Preschool–Grade 6

Samuel Anoints Saul

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God guides my steps.
Bible passage: 1 Samuel 9:1–10:1 and 10:17–24. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "the LORD hath anointed thee" *1 Samuel 10:1 (KJV)*. **Anointed** means God poured oil on him to show He chose him.
You need: a Bible, 5 small paper donkeys (or toy donkeys), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 9. Hide the donkeys around the room where little ones can find them.

1. Opening game: Find the Donkeys (5 minutes)

Say: "Oh no! The donkeys are lost! Let's find them." Walk around the room together and help the kids find each donkey. Count them as you find them: one, two, three, four, five! Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a tall young man who looked for lost donkeys."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 9. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Saul was a young man. He was very tall (1 Samuel 9:2). *(Stretch up tall.)*
His dad's donkeys were lost (9:3). *(Look around with your hand over your eyes.)*
Saul looked and looked. No donkeys (9:4)! *(Shake your head.)*
God told Samuel, "I will send thee a man" (9:16). *(Cup your hand to your ear.)*
Saul came to Samuel (9:18). *(Walk in place.)*
"The donkeys are found," said Samuel (9:20). *(Clap your hands.)*
Samuel took a little bottle of oil (10:1). *(Hold a pretend bottle.)*
He poured the oil on Saul's head (10:1). *(Pat your head.)*
Say it with me: "God chose Saul!"
Later, Saul hid (10:22). *(Cover your eyes.)*
The people found him. He was so tall (10:23)! *(Stand up tall.)*
Everyone shouted, "God save the king" (10:24)! *(Cheer with your hands up.)*
Say it with me: "God guides my steps!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What was lost? *(The donkeys, 1 Samuel 9:3)*
2. What did Samuel pour on Saul's head? *(Oil, 10:1)*
3. What did the people shout? *("God save the king," 10:24)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Samuel poured oil on Saul's head and said, 'the LORD hath anointed thee.' That means, 'God chose you!'" Teach the motion: hold a pretend little bottle over your head and tip it, then pat your head. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Samuel 10:1" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! God guided Saul, and God guides you too. Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: The Little Bottle of Oil (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a little bottle with yellow oil coming out of it. While they color, ask: "What was lost? Who found Saul? Who guides your steps?" Kids who finish early can hide and find the donkeys again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for guiding my steps.
Help me follow You every day. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child "stretch up tall" like Saul and pat their head for the oil. Keep it short and happy. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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