***1 Samuel 12***

***“Do Not Turn From God”***

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 12:1-25

**Memory Verse:** *“Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”*

**Lesson Focus:** To not turn from following God with your whole heart.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture; Cross Word Puzzle

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: “Do Not Turn From God” Wind Sock

1. Give each of the kids a “Do Not Turn From God strip.
2. Tell them to color and add stickers to their strip
3. Staple or tape the strip into a circle
4. Glue strips of crepe paper to the bottom of the circle
5. Staple a strip of tissue to the top so that they can hang their wind sock
6. Tel the kids just like this wind sock turns in the wind it should remind us not to turn from God.

**Introduction:** Game: “Turn Around”

 Tell all of the kids to stand up. Tell them that they must follow your direction.

1. Turn in a circle.
2. Change directions.
3. Stop
4. Turn to the left and jump on one foot twice
5. Turn to the right and stand on one foot until I say put it down
6. Turn to the back of the room and touch their toes
7. Turn to the right and touch their nose
8. Turn to the front and sit down

**Ask the kids:** What was with all of the turning? Tell them that in today’s lesson we are going to learn about the importance of NOT turning away from God.

**Bible Lesson:**

 **1 Samuel 12:1; “*Samuel talks to the people of Israel”***

√ Who is Samuel talking to?

 √ What is he telling them?

1. That he has listened to the people of Israel
2. That he has given them a king like they asked

**1 Samuel 12:2-5; “*The witness of Samuel’s life”***

 √ What is a “witness”?

 √ How is a life a witness?

 √ How is Samuel’s life a witness for God?

1. Samuels’s life is a witness because they have known Samuel for a long time. Samuel has walked before the people of Israel since he was a child. They have observed his life since his mother dedicated him to the “Lords work.”
2. Samuel’s life is a witness because even though he was in a place of authority he did not take bribes or gifts from anyone so that he would ignore their sins.

√ How did the people respond to Samuel?

They told him that they know that Samuel did not take bribes – that they know he walked before the Lord.

 **1 Samuel 12:6-11; “*The Witness of the Lord”***

Samuel starts out talking about how Israel’s past has been led by the Lord. He is the one who raised up leaders for Israel. He is the one who gave them direction and victories in battles. He is the one who saved them out of Egypt.

√ But how did Israel respond to God’s guidance and help?

1. They forgot God
2. They worshiped idols

√ How did God respond to Israel’s disobedience?

 God allowed other countries to have victory over them.

√ When Israel cried out to God and confessed their sin, what did God do?

 He rescued them and forgave them and they lived in safety.

 **1 Samuel 12:12-15;  *“The wrong desire”***

 √ What did Israel want, when they saw the King of the Ammonites coming

 against them? (they wanted a king like the other nations)

 √ What was wrong with wanted a King? (God was their King)

√ What did Samuel ask Israel to “take note” of? (That God had set a king over

 them.) God gave them what they wanted.

 √ Was a king God’s best for them?

 God gave the people of Israel what they desired but He also gave them a

 warning.

 √ What is a “warning”? What kind of things do your parents warn you about?

 Why do they do it? Why do you think God does it? God gives us many warnings in the Bible for our own good and spiritual maturity.

 **Warning:**

**#1: Fear the Lord**: in other words live a life that knows that God is in

charge and follow His ways. Have a healthy fear or reverence for who God is. It is making God bigger in our lives. I care so much about who God is that I want my choices to please Him.

 **#2: Obey God:** God’s word is given for us to follow. Not for us just to

listen to. We need to obey what God says in His word. Obedience shows who we love the most.

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me…”* John 14:21a

 **#3: Do Not Rebel against God:** To rebel is to go against to fight against.

When you say “no” to your parents when they ask you to do something; you are rebelling. You are saying “no” to authority. You rebel against God by not obeying what He says in His Word. We are basically saying “no” to God.

 √ What happens if they follow these 3 warnings?

You and the King will continue in following God.

 √ What happens if they do not follow these 3 warnings?

The hand of the Lord will be against you. God will not be your protector. He will allow the enemy to have victory over you.

 **1 Samuel 12:16-22; *“Do Not Turn from God”***

 √ What does Samuel ask them to do? (Stand up and see what God can

 do.)

 √ What does God do? (He answers Samuels prayers and sends Thunder

 and rain during the wheat harvest.)

 √ How did the people respond? (They feared the Lord)

 √ What did they ask Samuel to do? (Pray for them)

 √ What did the people confess? (Their sin of asking for a king.)

 √ How does Samuel respond to the people’s confession?

1. Tells them no “not fear”
2. Tells them to not turn from following God
3. Tells them to serve God with their whole heart
4. Tells them not to “turn aside”
5. Tells them not go after “empty” things.

(Things of this world that have no value…they give us pleasure for a moment but then they lose their value to us. When we care more about “things” our heart is in the wrong place.)

√ What is “confession?” (to admit what we have done.)

Confession has an important role to play in our lives. When we acknowledge our sin to God, we are admitting that we have done or believe the wrong thing. We have sinned. But God is ALWAYS faithful to hear our prayers of confession and to forgive us.

1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Our confession and God forgiveness is a beautiful truth in the Bible. Samuel is telling the people of Israel the same truth that God still tells us today. If we follow after God with our whole heart and confess when we sin – God will always forgive us.

 **1 Samuel 12:23; *“Samuel’s Promise & Final Warning”***

√ What does Samuel promise the people?

1. To pray for them
2. To teach them God’s truth
3. Reminder:
	1. Fear God
	2. Serve Him in truth with your whole heart
	3. Remember the great things God has done for you
4. Final Warning:

Wickedness will result in punishment for you and your king.

**Conclusion:**

√ What can we learn from this chapter in Samuel?

 √ How important is “not turning” away from God in our lives?

 √ How important is “confession” in our lives?

 √ How important is “obedience” in our lives?

 √ How important is “remembering” what God has done in our lives?

 √ How important is “God’s Faithfulness” in our lives”

DO NOT TURN FROM GOD

DO NOT TURN FROM GOD