1 Samuel 11

*“Who Fights Your Battles?”*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 11:1-15

**Memory Verse:** *“Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* Ephesians 6:11

**Lesson Focus:** God wins all of our battles

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring picture, Word search

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: The Boy and Girl Paper Dolls to dress up in the Armor of God.

**Introduction:** Put the Bible Verses listed at the back of this lesson up on the board.

Tell the kids that you are going to read some situations and then pick one child to go to the board and pick a verse that will help them fight the situation.

1. Your best friend just met someone new and he always seems to want to play with his new

 friend instead of you. Now you are feeling left out and lonely. Satan is telling you that you don't have any friends and you never will.

1. Your best friend wants you to go over to another friends house after school with him, but your mother told you that she didn't want you to hang out with the other friend because he was not a very nice person. He is always swearing and talking dirty and getting in trouble for doing bad things. Satan is telling you to go with your friend to the other friend's house. Your mother would never know. You could just tell her that you went to your friend's house (which you did) and leave out the part about not going to the bad kids house.
2. You can't sleep because you are worried about tomorrow. You have to get up in front of the whole class and give a speech. Satan is putting all kinds of thoughts into your head, like you are going to make a fool out of yourself, everyone is going to laugh at you, you are going to forget what you have to say, etc.
3. There is a boy or girl in your class that keeps picking on you--calling you names and telling lies about you to the other kids in your class. Satan is telling you to go tell him off and start rumors about him.

**Bible Study:**

In the Old Testament as we follow the nation of Israel we see the following things

 happen over and over:

1. God would use Joshua and the Judges of Israel to lead them to victory over the enemies in the promised land
2. God would often win wars for Israel with Israel only following God’s orders – but no “physical warfare” was used. (Example: Wall of Jerico.)
3. The nations would sin
4. God allows a foreign country to gain victory over them

At this time in Israel’s history – the people have asked God for a King so that they could be just like the nations around them. They wanted to be like everyone else. God warns them through Samuel that they are turning their backs on God as their true King. God warns them through Samuel that a King will take the best of everything that they have. But God allows them to have the king they want. Samuel was directed to Saul to be the King of Israel. Samuel anoints Saul as King in 1 Samuel 10. But nothing has happened. Saul has not immediately stepped up to the throne and taken control. Saul, for whatever reason, goes about his family’s business and seems to be passive about being the King. The people of Israel also do not seem to be in a hurry to make Saul their King.

When we come to 1 Samuel 11 – we see that God has to get Saul’s attention.

**1 Samuel 11:1-3:** *The Problem*

1. Nahash the king of the Ammonites came up to war against the Israelites in Jabesh
2. The men of Jabesh try to make a deal with the Ammonite King

√ What was the deal that they wanted to make? (Don’t hurt us and we will serve you.)

√ Do you think this is a good deal? Do you think this is what God wanted?

√ What was Nahash’s answer: (He would take out all of their right eyes.) Gross!

 Nahash wanted to embarrass the nation of Israel. He wanted to show that he was more powerful than them. He is definitely an evil man.

√ What was the answer from the elders of Israel? (wait for 7 days while we send messengers to the rest of Israel and ask someone to save us.)

Did the leaders of Jabesh pray to God? Did they send word to Saul their new King? (No they sent word out to all of Israel.) They don’t seem to be showing any faith in God or the new King.

 **1 Samuel 11:4-10**

 Messengers are sent to the town where Saul lives.

 The people weep because they do not know what to do. The messengers did not

 seek out Saul – they told all the people what was going on.

√ What does Saul say?

√ What happens to Saul in 1 Samuel 11:6?

√ How important do you think that the Spirit of God is? Why or why not?

√ Do you think that the situation would have gotten any better if the “Spirit of

 “God had not come on Saul?

√ What was Saul’s first action? (He sends a message to all the people to come and fight with him.)

√ How do the people respond? (they are fearful and a little afraid of Saul)

Saul counts the people and he has 340,000 men to fight with.

Saul sends a message to the people of Jabesh that help is coming.

The people of Jabesh send a message to the King Nahash – that tomorrow they can do whatever they want with them.

 **1 Samuel 11:11-13** *Saul’s first Victory*

1. What was Saul’s battle plan? (divided the men of Israel into 3 companies)
2. They attached in the morning
3. How did the people of Israel respond? (They wanted to kill the Israelites that said at the end of 1 Samuel 10:27, that Saul was not someone that could win battles for them.) Even though all of Israel did not immediately respond to Saul as the one that could save them from their enemies. Now they are quick to point the finger at the other Israelites around them and say it was their fault.
4. Did Saul want to hurt them? Saul shows the grace of God.
5. Who did Saul say won the victory? (the Lord) Saul not understood very clearly that this victory belongs to God.

**1 Samuel 11:14-15;** *Renewal of the Kingdom*

1. What Kingdom is Samuel talking about? Saul’s kingdom or God’s Kingdom? Could it be both?
2. They renew the anointing of Saul as King in Gilgal. They made Saul king before the Lord. He was not to be a king like all the other nations. Saul was to be under the Kingdom of God. God was the only true King.
3. Saul and his men rejoice.

God had given Israel a king and He said that this King would save them from their enemies. In this story we see that many in Israel did not think that this was true or did not believe it (not even Saul.) God had to send His Spirit a second time to Saul.

**Conclusion:**

1. Jesus Christ is our King. Jesus won the victory over sin and death. But each of us needs to believe in Him and follow Him. Have you accepted Jesus as your King? Or have you rejected the King?
2. We are in a spiritual battle. Even though he battles in the Old Testament where real with real people and real weapons. God is very clear in the Bible that we are still in a war. Our war is not like the war that you usually think of. Our war is against sin and evil and everything that is against God.

But, how do we fight our battles? Only through the Spirit of God! Nothing has changed since the time of Saul. God is the one that gives us the victory.

“*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God.”*

Ephesians 6:13

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Matthew 5:44:15

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Philippians 4:6

"Children, **obey** **your** **parents** in everything, for this pleases the Lord." Colossians 3:20

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go . . ." Genesis 28:15