

13

When a King Failed to Trust God

Worship

We praise God for His great love for us.

POWER TEXT

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 28:3-25
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chaps. 66; 67, pp. 675-689
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 51-53
- Student lesson on page 142 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 26, Death and Resurrection
- No. 7, The Nature of Humanity
- No. 8, The Great Controversy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that their worship praises God, who is stronger than Satan.
- **Feel** sure that God is victorious even over the dangers of the occult.
- **Respond** by choosing to avoid spiritualism in all its forms and to worship the true God.

POWERPOINT

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Saul does not humble himself before God and visits the witch of Endor. The witch produces a spirit that she claims is Samuel. But Samuel is already dead. The Bible says that the dead are asleep, unconscious, and know nothing.

This is a lesson about worship.

Ever since the Garden of Eden Satan has been continuing his lies about what happens to us when we die. We worship God when we follow Him and stay away from the lies and snares of Satan.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was not God's holy prophet that came forth at the spell of a sorcerer's incantation. Samuel was not present in that haunt of evil spirits. That supernatural appearance was produced solely by the power of Satan. He could as easily assume the form of Samuel as he could assume that of an angel of light, when he tempted Christ in the wilderness. . . .

"When Samuel was living, Saul had despised his counsel and had resented his reproofs. But now, in the hour of his distress and calamity, he felt that the prophet's guidance was his only hope, and in order to communicate with Heaven's ambassador he vainly had recourse to the messenger of hell! Saul had placed himself fully in the power of Satan; and now he whose only delight is in causing misery and destruction, made the most of his advantage, to work the ruin of the unhappy king" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 679, 680).

What lies is the enemy attempting to make you believe? To what promises in God's word will you cling? How will you intentionally avoid Satan's lies and focus on God's truth?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Way to Worship* *B. Trapped***	Bibles, paper, pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk mousetrap (or other trap), cheese OR peanut butter, long stick or pencil
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 137. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, paper, pencils, newspapers
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Protected*	clear glass container, pepper, liquid detergent, water
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Twisted Truth*	paper, pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, art supplies
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

** Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Way to Worship

Divide the students into groups of four to six and hand out paper and pencils. Say: **You have been called together here today to create the ultimate list of guidelines for worship and commitment to God. You may want to look up some verses, such as 1 Samuel 7:3; Psalm 37:3-9; 2 Peter 1:5-9; Joshua 23:7, 9 and 24:2-6, 15.** Write the verses where all can see. When a specified time is up, have each group share the list of guidelines they created.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are the rewards of following these guidelines for worshipping God?**

Say: **We can trust that God has the perfect guidelines for our happiness. Sometimes we may be drawn into evil and wrong beliefs by outwardly attractive benefits that hide terrible consequences. But when we worship God, we obey His guidelines. We show Him through our obedience that we trust Him to do what He knows is best for our lives.**

Say: **Let's say our power text, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6:**

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

What are some ways that the truths of our power text are twisted and told to be false in our world today? (Encourage discussion of the spiritualistic influences in the media.) **What we want to remember, however, is the message of the power point:**

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ mousetrap (or other trap)
- ☐ cheese OR peanut butter
- ☐ long stick or pencil

Trapped*

Show the mousetrap (or other trap) to the students. Ask: **Do you know what this is used for? How does it work?** (You can catch a creature by putting something in the trap that that creature desires.) Demonstrate by placing a piece of cheese or some peanut butter on the trap and setting it. Have the students see if they can poke the stick (or pencil) at the cheese without setting the trap off. Say: **We know that Satan wants to capture us by drawing us away from worshipping God.** Ask: **What are ways that he is trapping us? What do you think he uses for bait?**

Ask students to give examples of the things or programs that talk about the supernatural.

Debriefing

Ask: **What trap can you see being set through these supernatural manifestations that are part of so many entertainment programs today? What are the dangers of watching and absorbing Satan's lies about the supernatural?** (We can be deceived believing lies.)

Say: **Jesus said death was like a sleep. Those who are dead are resting or sleeping till Jesus comes. They are not up and around involved in people's lives. Our lesson will talk about the dangers of falling into Satan's trap. Let's say together our power text, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6:**

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

The message of the power point reminds us that

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.

* Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Our God Reigns" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 41)
"Do Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 107)
"I Want to Be Ready" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 151)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Remind students that through our offerings, we can help others learn about Satan's lies so that they can join us in worshipping God.

Prayer Altar

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ newspapers

Have the students write out a confession and commitment on a sheet of paper. Suggest that the confession relates to some way they think they have been falling into Satan's trap (watching too much TV, listening to the wrong music, hanging out with the wrong crowd). The commitment will be some way that they want to worship God. Then give everyone a large sheet of newspaper to scrunch their papers up inside of, making "stones." Have the students bring their "stones" to the front and pile them up as an altar. Then ask everyone to kneel in a circle around the altar while two people pray—one a prayer of general confession and the other a prayer of general commitment. All are to say at the end: "We choose to worship God in our lives. Amen." Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

If possible, burn, shred, or in some other way destroy the confessions. This can signify the way God "claims" our struggles and strengthens us in spite of our weaknesses.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

If you did not use the Readiness B activity, use the mousetrap and ask: **What is this used for? How does it work?** Allow students the opportunity to poke at the trap to set it off. If you have a large class, bring serveral traps so that each student gets the chance to trip the device.

Say: **Today we are going to take a look at one of God's leaders and discover how Satan trapped him in an evil situation.**

If you already used the mousetrap in Readiness B, say: **We just examined how quick and deadly a mousetrap can be. There are lots of ways Satan has to trick us and trap us. Let's take a look at one of God's leaders, Saul, and see how Satan ensnared and enslaved him.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have students find 1 Samuel 28 and prepare to read verses 3 through 25 with you. Stop in the following places to discuss what is happening in the story. Allow students to respond to the questions. Then you can share the points found in the parentheses under each number.

1. Have someone read verses 3 through 6. Ask: **What is going on here? What kind of situation is Saul facing?** (Samuel is dead, and Saul does not have anyone speaking to him for God. Saul has tried to rid Israel of Satan's prophets and messengers that were so much a part of the religions of the people around Israel. The Philistines are going to fight Israel again. Saul is scared and trying to get a quick and easy answer from God without reestablishing a humble, repentant, personal relationship with Him. (See *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, pp. 585, 586.)

2. Have someone read verses 7 through 10. Ask: **What do you think of Saul's decision to try to find a witch?** (Remember that Saul has had troubles obeying God in the past; he has also been troubled by evil spirits in the past. Instead of humbly turning to God and waiting on Him, Saul wants answers now, from any source.) Ask: **Are we ever like that?**

3. Have someone read verses 11 through 14. Ask: **Was it really Samuel?** ("It was not God's holy prophet that came forth at the spell of a sorcerer's incantation. Samuel was not present in that haunt of evil spirits. That supernatural appearance was produced solely by the power of Satan. He could as easily assume the form of Samuel as he could assume that of an angel of light, when he tempted Christ in the wilderness" [*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 679].)

4. Have someone read verses 15 through 19. Ask: **Notice verse 16. Is God ever our enemy?** (God hates sin, but He loves and sent His Son to die for people. It is Satan who seeks to paint a bad picture about God.)

5. Have someone read verses 20 through 25. Ask: **What's happening to Saul?** (He knows that he has completely cut his ties to God. If he hadn't done it before, he definitely has now. He has no doubt that he is facing his death.)

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Divide your students into study groups and distribute the following texts about death among the groups. Each group should read and discuss their verses, designate a scribe to write down their comments, and a reader to read aloud their verses to the rest of the group when it is time. When each group has read and discussed their verses among themselves, ask them to read their texts and share their comments with the rest of the Sabbath School.

1. 2 Chronicles 21:1
2. Job 14:10-12
3. Psalm 13:3
4. Matthew 9:24; Mark 5:39
5. John 11:11-14
6. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52
7. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
8. Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10
9. Psalm 146:4

Debriefing

Say: **We need to understand what the Bible says about death so that the devil can't fool us with his lies. Let's say together our power text, Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6:**

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

The message of the power point reminds us that

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ clear glass container
- ☐ pepper
- ☐ liquid detergent
- ☐ water

Protected

Say: **You are like this water** (as you pour water into the glass). **You are fresh and pure and clean. And Satan** (as you sprinkle pepper on the surface of the water) **wants to cover you with his evil plans and make you want to seek him out. During your life** (as you stick one finger in the water) **many things come in to tempt you.** (Some pepper should stick to your finger.) **You need protection** (as you smear liquid detergent over your finger). **Worshipping God and focusing on Him provides protection against the enemy, like a detergent protects against impurities. Watch what happens as you go about your daily life now, with His protecting covering.** (Dip the detergent-covered finger into the peppered water, and the pepper will be repelled away from the finger. Be sure to try this at home with your detergent first!)

Ask: **What things does Satan bring into our lives to tempt us? How do they stick to us, like this pepper stuck to our fingers? What things can you choose to protect yourself from the dangers of the enemy?**

Debriefing

Say: **The Bible promises that when we give ourselves completely to God the devil will leave us alone. Saul had forgotten this protection from God and was allowing himself to be tempted into believing the devil's lies, falling into his trap. Remember our power point,**

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ art supplies

Twisted Truth

Give students the opportunity to share if they had a chance to talk to someone about the state of the dead. Ask: **What did you learn about God's strength and power over the forces of evil? How can you encourage someone with the hope of the resurrection and eternal life after Jesus' return? How can we resist the devil's temptations that he presents through the media and in our daily experiences?**

Copy the following words onto the board. Cover them until it is time to use them.

VOLE
UHTRT
MDFEROE
SILE
FCROMTO
YEMCR

Pass out pencils and paper. Say: **Satan's way is to take what is good and twist it into something bad. I have written six words on the board. Almost all of these words describe a quality of God. Beware, though. There is one trap among them. When I say "go" and uncover the words, begin unscrambling them and writing them on your paper.** (The answers are "love," "truth," "freedom," "lies," "comfort," "mercy.") Allow a few minutes and then ask different students to come and write the correct word beside the scrambled one.

Then distribute art supplies and ask students to create an advertisement for God (perhaps for the truth about death). Ask them to share their advertisement with someone.

Ask: **Who do you know that might want to hear this good news?**

Remind them that

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask who has had someone close to them die (wait for responses). **What is something nice you remember about that person? What are you looking forward to telling this person on the way to heaven?** For the closing prayer ask God to keep all of you safe from Satan's traps until you and your loved ones meet again on the way to heaven.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jehoshaphat's choir praises God through singing. We praise God together for He gives us the victory.**

Notes

Student lesson

When a King Failed to Trust God

Have there ever been times in your life you were not sure what you should do? Where did you seek help? One thing for sure, it doesn't help to talk to someone who has already died. The Bible tells us the dead don't know anything.

Three cloaked figures strode silently across the plain of Jezreel. The moon lit their path as they climbed the mountain ridge to the place where the witch of Endor was in hiding.

She thought her hiding place was secure, yet these men had found her. As soon as she saw one of them, a tall, commanding figure, she knew that this was no ordinary soldier standing before her.

"What do you want?" she asked.

"Consult a spirit for me," the tall one said, "and bring up for me the one I name."

"Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?" she asked.

"As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this," King Saul said reassuringly.

"Whom shall I bring up for you?" asked the witch.

"Bring up Samuel," the king replied.

When the woman saw the spirit that resembled in appearance the prophet Samuel, she recognized King Saul.

"Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!" she exclaimed, greatly afraid.

"Don't be afraid," King Saul answered. Then he asked the witch to describe to him the appearance of the spirit she had seen.

The witch gave an accurate description of prophet Samuel. The demon Satan had sent to impersonate Samuel looked like Samuel. He spoke like Samuel. His gestures even resembled those of the prophet.

"Why have you disturbed me?" the spirit asked.

"I am in great distress," Saul answered. "The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do."

"Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today. The LORD will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines."

As the words sank deep in Saul's heart, he fell facedown on the damp floor. His attendants lifted him from the floor and tried to revitalize him. The woman urged him to eat but Saul refused.

Only after persistent and repeated calls from his servants did Saul stand up and agree to eat. The witch butchered a fatted calf, baked bread, and served the food to her guests. King Saul and his men left before daybreak (see 1 Samuel 28:3-25, NIV).

By consulting the witch of Endor, Saul sealed his doom. Rather than turn to God in humility and repentance, Saul made the choice to consult Satan. He had separated himself from God, his only source of strength. Now Saul could no longer inspire his troops with courage for the battle. He could no longer lead his men to look to God as their helper.

Imagine how different Saul's royal dominion could have been if he would only have asked God for wisdom to rule His people, Israel, and to give him the victory over their enemies. Saul's sad end is a powerful reminder of the consequences that follow our actions. God has created us with the freedom to choose between good and evil. Our choices today will determine our success or failure in life. Therefore, choose God, that you may experience happiness and peace now on this earth and someday soon in His heavenly kingdom.

KEY REFERENCES

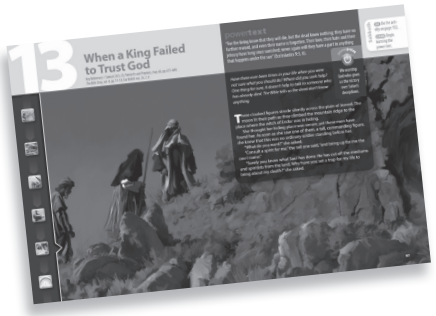
- 1 Samuel 28:3-25
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chaps. 66; 67, pp. 675-689
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 51-53
- Our Beliefs, nos. 26, 7, 8

POWER TEXT

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, NIV).

POWER POINT

We worship God, who gives us the victory over Satan's deceptions.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 102.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Samuel 28:3 and this week's story, "When a King Failed to Trust God."

DO Write the power text in large block letters on a sheet of paper. Cut out each word. Shuffle the words, then try to place them in the correct order. Do this several times, saying the text each time you get it in order.

PRAY Thank God that He is always there for us when we turn to Him in humility and trust.

Monday

READ Read Leviticus 19:31; Leviticus 20:6; and Isaiah 8:19, 20.

THINK God had given specific instructions concerning the importance of staying away from spirit mediums. How are these instructions relevant in our day and age? Why are movies about witches not acceptable to watch?

SHARE Tell someone what the Bible teaches about the dangers related to the supernatural forces of darkness.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray to God for wisdom to resist the evil supernatural influences that are often portrayed in the media.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 28:4-15.

THINK Why do you think God no longer answered Saul? (Verse 16 has a hint.)

DISCUSS With an adult, discuss the following questions: Why do you think many people today are concerned about the future? Why is it dangerous to consult people who claim to tell the future? How can you warn people against the dangers of fortunetelling, witchcraft, or any other practice that Satan uses to deceive people?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for peace of mind about the future.

Wednesday

READ Read Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; Psalm 146:4; John 8:44.

THINK Who was the spirit that appeared to Saul? How could Saul have avoided this deception? How can you avoid the deceptions of the devil?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask for help to discern between truth and error.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Samuel 28:16-25.

DO On small slips of paper, write words that describe the condition of the dead (i.e., sleeping). On the other side of each slip of paper, write words that describe the condition of those who will be resurrected when Jesus comes (i.e., renewed, happy).

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the hope of eternal life in heaven.

Friday

READ Read Revelation 20:7-9.

REJOICE Thank God that He has conquered Satan and that He will give us the victory over the forces of darkness.

DISCUSS With your family at worship, read Revelation 20:7-9 and talk about God's justice in how He will bring to an end sin and all those who have committed evil.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Praise God together that He has overcome the devil, and ask for His strength to resist the devil's temptations and deceptions.