Not long after that day, Hannah had a baby boy and named him Samuel. Hannah kept her promise and helped Samuel to know and love God.

—1 Samuel 1: 1-20
• **Show the Bible story picture on page 1673 of the Read To Me Bible.** Ask children to identify the person in the picture. Ask questions like: “Why did Hannah go to church? For what did Hannah pray? Did God hear her prayer? What did Hannah promise God she would do?”

• **Recall a time when God answered your prayers.** Say a simple thank you prayer to God. Thank Him for hearing our prayers.

**Snack Time (If served during your hour)**

Wash hands and sit around the tables. Place a snack on a paper towel or napkin. Provide water to drink. Thank God for the food.

**Bible Learning Game Time:**  
*Listen, Watch and Do*

Put two parallel lines of masking tape or yarn on the floor about 6 feet apart. Have all the children stand behind one of the lines. Tell children they are going to play a game called “Listen, Watch and Do.” You begin the game by demonstrating a movement that will get you from one line to the next such as hopping. Ask children to do exactly what you have done. When children reach the other side, choose a child to teach another action. Ask children to copy the movement. Continue to play until every child who wants to teach an action has had a turn.

*(Tip: One teacher can set up the Bible Learning Activities during game time. At the end of game time, explain the activities.)*

**Bible Learning Center Time**

FIRST/THIRD HOUR ART: **FINGER PAINTING**

As preschoolers paint with their fingers, remind them of how Hannah prayed for baby Samuel. Thank God for hands to paint.

SECOND HOUR ART: **MAKE HANDPRINTS**

Assist children in making handprints on the paper plates. Glue Bible verse strip onto the bottom edge of plate. Hole punch at the top and attach a piece of yarn. Talk about how Hannah prayed when she went to church. Sometimes we fold our hands together and pray.

**ALL HOURS**

Provide these activities during Bible Learning Center Time:

**PUZZLES** – Provides puzzles for children to work. Talk about fun things we do when we come to church.

**BLOCKS** – Suggest to children to build a church with the blocks. Remind children Hannah went to church to pray for baby Samuel.

**HOMELIVING CENTER** – Put a small amount of water in the dishpan. Allow children to give the baby a bath. Tell preschoolers Hannah took care of baby Samuel.
Welcome and Introductory Bible Activity Time

• Greet children as they arrive. Tell preschoolers you are glad they came to church today.

• Introductory Bible Learning Activity:

FIRST/THIRD HOUR – MAKE A PAPER BLANKET

GATHER: copies of blanket pages, crayons, markers, glue, colored paper, scissors, dot paints.

PREPARE: Place art materials on the table.

DO: Invite preschoolers to use the art materials to design a blanket.

CONNECT: Introduce the Bible story by telling preschoolers about Samuel. Explain that Samuel lived at the church with Pastor Eli and helped care for the church. Samuel slept at church. Boys and girls can make a blanket like Samuel may have used to sleep under at night.

SECOND HOUR – MAKE A COAT FOR SAMUEL

GATHER: copies of boy outline and coat, markers, crayons, scissors, glue

PREPARE: Threes and some fours may need the coat to be precut.

DO: Ask preschoolers to color Samuel and decorate his coat. Children can glue the coat on Samuel.

CONNECT: Explain to children that Samuel lived at church with Pastor Eli. Each year his mother would make Samuel a new coat. Ask preschoolers to color Samuel and decorate his coat. Children can glue the coat on Samuel.

Bible Story Time

(For hours that Tree Hollow does not occur)

• Gather the children in a circle on the floor around you. Have your Bible close by.


• Last week we talked about Hannah and how she prayed for baby Samuel. Hannah taught Samuel to love God.

• Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 3 and say, “Our story today is about Samuel when he was a young boy living at the church with pastor Eli. One night God asked Samuel to do something very hard. Listen and see if Samuel obeyed.”

Samuel lived at the church with pastor Eli. He helped Eli take care of the church. Eli taught Samuel about God. One night, Samuel heard a voice saying, “Samuel.” Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am.” Eli said he had not called Samuel, so Samuel went back to bed. A second time, Samuel heard his name being called. “Samuel.” He got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am.” But Eli said he had not called. So Samuel went back to bed. For the third time, Samuel heard his name, “Samuel.” He went in to Eli. This time Eli said it was not him, but if he heard his name again, say, “Speak Lord, for your servant hears.” So Samuel went back to bed and for the forth time, he heard his name, “Samuel, Samuel.” This time Samuel said, “Speak Lord, for your servant hears.” God told Samuel some important news to give to Eli. The news was not good. The people had not been obeying God. Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God had said. Samuel obeyed God and told Eli the sad news.

—1 Samuel 3:1-10; 15-19
• Show the Bible story picture on page 288 of the Read To Me Bible. Ask children to identify the people in the picture. Ask questions like: “How many times did God call Samuel’s name? What did God want Samuel to do? Did Samuel obey God?”

• Share a time when God asked you to do something. Say a simple prayer asking God to help us to obey Him.

Snack Time (If served during your hour)

• Wash hands and sit around the tables. Place a snack on a paper towel or napkin. Provide water to drink. Thank God for the food.

Bible Learning Game Time: Listen and Do

• Have children sit in a circle. Tell children you are going to whisper an action to the person sitting next to you. That person will whisper it to the next person. When the last person has heard the whisper everyone is to do the action.

(Tip: One teacher can set up Bible learning centers during game time. At the end of game time explain the activities.)

Bible Learning Center Time

FIRST/THIRD HOUR ART: BIBLE VERSE REMINDER

Ask preschoolers to decorate their paper plates. Print today’s Bible verse in the center of the plate. Invite preschoolers to tape streamers around the plate. Gather the children and say the verse together. Children can twirl and fan their plates as they say the verse.

SECOND HOUR ART: BIBLE VERSE PICTURE

Remind children of today’s Bible verse, “We will obey God.” Explain to children that obeying involves listening and doing what God says. Comment that God also wants us to obey our parent and teachers. Ask preschoolers to listen and follow your instructions for painting. Invite each child to fold their papers in half and open them. Pour a small amount of two colors of paint on the fold of their papers. Have children refold their papers and gently smooth their hand up and down the paper. Open to reveal a design. Glue the Bible verse strip to the picture.

ALL HOURS

Make available these activities during Bible Learning Center Time:

PUZZLES – Place puzzle pieces of several puzzles in the center of the table. Take turns choosing a piece and finding the puzzle that it fits.

BLOCKS – Draw the outline of a church on a large sheet of paper. Suggest to children to build a church on the outline with the blocks. Talk about how Samuel lived at the church to help Pastor Eli. Samuel listened to and obeyed God.

HOMELIVING CENTER – Put a small amount of water in the dishpan. Allow children to use paper towels to clean the room like Samuel may have cleaned the temple.
Welcome and Introductory Bible Activity Time

• Greet children as they arrive. Tell preschoolers you are glad they came to church today.

• Introductory Bible Learning Activity:
  FIRST/THIRD HOUR – DECORATE A CROWN
  GATHER: copies of crown, crayons, markers, glue, paper plates, wiggly eyes
  PREPARE: Place art materials on the table.
  DO: Invite children to decorate the crown and make a face from the paper plate. They can glue the crown on the top of paper plate.

  CONNECT: Introduce the Bible story by telling preschoolers that Samuel was given the job of choosing a king for the people of Israel. God told Samuel to choose a young man named Saul.

SECOND HOUR – PRAYING HANDS
  GATHER: copies of praying hands sheet, crayons, glue, Bible verse strip
  PREPARE: Cut out the praying hands circles for preschoolers.
  DO: Invite children to color the outline of the hands, fold along the dotted line and glue the Bible verse inside the folded hands. Talk about how we might fold our hands to pray to God.

  CONNECT: Tell children that our Bible verse today is “Samuel prayed to the Lord.” Explain to children that Samuel was given the job of choosing a King for the people of Israel. Samuel was not sure that was a good idea so he decided to pray and ask God what to do. Invite children to color the outline of the hands, fold along the dotted line and glue the Bible verse inside the folded hands. Talk about how we might fold our hands to pray to God.

Learn today’s Bible verse. Say, “Our Bible verse is ‘Samuel prayed to God’ 1 Samuel 8:6. Samuel is in the part of the Bible we call the Old Testament. Remember Samuel lived with Eli the preacher at the temple. Samuel grew up and took Eli’s place as the preacher. Samuel loved God and wanted to obey God. I am going to say each word of the verse and you say them back to me.” Say the verse as an echo. Say it loud, then soft then medium tone.

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 8 and say, “Our story today is about Samuel when he was much older. Listen and hear why Samuel prayed to God.”

Bible Story Time
(For hours that Tree Hollow does not occur)

• Gather the children in a circle on the floor around you. Have your Bible close by.

Samuel had taken the place of Eli the preacher. Samuel helped the people of Israel understand what God wanted them to do. One day the people said they wanted a king to rule over them and help them fight their battles. Samuel did not think this was a good idea, so Samuel prayed and asked God to show him what to do. God told Samuel to give the people what they wanted. God told Samuel He would help him find a king for the people. So Samuel waited for God to show him who would be king. One day a young man named Saul had been sent by his father to find some lost donkeys. Saul and his helper had looked several days for the donkeys but could not find them. Saul wanted to go home, but his helper told him about a man named Samuel who might be able to help them find the donkeys. So Saul and his helper went to find Samuel. While Saul was looking for Samuel, God told Samuel Saul was coming and that he was the one that would be chosen to be King. Saul found Samuel. Samuel invited
Saul and his helper to eat. Samuel told Saul where to find his donkeys. Samuel gathered the people of Israel together and told them that Saul was their King. Saul was tall and very handsome. The people were happy to have a King. —1 Samuel 8-10

- Ask questions like: “What did the people of Israel ask for? How did Samuel feel about this request? What did Samuel do? Did God give the people a King? Who was the new King? What was Saul looking for when Samuel found him? What can we do when we have a problem or we don’t know what to do in a situation?

- Share a time when you needed to ask God for help. Say a simple prayer asking God to help us when we have a problem or need.

Snack Time (If served during your hour)
Wash hands and sit around the tables. Place a snack on a paper towel or napkin. Provide water to drink. Thank God for the food.

Bible Learning Game Time: What’s Missing?
Before the game: Gather 7 or 8 objects from around the room. Have children sit in a circle around you. Place the objects in front of you. Talk about each object. Tell preschoolers you will ask them to close their eyes. While their eyes are closed you will remove one object from the group. When you say “What’s Missing?” the children will open their eyes and see if they can guess what is missing. Continue until all the objects are gone. Repeat if interested.
(Tip: One teacher can set up Bible learning centers during game time. At the end of game time explain the activities.)

Bible Learning Center Time

FIRST/THIRD HOUR ART: PAINTING ROCKS
Cover the table or provide paper towels for rock painting. Ask preschoolers to choose a rock to paint. As children work, talk about Saul’s search for his donkeys. He may have walked over rocks and sand to find the lost animals, as well as to find Samuel.

SECOND HOUR ART: BIBLE STORY PICTURE
Tear several sheets of brown paper into half inch pieces. Preschoolers can also do this. Remind children that Saul was looking for his father’s lost donkeys when Samuel told him he would be the new king of Israel. Invite preschoolers to choose pieces of brown or grey paper to glue on their donkeys.

ALL HOURS
Provide these activities during Bible Learning Center Time:

PUZZLES – Hide puzzles pieces of two puzzles around the room. Invite children to find the pieces. Talk about how Saul looked for his donkeys and Samuel was looking for a king.

BLOCKS – Suggest to children to build a maze with the blocks. Use a small car to travel the maze.

HOMELIVING CENTER – Pretend to prepare a meal like Samuel prepared a meal for Saul.
Welcome and Introductory Bible Activity Time

• Greet children as they arrive. Tell preschoolers you are glad they came to church today.
• Introductory Bible Learning Activity:

FIRST/THIRD HOUR – BIBLE STORY PICTURE

GATHER: copies of Samuel Anointing David and the “horn of anointing,” glue, crayons, scissors

PREPARE: Some preschoolers may need the “horn of anointing” cut out for them.

DO: Ask children to color the picture then cut out and glue the horn close to Samuel’s hands and over David’s head.

CONNECT: Tell children Samuel had to choose another King because King Saul had disobeyed God. A long time ago when a King was chosen, oil was poured over his head to show that this was the King. The oil was poured from the horn of a ram. Show children the outline of the horn.

SECOND HOUR – DECORATE A DOOR HANGER

GATHER: copies of door hanger, markers, foam shaped stick-ons, glue, scissors, Bible verse strips

PREPARE: Cut out door hangers.

DO: Invite children to decorate their door hangers and glue on the Bible verse strip.

CONNECT: Introduce the Bible verse for today: “Samuel did what the Lord said.” Tell children that God asked Samuel to choose a new King because Saul had disobeyed God. Samuel wanted to obey God. Talk about ways we can obey God. Invite children to decorate their door hangers and glue on the Bible verse strip.

Bible Story Time

(For hours that Tree Hollow does not occur)

• Cut apart the words of the Bible verse and hide them around the room. Gather the children in a circle on the floor around you. Have your Bible close by.

• Learn today’s Bible verse. Say, “Our Bible verse is ‘Samuel did what the Lord said’” 1 Samuel 16:4. Ask if anyone remembers what part of the Bible 1 Samuel is found. (Old Testament) Recall last week’s story of Samuel choosing King Saul. Tell children that Saul did not obey God so Samuel prayed again and asked God what to do. Ask children to find the words of the verse you have hidden. Put the words together and say the verse. Remove a word and say the verse. Repeat until all the words are gone.

• Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Invite children to help you tell the story by saying with you the phrase, “No, this is not the one,” each time they hear it in the story. Ask children to listen how Samuel obeyed God.

Samuel had obeyed God and chosen King Saul for the people of Israel. One day though, King Saul disobeyed God. God told Samuel he must choose another King. Samuel was sad that Saul had disobeyed God, but Samuel knew he must do what God asked him to do. God told Samuel to go to the city of Bethlehem and find a man named Jesse. Samuel was to worship God with Jesse and his family. God told Samuel someone in Jesse’s family would be the new King. Jesse had 8 sons and Samuel looked at each one. The first son passed by Samuel and Samuel thought this must be the one, he is so handsome. But God told Samuel, “No, this is not the one.” The second son passed by Samuel and Samuel thought surely this is the one. But God told Samuel, “No, this is not the one.” A third son passed by Samuel and Samuel asked God, “Is this the one?” But God told Samuel, “No, this is not the one.”
Four more sons passed by Samuel and God continued to say, “No, this is not the one.” Samuel asked Jesse, “Is this all your sons?” Jesse told Samuel he had one more. He said he was the youngest and was out taking care of the sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to go get the young boy. The young boy came to Samuel. The Bible said he had beautiful eyes and was healthy and handsome. God told Samuel, “This is the one, choose him as King!” So Samuel did what God told him to do. Samuel chose David as the new King.

—1 Samuel 16

- **Ask questions like:** “Why was Samuel sad? What did God want Samuel to do? Where did God send Samuel? How many sons did Jesse have? Which son did God choose to be King?”
- **Say a simple prayer** asking God to help us to listen and obey as Samuel listened and obeyed.

**Snack Time** *(If served during your hour)*

Wash hands and sit around the tables. Place a snack on a paper towel or napkin. Provide water to drink. Thank God for the food.

**Bible Learning Game Time:** Follow the Leader

- **Give each child a square of construction paper.** Have children stand in a circle around you. Give children instructions such as: place your square of paper on your head, place it on your shoe, make a circle with your square, stretch your right arm up high with your square, bend down low with your square, lean over to the right with your square, lean to the left with your square, put the square behind your back, cover your eyes with your square, hide your square under your foot, sit on your square. Thank children for listening and following directions. Remind children that Samuel listened to God and did what God asked him to do.

*(Teaching Tip: One teacher can set up Centers during Game Time. At the end of game time explain the center activities to the children.)*

**Bible Learning Center Time** *(20-25)*

**FIRST/THIRD HOUR ART: GOLF BALL PAINTING**

Place a sheet of paper in the bottom of the plastic container. Pour a small amount of paint on the paper. Place the balls in the container. Invite the child to move the container back and forth so the balls roll over the paint.

**SECOND HOUR ART: MAKE STICK PUPPETS**

Invite children to color and cut out puppets. Assist them in taping a craft stick to the back of each puppet. Retell the Bible story and use the puppets.

**ALL HOURS**

Provide these activities during Bible Learning Center Time:

**PUZZLES** – Invite children to work puzzles outside the puzzle trays. Trace puzzles pieces on paper and encourage preschoolers to match the pieces to the shapes.

**BLOCKS** – Suggest to children to build several small houses to represent the town of Bethlehem.

**HOMELIVING CENTER** – Provide play dough and cookie cutters for children to shape and roll. Suggest to children to form a sheep or a horn like Samuel used to pour oil on David.