

FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES

1 Samuel 7:2-15

1 Samuel 7

²It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.

³And Samuel said to the whole house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” ⁴So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

⁵Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah and I will intercede with the LORD for you.” ⁶When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel was leader of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. ⁸They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” ⁹Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and

offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel’s behalf, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. ¹¹The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Car.

¹²Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far has the LORD helped us.” ¹³So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again.

Throughout Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. ¹⁴The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to her, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the power of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵Samuel continued as judge over Israel all the days of his life.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did Samuel tell the Israelites to do? (Verse 3)
5		2.) What did Samuel and the Israelites do at Mizpah? (Verses 5-6)
5		3.) What did the Philistines do when they heard that the Israelites were in Mizpah?
5		4.) Why do you think the Israelites were able to get their freedom back from the Philistines?

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“...do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 Samuel 12:20</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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Samuel put a stone up to show that the Lord had helped him

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: REMEMBRANCE STONES

Students will make remembrance stones to help them remember that Samuel set up a stone to show that God had helped the Israelites.

MATERIALS

1. River Rock
2. Acrylic Paint
3. Paint Brushes
4. Thin Permanent Markers
5. Hair Dryer



DIRECTIONS

1. Pass out a river rock to each student.
2. Have students write a message on the stone like: Love God, Serve God, Pray, Worship God, etc.
3. Allow students to paint designs, flowers, etc. around the message on their stones.
4. Use a hair dryer to dry the acrylic paint on the stone.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are working on their remembrance stones, remind them that Samuel set up a stone to show that the Lord had helped the Israelites gain their freedom from the Philistines. Samuel wanted to mark the spot so that all who passed by would remember that the Lord had helped them in that place. Help students recall that the Lord told Joshua to set up a pile of 12 rocks on the other side of the Jordan River. This was to help future generations remember what God had done for the Israelites. Encourage students to place their stone in a spot at home that they will see often. The message on the stone will help them remember their God.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

"...do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart." 1 Samuel 12:20

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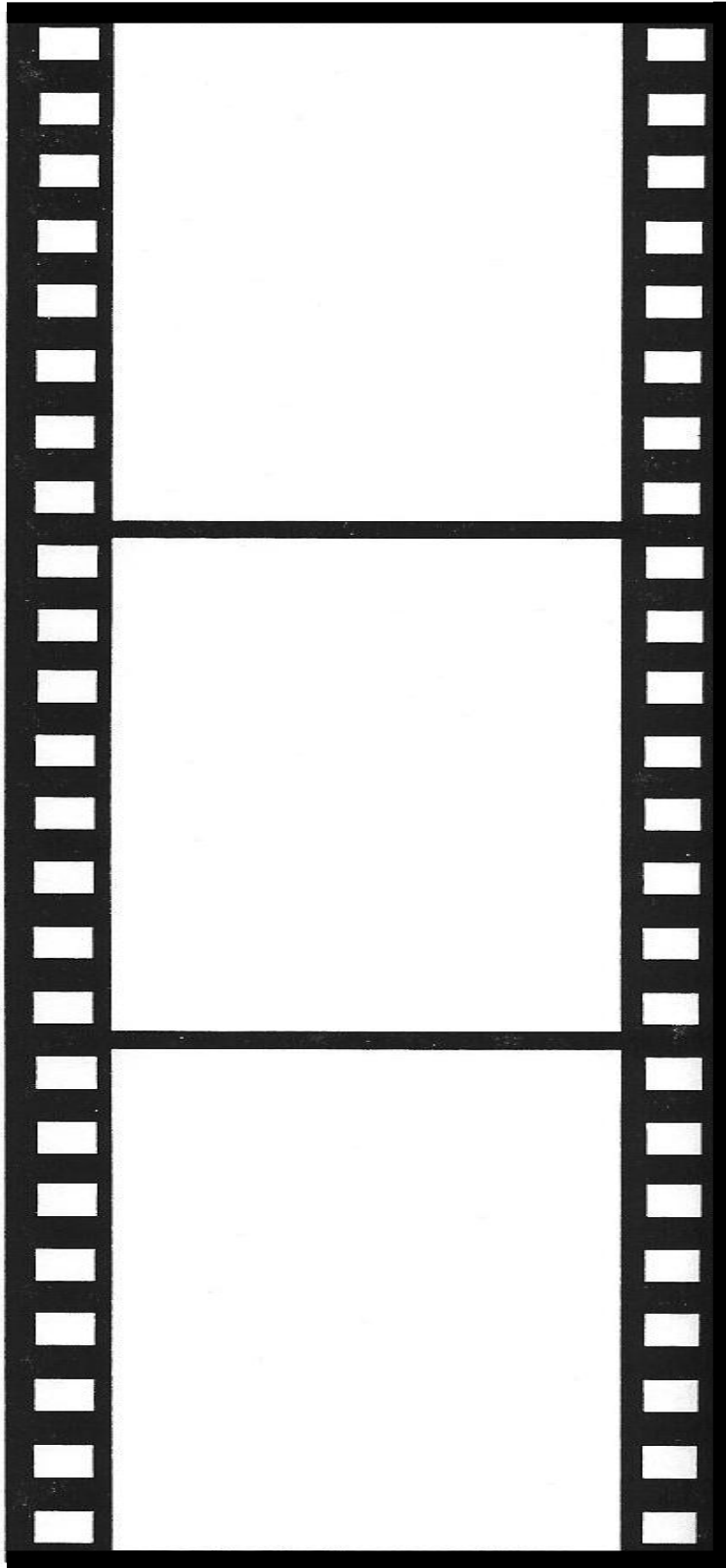
1 Samuel 7:2-15

Directions: Turn this paper to the side. Draw a picture in each frame. Then underneath each picture, write a sentence describing what you drew.

At the end of the story...

In the middle of the story...

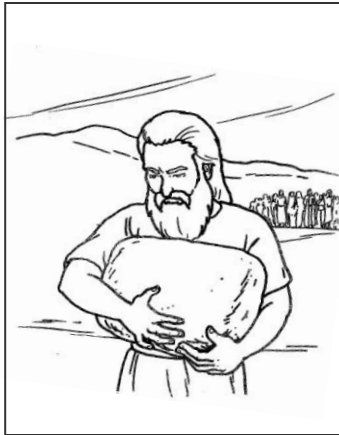
At the beginning of the story...



THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON 1 SAMUEL 7:2-15

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For the last 20 years, the Israelites have sought after the Lord, witnesses have noticed.

“If you are returning to the Lord, then get rid of all of your other gods. Serve the one true God,” Samuel said.

The Israelites listened to Samuel and worshipped only God. Samuel was their leader.

The Israelites were seen gathered together fasting and confessing that they had sinned against the Lord.

While some of the Israelites were together, the rulers of the Philistines attacked them. When the other Israelites heard about this, they were scared of the Philistines.

The Israelites wanted Samuel to ask the Lord for help. Samuel took a lamb and offered it to the Lord as a burnt offering. The Lord heard Samuel’s prayers.

While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines came to fight.

The Lord sent loud thunder that scared the Philistines. The Israelites then attacked and killed the Philistines. The Philistines did not bother the Israelites again.

Samuel put a stone on the ground to honor the Lord for helping the Israelites. Samuel remained the judge over Israel until he died.

To find out more details about this story, read 1 Samuel 7:2-15 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Samuel tell the Israelites to do?
2. What happened while Samuel was sacrificing a lamb to the Lord?
3. How did the Lord help the Israelites?
4. Why do you think Samuel told the Israelites to get rid of their other gods?

MEMORY VERSE

“...do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.”

1 Samuel 12:20

WORD SCRAMBLE

ISRAELITES	STONE	SAMUEL
PHILISTINES	LAMB	ATTACK

ULEMAS _____

SENITSILHP _____

SETILEARSI _____

KTTACA _____

TSOEN _____

BLAM _____