**1 Samuel 9**

***“Lost Donkeys and God’s Guidance”***

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 9:1-27

**Memory Verse:** *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with*

 *My eye.”* Psalms 32:8

**Lesson Focus:** God is our guide.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring pages, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: Samuel meets Saul scene and puppets:

1. Give each of the kids a picture scene and the Samuel & Saul puppets.
2. Have them color their puppets and scenes
3. Have them cut our their puppets and glue them to popsicle sticks
4. Have them act out the lesson

**Introduction:** Game: Find the animal. Take a stuffed animal and hide it in the room. Choose a

child to find the animal. Give them hints and instructions to find their way to the animal. You may choose to do this several times. Tell them that God is our Guide and if we follow Him, He will direct our steps. Today we will learn how God is guiding Samuel to the new king of Israel.

**Bible Study:**

 **1 Samuel 9:1-2:** *“Introduction to Saul”*

 *√* How is Aphiah described?

 A man of power (wealth)

 √ Who was his son? (Saul)

 √ What tribe was Saul from? (Benjamin – this is one of the smallest tribes in

Israel. From a tribe of little importance, God will choose the first king of Israel.)

 √ How is Saul described:

1. His name “Saul” comes from the Hebrew word “asked for.”
2. Handsome ( more handsome than anyone is Israel.)
3. Tall

√ Are those good qualification for a King? Why or why not?

√ Does it give us anything about his character?

**1 Samuel 9:3-10:** “*Saul’s Journey”*

√ What was lost?

 √ Did they find the donkeys?

 √ Did Saul want to give up?

 √ What did his servant suggest Saul do?

 √ Who is the “man of God” that the servant is talking about? (Samuel)

 √ What did the servant suggest as a gift for the man of God? (1/4 of a shekel of

 silver.)

 √ What did Saul and his servant want of Samuel? (to seek God)

 God is leading in every circumstance; the loss of the donkeys, the search and the

suggestion to seek out the man of God. God truly does guide those that are His.

 **1 Samuel 9:11-14:** *“Finding Samuel”*

 √ Who gave them directions to Samuel? (a young women drawing water)

She knew the actions of Samuel and what he did when he came to their city. She gave them directions and instructions and hurried them on their way. God often uses many different people to direct our steps.

√ Was God behind all of this?

√ Was God directing Saul’s and Samuel’s steps?

√ Was this a “chance” meeting?

 **1 Samuel 9:15-** *“Saul and Samuel Meet”*

 √ What had God told Samuel the day before?

1. God spoke in his ear
2. That God was sending Samuel a man from Benjamin
3. You shall anoint him commander over my people Israel; God does not use the word “king.” He uses the word “commander” or “prince.”
4. He will save my people from the hand of the Philistines
5. I have heard the cry of the people of Israel

√ When Samuel saw Saul what did God say to him?

1. There he is
2. The one that will reign

Saul draws near to Samuel and asks him where the seer was. Samuel identifies himself as the prophet and tells him to go up to the place where they were having the sacrifice and tells him that he will eat with Samuel today. Saul has no idea who he is meeting – he still has donkeys on his mind.

√ What does Samuel tell Saul that he will do with him tomorrow?

Samuel will tell Saul all that is in his heart. Do you think that was confusing to Saul? Do you think that he understands or has any idea what is about to happen?

 √ What does Samuel tell Saul about his donkeys?

1. They have been found
2. You and your father’s house has been blessed

√ How does Saul respond to Samuels pronouncement on the blessing of

 his father’s house?

1. I am a Benjamite – the smallest tribe in Israel
2. My family is nothing
3. Why do you speak to me like this

Saul does not have a clue. He is basically saying that he is a nothing so why is Samuel talking to him like he is a “something.”

 √ Does Samuel tell Saul why? Does he explain himself at this time?

 √ What does Samuel do?

1. Takes Saul and his servant and puts them in the place of honor
2. Samuel gives the best meat to Saul
3. Samuel and Saul eat together

√ What happens after they come down from the sacrifice?

1. Samuel wakes up Saul and takes him to the top of the house
2. Sends the servant ahead of Saul
3. Tells Saul that he is going to pronounce the word of God to him.

√ Again, do you think that Saul has a clue of what is going on?

I don’t think that Saul has a clue. He came looking for donkeys and now he is told that he will hear the Word of God.

This is only the beginning of the story of choosing Saul to be king. It will take through 1 Samuel 12 to tell the whole story.

**Conclusion:**

**Point #1:** God is our King. He was the King of Israel. But the people of Israel wanted a

King so that they could be like every other nation. They were saying that God was not enough! But God loves His people and He shows them grace. But He will give them what they want and that does not mean that it will be a good thing. God shows grace by warning them about how a king will behave. But they do not listen. So God is giving them a king that they want. Good looking and someone by “outside” appearances looks like a king.

**Point #2:** God directs our path. God is directing this whole story of Samuel and Saul. It was not by accident that they donkeys were lost. God is using this hardship in the life of Saul’s family to direct Saul to Samuel. As we walk through life with God nothing is by mistake. Nothing is without God’s knowledge. If we seek to follow God He will direct our steps.

Our Bible verse for today is; “*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you*

 *should go; I will guide you with My eye.”* Psalm 32:8

God has our best in His mind. He is our guide through the power of the Holy

Spirit. He knows the path for our life. We need to daily stay close to God so we can follow His leading.