

# **SAMUEL, THE JUDGE**

**1 Samuel 7:2-17**

**Big Idea : Samuel told Israel to get rid of their idols and turn back to God; the people obeyed and God gave them victory.**

**Aim : To teach that God rescues and restores those who truly repent and come to him through Jesus.**

# REVIEW

- **What did Samuel hear?**  
[Someone calling his name (3:4, 6, 8)]
- **What did he think this was?**  
[Eli calling him (3:5–6, 8)]
- **What was it really?**  
[The word of the Lord (3:4, 6, 8, 10)]

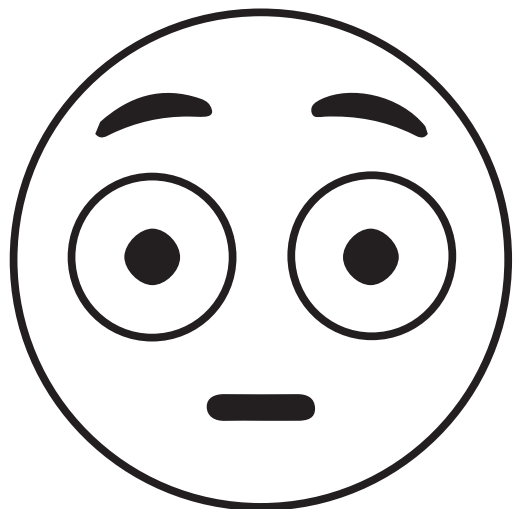
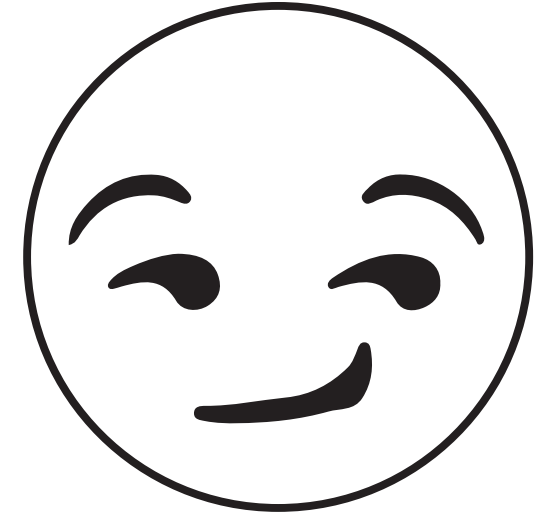
## ACTIVITY

# EMOJI MATCH

*Read out the sentences on the list below and let the children pick an emoji that they feel best describes the sentence*

**Talk about how some people thought that different reactions were appropriate in different situations.**

**Point to the sad emoticon and explain that in today's true story from the Bible all the Israelites were sad and needed to do something because of this.**



- **Emotimatch.**
- When you find a spider in your lunchbox
- When you stub your toe
- When you hear a joke
- When your mom buys you chocolate
- When you have to do chores
- When you get told we are going into lockdown
- When your dog dies
- When a friend trips and falls
- When you score a goal
- When you get chosen for the A team
- When you get 90% for an exam
- When you realise it's the weekend
- When you accidentally behave like a fool
- When you get break DT
- When your friends are unkind
- When you feel annoyed
- When your mom catches you doing something you aren't allowed to do
- When you try show off but it fails

**READ**

























































- 1 Hannah prayed that if God gave her a son, she would give him back to God to serve Him. Eli the High Priest said, 'God has heard your prayer. May He give you what you ask!' Hannah did have a son and she called him Samuel (which means 'heard by God'). She kept her promise and, when Samuel was old enough, she took him to Eli so Samuel could serve God at the Tabernacle.



- 2 Samuel served the Lord with all his heart even though Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were older than Samuel, did not. They would steal and treat the servants badly. They deliberately disobeyed their father Eli and did not show him respect. The greedy pair got fat from feasting on all the best offerings that were supposed to be sacrificed to God.



3 One night God spoke to Samuel about Eli and his sons. When Eli asked Samuel what God had said Samuel did not want to tell him, but Eli insisted. Young Samuel broke the bad news that Eli and his sons were going to die in the very near future. Eli knew he had let his sons do wrong and God was not going to let them get away with it any more. 'Let the Lord do what He thinks is best,' Eli said, as he hung his head in sadness and shame.



4 Some time later, after a defeat in a battle with the Philistines, the Israelites had an idea how to defeat their enemies. They thought if they carried the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord into battle they could not lose. The Ark was holy and a symbol of God's presence and power. Foolishly, Hophni, Phineha and other priests, carried the Ark of the Covenant into battle against the Philistines the next day.





5 Eli put a chair just outside the city gate so he could get the news about the battle as soon as possible. He was very old now and could hardly see. Finally a messenger came running from the battle with news. The Israelites had been beaten badly with the loss of over thirty thousand men. 'I'm sorry to tell you this Eli, but your two sons were killed and the Philistines have captured the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord!' A shocked Eli threw himself back and his chair fell backwards. Eli broke his neck and died. Everything God had told Samuel years earlier had come true.



6 So now the Philistines had The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. They took it back with them to the town of Ashdod and put it in the temple next to their fish god, Dagon.



7 That night, a strange thing happened. The stone god, Dagon, fell face down in front of The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.



8 The Philistines gathered and hoisted Dagon back up again.



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- 9 The next morning, when the Philistine diviners showed up, Dagon had fallen again before The Ark of the Covenant, but this time his arms were broken off and his head was in the doorway of the temple. The diviners were shocked! They called the leaders of Ashdod and said, 'We have to get rid of the Ark! Not only has Dagon been damaged, but the people of the town are all getting sick!'



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- 10 The leaders agreed. 'Let us send the Ark to the city of Gath.' And so they did. Pretty soon, people in the Philistine city of Gath were plagued with sickness and there were frogs everywhere! So the citizens of Gath decided to get rid of the Ark and sent it to the nearby city of Ekron.'



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- 11 The people of Ekron had already heard about what happened in Ashdod and Gath, so when they saw the ark coming over the hill to their city, they cried, 'No! We don't want the Ark!' Even before it had reached their city, people were falling sick and being plagued by frogs. The Ark was moved on to five cities in all and remained in Philistine territory for a total of seven months.





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- 12 The troubled Philistines took two cows and hitched them to a cart in the middle of a field. The Ark and a guilt offering was placed in the cart. They decided, if the cows began to head toward the Israelite territory, they would know their troubles were caused by the God of Israel. If not, then all these diseases and frogs were just a coincidence.'



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- 13 Sure enough, the cows went straight toward Beth-shemesh in Israelite territory. Some of the Philistines followed the cows until they reach the border at Beth-shemesh. When the Israelites saw the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord returning on a cart being pulled by two cows, they were overjoyed! The cows stopped at a large rock, which the Israelites turned into an altar to make sacrifices to God. The Philistine rulers who watched from a distance, then reported back to their cities.
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14 Samuel called all the Israelites together. 'If you are serious about returning to the Lord, get rid of all your idols and obey God, then He will protect you from the Philistines.' The people agreed and gathered at Mizpah to offer sacrifices, fast and confess to the Lord. When the Philistines heard about this gathering, they decided to attack. The frightened Israelites cried out to Samuel. 'Plead with the Lord to save us!' Samuel prayed. A loud voice came from heaven and confused the Philistine army. The Philistines were defeated and the Israelites lived in peace for the rest of Samuel's life.

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# **WHAT WE LEARNT**

**<https://youtu.be/bU47IIWe7G0>**

**Do you know why God knocked over the statue of Dagon?** The ark represented God's presence, and the idol to Dagon represented the false worship of the Philistines.

No false god would be allowed to stand above the Lord God. So God himself tore down the Philistine idol.

**Sin cannot stand in God's presence.** That is why the cross is so important for us. **As sinners, we cannot live in the presence of a holy God.** We need our sin taken away. That

is what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took the punishment for our sin so we could be forgiven. **ONCE** we are forgiven, **we can enter God's presence without fear.**



# **GAME - REPENT**

# **GOD WANTS YOUR HEART**

**Tell the kids that this is what our lesson is about today. God has always wanted one thing from us and that is for Him to have 1<sup>st</sup> place in our hearts because He knows that until we make Him our number one priority, we will never be truly happy**

# **WATCH**

**[https://youtu.be/IIY\\_DUp49-4](https://youtu.be/IIY_DUp49-4)**



# DISCUSS

- Why were the Israelites sad? [They were sorry for turning away from God to idols (7:2-3)]
- What did Samuel tell them to do? [Get rid of other idols and love God wholeheartedly (7:3)]
- What was the result? [They did as Samuel said and God gave them victory (7:4, 12-13)]
- What does repentance mean?
  - What does true repentance look like?
    - How is this different to just regret/feeling sorry?
- Is repentance something we do only once when we trust in Jesus?
  - Why/why not?
- Does God always give us victory in this life? What does he promise to those who truly repent?

**GAME**

# **NO IDOLS**

## **REPENT**

- Remind the children that in today's true story from the Bible the Israelites were sorry for the way they had treated God – they threw away the things that kept them from loving God as they should and turned back to him.
- Repentance is something we keep doing daily, it's not a once off action and we do this to make sure that God always stays our number one priority and object of worship



# **TALK ABOUT IT**

**<https://youtu.be/SsDsua7SQKY>**

- **Help the children to think through some of the things that they might idolise at their age.**
- **Talk about each one and why they love them so much. How do these things compare to God?**
- **How long will each last?**
- **What is each able to do for the children?**
- **What would repentance look like in regard to each of these things?**
- **Does it mean that they throw them in the bin?**
- **Or does it mean they put each thing in its right place, beneath God and our friendship with him?**



# SING

<https://youtu.be/lznipA86FQo>

# Memory verse

<https://youtu.be/ug1OrL57YhI>

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the  
Father except through me. - John 14:6



DON'T FORGET TO KEEP PRACTICING THIS ONE

# MEMORY VERSE

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might  
not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

Click here for some help in learning  
the verse... get going - next week  
we have another one!

<https://youtu.be/TT0CcI5g2p4>

# **PRAY**

**Dear Heavenly Father**

**Please would you help us to come to know you more and more each week through your word and through studying the bible together every Sunday.**

**Would you help us to remember that we are all sinners who need to be saved. Would you help us to daily turn to you, our good God for salvation. Please would you help us to each and every day see how wonderful and worthy you are of being our top priority in life and help us to worship You and You alone.**

**Amen**