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Note: Bold text that begins with ► indicate instructions. All other lines indicate points to make, things to say, or questions to ask. Lines in italics are quotes directly from the New International Reader's Version of the Bible.

OT 50 Saul Disobeys God

Reference: 1 Sam. 11 & 13

Big Idea: Bad news: you and I have sinned. Good news: Jesus died for our sins.

Verse: Romans 5:6 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (ESV)

**Note: The resources to be used with this lesson are found in the corresponding Resource file.*

A. INTRODUCTION, Length: 5-10 min.

Due to the length of this week's lesson plan, there is no introduction to this lesson.

B. LESSON, Length: 20-25 min.

Resources: Story Drawing, Philistine Sign, Israelite Sign, Samuel Sign, Paper Crown Instructions¹

Materials: Colorful shirts (3), electrical/black tape, sticks/swords² (5-6), garden rake/hoe, whistle, bed sheet³, stuffed animal⁴, string, paper clip, trashcan/laundry basket, *Optional:* lamp

¹ Alternative: if you have a crown to use, you do not need to make a paper crown.

² Alternative: any object that is at all sword-like.

³ Preferably gray (or other stone color)

⁴ Should be a bird, cow, sheep, or goat.

Setup:

- Turn the colorful shirts inside out, so any writing on them is hidden. Use the electrical tape to put a large letter “N” on one shirt. Repeat this process, putting an “S” and a “P” on the other two shirts.
- Hang two pieces of string from the ceiling: one towards the left side of where the children will sit and one on the right side. Tie a paper clip to the end of each string.
- If using the optional lamp, have it plugged in somewhere near the teaching area.

Notes:

- In this lesson plan, you’ll be instructed to draw various items. Use the Story Drawing Resource as a example for what to draw.
- **Yellow bolded text** indicates something you need to do. **Green bolded text** indicates something you need to draw.

Introduce the story:

- Today’s story is from the first half of the Bible, which is called the...? (Old Testament.)
- All of the stories in the Bible point us to Jesus.
- Who is Jesus? (God’s Son, totally God and totally human.)
- The Old Testament is all about God’s special people, the Israelites.
- Jesus was an Israelite, so these stories in the Old Testament are about Jesus’ great-great-great-great-great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.
- Today’s story is from the book of 1 Samuel.
 - ► **Show the children how to find 1 Samuel in your Bible.**

Review the previous story:

- Right before this story, the people of Israel asked God for a king.
- What is a king? (Someone who is totally in charge of a whole country.)
- But Israel was special: God was supposed to be their king.
- Do you think God liked it when they asked for a human king instead of God as their king? (Yes!)
- Does anybody remember the name of the king God picked for the people of Israel? (Saul.)
- The stories we’re going to read to are all about Saul.
- Some of the things took place before he was king.
- Some of them took place after Saul became king.
- ► **Have the children raise their hands if they think Saul is going to be a good king.**
- ► **Now have them raise their hands if they think he’s going to be a bad king.**

Summarize 1 Samuel 11:1:

- Today’s story begins with another evil king: King Nahash.
 - ► **Have a child come up front and wear the N Shirt.**

- **► Give them the crown to wear.**
- King Nahash and his army men attacked some of the Israelites.
 - **► Select five or six children to come up and be Nahash's army men.**
 - **► Give them swords/sticks for weapons.**
- They surrounded a city of Israelites called Jabesh Gilead.
 - **► Select about four children to sit in the center of the teaching area.**
 - **► Tell Nahash and his men to form a circle around the four sitting children.**
- The people of Jabesh Gilead were surrounded!
- They wanted to make a peace treaty.
- That's when two armies agree to stop fighting each other.

Begin the story:

- Here's what the Bible says King Nahash said.
- *Nahash, the king of Ammon, replied...*
- **► Tell Nahash to repeat the following dialogue after you, one phrase at time:**
 - *I will make a peace treaty with you.*
 - *But I'll do it only on one condition.*
 - *You must let me put out the right eye of every one of you. - 1 Sam. 11:2*
- People of Jabesh Gilead, do you want your eyeballs poked out? (No.)
- Let's read and see what the Bible says you said.
- *The elders of Jabesh said to him...*
- **► Tell the sitting children to repeat the following dialogue after you:**
 - *Give us seven days to report back to you.*
 - *We'll send messengers all through Israel.*
 - *If no one comes to save us...*
 - *...we'll hand ourselves over to you.*

Continue the story:

- **► Select a child to be Saul.**
- **► Give them the S Shirt to wear and the garden rake.**
- **► Tell them to go to one corner of the room and pretend to work.**
- Here's what the Bible says happened next.
- *The messengers came to Gibeah of Saul.*
 - **► Tell one of the sitting children to run behind where the children are sitting.**
- *They reported to the people the terms Nahash had required.*
 - **► Tell them to repeat the following:**
 - We're surrounded by King Nahash!*
 - He's going to poke out our eyes!*
- *Then all of the people sobbed out loud.*
 - **► Tell all the children in their seats to dramatically pretend to cry.**
- *Just then Saul was coming in from the fields. He was walking behind his oxen.*
 - **► Tell Saul to walk over to the messenger.**
- *He asked...*
- **► Tell Saul to repeat the following dialogue after you:**
 - *What's wrong with the people?*
 - *Why are they sobbing?*
- *He was told what the men of Jabesh had said.*
- **► Tell the children to repeat the following dialogue after you:**

- King Nahash surrounded them!
- He's going to poke out their eyes
- *When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came on him with power.*
 - ► **Tell Saul to drop his rake and begin flexing mightily, much like the Incredible Hulk™.**
- *He burned with anger. - 1 Sam. 11:4-6*
 - ► **Tell Saul to frown, fold his arms, and stomp his foot.**

Discuss the previous verses:

- How did Saul feel when he heard the news? (He burned with anger.)
- When Saul heard the news, the Bible says "the Spirit of God came on him with power."
- The Spirit of God is God.
- The Bible teaches us that God is a trinity.
 - ► **Tell the children to repeat "trinity."**
- That means that God in one God in three persons.
 - ► **Tell the children repeat "One God in three persons."**
- God the Father is God.
- God's Son, Jesus is God.
- And the Holy Spirit is God.
- There are three persons, but only one God.
- The Bible says that God the Holy Spirit came upon Saul with power.
- Can God the Holy Spirit make a human being powerful? (You betcha!)

Continue the story:

- Here's what the Bible says happened next.
- *Saul brought his army together at Bezek. There were 300,000 men from Israel and 30,000 from Judah.*
 - ► **Tell all the children in the seats to pretend to thrust a sword in the air.**
- *The messengers who had come were told...*
- ► **Tell Saul to say the following dialogue to the messenger after you:**
 - *Go back and report to the men of Jabesh Gilead.*
 - *Tell them, 'By the hottest time of the day tomorrow...*
 - *...you will be saved.'*
- *The messengers went and reported it to the men of Jabesh.*
 - ► **Tell the messenger to run over and sit with the rest of the "people of Jabesh Gilead."**
 - ► **Tell them to pretend to whisper in the other three children's ears.**
- *It made those men very happy. - 1 Sam. 11:8-9*
 - ► **Tell the sitting children to do a little celebratory dance while sitting.**

Continue the story:

- *The next day Saul separated his men into three groups.*
 - ► **Tell the children sitting in their chairs to stand up.**
 - ► **Send one third to the right side of the room.**
 - ► **Send one third to the left side of the room.**
 - ► **Send one third to the back of the room.**
 - ► **Tell them to pretend to hold a sword and shield.**
- *While it was still dark...*
 - ► **Dim the lights, if possible.**
 - i. Note: if you have a dim floor lamp to use, turn the room lights off and this lamp on.
- *...they broke into the camp of the Ammonite army.*

- ▶ **Explain the rules of the battle first: the children are to pretend fight, making sure not to actually hurt each other.**
- ▶ **Explain that, when you blow your whistle (or make another loud noise), they are to freeze.**
- ▶ **Tell the three groups to go forward and attack Nahash for about 15-20 seconds.**
- ▶ **Blow the whistle.**
- The Bible says the Israelites defeated most of Nahash's men.
 - ▶ **Tell Nahash and all but one of his men to fall over dramatically.**
- *Those who got away alive were scattered. There weren't two of them left together anywhere. - 1 Sam. 11:11*
 - ▶ **Tell the last remaining member of Nahash to run away in a frightened panic.**
 - ▶ **Tell all the children, except for Saul, to return to their seats.**
 - ▶ **Tell Saul to stand up front next to you.**

Continue the story:

- *So all of the people went to Gilgal. There, with the LORD as witness, they agreed to have Saul as their king.*
 - ▶ **Hand the crown to a child sitting in their seat.**
 - ▶ **Tell them to come up and put the crown on Saul's head, then return to their seat.**
- *There they sacrificed friendship offerings to the Lord. And there Saul and all of the people of Israel celebrated with great joy. - 1 Sam. 11:15*
 - ▶ **Have everyone, you included, stand up and do a celebratory dance for a few seconds.**
- So, has Saul been a pretty good king so far? (Yes.)
- Why do you think the people so happy to make Saul their king? (Because he rescued the people from Jabesh Gilead from getting their eyes poked out!)
- But remember, Saul won because he had Someone very special helping him.
- Who helped Saul? (God the Holy Spirit.)
- Let's keep reading and find out if Saul continues to be a good king.

Set up the next part of the story:

- In the next part of the story, the Israelites are at war again.
 - ▶ **Divide the children in half.**
 - ▶ **Tell half to sit on the left side of the room and the other half on the right side.**
 - i. Note: the children should move their chairs with them.
 - ▶ **Hang the Israelites Sign from the ceiling string on the right side of the room.**
- They were fighting against the Philistines.
 - ▶ **Hang the Philistines from the ceiling string on the left side of the room.**
- The Philistines didn't love or obey God.
- They worshipped an idol named Dagon.
- What is an idol? (A pretend god someone makes to worship instead of the real God.)
- The Philistines battled the Israelites a lot.
- Do you remember the story about David fighting the giant, Goliath?
- Goliath was a Philistine.

Continue the story:

- Here's what the Bible says happened next.
- *Saul was 30 years old when he became king. He ruled over Israel for 42 years.*
 - ▶ **Tell Saul to go stand in front of the Israelites.**
- *The men of Israel saw that their army was in deep trouble.*
 - ▶ **Tell the Philistines to pretend to lift up swords and give a war cry.**
- *So they hid in caves and bushes. They hid among the rocks. They hid in pits and empty wells.*

- ▶ **Tell the Israelites to hide and cower behind their chairs.**
- ...Saul remained at Gilgal. All of the troops who were with him were shaking with fear. - 1 Sam. 13:1,6-7
- ▶ **Tell the Israelites to shake in fear for a few seconds.**

Discuss the previous verses:

- Israelites, are things looking good for you? (No.)
- Is it a good sign when all your soldiers are hiding in caves and shaking in their boots? (Nope!)
- But remember about the last battle.
- Who came up Saul and filled him with power? (The Holy Spirit.)
- Saul wanted God's help again.
- The way he thought he could get God's help was by offering a sacrifice.

Discuss sacrifices:

- A sacrifice was a special gift, or offering, people gave to God in the Old Testament.
- God was actually the one who told them to make sacrifices.
- They had to sacrifice, or kill, an animal, each time they broke one of God's commandments.
- What is the Bible's word for when we break God's commandments? (Sin.)
- God had a special *place* for sacrifices called an altar.
 - ▶ **Set the turn-over trash can in the center of the room.**
 - ▶ **Drape the bed sheet (preferably grey) over trash can.**
- Some altars were fancy and made of wood and others were simply large piles of rocks.
- But every altar had a fire built on top of it.
 - ▶ **Stack the fire wood like a campfire on top of the "altar".**
- And God had special *people* for sacrifices called priests.
 - ▶ **Have the children repeat the word "priests" with you.**
 - ▶ **Select a child to come up and represent the priest.**
 - ▶ **Give them the P Shirt to wear.**
- One of the sacrifices the priests offered to God was called a burnt offering. (ref. Lev. 1-7)
 - ▶ **Have the children say "burnt offering" with you.**
- A burnt offering could be a bull, a sheep or goat, or a bird. (ref. Lev. 1:1-15)
 - ▶ **Hand the stuffed animal to the priest.**
- After the animal was killed, the priest would set the animal on the altar.
 - ▶ **Tell the priest to set the animal on the top of the altar.**
- And the priest would let everything burn all the way up on the altar.
- That's what a sacrifice was.
 - ▶ **Tell the priest to return to their seat.**
 - ▶ **Remove the stuffed animal from the altar.**

Discuss Saul and the sacrifice:

- Who was the special people God had to make sacrifices? (Priests.)
- King Saul wasn't a priest.
- Was he supposed to be doing sacrifices by himself? (Nope!)
- Well, there was a priest in Israel.
- His name was Samuel.
 - ▶ **Put the Samuel Sign around the neck of the child who represented the priest.**
- Samuel was one of Israel's special leaders.
- He was the one who taught them about God.
- But Saul had a problem.

- He was getting ready to battle the Philistines, but Samuel wasn't there.
 - ► **Tell Samuel to go a place in the room far away from the Israelites.**
- Samuel had said to Saul...
- ► **Tell Samuel to repeat the following after you:**
 - Wait for me, Saul.
 - I'll be there in seven days. (ref. 1 Sam. 13:8)

Continue the story:

- Let's continue reading from the Bible
- *[Saul] waited seven days, just as Samuel had told him to.*
 - ► **Tell Saul to pace nervously in front of the altar, arms folded.**
- *But Samuel didn't come to Gilgal.*
- *And Saul's men began to scatter.*
 - ► **Tell two or three of the Israelites to run to the far right side of the room and sit down.**
- *So he said...*
- ► **Tell Saul to repeat the following dialogue.**
 - *Bring me the burnt offering...*
 - *...and the friendship offerings.*
- ► **Give the stuffed animal to one of the Israelites.**
- ► **Tell them to bring it to Saul.**
- *Then he offered up the burnt offering.*
 - ► **Tell Saul to set the stuffed animal on the altar.**
- *Just as Saul finished offering the sacrifice, Samuel arrived.*
 - ► **Tell Samuel to start walking to Saul.**
- *Saul went out to greet him.*
 - ► **Tell Saul to run to Samuel and shake his hand.**
- *Samuel asked...*
- ► **Tell Samuel to repeat the following after you:**
 - *What have you done?*
- *Saul replied...*
- ► **Tell Saul to repeat the following after you, one phrase at a time:**
 - *I saw that the men were scattering.*
 - *I saw that the Philistines were gathering together...*
 - *You didn't come when you said you would.*
 - *So I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down to attack me...*
 - *And I haven't asked the LORD to show us his favor.'*
 - *So I felt I had to sacrifice the burnt offering.*
- *Samuel said:*
 - *You did a foolish thing.*
 - *You haven't obeyed the command the LORD your God gave you.*
 - *If you had, he would have made your kingdom...for all time to come.*
 - *But now your kingdom won't last.*
 - *The LORD has already looked for a man...*
 - *...who is dear to his heart.*
 - *He has appointed him leader of his people.*
 - *That's because you haven't obeyed the LORD's command." - 1 Sam. 13:8-13*
- ► **Tell Samuel to return to their seat.**
- ► **Tell all the Israelites to return to their seats.**

- ▶ **Tell Saul to stand up front.**

Conclude the story:

- Saul, what did you do wrong? (Offered a sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel.)
- If Saul had just waited a few more minutes, Samuel would have been there to offer the sacrifice for him.
- Why is it okay for Samuel to offer a sacrifice? (Because he's a priest.)
- But instead, Saul decided to disobey God.
- Did you hear what Samuel said?
- He said that, if Saul had obeyed God, he would have been king forever!
- But, since Saul didn't obey, Saul and his family wouldn't be kings forever.
 - ▶ **Remove the crown from Saul's head.**
 - ▶ **Tell Saul to return to his seat.**
- In fact, God had already picked out someone else to be a new king when Saul died.
 - ▶ **Select a child to come up.**
 - ▶ **Put the crown on their head.**
- The new person God picked to be king was named David.
 - ▶ **Hang the David Sign around this child's neck.**
 - ▶ **Tell David to return to their seat.**

Discuss sin:

- The Bible has a special word for when we disobey God.
- It's called "sin".
- ▶ **Write "SIN" in large letters in the center of the board.**
- What did Saul do to disobey God? (Offered a sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel.)
- ▶ **Write "Saul's Sin = sacrifice" in top right corner of the board**
- ▶ **Connect it with a line to "Sin" in the center.**
- Someone once asked Jesus what the most important commandment in the whole Bible was.
- Listen to what Jesus said:
- *Jesus replied, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.'—This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' - Matt. 22:37-39*
- Jesus said that there are two great commandments.
- First, love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
- ▶ **Draw a large, red heart in the top left of the board.**
- ▶ **Write "God" in the center of the heart.**
- Second, love others like you love yourself.
- ▶ **Draw a large, red heart in the bottom left of the board.**
- ▶ **Write "Others" in the center of the heart.**
- Anytime we don't love God with all our heart, soul, and mind...
- ▶ **Point to Love God Heart.**
- ...we sin.
- ▶ **Point to "Sin" on the board.**
- And anytime we don't love others like we love ourselves...
- ▶ **Point to Love Others Heart.**
- ...we sin.
- ▶ **Point to "Sin".**
- I want you to think about this.
- Do you ever love something more than God?

- Do you ever not love other people like you love yourself?
- If you said yes, that means you sinned.
- ▶ Write “Our Sin” in the lower right corner of the board.

Discuss the punishment for sin:

- When you disobey your mom and dad, how do they feel? (Angry.)
- The Bible says that God hates our sin. (ref. Ps. 11:5)
- God punishes our sin.
- What was Saul’s punishment for offering the sacrifice? (He couldn’t be king forever.)
- ▶ Draw a crown by “Saul’s Sin”, then cross out the crown.
- There’s a punishment for our sin, too.
- Listen to this Bible verse:
- *When you sin, the pay you get is death. - Rom. 6:23a*
- ▶ Draw a skull and crossbones by “Our Sin”.
- So, if we’ve sinned, *and everybody has*, our punishment is death!
- Things were looking bad for Saul, but they’re looking worse for you and me.

Share the good news:

- But the Bible is filled with good news!
- We don’t love God, but God loves us.
- And he sent someone to rescue us.
- Anyone know his name? (Jesus.)
- ▶ Draw a stickman Jesus between the two hearts.
- Jesus was a unique person because he’s both God *and* a human being.
- The Bible tells us that Jesus was without sin. (ref. Heb. 4:15)
- Jesus always loved God with all his heart, soul, and mind.
 - ▶ **Point to the God Heart.**
- Jesus always loved others like he loved himself.
 - ▶ **Point to the Others Heart.**
- Did Jesus deserve to be punished? Why not? (No, because he never sinned!)
- But God loved us so much that he paid the punishment for our sins.
- What is the punishment for our sins? (Death.)
- God took our punishment, and gave it to Jesus.
 - ▶ Draw a line from the skull to Jesus.
- Jesus was nailed to a cross and died for our sins.
- ▶ Draw a cross below “Sin”.
- But Jesus didn’t stay dead.
- He rose from the dead, he came back to life, three days later!

Continue the good news:

- The best news is this: if you repent, or turn away from your sin...
- ▶ Draw a U-turn arrow above “Sin”.
- ...and trust in Jesus to save you...
- ▶ Write “Trust in” and draw a quick stickman Jesus next to the U-turn arrow.
- ...God forgives every sin you’ll ever do: every single one!
- ▶ Erase the word “Sin”.
- And since all your sins are forgiven, you no longer have the punishment for sin, death!
- ▶ Erase “Our sins” and the skull & crossbones.

Introduce the big idea:

- When we think about King Saul making the sacrifice, we need to remember that he sinned.
- And when we remember he sinned, we need to remember the bad news: you and I have sinned, too.
- But we need to remember the good news: Jesus died for our sins.
- And that will be our big idea today: Bad news: you and I have sinned. Good news: Jesus died for our sins.
- ► **Teach the kids the motions for the big idea.**
- ► **Say the big idea and do the motions with the kids several times.**

Motions for the Big Idea:

Bad news: droop your shoulders and look sad

You and I: point to another person, then yourself

Sinned: two thumbs down

Good news: thrust your fists in the air, like celebrating a touchdown

Jesus: form a cross with your forearms

Died: form an “X” over your chest with your forearms

Sins: two thumbs down

C. APPLICATION/INSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.

Resources: Instruction Sheet, Instruction Verses

Materials: Marker/pencil

1. Review the story:

- a. What was Saul's sin in today's story? (He made a sacrifice by himself.)
- b. What is sin? (When we disobey God.)
- c. Sin is when we disobey God with what we think...
 - i. ▶ **Point to your brain.**
- d. ...say...
 - i. ▶ **Point to your mouth.**
- e. ...or do.
 - i. ▶ **Wiggle your fingers.**
- f. ▶ **Repeat "Sin is when we disobey God with what we think, say, or do" with the children, repeating the motions you just did.**
- g. We know the punishment for sin is death.
- h. But how can we be saved from our sins? (Repenting, or turning from our sins, and believing that Jesus died and rose again for us.)
- i. If we repent and believe in Jesus, all of our sins are forgiven forever.
- j. But even after we believe in Jesus and are saved, we still sometimes sin.
- k. But what do we need to remember when we sin?
- l. The best place to find out the answer to this question is...? (The Bible.)
- m. ▶ **Set the Instruction Sheet on the table.**

2. Fill in the blanks in the first phrase:

- a. ▶ **Set Instruction Verse 1 on the table and read it.**
- b. Who is Christ? (Jesus, God's Son.)
- c. Jesus died for what? (Our sins.)
- d. Jesus died to pay the punishment for our sins, which is...? (Death.)
- e. But this verse doesn't just say he died.
- f. What else did Jesus do? (He rose from the dead three days later.)
- g. Whenever we disobey God, the first thing we need to remember is that Jesus died to forgive all of our sins, even the sin we just did!
- h. ▶ **Have a child write "died" and "sins" in the blanks in sentence #1 on the Instruction Sheet.**

3. Fill in the blanks in the second phrase:

- a. ▶ **Set Instruction Verse 2 on the table and read it.**
- b. What does it mean to "admit" something? (To tell someone else about something bad you did.)
- c. If we admit to God that we have sinned, what will God do? (He'll forgive our sins.)
- d. Another word the Bible uses for admitting we've sinned is "confess".
- e. When we sin, does God know about it? Why? (Yes, because he sees everything.)
- f. Whenever we sin, if we confess our sins, God will forgive us!
- g. Every single time!
- h. ▶ **Have a child write "confess" and "forgive" in the blanks in sentence #2 on the Instruction Sheet.**

4. Fill in the blanks in the third phrase:

- a. ▶ **Set Instruction Verse 3 on the table.**
- b. What is a slave? (Someone who is owned by someone else and has to do whatever we say.)

- c. The Bible says that, before someone believes in Jesus, they are slaves to sin.
- d. That means they *have* to keep sinning.
- e. But this verse says that we are *no longer* slaves to sin.
- f. So, do people who believe in Jesus *have* to keep on sinning? (No.)
- g. Whenever we sin, we need to remember that we don't have to keep on sinning because we aren't slaves to sin.
- h. God will help us not sin.
- i. ► Have a child write "slaves and "keep" in the blanks in sentence #3 on the Instruction Sheet.

5. Review the Instruction Sheet:

- a. Everybody sins, even people who believe in Jesus.
- b. But when we sin, there are some important things the Bible tells us we can remember.
- c. ► Read through the three sentences on the Instruction Sheet.
- d. So this week, when you lie, or disobey your mom or dad, or get angry and hit your brother and sister...
- e. ...remember that Jesus died to forgive your sins.
- f. ...confess your sin to God and he'll forgive you.
- g. ...remember that you aren't a slave to sin and ask God to help you not do it again.

D. VERSE ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.

Resources: Verse Cards

Materials: Golf ball, putter, marker, masking tape, cups (10)

Verse: Romans 5:6 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (ESV)

Setup:

- Use the marker to make the golf ball look like an eyeball.
- Attach each Verse Card to a cup. Set the cups in a line on the floor with no spaces in between.
- Make a masking tape line on the floor, parallel to the line of cups and about five feet away.

1. Discuss the verse and the activity:

- ▶ **Read the verse as a group.**
- What does the word “ungodly”? (People who don’t obey God.)
- Because we disobey God, we are “ungodly.”
- What is the opposite of “weak”? (Strong.)
- This verse says we are weak; it means we’re not strong enough to save ourselves from sin.
- God says that, at just the right time, Christ died for ungodly people like you and me.
- Who is Christ? (Jesus, God’s Son.)
- Why did Jesus die? (To pay the punishment for our sins.)
- How can we be saved? (By repenting, or turning from our sins, and trusting in Jesus to save us.)
- As we learn this verse, we’ll use a golf putter to knock over words of the verse.
- And we’ll use this pretend eyeball to do it.
 - ▶ **Hold up the golf ball made to look like an eyeball.**

2. Do the activity:

- ▶ **Give the putter to a child.**
- ▶ **Set the golf ball on the masking tape line.**
- ▶ **Tell the child to put the ball, trying to knock over a cup.**
 - Note: if they miss, move the ball a foot or two in front of the line and let them try again.
- ▶ **Remove the knocked-over cup.**
- ▶ **Erase the words from the verse card attached to that cup from the board.**
- ▶ **Read through the verse as a group, teaching them the motions below as those words are erased from the board.**
- ▶ **Repeat the above until all the cups are knocked over or time runs out.**

Motions for the Verse:

We - point to yourself

Weak - droop your shoulders and lean your head sideways like a weakling

Right time - pretend to tap your watch

Christ - form a cross with your forearms

Died - form an “X” over your chest with your forearms

Ungodly - two thumbs down

E. REVIEW ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.

Resources:	Materials: Golf balls ¹ , Cups ² , marker
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¹ You need one for every two children.

² You need one for every child.

Setup:

- Use the marker to color the golf balls, making them look like eyeballs.

1. Describe the activity:

- a. We're going to answer a few questions about today's story.
- b. As we do, we'll play a game of catch with our pretend eyeballs.
 - i. ▶ Hold up the golf ball made to look like an eyeball again.
- c. ▶ Give each child a cup.
- d. ▶ Divide the children into pairs.
- e. ▶ Tell the pairs to line up across from each other, one member against the wall and the other against the opposite.
- f. ▶ Tell them to lie on their stomachs, facing each other.
- g. ▶ Give one member of each pair a golf ball.

2. Do the activity:

- a. ▶ Ask one child to answer a question below.
- b. ▶ Have the other children indicate whether they agree with the child's answer or not with a thumb's up or thumb's down.
- c. ▶ Tell each pair member with a golf ball eyeball to roll it to their partner and...
- d. ▶ Tell the other partners to "catch" the eyeball by covering the ball with the upside-down cup right when it comes by.
- e. ▶ Reveal the correct answer.
- f. ▶ Repeat the above process until all the questions have been answered or time runs out.

Questions // Answers

1. What did King Nahash say he was going to do to the Israelites? // Poke out their eyes.
2. Who led the Israelites to fight King Nahash? // King Saul
3. Who came upon King Saul in power? // The Holy Spirit
4. Who won the battle, King Saul and the Israelites or King Nahash? // Saul and the Israelites.
5. What were the special people who offered sacrifices to God called? // Priests
6. What was the name of the other group of people the Israelites battled? // The Philistines
7. What was the name of the priest Saul was waiting for? // Samuel
8. How long did Saul wait for Samuel? // 7 days
9. What did Saul do when Samuel didn't show up on time? // He offered the sacrifice himself
10. What was God's punishment for Saul? // He wouldn't be king forever
11. What is today's big idea? // Bad news: you and I have sinned. Good news: Jesus died for our sins.
12. What is today's Bible verse? // Romans 5:6 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Parent Email Information

To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

OT 50 Saul Disobeys God

Reference: 1 Sam. 11 & 13

Big Idea: Bad news: you and I have sinned. Good news: Jesus died for our sins.

Verse: Romans 5:6 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (ESV)

Motions for the Big Idea:

Bad news: droop your shoulders and look sad

You: point to another person

I: point to yourself

Sinned: two thumbs down

Good news: thrust your fists in the air, like celebrating a touchdown

Jesus: form a cross with your forearms

Died: form an "X" over your chest with your forearms

Sins: two thumbs down

Motions for the Verse:

We - point to yourself

Weak - droop your shoulders and lean your head sideways like a weakling

Right time - pretend to tap your watch

Christ - form a cross with your forearms

Died - form an "X" over your chest with your forearms

Ungodly - two thumbs down

Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. What did King Nahash say he was going to do to the Israelites? // Poke out their eyes.
2. Who led the Israelites to fight King Nahash? // King Saul
3. Who came upon King Saul in power? // The Holy Spirit
4. Who won the battle, King Saul and the Israelites or King Nahash? // Saul and the Israelites.
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8. How long did Saul wait for Samuel? // 7 days
9. What did Saul do when Samuel did show up on time? // He offered the sacrifice himself
10. What was God's punishment for Saul? // He wouldn't be king forever
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Google Docs Links:

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