

GOD IS ETERNAL



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YEAR 3, UNIT 9

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GOD IS ETERNAL

MONTHLY PREPARATION GUIDE

YEAR 3, UNIT 09 - ELEMENTARY

In this unit, we are learning that **God is eternal**. Through the life of Samuel, we see God as our eternal priest, prophet, judge and king. During Samuel's leadership, the Israelites experienced great victories over their enemies, and Samuel never tried to take credit for the good things that happened. He knew it was God who was working. Samuel was just a man who listened and obeyed God. Because of that, God blessed him and all of Israel. Most importantly, God used Samuel to reveal to us that **God is eternal**. God has no beginning or end. He has always existed, and He always will exist.

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Wrapping Paper or Newspaper | Index Cards | Prizes | Transparent Tape | Music | Samuel's Robe Activity Sheet (1 per child) | Crayons or Markers | Assorted Craft Supplies | Glue |

WEEK 2

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Blindfold | Small Object (Eraser, Rubber Bone, etc.) | *Samuel Hears God's Voice* Activity Page (1 per child) | *Samuel Figure* Activity Page (1 figure per child) | Glue | Craft Sticks | Crayons or Markers | Fabric Rectangles | Stapler | Star Stickers | Scissors |

WEEK 3

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Pretzels (small sticks) | Marshmallows | Toothpicks | Spaghetti Noodles | Gumdrops | Styrofoam Bowls | *Crowns* Activity Page (1 crown per child) | *Attributes* Activity Page (1 per child) | Cardstock | Craft Jewels | Glue | Scissors | Markers or Colored Pencils | Various Types of Ribbon | Glitter Paper (optional) | *Memory Verse Signs* Activity Pages (optional, 1 set per class) |

WEEK 4

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Deck of Cards (1 per class) | Timer | Play-Doh | Colored Pencils | Drawing Paper (1 per child) |

SAMUEL POINTS TO OUR ETERNAL PRIEST

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 2:18-26 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Eternal

FOCUS VERSE

“Your kingdom will continue forever. And you will be King from now on. The Lord will keep his promises. With love he takes care of all he has made.” Psalm 145:13 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Wrapping Paper or Newspaper | Index Cards | Prizes | Transparent Tape | Music |
Samuel’s Robe Activity Page | Crayons or Markers | Assorted Craft Supplies | Glue |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What do you think of when you hear the word “forever?”
- Name something you enjoy doing so much that sometimes you feel you could do it forever.

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Psalm 150:6 declares, ‘Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!’ We can breathe [breath in and out with the children], so let’s join all creation and worship our eternal King!”

We recommend “Jesus Forever” by Austin Stone Worship as a theme song to play throughout this unit.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Ask the Holy Spirit to give the children eyes to see and ears to hear the message that **God is eternal**. Understanding that God is our ultimate and loving authority, who has always been and will always be, is foundational to their spiritual life.

Sample Prayer: “God, thank You for being our good and eternal Father. Teach us what You want us to know about You today. We love You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Last month, we learned about Joseph. Today, we begin a new set of lessons all about Samuel. A lot took place between the time of Joseph and Samuel. God’s people, the Israelites, moved to Egypt to avoid the famine and live under Joseph’s wise leadership. However, as time passed, a new Egyptian leader who didn’t care about the Israelites or their God came to power. The Israelites became Egypt’s slaves for around 400 years until God used Moses to free them. God was sending them to an incredible new land. It was going to be amazing! But God’s people didn’t follow Him. They didn’t trust Him and were disobedient, so they didn’t get to enjoy that wonderful land right away. They had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering their new home. Finally, God used Joshua to lead his people into the Promised Land, and in this new place, God gave them judges like Samson, Deborah, and Gideon to lead His people. The last of these judges was Samuel - the main character in our new unit. As we will see, Samuel was much more than a judge, though. He was a leader who pointed to Jesus. Now, who would like to put up our new puzzle piece?”

TRANSITION: Say, “One of the most interesting things about Samuel is how his life points to our eternal King, Jesus, who hadn’t even been born at that time! No one, not even Samuel, understood that God would send His Son to rescue us from sin and death. However, God used the lives of good men and women like Samuel to prepare His people for Jesus.”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Wrapping Paper or Newspaper | Index Cards | Prizes | Transparent Tape | Music |

Say, “For today’s game, we’ll play *Pass the Parcel*. Have any of you ever played that game? Well, we will use it as an opportunity to start learning this month’s memory verse. Also, watch carefully because it might be easy to miss one of the words. Who is ready to play?”

GAME GOAL: To unwrap the “parcel,” find all the words of this month’s Focus Verse, and put the words in order.



BEFORE CLASS, WRITE THE WORDS OF THIS MONTH’S FOCUS VERSE ON INDIVIDUAL INDEX CARDS. THEN, TAPE THE CARDS TO INEXPENSIVE PRIZES. NEXT, WRAP THE CARDS/GIFTS IN WRAPPING PAPER OR NEWSPAPER LAYERS. THE BIGGER YOU MAKE THE “PARCEL,” THE LONGER THE GAME WILL LAST.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Gather the children in a circle and have them pass the parcel while you play the music.
2. When the music stops, whoever has the parcel will unwrap a layer. Then, they should pass the parcel to the next person, and it will continue moving around until the music stops.
3. If a child finds a card/prize underneath their layer, they can keep the prize and save the card until the end of the game.
4. Repeat the process until all layers are unwrapped and all the words have been revealed.
5. Finally, have the group place the memory verse in order and say it aloud together.

TRANSITION: Ask, “What does this month’s verse tell us about God? [Allow the children to respond.] Yes! Those are great responses! The message I want you to remember from this month’s verse is also our Big Idea for the month. It is that God is eternal. Now, let’s see what the Bible has to teach us today.”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “This month, as we learn about Samuel, I want you to be on the lookout for ways his life reminds you of Jesus’. For example, Samuel was miraculously born to parents who loved and followed God. Samuel and Jesus’ mothers wrote similar songs of worship when their babies were born [see 1 Samuel 2:1-11 and Luke 1:46-55], and both boys eventually surprised the adults around them with their powerful callings to serve God.

“Today’s lesson begins while Samuel is still a boy. In our story, Samuel’s parents are Elkanah and Hannah. Eli is the priest Samuel went to live with when he was young. Do you remember how I told you Samuel’s birth was a miracle? Well, for a long time, Hannah couldn’t have a baby. One day she was praying, begging God to give her a son. She promised that if He answered her prayer, she would return her son to the Lord. Well, several months later, a miracle happened! Hannah, who had never been able to have a baby, had a son and named him Samuel. After Samuel got a little older, Hannah did what she had promised and sent her son to live with Eli, the priest, so that he could serve God. Hannah and Elkanah regularly visited Samuel. Now, let’s read from God’s Word.” Read 1 Samuel 2:18-26 (ICB).

¹⁸ But Samuel obeyed the Lord. He wore a linen holy vest. ¹⁹ Every year Samuel’s mother would make a little coat for him. She would take it to him when she went to Shiloh. She went there with her husband for the sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife. Eli would say, “May the Lord repay you with children through Hannah. They will take the place of the boy Hannah prayed for and gave back to the Lord.” Then Elkanah and Hannah would go home. ²¹ The Lord was kind to Hannah. She became the mother of three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up serving the Lord.

²² Now Eli was very old. He heard about everything his sons were doing to all the Israelites... ²³ Eli said to his sons, “The people here tell me about the evil you do. Why do you do these evil things? ²⁴ No, my sons. The Lord’s people are saying bad things about you. ²⁵ If someone sins against another person, God can help him. But if he sins against the Lord himself, no one can help him!” But Eli’s sons would not listen to him. This was because the Lord had decided to put them to death....

²⁶ The boy Samuel kept growing. He pleased God and the people.

Say, “Notice the Bible says that Samuel ‘grew up serving the Lord.’ What do you think that means? [Pause for responses.] That’s right, Samuel was close to God. He served the Lord, loved Him, and spent time talking with Him [praying]. Did you notice who was far from God? Sadly, Eli’s sons were evil men. Even though they were priests, like their father, they didn’t care about serving the Lord. They were greedy and wicked. They chose to ignore God while Samuel followed God.

“Do you remember how I said to listen for ways that Samuel reminds us of Jesus? Did you notice anything? [Pause for responses.] Those are great observations! I also want to point out something

important about the last verse. In 1 Samuel 2:26, we read that Samuel 'pleased God and the people.' This sounds like how Luke, the gospel writer, described Jesus as a young boy, 'People liked him and he pleased God.' [Luke 2:52, ICB]

"Now that we've talked about how Samuel points us to Jesus, who can tell me how they are different? [Pause for responses.] Great! Samuel was just a person like you and me, while Jesus is God. Samuel was a good priest, but Hebrews 7:23-27 tells us that Jesus is our eternal priest. [Take a moment to discuss the word "eternal." God is eternal because He has no beginning or end. He is timeless. He has always existed, and He always will exist.] Jesus is perfect, and because He died on the Cross, we will never need another priest to make another sacrifice for our forgiveness. Jesus is our once-and-for-all Savior. He gives us everything we need. Samuel eventually died, but Jesus got up from the grave and lives forever. Samuel was a good priest. Jesus is our eternal Priest."

JOINING TO JESUS

All the priests who came before Jesus were imperfect, but Jesus is our perfect, eternal priest who saves completely and lives forever. Because of Christ's work on the Cross and His resurrection, we will never need another priest like Samuel.

TRANSITION: Say, "Samuel's priesthood points us to Jesus, and we can have confidence in Jesus because He is God. **Jesus is our eternal priest!**"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Let's review the story we just heard.

1. What was the name of Samuel's mother?

Response: Hannah

2. What did Hannah do when God answered her prayer for a baby?

Response: She dedicated her son to God's service.

3. How are Samuel and Eli's sons different?

Response: Answers will vary, but Samuel loved and followed God, while Eli's sons were wicked.

4. How was Samuel like Jesus?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. Why is Jesus a better priest than Samuel?

Response: Answers will vary and should include responses about Jesus being our final and eternal priest.

6. What did you learn about God today?

Response: **God is eternal.** Jesus is God. Jesus is our eternal priest. Jesus gives us everything we need, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Thank you for a great discussion! It's important to know that God uses imperfect people like Samuel to point us to Jesus. Let's do an activity that will remind us of Samuel's childhood with Eli when he learned to serve the Lord."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Samuel's Robe* Activity Page (1 per child) | Crayons or Markers | Assorted Craft Supplies | Glue |

Say, "Hannah loved Samuel very much. After he went to live with Eli, she would visit him, and each year she brought him a new, special robe. When he grew up, Samuel became the most important priest in the nation of Israel, and then he wore a different kind of robe – a priestly robe. Today we will make a robe for Samuel to wear. I can't wait to see what yours looks like."



USE TODAY'S CRAFT TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CRAFT SUPPLIES. BRING OUT ALL YOUR LEFTOVERS: STICKERS, POM-POMS, RIBBONS, YARN, ETC. THE KIDS WILL LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CREATIVE. JUST MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT TYPE OF GLUE FOR EVERYTHING!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a *Samuel's Robe* Activity Page.
2. Encourage kids to use their imagination and have fun decorating their robes.

TRANSITION: Say, "Your robes look fantastic! I love how creative you were with this activity! Let's put those aside so we can practice the motions and words to our brand new memory verse!"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This month's memory verse comes from Psalm 145:13. We can have joy knowing that Christ's kingdom will last forever, and if we have put our trust in Jesus, His Kingdom is our eternal home. Now, I will show you the motions to our verse, and then we will do it together."

Your kingdom [point to the sky with both pointer fingers] **will continue forever** [point to your left wrist, like pointing to a watch].
And you will be king [bring hands together on your head like a crown] **from now on** [start with both hands near your chest and extend outward and away]. **The Lord** [point to the sky with both pointer fingers in] **will keep his promises** [bring right pointer finger to your mouth and extend out]. **With love** [hug yourself] **he takes care of all he has made** [open your arms wide].
Psalm 145:13 (ICB) (hold hands out like a book)

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Samuel was a good and righteous priest who served the Lord faithfully all the days of his life. Samuel's story points us to Jesus. They both had a miraculous birth, loved God and others, and served as priests. The difference is that Samuel's priesthood and leadership ended, but Jesus' never did, because Jesus is eternal."

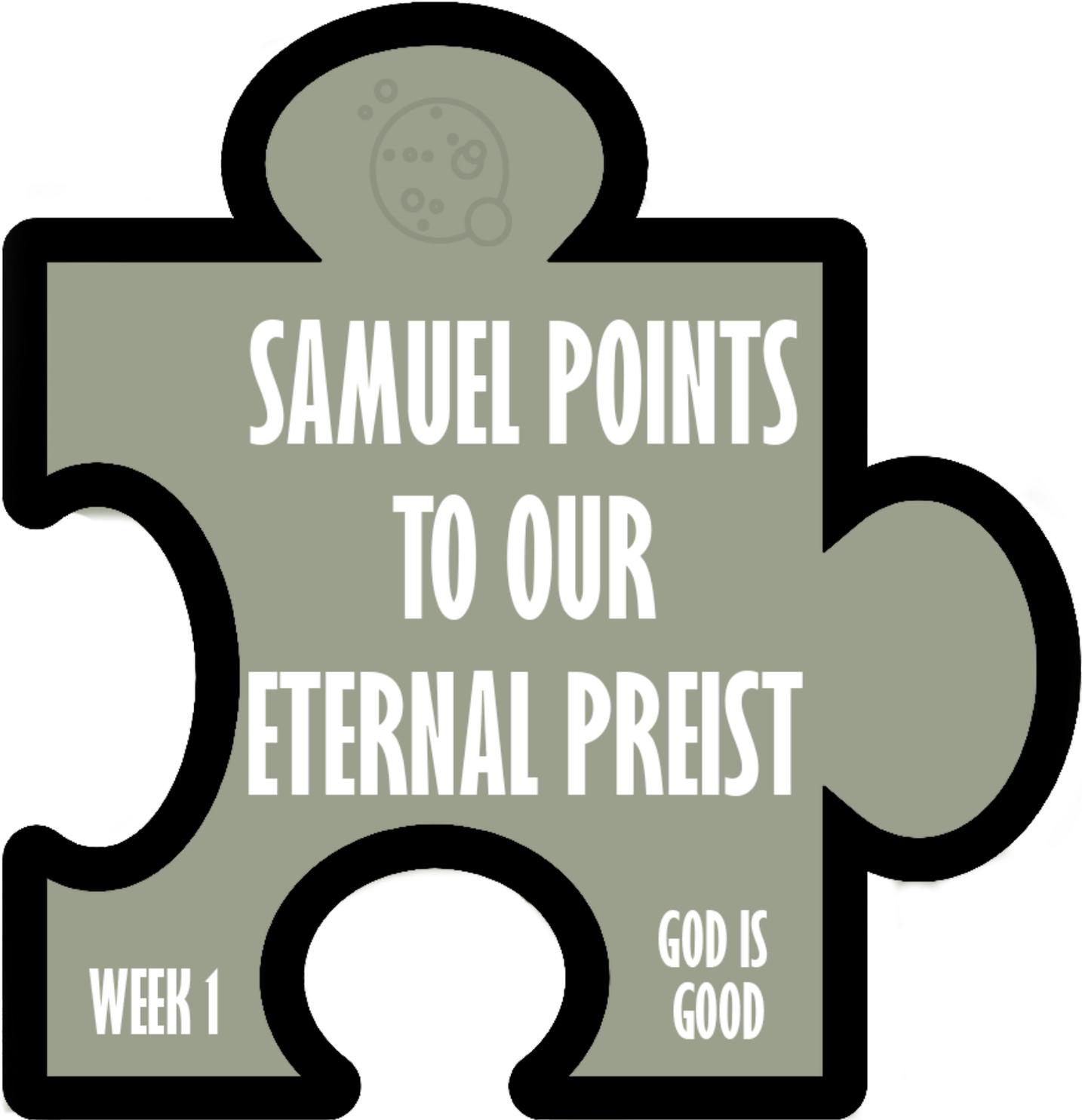
SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, thank You for people like Samuel who point us to Your Son. Jesus, You are our eternal Priest, giving us everything we need. Amen.”



ASK THE CHILDREN TO NAME ONE OR TWO PEOPLE WHO HELP THEM LOVE JESUS. THANK GOD FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS.

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If there is extra time, allow kids to share their *Samuel's Robe* Activity Page with the class. When parents arrive, hand them a copy of the monthly Parent Guide (downloadable).



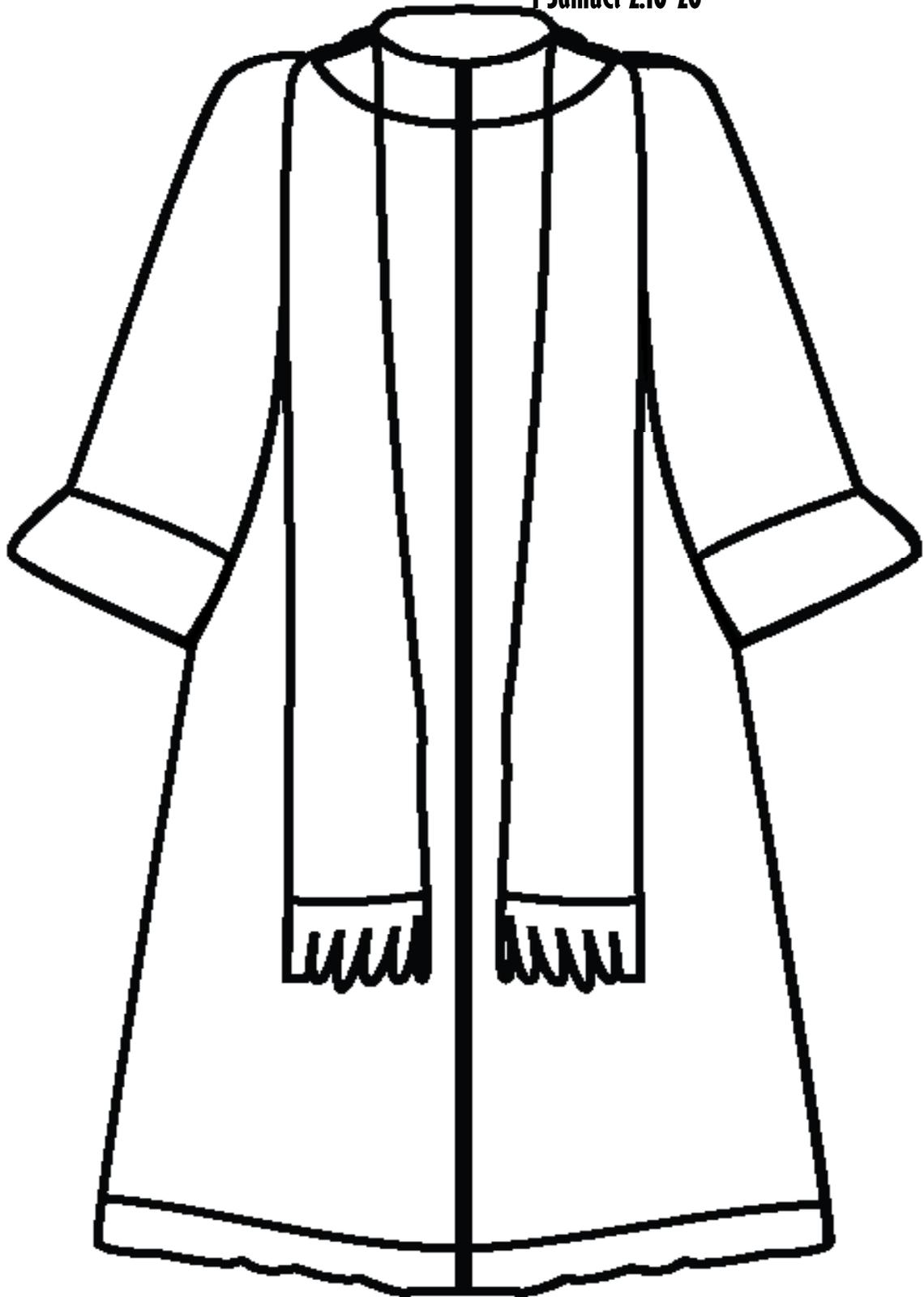
**SAMUEL POINTS
TO OUR
ETERNAL PREIST**

WEEK 1

**GOD IS
GOOD**

SAMUEL'S ROBE

1 Samuel 2:18-26



SAMUEL POINTS TO OUR ETERNAL PROPHET

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-21; Luke 4:16-21 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Eternal

FOCUS VERSE

“Your kingdom will continue forever. And you will be King from now on. The Lord will keep his promises. With love he takes care of all he has made.” Psalm 145:13 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Blindfold | Small Object (Eraser, Rubber Bone, etc.) | *Samuel Hears God’s Voice* Activity Page | *Samuel Figure* Activity Page | Glue | Craft Sticks | Crayons or Markers | Fabric Rectangles | Stapler | Star Stickers | Scissors |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Do you like loud music or soft music?
- What are your favorite sounds?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Psalm 100:2 [NLT] states, ‘Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.’ Why do you think we worship with gladness and joy? [Allow for responses.] Yes! We worship God with joy because we love Him and because He is incredible! Let’s worship the Lord with big smiles as we think about how much God loves us!”

We recommend “Jesus Forever” by Austin Stone Worship as a unit theme song. Additionally, “Praise the King Eternal” by LifePoint Kids is a fantastic choice for this lesson.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give the children eyes to see and ears to hear the message that **God is eternal.**

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, this is the day that You have made, and so we rejoice and choose to be glad in it. We praise You because You are eternal and know everything from beginning to end. Please reveal yourself today in a special way. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Last week, we learned that God answered Hannah’s prayer and gave her a son named Samuel. He became a good priest who points us to our eternal priest, Jesus. In today’s lesson, we will learn about another way Samuel points us to Christ, but first, who would like to post our puzzle piece?”

TRANSITION: “Before we get into God’s Word, let’s play a game to help us remember our story!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Blindfold | Small Object (Eraser, Rubber Bone, etc.) |

Say, “In our story, we will see that Samuel had to listen closely to discover who was talking to him. So, we’re going to play a listening game to get things started. Have you ever played *Doggie, Doggie Where’s Your Bone?* Great! Let’s give it a try!”

GAME GOAL: To guess which player has the “bone”

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Have the children sit in a circle. Choose a volunteer who wants to be the “doggie.” The “doggie” will sit in the middle of the circle and put on the blindfold. The small object (representing the “bone”) should be placed near the blindfolded child.
2. Once everyone is ready, the teacher will point to one of the children, who will quietly retrieve the “bone” and hide it.
3. The kids will then chant twice:
*“Doggie, Doggie, where’s your bone?
Somebody stole it from your home.
Guess who, me or you.”*
4. The child playing the “doggie” will ask, “Who has my bone?” The child who took the bone will respond, “I have your bone,” in a disguised voice.
5. Finally, the “doggie” will remove their blindfold and make up to three guesses.
6. If one of the guesses is correct, the “doggie” can go again. If incorrect, the child who took the “bone” becomes the “doggie.”
7. If possible, play until each child has had a turn to be the “doggie.”

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job, everyone! I enjoyed seeing you listen closely to make your guesses. That was not easy. In real life, we can also have a hard time figuring out when God is speaking to us. Fortunately, God helps us learn to recognize His voice with the help of the Holy Spirit.”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Samuel was a young boy when he began to serve as a priest under Eli's leadership. Samuel didn't yet know what it was like to hear God's voice. However, we will see that God used him as a prophet. What does it mean to be a prophet? [Pause for answers.] That's right, someone who hears a message from God and then shares it with others. Let's see how Scripture describes the first time Samuel heard God's voice"

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

¹ The boy Samuel served the Lord under Eli. In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often. There were very few visions. ² Eli's eyes were so weak he was almost blind. One night he was lying in bed. ³ Samuel was also in bed in the Lord's Holy Tent. The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy Tent. God's lamp was still burning. ⁴ Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "I am here!" ⁵ He ran to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed. ⁶ The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel again went to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." Again Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

⁷ Samuel did not yet know the Lord. The Lord had not spoken directly to him yet. ⁸ The Lord called Samuel for the third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli. He said, "I am here. You called me." Then Eli realized the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in bed. ¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening."

Say, "Samuel is confused the first time the Lord speaks to Him; he doesn't recognize God's voice. Initially, he thinks it is Eli calling him. Notice how respectfully Samuel speaks to his elder, Eli. He ran to him in the night and said, 'Here I am.' After Samuel comes to him three times, Eli finally understands what is happening. Eli explains that if Samuel hears the voice again, he should respond with, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

"Samuel returns to his bed, God calls him again, and Samuel responds. What do you think happened next? [Pause for response.] Good answers. Verses 11-18 tell us that the first prophecy God gave Samuel was a word of judgment against Eli's family. Do you remember Eli's foolish and evil sons? We talked about them last week. [Review if needed.] God told Samuel he was going to discipline Eli's sons for their disobedience. Not only that, but God would judge Eli for not stopping his son's wickedness.

Wow. If you were Samuel, would you want to tell Eli this news? [Pause for answers.] You're right, this would not be something fun to share, and it may have made Samuel nervous, afraid, and even sad. However, when Eli asked Samuel to describe what God told him and to hide nothing, Samuel was honest. Even from a young age, Samuel bravely listened and declared what God said, and he continued to live this way. The end of 1 Samuel 3 tells us something remarkable about Samuel's life as a prophet. Let's read 1 Samuel 3:19-21 together."

¹⁹ The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up. He did not let any of Samuel's messages fail to come true. ²⁰ Then all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew Samuel was a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ And the Lord continued to show himself to Samuel at Shiloh. He also showed himself to Samuel through his word.

Say, "The Bible says none of Samuel's words failed 'to come true.' What do you think that means? [Pause for answers.] That's right, everything he said would happen did happen because his words were from God. His whole country knew Samuel was God's prophet, and the Lord continued to speak to Samuel. But his story and the words he spoke weren't only important for his country. In unique ways, Samuel points us to Jesus, the eternal prophet. You see, although Samuel was a great prophet who loved God, he wasn't perfect, and He only had the words God chose to share with him. But his life reminds us of the eternal, all-knowing Prophet. He points us to the better and the perfect prophet: Jesus.

"Fast forward 1000 years, and we read in Luke 4:16-21 that Jesus did something incredible. As Samuel would have done as a priest, Christ read from God's Word. On this particular day, he read from another Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. This is what He said..." Read Luke 4:18-19.

¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is in me. This is because God chose me to tell the Good News to the poor. God sent me to tell the prisoners of sin that they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly, ¹⁹ and to announce the time when the Lord will show kindness to his people."

Say, "When Jesus finished reading, He paused and told the people in the synagogue that the prophecy He had just read was about Him. Can you imagine? Jesus prophesied and then showed how He was the One they had been waiting on for all these years. Only Jesus, God's son, could be that person! Jesus is the eternal Prophet!"

JOINING TO JESUS

Jesus not only prophesied future events, but He is the person, the Messiah, to whom all the Old Testament prophets were pointing. He is our all-knowing and eternal priest and prophet.

TRANSITION: Say, "Samuel shows us that you don't have to be an adult to hear God's voice. One reason we come to church is to learn from other how to hear and recognize God's voice [like Samuel learned from Eli]. So don't be afraid to ask questions about how to get to know God better. He wants you to know Him and hear Him. After all, Jesus is our eternal prophet!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Isn't it amazing that **Jesus is our eternal prophet**? Let's talk more about what we have learned."

1. How many times did God speak to Samuel before Eli realized it was the Lord?

Response: Three times

2. What is a prophet?

Response: Someone who hears God speak, usually about the future, and shares that message with others.

3. How did Samuel respond once he knew God was speaking to him?

Response: "Speak, for your servant is listening."

4. They were both priests, so how is Jesus different from Samuel?

Response: Jesus is God. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is eternal.

5. What did you learn about God from today's lesson?

Response: **God is eternal.** Jesus is God. Jesus is the eternal prophet. God is all-knowing. God is true. God wants us to know Him and hear Him.

TRANSITION: Say, "Thank you for a great discussion! Knowing how to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit is important. Let's create something that will remind us how to respond humbly to God's voice."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Samuel Hears God's Voice* Activity Page (1 per child) | *Samuel Figure* Activity Page (1 figure per child) | Glue | Craft Sticks | Crayons or Markers | Fabric Rectangles | Stapler | Star Stickers | Scissors |

Say, "In today's lesson, we talked about Samuel, the young prophet, learning to hear God's voice. I hope our craft will remind you that God wants you to hear His voice too."

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Provide each child with a *Samuel Hears God's Voice* Activity Page and a *Samuel Figure*. Have everyone color both the Activity Page and the figure.
2. Next, help the children cut out the *Samuel Figure* and glue a craft stick to the back of the *Samuel Figure*.
3. Next, help the children staple the fabric rectangle to the bottom of the bed (on the activity page) to make it look like a blanket.
4. Decorate the "sky" with sticker stars (or have the children draw their stars).
5. Lastly, show the kids how to place their *Samuel Figures* in the bed covered by the blanket. (The craft stick will extend from the bottom of the bed.) Show the children how to "wake up" Samuel by pulling him out of bed when he hears God calling him.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job! Who remembers how Samuel responded to God's voice once he knew who was speaking to him? Right! He said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Samuel loved God and responded humbly, ready to do whatever God asked. Jesus calls us to follow Him that way too. And we can do it knowing God loves us more than we can imagine."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This month, our memory verse comes from Psalm 145:13. We can have joy knowing that **Jesus is our eternal priest**. His Kingdom will last forever. I will read the verse and show you the motions, and then let's practice it together."

Your kingdom [point to the sky with both pointer fingers] **will continue forever** [point to your left wrist, like pointing to a watch].

And you will be king [bring hands together on your head like a crown] **from now on** [start with both hands near your chest and extend outward and away]. **The Lord** [point to the sky with both pointer fingers in] **will keep his promises** [bring right pointer finger to your mouth and

extend out]. **With love** [hug yourself] **he takes care of all he has made**
[open your arms wide].

Psalm 145:13 (ICB) (hold hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Have the girls say the verse together and then have the boys do the same. Declare a winner!

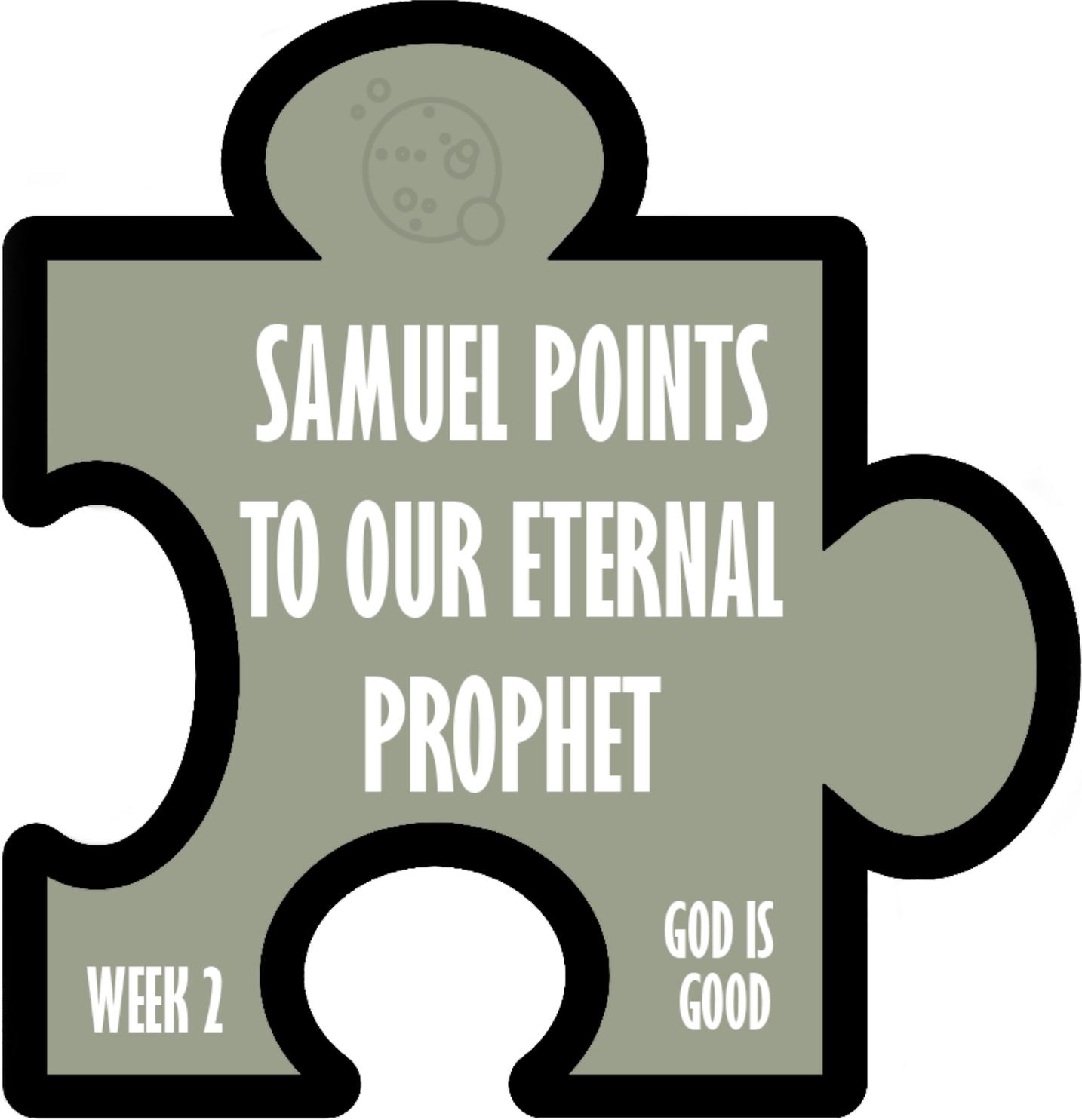
REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Even as a young boy, Samuel heard God’s voice. At first, he didn’t realize it was God speaking, but once he understood, he listened and obeyed even when it was difficult. God used Samuel as a prophet to his people, and his words still matter; He points us to Jesus, our eternal prophet. Let’s pray and thank God for sending His Son.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Father, from the very beginning of time, You have shown that You want Your people to know You. Thank You. We praise You for Jesus, our eternal prophet, for making a way for us to become part of Your family. Holy Spirit, please help us learn to recognize Your voice and give us hearts that want to obey You. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.”*

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, replay the ENGAGE game or sing your favorite worship songs.

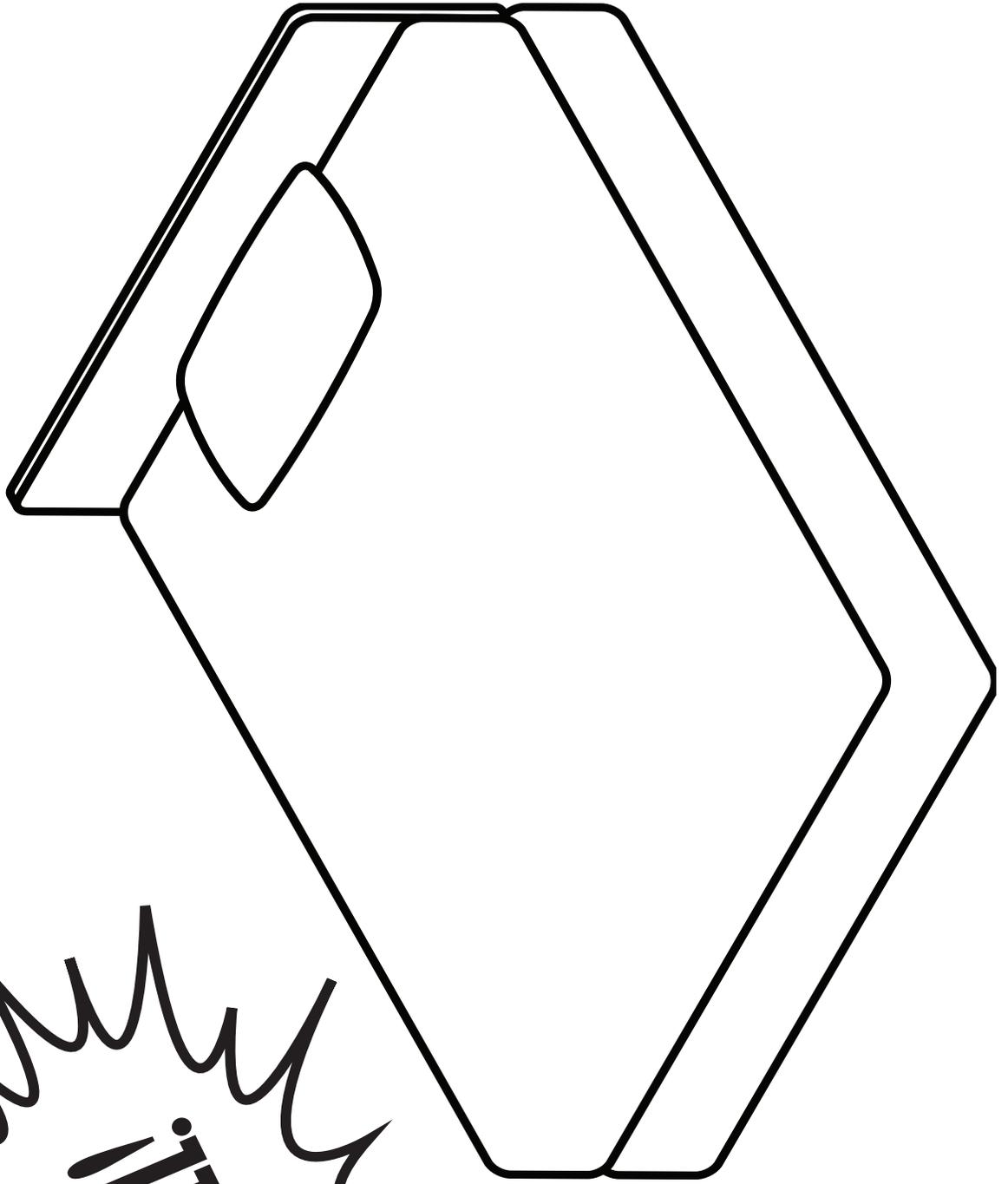


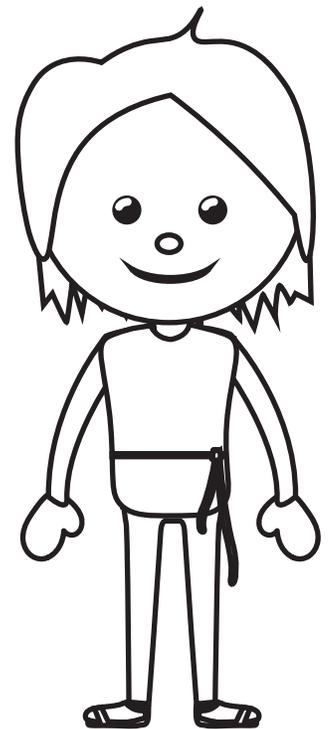
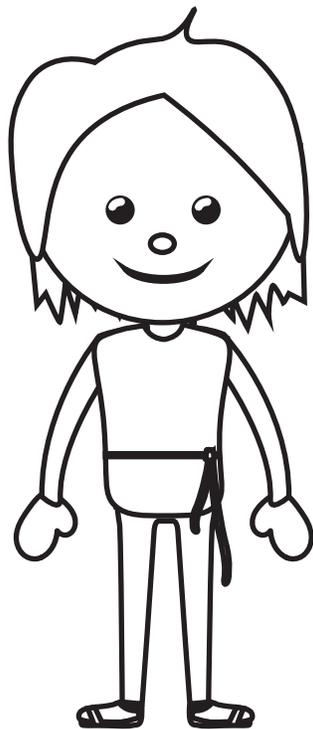
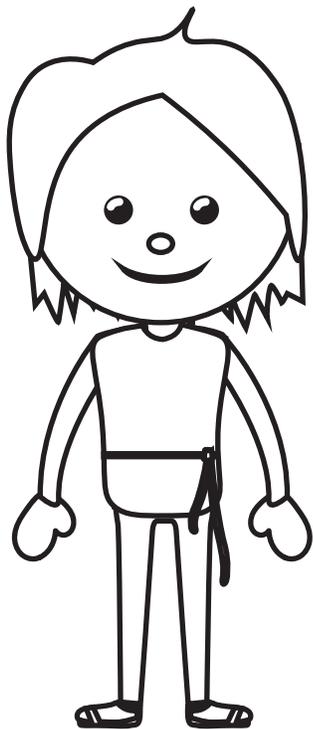
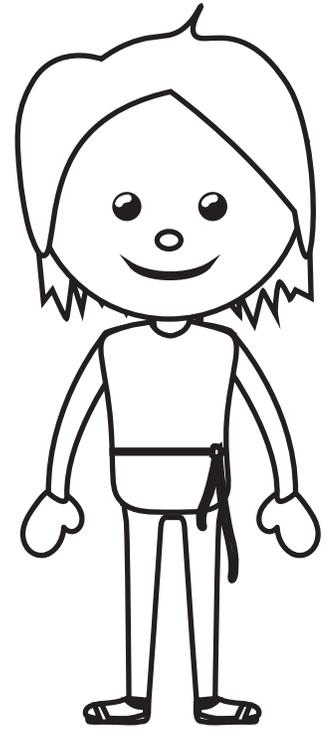
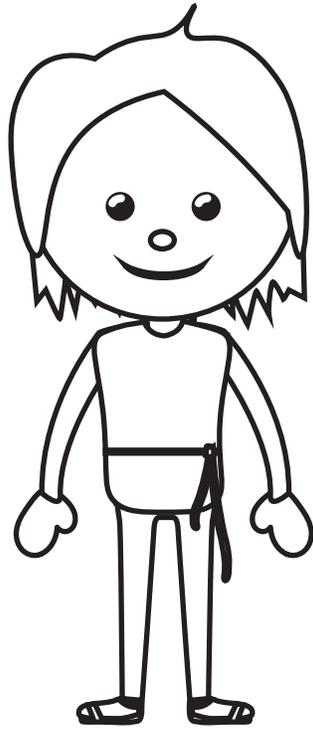
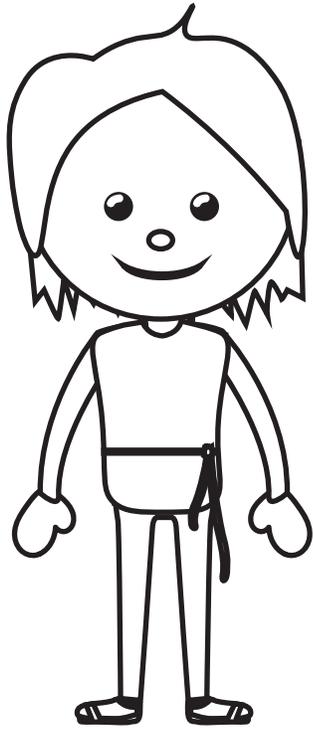
**SAMUEL POINTS
TO OUR ETERNAL
PROPHET**

WEEK 2

**GOD IS
GOOD**

SAMUEL HEARS GOD'S VOICE





SAMUEL POINTS TO OUR ETERNAL JUDGE

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 7:1-13 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Eternal

FOCUS VERSE

“Your kingdom will continue forever. And you will be King from now on. The Lord will keep his promises. With love he takes care of all he has made.” Psalm 145:13 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Pretzels | Marshmallows | Toothpicks | Spaghetti Noodles | Gumdrops | Styrofoam Bowls | *Crowns* Activity Page | *Attributes* Activity Page | Cardstock | Craft Jewels | Glue | Scissors | Markers or Colored Pencils | Various Types of Ribbon | Glitter Paper (optional) | *Memory Verse Signs* Activity Pages (optional) |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Do you ever wish you could be in charge? Why or why not?
- What would be hard about being in charge? What would be fun?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Psalm 95:6-7 invites us to worship God, our Good Shepherd: ‘Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.’ Doesn’t it feel good to know that God loves us and cares about everything we need? Let’s worship God and thank Him for all the ways He cares for us!”

We recommend “Jesus Forever” by Austin Stone Worship as a theme song to play throughout this unit. Additionally, “Praise the King Eternal” by LifePoint Kids and “I Thank God” by Pursuit Kids are great fits for today’s lesson.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray the Holy Spirit will give the children eyes to see and ears to hear the message that **God is eternal**.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, we are thankful for the opportunity to be here together. Please help us give attention to You and Your Word. We want to know You and understand how much You love us. Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “During the past two lessons, we talked about how Samuel was a priest and a prophet. [Review those terms.] Last week, we learned about the first time Samuel heard God’s voice. Once he knew it was God, he followed Eli’s instruction by responding, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ Samuel heard God and bravely shared the words God told him. He was courageous and obedient, and God used Samuel to lead his people. Today we will talk about the important things Samuel did as a judge of Israel, but first, let’s post our puzzle piece. Who would like to do that today?”

TRANSITION: “Before we dive into God’s Word, we are going to have a little competition! Who’s ready?”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Pretzels (Small Sticks) | Marshmallows | Toothpicks | Spaghetti Noodles | Gumdrops | Styrofoam Bowls |

Say, “In today’s lesson, Samuel builds an altar. What is an altar? [Pause for responses.] That’s right; an altar is a special place where people in the Old Testament worshiped the Lord. Today, you will use the materials provided and build an altar.”

GAME GOAL: To be the team who builds the tallest “altar”

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide the children into teams and have each group sit at a table.
2. Distribute the materials so that each team has identical supplies.
3. When you say, “Go!” the children should use their supplies to build an “altar” as tall as possible.
4. Determine a winning team.

TRANSITION: Congratulate the winners. Say, “Samuel wasn’t just a priest; he was also a judge. In today’s lesson, we will see some of the things he did as a judge, and it’s probably no surprise that it included building an altar to the Lord. Let’s read together now.”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “I just mentioned that Samuel was one of the Old Testament judges, but who can tell me the names of the other judges? [Pause for response.] That’s right; God appointed many judges, including Samson, Deborah, Gideon, and more. Samuel was the last judge. Now, these judges’ jobs were different than what we think of judges doing today. In many cases, they were military leaders. Let’s see what the Bible says about Samuel in our story today found in the book of 1 Samuel.” Read 1 Samuel 7:3-13 (ICB).

³ Samuel spoke to the whole group of Israel. He said, "If you're turning back to the Lord with all your hearts, you must remove your foreign gods. You must remove your idols of Ashtoreth. You must give yourselves fully to the Lord and serve only him. Then he will save you from the Philistines." ⁴ So the Israelites put away their idols of Baal and Ashtoreth. And they served only the Lord. ⁵ Samuel said, "All Israel must meet at Mizpah. I will pray to the Lord for you." ⁶ So the Israelites met together at Mizpah. They drew water from the ground and poured it out before the Lord. They did not eat that day. They confessed, "We have sinned against the Lord." And Samuel served as judge of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷ The Philistines heard the Israelites were meeting at Mizpah. So the Philistine kings came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard they were coming, they were afraid. ⁸ They said to Samuel, "Don't stop praying to the Lord our God for us! Ask the Lord to save us from the Philistines!" ⁹ Then Samuel took a baby lamb. He offered the lamb to the Lord as a whole burnt offering. He called to the Lord for Israel's sake. And the Lord answered him.

¹⁰ While Samuel was burning the offering, the Philistines came near. They were going to attack Israel. But the Lord thundered against the Philistines with loud thunder. They were so frightened they became confused. So the Israelites defeated the Philistines in battle.

¹¹ The men of Israel ran out of Mizpah and chased the Philistines. They went almost to Beth Car, killing the Philistines along the way. ¹² After this happened Samuel took a stone. He set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named the stone Ebenezer. Samuel said, "The Lord has helped us to this point." ¹³ So the Philistines were defeated. They did not enter the Israelites' land again

Say, "Do you see how Samuel challenged the people to commit to following the Lord? Israel was worshiping idols, and Samuel understood the consequences of worshiping these false gods. Notice how the people followed Samuel and got rid of the idols. Samuel prayed for his people, and the Lord answered. One of the things we learned in our first lesson is that people liked Samuel. They respected him and followed him.

"God honored Samuel's prayers because he loved and obeyed God. He wanted to give the glory to God, and Samuel didn't take credit for the victory that Israel experienced. He knew they only had success because the Lord helped them. Samuel was humble, and this attitude is what made him build an altar to worship the Lord.

"God used Samuel, a righteous judge, to win this great battle by defeating the Philistines. In fact, Samuel had a significant influence on his nation throughout his life. But did Samuel live forever? [Pause for response.] You're right; he didn't. He did some fantastic things, including anointing Israel's first two kings, but he was just a man. However, there is a righteous Judge who does live forever because He is God. His name is Jesus."

JOINING TO JESUS

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 4:8, “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” Jesus isn’t the kind of judge who waits on us to do something wrong so he can punish us. He is a righteous judge who wants us to know His love and goodness so we can live with Him forever. Jesus is the eternal Judge because He is God, and God is eternal.

TRANSITION: Say, “Samuel was a judge who led God’s people with consistency and righteousness. He points us to Jesus, our eternal Judge who will rule and reign forever.”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Isn’t it amazing to know that **Jesus is our eternal Judge?** It’s amazing because we know He loves us. Let’s talk more about what we have learned.”

1. How were the judges in the Old Testament different from our judges?

Response: In the Old Testament, the Lord chose men and women as judges to protect his people and help them obey God.

2. Do you think Samuel was a good judge?

Response: Answers will vary, but note that although Samuel wasn’t perfect, he was a good judge who loved God and his people.

3. Who was fighting against the Israelites in the story?

Response: The Philistines.

4. What are some of the good things Samuel did?

Response: Answers will vary. However, point out that he prayed for his people, led them into battle, gave God the glory when they won, built an altar and worshiped God, etc.

5. Samuel could have taken credit for the victory. Why do you think he gave God credit?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. Why was Jesus a better judge than Samuel?

Response: Jesus is God. Jesus never makes mistakes. Jesus is all-powerful. Jesus is perfect, etc.

7. What have you learned about God in today’s lesson?

Response: God is eternal. Jesus is God. Jesus is the eternal judge. Jesus protects us. Jesus loves us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, “Thank you for a great discussion! Jesus, our eternal judge, teaches us what living a good and true life in His kingdom looks like.”

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Crowns Activity Page (1 crown per child) | Attributes Activity Page (1 per child) | Cardstock | Craft Jewels | Glue | Scissors | Markers or Colored Pencils | Various Types of Ribbon | Glitter Paper (optional) |



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT THE CROWNS ACTIVITY PAGE ON CARDSTOCK OR GLITTER PAPER. YOU'LL NEED ONE ACTIVITY PAGE FOR EVERY 2 CHILDREN. EACH CHILD NEEDS ONE CROWN.

Say, "For the past few months, we've been talking about what God is like. We have learned that God is faithful, true, in control, and good. This month, we added the word 'eternal' to that list because God doesn't have a beginning or an end. He has always existed and always will exist. These words that describe God are called 'attributes,' and they tell us what He is like. Today we will create a page that reminds us of God's unique attributes.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child one crown (from the *Crowns Activity Page*), one *Attributes Activity Page* and one piece of cardstock.
2. Instruct the kids to cut out and color the crown and the attributes circles.
3. Next, glue the crown and the circles onto the cardstock. (See example.)
4. Decorate the crown with jewels.
5. If desired, use the remaining circles to add other attributes of God and allow the children to decorate those as appropriate. Other attributes of God include sovereign, gracious, merciful, omnipresent (everywhere), omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), just, immutable (never changing), and loving.
6. If time allows, the children can create a "frame" around their pictures using the ribbon.

TRANSITION: Say, "God is all these wonderful things and much more! I hope this craft will remind you why we can trust Him and how blessed we are that He loves us.

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Memory Verse Signs Activity Pages* (optional, 1 set per class) |

Say, "This month, our memory verse comes from Psalm 145:13. We can have joy knowing that **God is eternal** and His Kingdom will last forever. I will read the verse and show you the motions, and then we will do it together."

Your kingdom [point to the sky with both pointer fingers] **will continue forever** [point to your left wrist, like pointing to a watch].
And you will be king [bring hands together on your head like a crown] **from now on** [start with both hands near your chest and extend outward and away]. **The Lord** [point to the sky with both pointer fingers in] **will keep his promises** [bring right pointer finger to your mouth and extend out]. **With love** [hug yourself] **he takes care of all he has made** [open your arms wide].
Psalm 145:13 (ICB) (hold hands out like a book)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Print the *Memory Verse Signs* Activity Pages. Give them to five children. Say the memory verse and have the children raise their signs when you say the word that matches the sign. Repeat the activity until all the children have had an opportunity to participate.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "God used Samuel to lead the Israelites. He led their armies, and he helped them follow God. He also honored God for all the good things that happened. Samuel recognized that every good thing comes from the Lord. Let's spend a few minutes honoring our Heavenly Father and asking Him for the things we need."

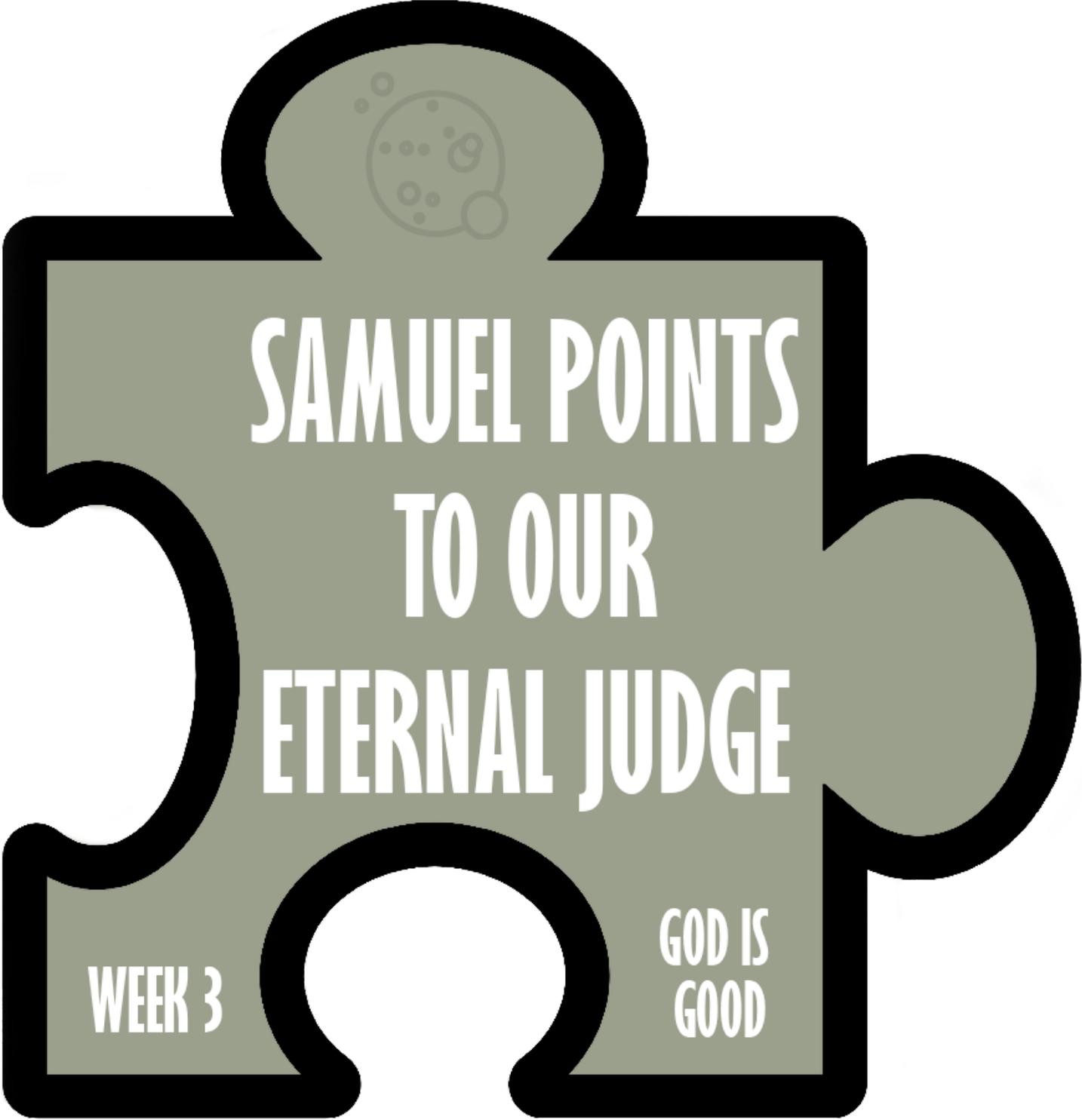
SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for your Word and for giving us a chance to get to know You. We praise You for all the good gifts You give us. [Give the children an opportunity to name things they are grateful for.] Please meet our needs and give us the grace to know a little more each day how much You love us. We are so thankful for You. Amen."



PRAY A BLESSING OVER YOUR CHILDREN USING NUMBERS 6:24-26. HAVE THE KIDS STRETCH OUT THEIR HANDS AND HOLD THEM OPEN BEFORE THE LORD. THEN, PRAY: "THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE." CONSIDER MAKING THIS A REGULAR ENDING TO YOUR TIME TOGETHER.

RELEASE —

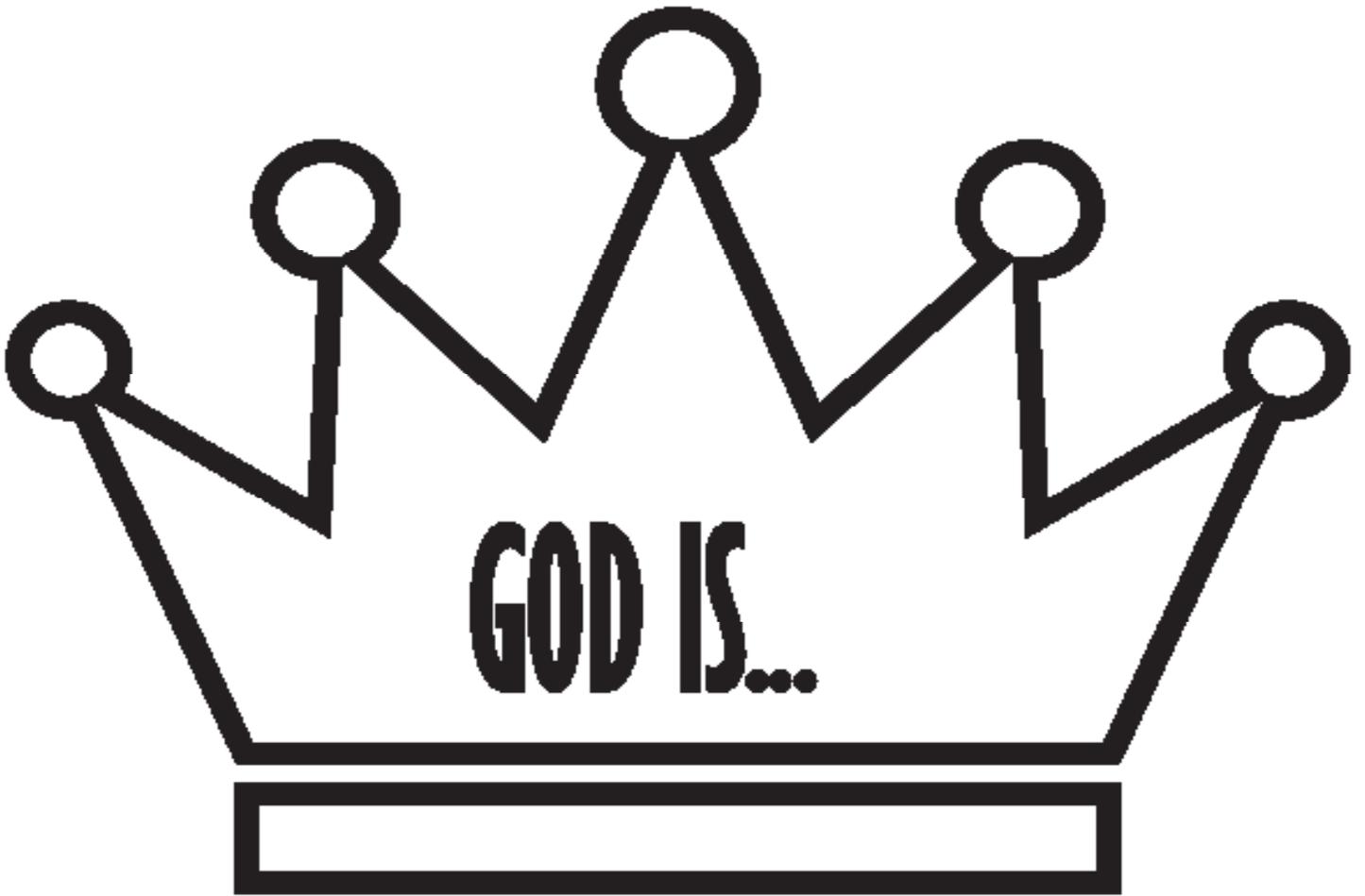
If there is extra time, lead a discussion on how you can bring glory to God this week.

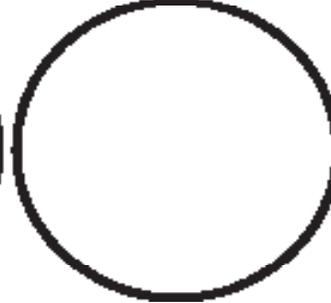
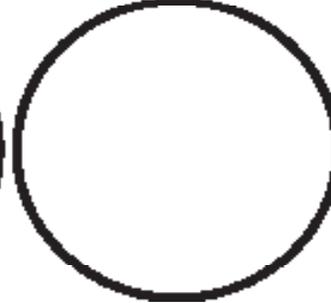
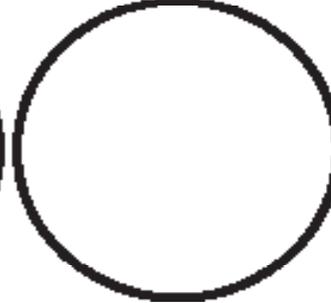
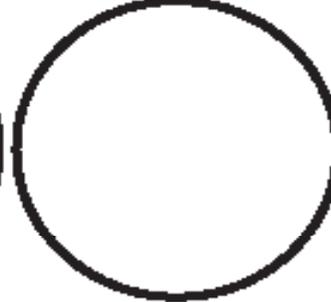
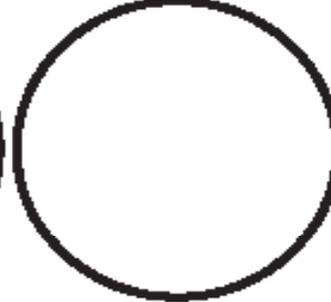
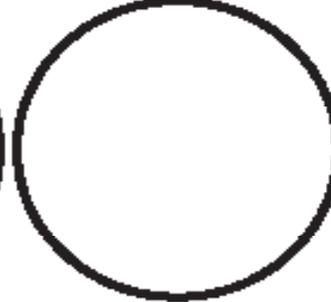
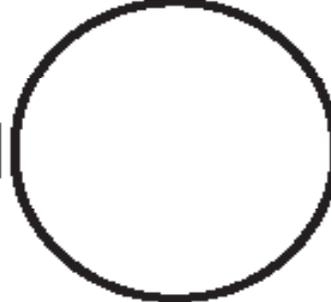
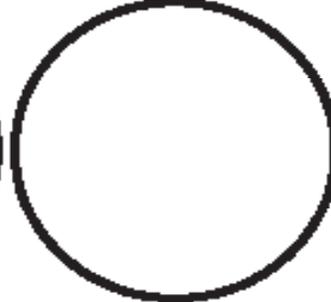
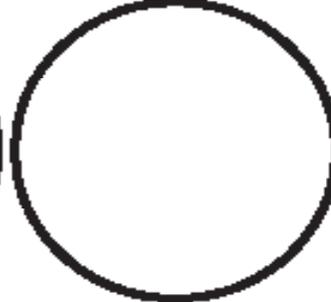


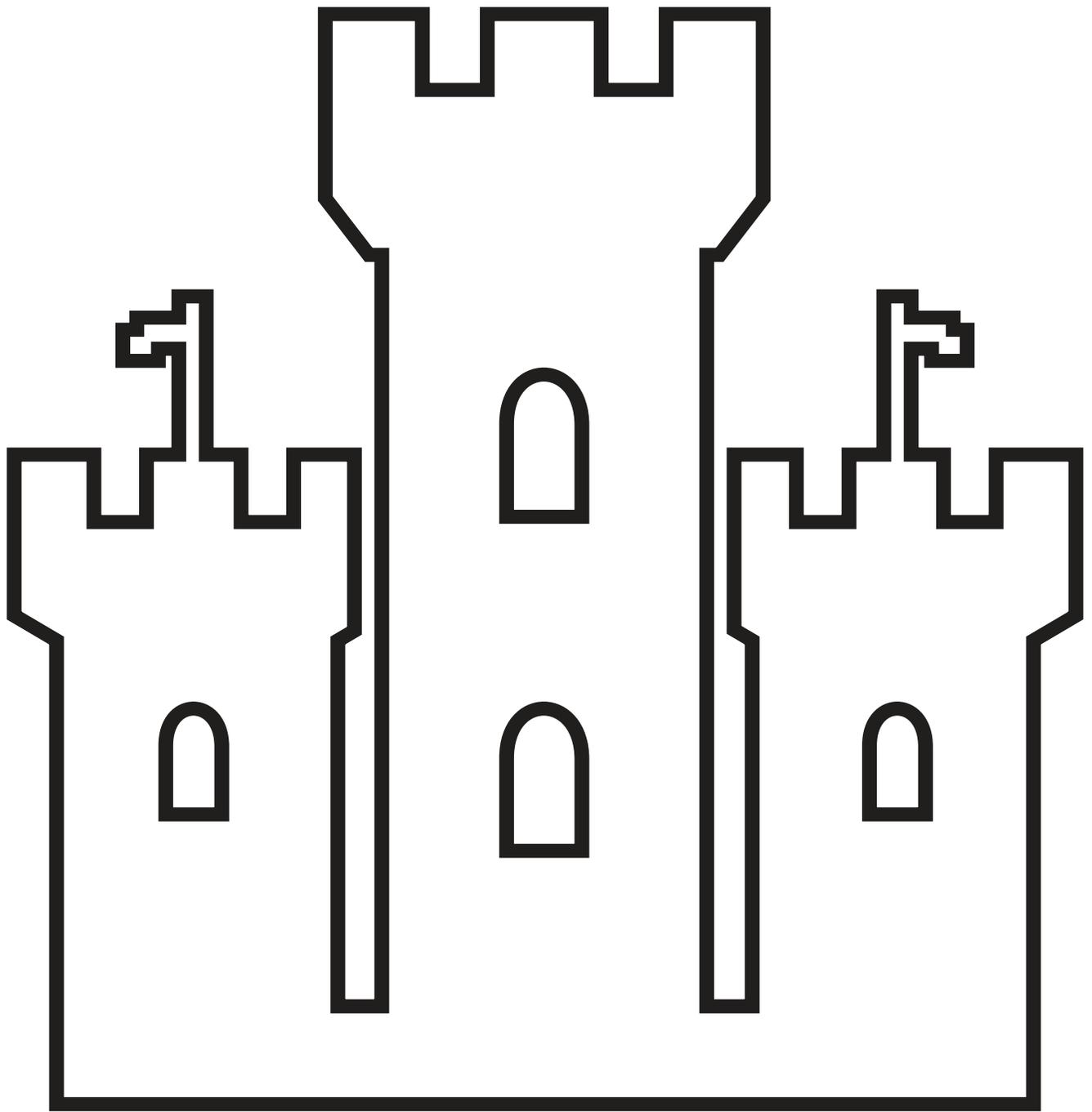
**SAMUEL POINTS
TO OUR
ETERNAL JUDGE**

WEEK 3

**GOD IS
GOOD**

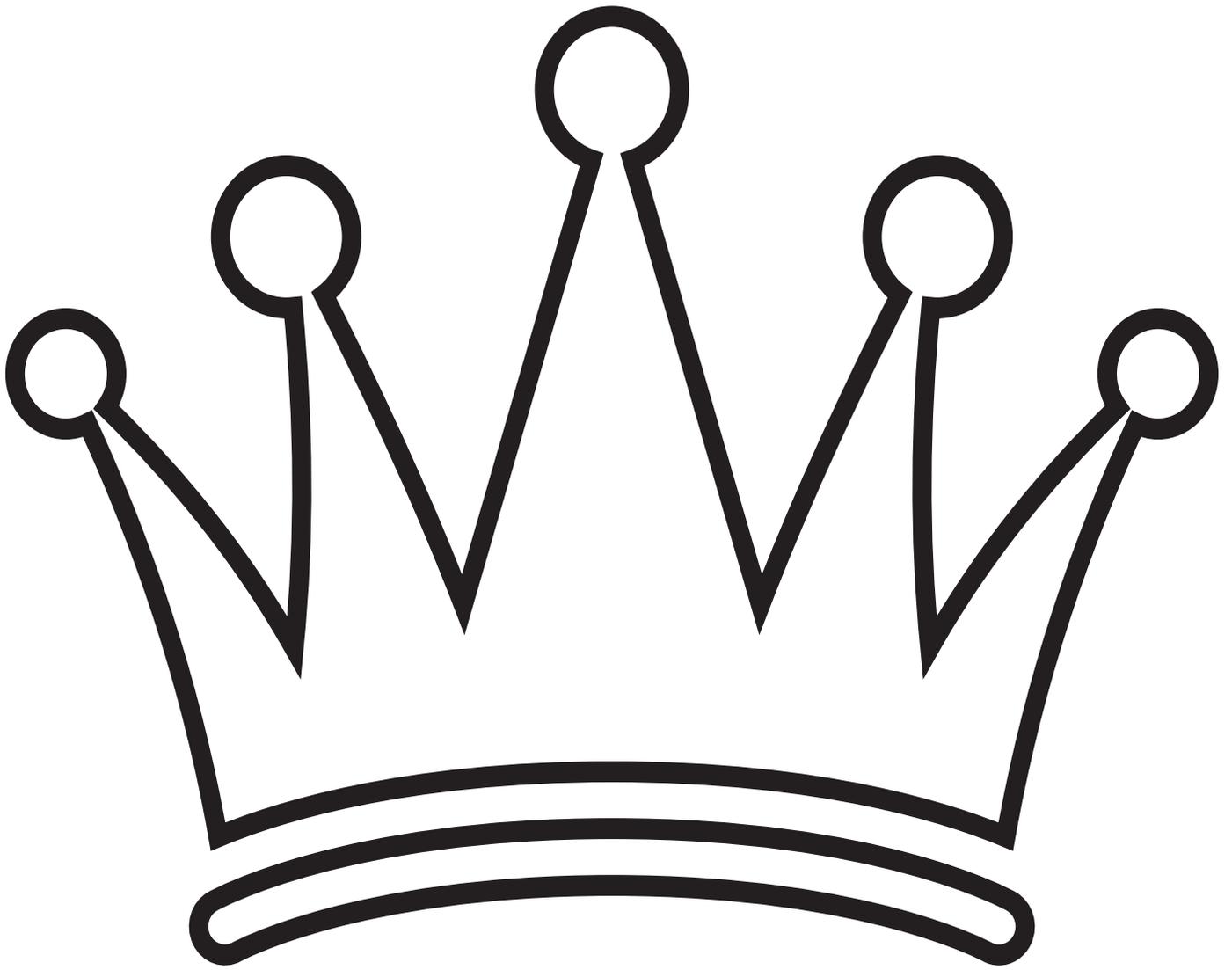






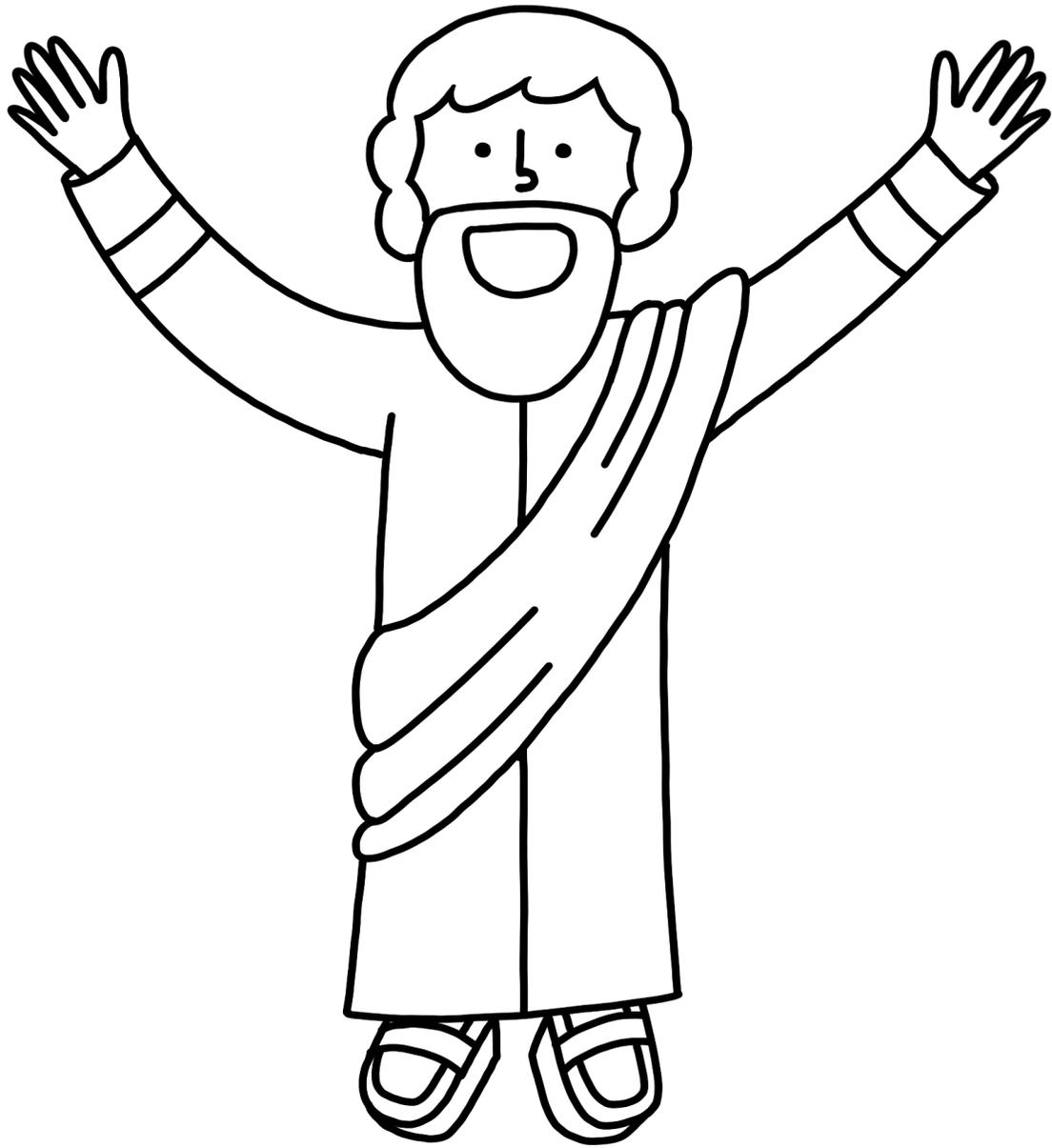
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KINGDOM



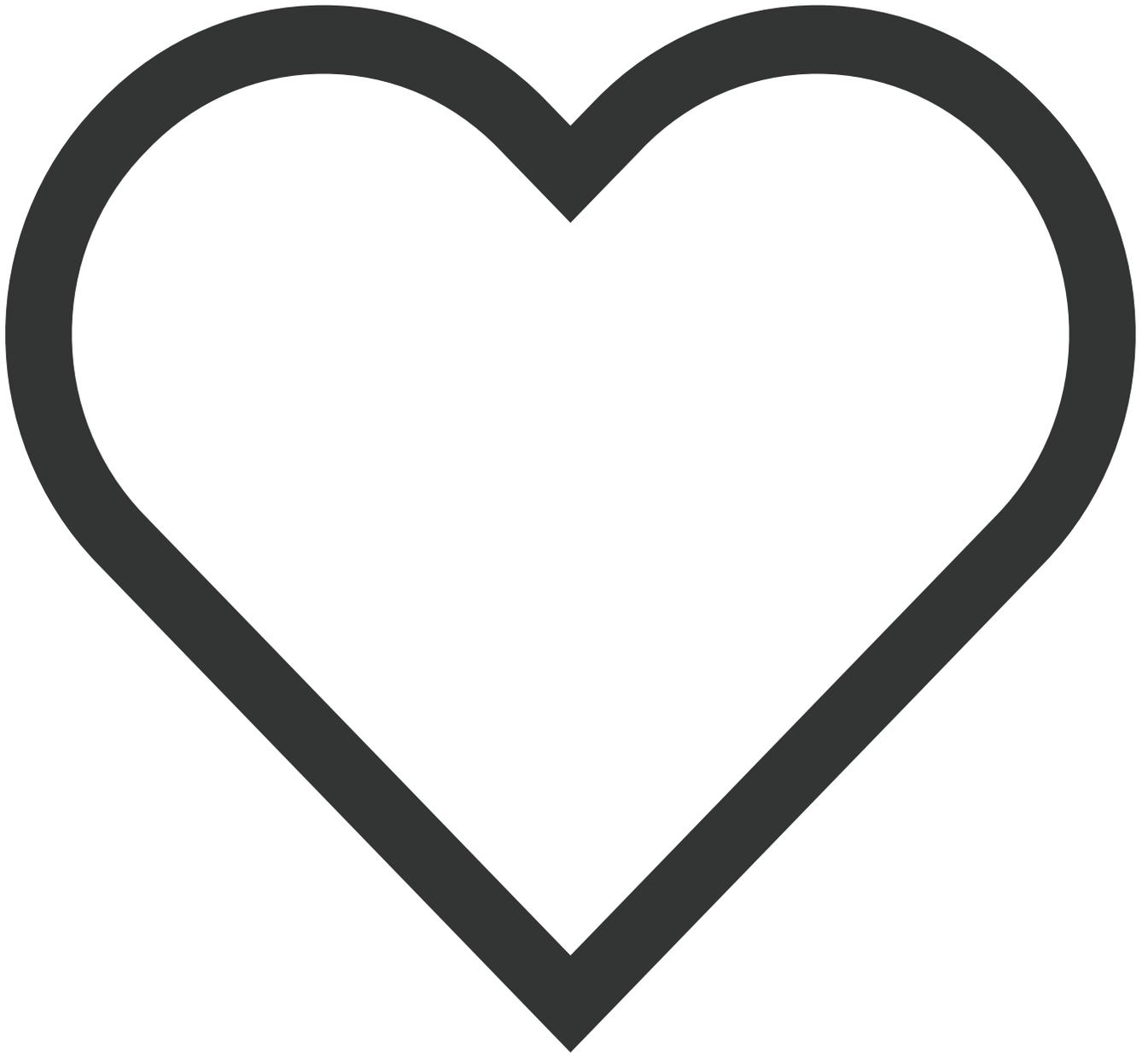
KING

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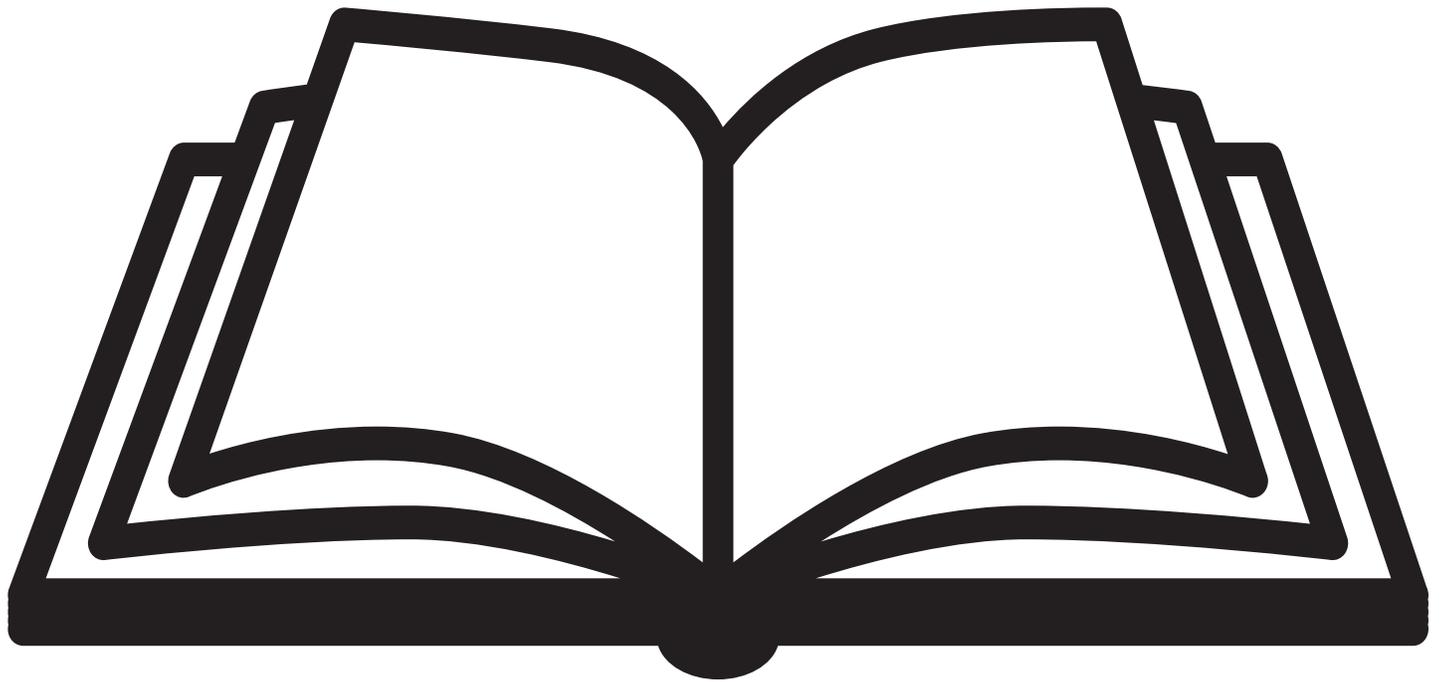
THE LORD

3



LOVE

4



PSALM 145:13



SAMUEL POINTS TO OUR ETERNAL KING

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Eternal

FOCUS VERSE

"Your kingdom will continue forever. And you will be King from now on. The Lord will keep his promises. With love he takes care of all he has made." Psalm 145:13 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Deck of Cards | Timer | Play-Doh | Colored Pencils | Drawing Paper |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Can you think of a story (or movie) about a queen or king? Tell me about it.
- If you could be a king or queen for one day, what would you do?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Revelation 4:11 says, 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.' The God we serve is King forever. Let's sing to Him today!"

We recommend "Jesus Forever" by Austin Stone Worship as a theme song to play throughout this unit. Additionally, "Praise the King Eternal" by LifePoint Kids and "King of Glory" by LifePoint Kids are great fits for today's lesson.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help the children grow in understanding that **God is our eternal King** who loves them very much.

Sample Prayer: "God, You are the King of Kings, our eternal God, and no one is like You. Thank You for loving and finding us. Help us to be Your friends our whole lives. Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “For the past few weeks, we have talked about Samuel and how he led God’s people as a priest, prophet, and judge. [Review those distinct roles.] During Samuel’s leadership, the Israelites experienced great victories over their enemies, and Samuel never tried to take credit for the good things that happened. He knew it was God who was working. Today, we will learn how God used Samuel to anoint the first two kings of Israel and how his life again points us to Jesus, the King of Kings! Before we do that, who wants to place our fourth puzzle piece?”

TRANSITION: “In our lesson today, Samuel goes on a journey to find the second king of Israel. God doesn’t immediately show Samuel who the king will be, though. He must ‘look’ and ‘listen’ to God for the right one. So, it makes sense that today’s game is called *Search for the King!*”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Deck of Cards (1 per class) | Timer |

Say, “In today’s story, God tells Samuel it’s time to find a new king. At first, Samuel doesn’t know who the new king will be, so he tries to find the person who ‘looks’ most like a king. In our game today, we are going to go on a search for ‘the king.’”



BEFORE CLASS, HIDE THE CARDS IN VARIOUS PLACES THROUGHOUT THE ROOM. BEFORE THE GAME BEGINS, SHOW THE CHILDREN WHAT A “KING” CARD LOOKS LIKE.

GAME GOAL: To find the king cards**HOW TO PLAY:**

1. Pair the children in teams.
2. Explain that when you say, “Go!” the teams will have three minutes to search for the hidden cards.
3. When the allotted time is up, you will count their cards. Each card is worth 1 point, except the king cards, which are worth 5 points.
4. After you help the children add up their points, announce the winner.



ADD AN ADDITIONAL DECK OF CARDS FOR EVERY TEN CHILDREN. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO PURCHASE CARD DECKS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN.

TRANSITION: Say, “When you were looking for cards, did anyone think they had found a king until you looked closely and discovered it was something else? As we will see when we read today, Samuel had to listen very closely to God to keep from choosing the wrong king! Let’s read together.”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “At the beginning of today’s lesson Samuel is sad. Samuel had obeyed God and anointed a man named Saul as king of Israel.”



PAUSE AND TEACH THE CHILDREN WHAT THE WORD “ANOINT” MEANS. EXPLAIN THAT IN BIBLE TIMES, GOD’S PEOPLE WERE SUPPOSED TO LET HIM CHOOSE THEIR KING. GOD OFTEN TOLD PROPHETS, LIKE SAMUEL, WHO HE WANTED TO BE THE NEXT KING, AND THEN THE PROPHET WOULD FIND THAT PERSON. THEN, THE PROPHET WOULD POUR OIL ON THE NEW KING TO SHOW THAT GOD WAS FILLING THAT MAN WITH HIS SPIRIT.

Say, “Samuel had given up his position as the ‘highest ranking’ leader in Israel when Saul became king. That took a lot of humility and a desire to obey God. However, things weren’t going well. Saul was selfish and more interested in serving himself than God. Because of that, God rejected Saul, and this broke Samuel’s heart. He felt sorry for Saul, but He also was heartbroken that Saul’s heart was evil. Fortunately, God had a good plan.” Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3 (ICB).

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you continue to feel sorry for Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. Fill your container with olive oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse who lives in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” ² But Samuel said, “If I go, Saul will hear the news. And he will try to kill me.” The Lord said, “Take a young calf with you. Say, ‘I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.’ ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must appoint the one I show you.”

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab. Samuel thought, “Surely the Lord has appointed this person standing here before him.” ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t look at how handsome Eliab is. Don’t look at how tall he is. I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and told him to pass by Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this man either.” ⁹ Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “No, the Lord has not chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass by Samuel. But Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Then he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse answered, “I still have the youngest son. He is out taking care of the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him. We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”

¹² So Jesse sent and had his youngest son brought in. He was a fine boy, tanned and handsome. The Lord said to Samuel, “Go! Appoint him. He is the one.” ¹³ So Samuel took the container of olive oil. Then he poured oil on Jesse’s youngest son to appoint him in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Lord’s Spirit entered David with power. Samuel then went back to Ramah.

Say, “I want you to imagine being Samuel. You are sad about Saul and now you hear God telling you to anoint someone else as a king. How do you think Samuel felt? [Pause for responses.] Those are great answers! He was sad about Saul and also worried he would kill him if Saul found out he had anointed

someone else as king. However, just as we have seen Samuel do in all our stories, not only does he hear God's voice, but he obeys even when it is hard.

"Samuel goes to Jesse's house. At first, Samuel is drawn to the sons of Jesse, who 'look' like a king, but God corrects Samuel and tells him, 'The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Finally, it seems that Jesse has run out of sons who could be the next king. But we learned from our Scripture passage that there was another child left. What was his name? [Pause for responses.] That's right, David. He was Jesse's youngest son, a shepherd boy, and now God was calling him to be a king – a shepherd who leads his people."

Say, "Samuel anointed David as king, and the Bible says, 'the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.' This was a sign that God would use David in a unique way. Later, God makes a covenant with David. [Explain that a covenant is a special promise.] We read about this covenant in 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16."

¹² "Your days will come to an end, and you will die. At that time I will make one of your sons the next King. ¹³ He will build a temple for me. I will make his kingdom strong forever. ...

¹⁶ But your family and your kingdom will continue forever before me. Your rule will last

Say, "Samuel was used by God to anoint David as king of Israel, but David's reign as king would come to an end. However, someone from his family line would come later, and His Kingdom will never end. Who is that King? [Pause for response.] That's right, Jesus is the ultimate and eternal King!"

JOINING TO JESUS

God used Samuel and David's lives to point us to Jesus. One day, Jesus is returning to make everything right. He will take away all our pain, tears, and suffering. Jesus is our eternal King!

TRANSITION: Say, "Samuel loved God and His people. His obedience helped pave the way for David to become king of Israel. Jesus, our eternal King, came through David's family line!"

DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Say, "Isn't it amazing to know that Jesus is our eternal King? Let's talk more about what we have learned."

1. Who was the first king of Israel?

Response: Saul

2. Where did Samuel go to find the new king?

Response: Jesse's house

3. Why did God reject Saul as king?

Response: Saul cared more about himself than God. He was selfish and disobedient.

4. True or False: Samuel immediately knew which son of Jesse would be the next king.

Response: False. At first, Samuel was searching for someone who looked like a king on the outside,

but God was looking for someone with a heart to follow Him.

5. What do you think Samuel and Jesse thought when God said David would be the next king?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. Who is the king from David's family who will rule forever?

Response: Jesus.

7. What have you learned about God today?

Response: **God is eternal.** Jesus is God. Jesus is our eternal King. God was looking for a king who loved Him, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Thank you for a great discussion! I hope you remember that God used Samuel's life to point us to Jesus. His role in anointing David as king was part of God's plan to send His Son to us to be our forever, eternal King."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Play-Doh | Colored Pencils | Drawing Paper (1 per child) |

Say, "Today, we discussed how Jesus is the eternal King. In response to our lesson, we are going to use Play-Doh to create kingly thrones. Then, I want you to use the paper and colored pencils to draw a picture of you and your family or friends around God's throne. Let's get started."

"As you are drawing, imagine and think about these questions. What is God saying to you? What are you saying to God? How does this make you feel? Let's use our imagination to think about what it must look, feel, and sound like to be around the throne of the King of Kings!"

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Pass out the Play-Doh so the children can create thrones.
2. Then, have them draw pictures of themselves and those they love around God's throne.
3. As they draw, ask the following questions:
 - a. What is God saying to you?
 - b. What are you saying to God?
 - c. How does this situation make you feel?



HELP THE CHILDREN IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THIS ACTIVITY AND PRAYERFULLY THINK ABOUT WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE WHEN THEY ARE FINALLY WITH GOD. CONSIDER PLAYING WORSHIP MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND TO HELP THEM CALMLY AND QUIETLY WORK, THINK, AND PRAY.

TRANSITION: Say, "God is good, loving, kind, and full of grace. He is our eternal King, inviting us to worship and enjoy Him forever. When we are with Him, we will never be sad, worried, or afraid again. Our King loves you more than you could ever imagine."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This month, our memory verse comes from Psalm 145:13. We can have joy knowing that Jesus is

our eternal King, and His Kingdom will last forever. I will read the verse and show you the motions, and then we will do it together.”

Your kingdom [point to the sky with both pointer fingers] **will continue forever** [point to your left wrist, like pointing to a watch].
And you will be king [bring hands together on your head like a crown] **from now on** [start with both hands near your chest and extend outward and away]. **The Lord** [point to the sky with both pointer fingers in] **will keep his promises** [bring right pointer finger to your mouth and extend out]. **With love** [hug yourself] **he takes care of all he has made** [open your arms wide].
Psalm 145:13 (ICB) (hold hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Practice the verse at different volumes. Explain that the children should shout the words when you point to the sky. When you point toward the ground, they should whisper; when you cross your arms, they should speak it normally. Mix up your hand motions so they don't know what will happen next.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Samuel lived when God was shifting leadership from judges to kings. Samuel had the humility to listen to God and obey, even when it meant he had to give up his position as Israel’s leader. However, Samuel’s role was still vital. Samuel got to anoint David as king, and it was from David’s family that God sent His very own Son. Jesus is our eternal King.”

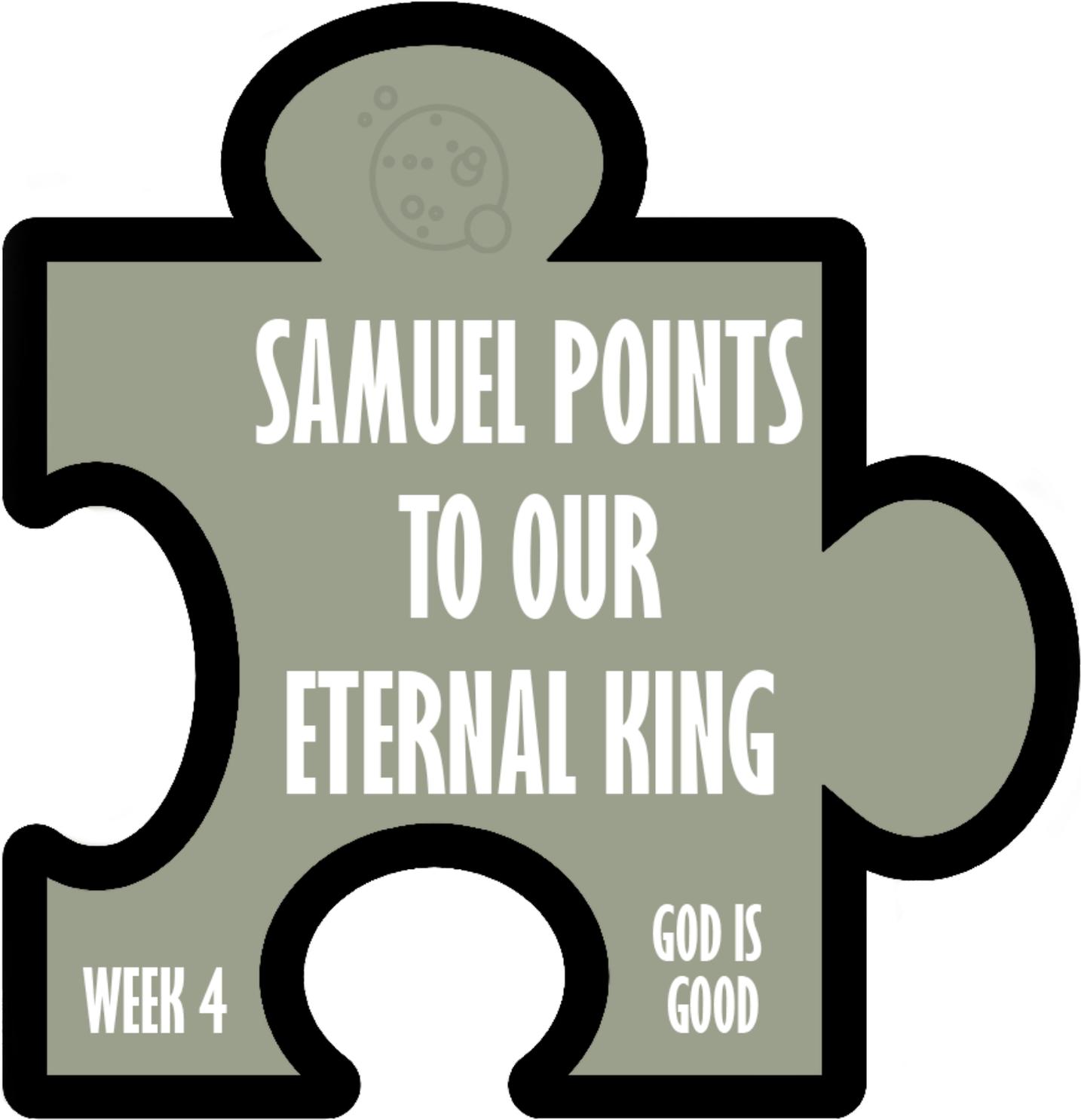
SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Jesus, You are our King of Kings, and we praise You. Even though we have learned about some great leaders like Samuel and David, they all fall short of You. We praise You, knowing that one day You will make everything right, and we will be in heaven with You forever. Help us accept Your leadership in our lives and worship You. You are our eternal King!”*

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If there is extra time, give kids who feel comfortable an opportunity to share their pictures and thrones from the RESPOND craft or sing their favorite songs from this unit.



SHARING ABOUT THEIR CREATIVE WORK CAN BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HOW GOD IS SPEAKING TO THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CLASS.



**SAMUEL POINTS
TO OUR
ETERNAL KING**

WEEK 4

**GOD IS
GOOD**