



LESSON 17

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 2:12-17, 22-26;
3:1—4:1A)

THE STORY HOME

Today's Epic story was about a young boy named Samuel. His mother had prayed for him and promised God to give the child back to the Lord. Samuel grew up at the temple, under the watch and care of the priest Eli. One night when Samuel was sleeping he heard a voice calling. He thought it was the old priest Eli, but Eli said, "I didn't call you; go back and lie down." Three times this happened until they realized it was God calling Samuel. Samuel listened to God's voice and obeyed what He asked him to do. Samuel grew up to be God's messenger and shared God's words with the Israelites.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- How do you think Samuel felt growing up at the temple?
- Why do you think it took three times before Eli realized God was talking to Samuel?
- Have you ever heard God's voice?
- Where can we turn to hear from God?

TOGETHER HOME

One night this week after the children are all in bed, when the house is very quiet, sit in the dining room and speak the name of each of your children, youngest to oldest. Do not yell. Speak their names just loud enough for them to hear their name.

Keep speaking their names in order until all of your children have come to the table. Then say: **When you lie in your bed, do you listen for the voice of God? What do you think it sounds like? Have you ever heard God speaking to you? What do you think God might want to say to you? I think that if He spoke to me He would want to tell me how much He loves me. I think He would want me to go and tell everyone that same message.**

Pray a prayer something like this: **Father God, I know that you are with us at all times. I pray tonight that you will help each of us to always listen to your voice. Help us to sleep well tonight. And as we sleep, please speak to us of your love. Amen**

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you (Jeremiah 7:23). Have younger children memorize the underlined portion. Practice saying the verse together. Talk about what it means.

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LESSON 18

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-12,
SELECTED
PASSAGES

THE STORY HOME

Today we learned about how the people of Israel wanted a king so they could be like all of the other people. Samuel the prophet was very sad and told the people that this wasn't God's very best for them. However, the people kept demanding a king. God told Samuel, "It is me they have rejected, not you" and instructed Samuel to anoint Saul to be the king.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever wanted something, but your mom or dad or another adult told you it wasn't good for you? What was that? How did it make you feel when they told you "No"?
- Why might a grown up tell you no sometimes?
- Why was Samuel upset that Israel wanted a king?
- How do we know God knows what's best for us? Can we trust Him?

TOGETHER HOME

As a family, take some time to share things you want or things you don't want to do. What would happen if you got everything you wanted? What would be the negative consequences? What would happen if you didn't do anything you didn't like to do? Would things be crazy at your house?

Act out some of those things. First, write down the things (stuff) that you want or the responsibilities that you don't want to do. Then, assign roles. Take turns having the kids be the grown-ups and vice versa explaining why that's not God's very best for your family. As actors, you can pretend to throw tantrums just like a little kid (or the Israelites). Be silly and have fun. Then, pray that God will help your family trust and follow God's plans.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you" (Jeremiah 7:23). Have younger children memorize the underlined portion.

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LESSON 19

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, God gave David the courage to defeat Goliath with his sling and 5 stones. It ended up only taking one stone. Goliath was the giant Philistine that terrified the entire Israelite army. Even though David was just a boy, he trusted that God would be with him.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What is a "WOW!" (Something cool, amazing, or interesting) about the story of David and Goliath?
- Was David protected by King Saul's armor?
- What do you think David's brothers and the rest of the army were thinking as they watched David get ready to fight Goliath?
- How do you think the people of Israel reacted after Goliath was defeated?
- How can we trust God to help us do something hard?

TOGETHER HOME

Visit http://www.metacafe.com/watch/396358/funny_balloon_slingshot_make_it/ to learn how to make a simple balloon slingshot. Safely play with it together. Talk about the differences between your sling shot and David's sling shot, as well as how only God could use a boy like David to defeat Goliath. Pray together that God will help your family trust God when you must do something hard.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you (Jeremiah 7:23). Talk about what it means to walk in the ways God commands.

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LESSON 20

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

1 SAMUEL 24

THE STORY HOME

Today we learned about how King Saul wanted to kill David because he was jealous of him. David snuck up on Saul and cut off the corner of his robe, but then David felt bad because it was not a respectful way to treat a king. Later, David found Saul and bowed down and asked for Saul's forgiveness. Saul was amazed and said, "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly."

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- In this story, what did David do that was unusual?
- Why was Saul amazed?
- How would you have acted if you were David in this story? How would you have reacted if you were Saul?
- What does this story teach us about how God wants us to treat those who treat us badly?
- How is that different from the way the rest of the world does things?

TOGETHER HOME

Go to your local library (or Amazon.com) and check out *A Surprise for Mrs. Dodds* by Kathy Long. If you can't find that book, try *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes or other books about friendship. Or, look in your DVD collection for *Cars* or *Beauty and the Beast*. Read the stories or watch one of the movies and talk about how God calls us to treat people when they treat us badly. Pray together that God will help you offer love and forgiveness to people who hurt you.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you" (Jeremiah 7:23). See if every family member can say this verse.

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Lesson 20, Take-home



LESSON 21

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: DAVID BECOMES KING

2 SAMUEL 2:1-11, 5:1-12

THE STORY HOME

Today we learned about how many years after Samuel had anointed David, he finally became king. Saul had died and it was David's turn to take the throne. Even though it seemed to take a long time, God kept His promise to make David king. God always keeps His promises. 2 Samuel 5:10 says David became more and more powerful because the Lord God Almighty was with him.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Remember way back to when David was a young shepherd and Samuel anointed him to be the next king (1 Samuel 16). Now David is 30 years old. What do you remember that has taken place in David's life since Samuel anointed him?
- How do you think you would feel knowing you had been chosen to be the next king, but it wouldn't happen for a long time?
- Are there things that have taken a long time to happen in your life?
- How do we know we can trust God to keep His promises?

TOGETHER HOME

2 Samuel 5:11 says that Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons and they built a palace for David. Use Lincoln logs, sugar cubes, Lego's, a gingerbread house recipe, or any other building material you can think of to build a palace that you think might be suitable for a king like David.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Encourage everyone to memorize the whole verse since it is shorter this time. Practice saying the verse together. Talk about what it means.

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Lesson 21, Take-home



LESSON 22

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: SOLOMON CHOOSES WISDOM

1 KINGS 3; 4:20-34

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, God asks King Solomon what he wanted more than anything. Solomon asked for a wise and discerning heart. This pleased God because Solomon didn't just ask for riches or power. God gave Solomon wisdom. He also gave him great wealth.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What did Solomon ask God for?
- What is wisdom?
- Why did it please God that Solomon asked for wisdom?
- Is wisdom something we need?
- How does God give us wisdom?

TOGETHER HOME

Solomon was considered to be wiser than any man around at the time. In 1 Kings 10, the Bible tells about how the Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's wisdom and came to bring him gifts and ask him very hard questions or riddles. As a family, answer the riddles below, make up your own, or check out a library book or website with even more riddles.

Mary's father has 4 children; three are named Nana, Nene, and Nini. So what is the 4th child's name?

What bone has a sense of humor?

What is round as a dishpan and no matter the size, all the water in the ocean can't fill it up?

The more of them you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?

What goes around and around the wood but never goes into the wood?

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Encourage everyone to memorize the whole verse since it is shorter this time. Write the verse on index cards and give one to each family member to carry with them.

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LESSON 23

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: GOD SHOWED HIS POWER

1 KINGS 18

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about how God showed His power on Mount Carmel by sending down fire. None of the prophets of Baal, a false god, could get Baal to send down fire. Even more amazing was that Elijah had ordered the altar and the offering to be doused with water 3 times. The entire altar, the stones, and the dirt were burned up and all the water was soaked up when Elijah prayed for God's fire to fall.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What was Baal?
- Do we have false gods today?
- How did God show His power on Mount Carmel?
- What is amazing to you about this Epic story?
- What would you have done if you had been watching God send the fire down?
- How do you think the worshippers of Baal felt?

TOGETHER HOME

Do an experiment together. In today's story, we learned about how God sent fire down that burned up the offering, the dirt, the stones, and even the water. In an old cookie sheet lined with foil, place some rocks, some dirt, and some wood for an altar. Make a trench around the altar. Then, pour water over the whole thing so the trench is filled with water and the dirt and wood are soaked. Try to light it on fire. What happens? What would it have been like to watch God burn up a giant version of your experiment?

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Print the verse on a piece of heavy paper. Cut it into puzzle pieces and let your children put it together to practice the verse.

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Lesson 23, Take-home



LESSON 24

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: ELISHA HELPS NAAMAN

2 KINGS 5:1-19

THE STORY HOME

In today's story, we learned about how a servant girl and the prophet Elisha helped Naaman, a commander of the army of Aram. Naaman was considered to be a great fighter and an important leader in the army, but he had leprosy. A servant girl told him to go see God's prophet in Israel, Elisha. When Naaman did, Elisha told him to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River and his skin would be healed. Naaman didn't want to because the Jordan River was muddy and dirty, but when he did it, he was healed.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What is leprosy? Why was it such a big deal?
- I wonder why Naaman didn't want to bathe in the Jordan River like Elisha told him to.
- What does this story tell us about how we should treat people who are in charge of us?
- What does this story tell us about our responsibility to others?

TOGETHER HOME

Naaman didn't want to bathe in the Jordan River because it was muddy and dirty. Take a mud bath in honor of Naaman. Put on some old clothes, head outside and fill a plastic tub or pool with some dirt and water. If it's too cold outside, create a mud bath look alike by using bath coloring elements in the bathtub. Or create a mini mud bath for small plastic people or characters in a bowl or pan.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). This is the last week for this verse. Does everyone know it? Practice saying it together.

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Lesson 24, Take-home