

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.

The Story So Far

Week 1:

- Hannah was childless so she asked God for a son and promised to dedicate him to God.
- God answered her prayers and when he was older she gave him to Eli to serve in the temple.

Week 2:

- Eli's sons were wicked and unfit to lead Israel.
- God revealed himself to Samuel and called him to be a prophet so that he could speak God's word to his people.

campaign. Samuel continued to intercede for them, sacrificing a burnt offering to the Lord. God heard Samuel's prayers and answered him by giving Israel a decisive victory over the Philistines.

7:12-17 The memorial stone was set up to remind Israel of the Lord's help and victory. Samuel continued to lead Israel by bringing the word of the Lord to them.

God always acts to rescue those who truly repent and trust in his promise to save. Once Israel repented and turned their backs on their many idols, God graciously defeated their enemies and came to dwell amongst them again.

God works in the same way today: he dwells with those who come to him in repentance, trusting in the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins.



Leader's Study Notes

Read 1 Samuel 7:2-17 noting how the people showed their repentance.

Use the following notes to help you think about the passage in more detail.

God carried out his judgement on Eli's household just as he had promised (cf. 2:27-36, 3:11-14). Chapters 4-6 describe the judgement that God also brought on Israel as a nation. They had turned away from him and worshipped false gods (7:3-4) so the Lord sent the Philistines to defeat Israel. The ark, the throne of God and symbol of his presence among his people, was captured and eventually returned, but it was never restored to its proper place in the temple.

7:2-4 After twenty years the people finally sought the Lord, but true repentance was required. Samuel taught them what this would involve: getting rid of their false gods and turning back to love and serve God. The Israelites did as Samuel had instructed them.

7:5-6 Samuel promised to intercede for Israel, asking God to forgive them. Pouring out water and fasting were both signs of genuine repentance and confession of wrongdoing.

7:7-11 The Philistines saw the gathering and tried to seize the opportunity for war. Israel's religious assembly soon became a military

Reflect

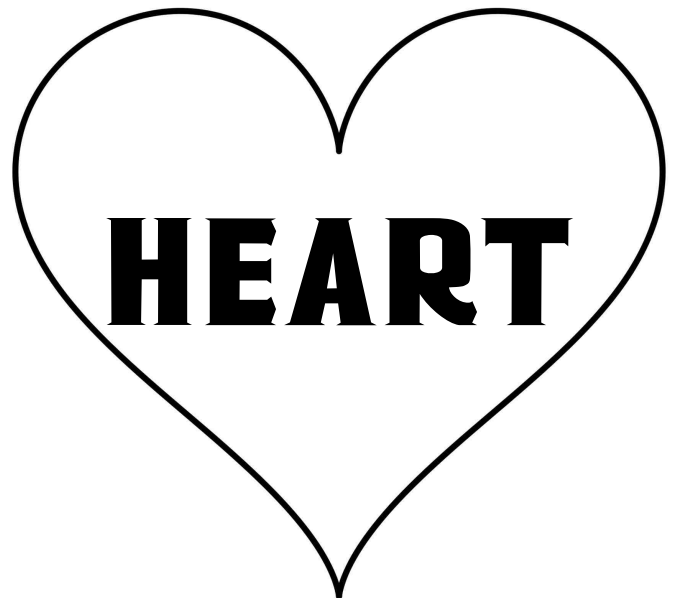
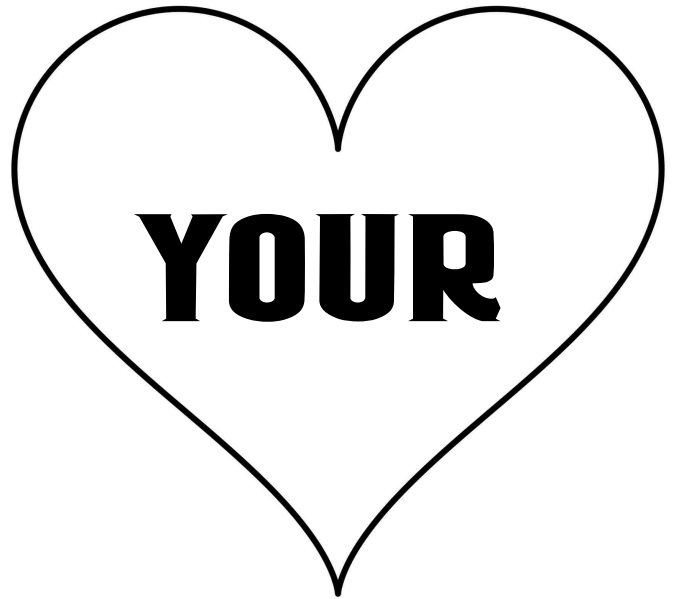
- What is the difference between regret and repentance? Which do you see most of in the world around you?
- What does true repentance look like? How does it show daily in your life?
- Give thanks that God promises to rescue all those who truly repent and trust in him. Ask him to help you to turn away from sin and to live for him alone.

Repent - God wants your heart

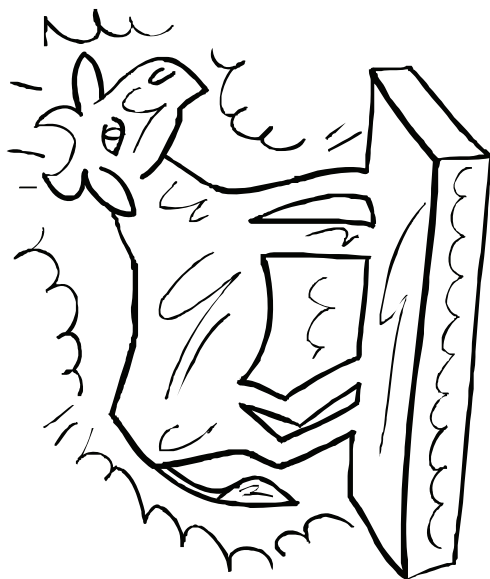
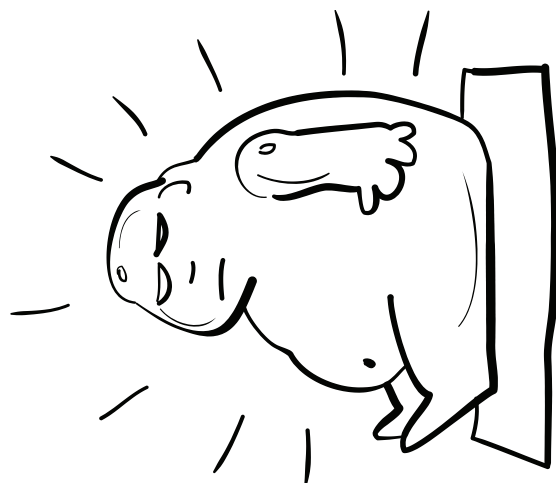
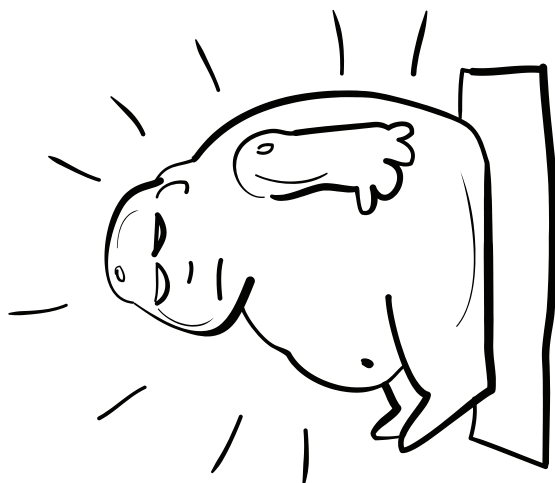
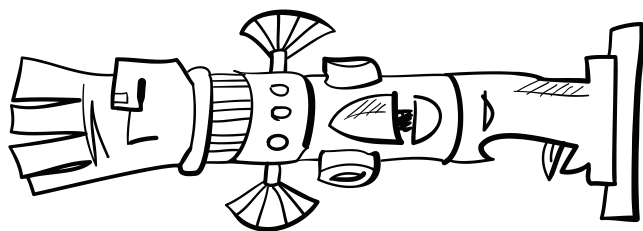
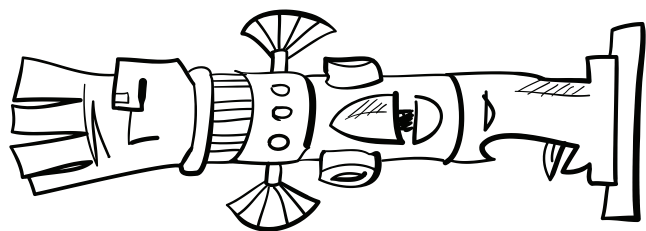
Cut out the hearts and hide them around the room.

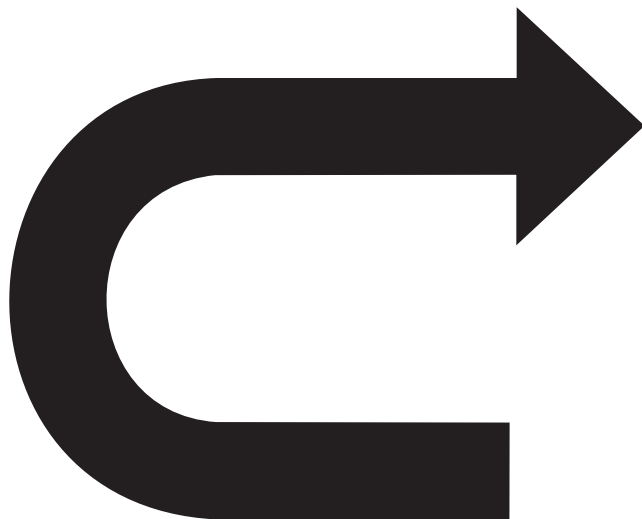
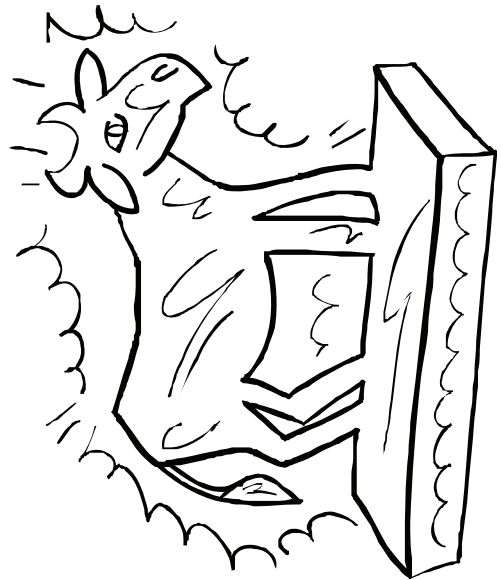
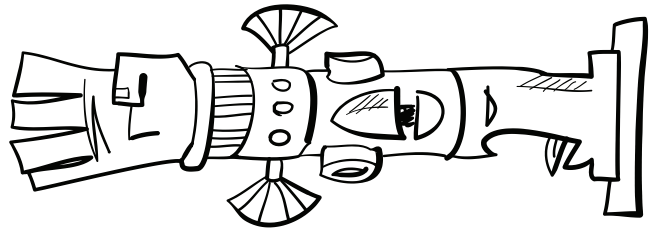
After the kids find them have them put them together to spell out the thought.

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 1st place in our hearts because He knows that until we make Him our number one priority, we will never be truly happy



- **Activity**
- Before the lesson print page 44 onto paper/card (you will need 4 pictures per child...so if you have 3 children you would need x2 copies of page 44) and cut along the bold lines to produce cards.
- Print one copy of page 45 onto paper and cut out the idols and repentance sign – this is the adult set.
- Place a bin in the middle of the room and place one set of idols around it facedown at random.
- Divide the remainder idol cards between your children (each child should get 3 ‘idols’)
- Place the adult idols on a board or wall for the children to see. The children move around the room, perhaps to music. When the music stops and you shout out “Repent!” the children must sit on one of the idols that are facedown on the floor.
- Move the repentance sign above one of the leader’s idols on the board; the children can then turn the idol that they SAT on over to see whether it **matches** (the idol that the repentance sign is pointing to and the idol the child is sitting on MUST MATCH, the idols in their hands don’t have to match) the one you have indicated on the board. Those with a matching idol may throw one of the idols in their HAND (it doesn’t have to match the one from your board) into the bin in the middle as an act of ‘repentance’
- For each round move the repentance sign to a different idol on the board.
- Continue the game until everyone has repented - gotten rid of the idols in their hands.
- 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.
- Remind the children that 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







Activity

For 3-7s – choose either Activity A (page 46) or Activity B (pages 47 and 48).

Activity A – Print page 46 onto paper or card (one copy for every two children) and cut along the bold line.

The children colour in and decorate the picture of Samuel and the memorial stone. Encourage them to complete and colour in the person on the other side to represent themselves.

Help the children to fold and glue as marked to produce a triangular prism with Samuel and the stone on one side and the cross and child on the other.

Remind the children that Samuel told the Israelites to repent by throwing away their idols and remembering what God had done to rescue them. We don't have a stone, but we do have the cross.

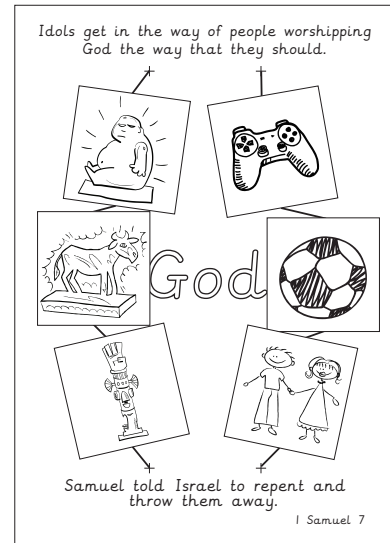
Activity B – Print page 47 onto card (one copy for every two children) and cut along the bold line as marked. Print page 48 onto card or paper (one copy for every four children). Each child will also require two 20cm lengths of shearing elastic.

Before the lesson make four small holes at the Xs on page 47 as marked then cut out all the squares on page 48 to produce a set of six squares for each child, three with idols and three blank.

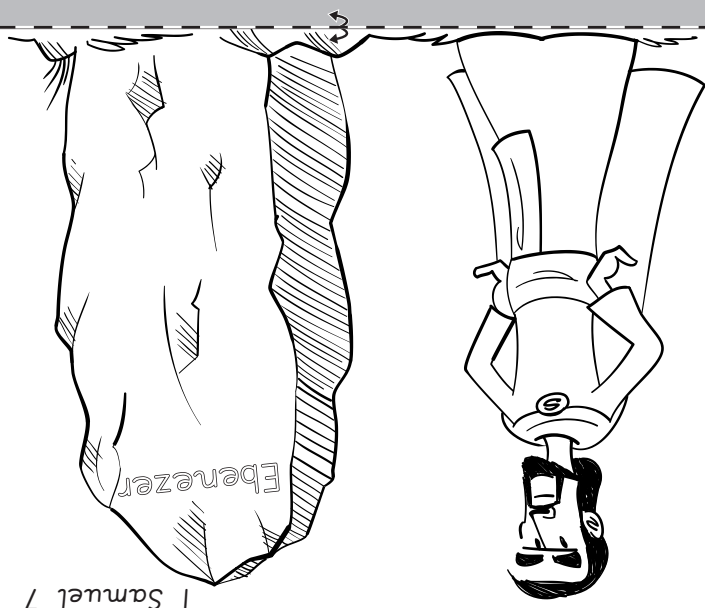
The children colour in the pictures of the idols. Ask them to think of three things in their lives that might be, or could easily become, an idol then to draw those things on the three blank squares.

Help them to lay the squares facedown in two columns of three; one with the old idols and one with their own idols. Place one length of shearing elastic down the middle of each column of pictures and secure each picture with sticky tape. Turn the

columns over and push either end of the elastic through the top and bottom holes. Pull to remove the slack in the lengths of elastic and secure at the back of the page with sticky tape.



Show the children how to push the idols aside to clearly see the word 'God'. Remind them that Samuel told Israel to throw their idols away so that they could worship God properly and thank him for kindly rescuing them.

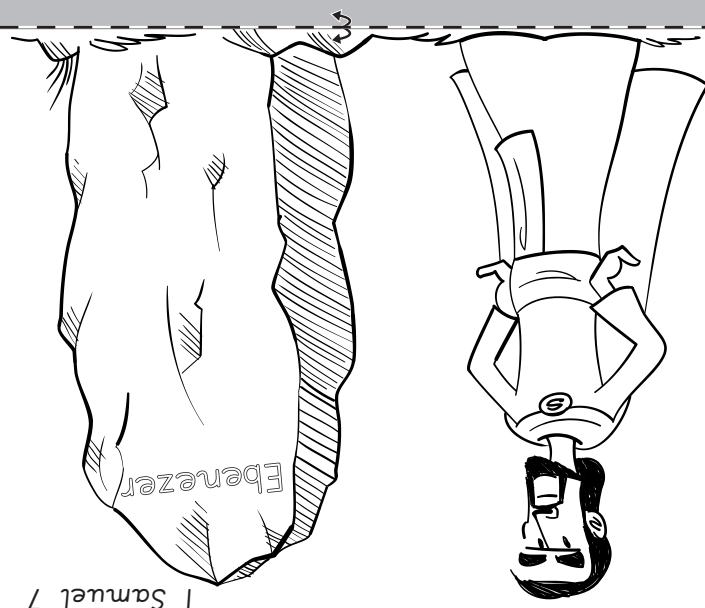
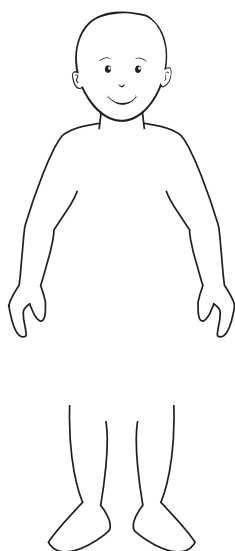
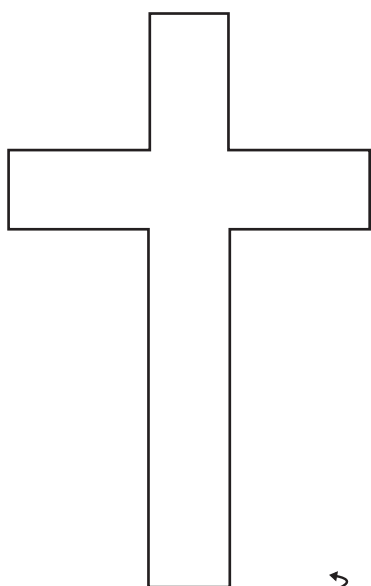


Samuel 7

Samuel put up a stone to remind Israel of what God had done to rescue them.



We have the cross to remind us of what God did to rescue us by sending Jesus to die in our place.

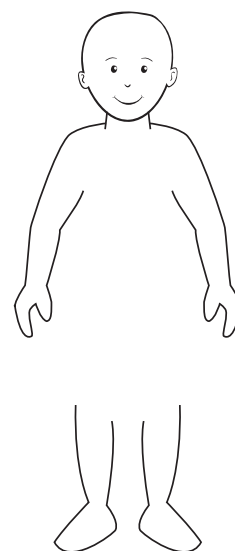
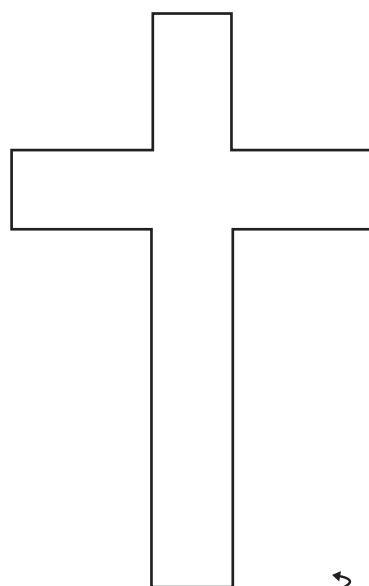


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