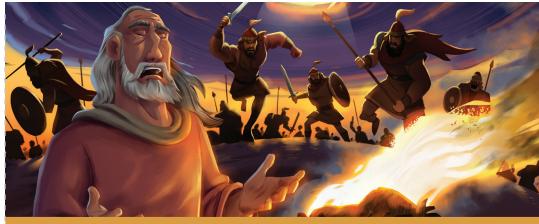


1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel? 2. What does this story teach me about myself? 3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good? 4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God? 5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 9 • Session 4

FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

1 Samuel

HOW DOES GOD CARE FOR HIS CREATION? GOD LOVES AND RULES OVER HIS CREATION ACCORDING TO HIS PERFECT PLAN.

Twenty years after the ark was returned from the Philistines, the Israelites began to cry out for God.

Samuel told them, "If you are returning to worship the Lord, then you must stop worshiping the false gods from the nations around us." The people obeyed, and they only worshiped the Lord.

Then Samuel said, "Gather all the people, and I will pray to the Lord on your behalf."

When the Philistines heard that all of Israel had gathered in one place, they decided to attack. The Israelites were afraid and said to Samuel, "Don't stop crying out to the Lord our God for us. Ask him to save us from the Philistines!"

Samuel made a burnt offering to the Lord and cried out to Him, and the Lord answered him. As the Philistines approached to fight Israel, the Lord thundered loudly against them and made them confused. Israel defeated the Philistines.

Samuel set up a large stone to remember what happened that day. He said, "The Lord has helped us to this point."

The Philistines did not invade Israel again. Samuel led the Israelites as their judge. The Lord's hand was against the Philistines all of Samuel's life.

Christ Connection: Samuel called the people to turn away from false gods and to worship God, and God gave them victory over their enemies. God calls us to turn away from sin and to trust in Jesus who gives us victory over our enemies of sin and death.



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