

## God Hears and Helps (2/26/23)

**Main Verses:** 1 Samuel 7:5-10

**Key Verse:** 1 Samuel 7:8

**'Takeaway':** Though hard and scary things can tempt us to forget, let's remember that God hears prayer and wants us to keep reaching out to him.

**Getting Started:** What do you do when you're scared?

**READ:** 1 Samuel 7:5-10 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Why were the people afraid? Who were they afraid of?
- What did Samuel say he would do for them?
- What was God's response?

Elementary:

- What happened to get the people of Israel into their current situation?
- What did they ask Samuel to do? How did Samuel respond?
- How did God respond?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- The people were afraid because it looked like the Philistines were going to attack them while they were praying.
- They asked Samuel to continue praying for them.
- God heard Samuel's prayer and protected them from the Philistines.
- God hears when we pray to him in faith. God's best response, Jesus, spoke to our worst fears. Let's trust in Jesus' victory!

Elementary:

- Samuel was praying for the people of Israel because they had turned away from their sin, back to God. Samuel was offering a sacrifice for them.
- While this was happening, it looked like the Philistines were going to attack them and they begged Samuel to keep praying for them.
- God heard and protected them from the Philistines.
- God hears and protects his people when they turn to him in faith. God's best response, Jesus, spoke to our worst fears. Let's trust in Jesus' victory!

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, and thank him that we can always talk to him, even when we are afraid. Thank him for the people in your life that pray for you, both the ones you know (mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, etc), and the ones you don't know. Thank God for hearing us and protecting us when we turn to him through faith in Jesus, who speaks to our worst fears.

(Elementary) Talk to God, and thank him for always hearing when we pray to him through faith in Jesus. Thank God for his protection and for his care when we are afraid. Thank him that through faith in Jesus, and his death and resurrection, our biggest and worse fears are no more. Talk to God about your fears, and about your relationship to him. Perhaps you realize how much you need his grace and leadership in your life. **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, and forever with God. With your whole heart and being, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. If you pray this, or have questions about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.

