

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Saul not waiting.

You can find it in your Bible in:
1 Samuel 13

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Saul which reminds us to be patient and trust in you.

Help us to have faith in you during difficult times, to trust in your timing even when it means waiting. Help us to listen to you and follow your instructions.

We pray for the leaders of our countries and churches that they would be patient and trust in you, that you would help them to make the right decisions at the right times.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Can you find and read 1 Samuel 10 v 8?

Why do you think that Saul didn't wait for Samuel?

Samuel had told Saul to wait at Gilgal for seven days. Samuel had promised to meet him there and help to bring an offering to God before the battle. We know that Saul hadn't forgotten Samuel's promise, he chose to wait seven days but by then the army was shaking with fear and beginning to leave.

Saul looked at the huge army of the Philistines compared to his army. When he saw that his soldiers were beginning to leave he panicked! He decided to arrange the offerings to God himself and not wait for Samuel. If Saul had really trusted God and followed his instructions he would have waited for Samuel. Saul should have known that God did not need huge armies to defeat the Philistines. In fact, when the time came Saul only had 600 soldiers left and he still got the victory!

A question for children to ask adults

*What is the hardest thing you have ever had to wait for?
What helped you to be patient?*

Family Activity 1

Play a game of Musical Statues. Put on some music and all dance around together. When the music stops everybody should freeze and stay still until the music starts again!

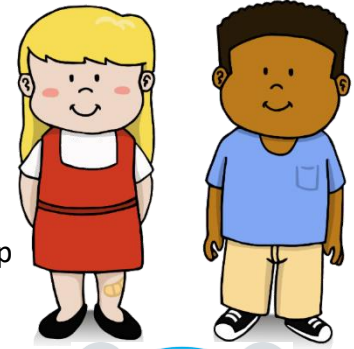
You could talk about how it feels to wait for the music to start again and how Saul might have felt waiting.



A verse to remember

Psalm 40 v 1
I waited patiently for the Lord.
He turned to me and heard my cry.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.



Active Praying

Saul was told to wait for seven days at Gilgal. While he waited, he let doubts and fear creep in. We sometimes have to wait for God's answers to our prayers, that doesn't mean he doesn't hear us, but it does mean we may have to be patient.

Why not commit to praying for something all this week with our seven-day prayer challenge.

Day 1

Choose a person or situation you would like to pray into. Chat about them with God.

Day 2

Spend some time waiting on God and listening, what does God want to say about the person or situation you are praying about?

Day 3

Get creative, write, draw or sing your prayer to God.

Day 4

Connect with somebody else, perhaps another family, share what you are praying into and ask them to join you in prayer.

Family Activity 2

You will need: A timer / clock

Find out who is best at waiting by playing 'The Minute Game'.

One person has a clock or phone timer, this person tells everybody when to begin. Everybody else must stand up, they must sit down when they think a minute has passed – they are not allowed to cheat by looking at a watch or clock. Once everybody has sat down the person watching the timer should say who was closest.

Day 5

Keep trusting in God, spend some time today praising and thanking God that he always hears our prayers.

Day 6

Pray again for the person or situation, bring your prayer request to God trusting Him that anything is possible.

Day 7

If what you have prayed for has happened say thank you to God, if it hasn't happened yet ask God to help you to be patient and to keep praying!

Family Activity 3

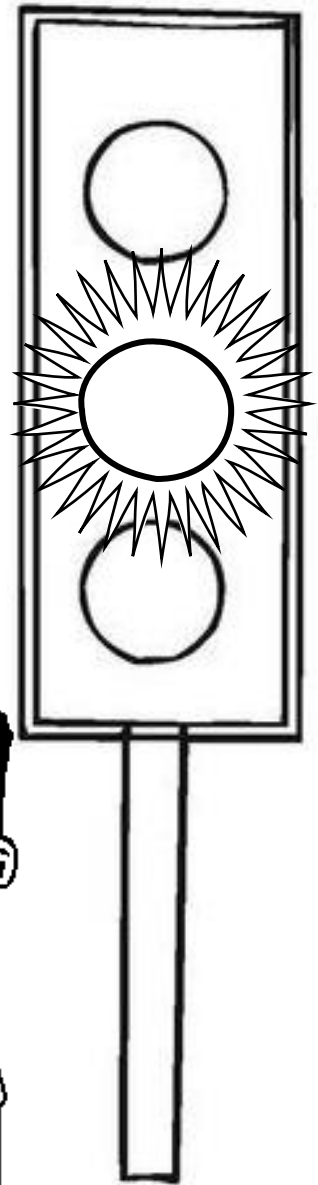
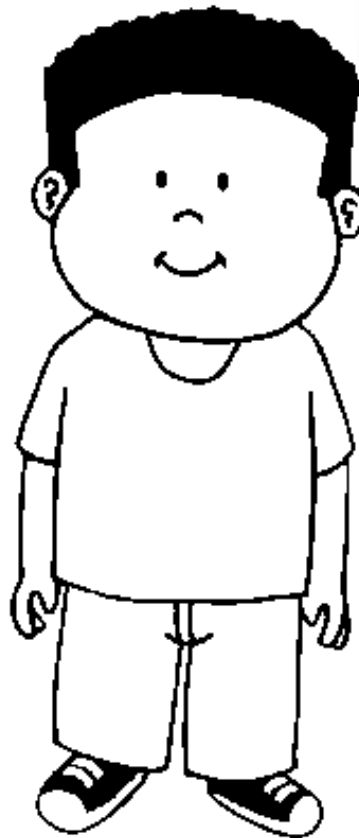
Saul was given very clear instructions, but he didn't follow them. Why not think about obedience and following instructions with a game of 'Simon says'!



A colouring page you could print and colour together.

Psalm 40 v 1

I waited
patiently for
the Lord.



He turned to me and
heard my cry.

PUZZLE SHEET

Can you find the numbers one to seven hidden on the page?

r s h y b v p d j s p d g q o
 e j m x d a j b u e o i r z f
 u z s k l o i m g n r s b n f
 t r s l e u m a s i e f z h e
 j o n a t h a n i t l m a x r
 c v k e a t j s i s l g z x i
 f d s a c u o l e i n e a z n
 u t x i x n e v q l i b e l g
 w d c x o a e w j i v i b w d
 f r z x r n n i j h q d x r l
 n e r s m l u c t p s m k a y
 d l i y q q f n f a p g c k x
 a z i f h m h q m k p e r x l
 f k h y c k e o p d n w p e r
 h u p e c n e i d e b o l d l

Can you find all these words from the story in the word search?

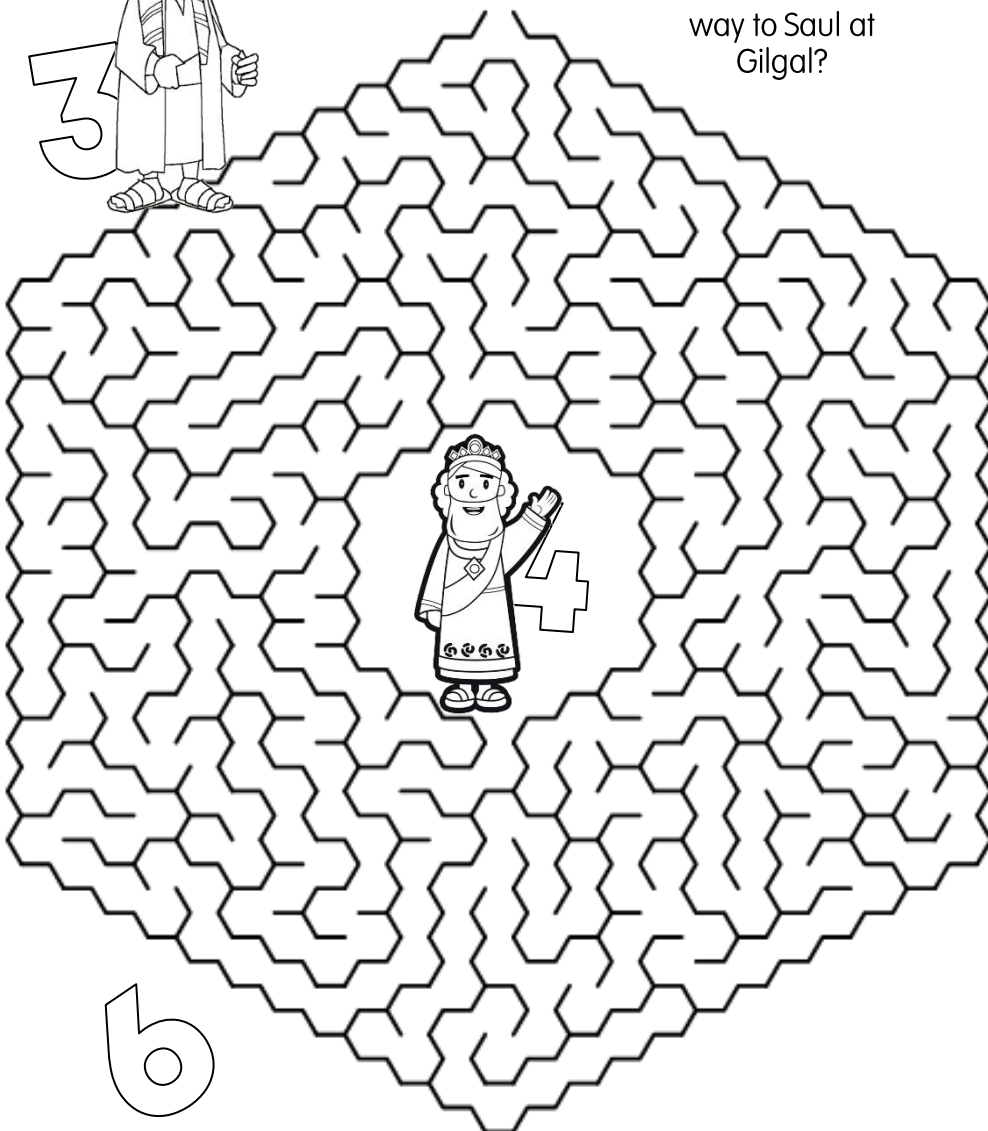
- Samuel**
- Saul**
- Philistines**
- Israelites**
- Jonathan**
- Gilgal**
- Offering**
- Seven**
- Obedience**
- Patience**

Turn your sheet sideways to complete this puzzle!

All the letters have fallen out of the grid, put them back to reveal what Samuel said to Saul.



Can you help Samuel find his way to Saul at Gilgal?



C
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