

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

Samuel and David

1 Samuel 16:1–13

King Saul was chosen by God, but he disobeyed God, so God rejected him as king. When it was time for Samuel to anoint a new king, God sent him to Jesse's house in Bethlehem. Samuel met seven of Jesse's impressive sons, but none of them were chosen by God to become king. God chose Jesse's youngest son, David, a humble shepherd, because God knew David would seek Him wholeheartedly.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD PROTECTS

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 18—20

Saul chose to go against God's plan by trying to hurt David. However, Saul's son, Jonathan, answered God's call to follow God's plan. Instead of getting angry because he would never become king and David would, Jonathan chose to love and protect David. In this way, God used Jonathan to play a very important role in The Big God Story.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- Because he was King Saul's son, Jonathan—not David—was the original heir to Israel's throne.
- Jonathan humbly accepted that God had chosen David to be king instead and surrendered to God's will.
- Jonathan and David had a very strong friendship. Jonathan made a covenant to always be David's friend, vowing to treat him as a brother.
- God used Jonathan to save and protect David when Saul threatened David's life.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Have each family member share who his best friend is and why. Ask each person to think carefully about why she loves that friend and what it is about that friend's character that makes her a "best" friend. Next, tell your kids you're going to read about two best friends, David and Jonathan, in The Big God Story. Read **1 Samuel 20** (**Fire Bible for Kids*, pp. 347–349). Afterward, ask your kids what Jonathan did to save David. Ask your children what this tells them about God's ability to protect.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- Why do you think God rejected Saul as king?
- Why do you think Jonathan chose to displease his father and protect David?
- How does God protect you?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Protects into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps. Proverbs 16:9

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you listen to the Holy Spirit as He leads and protects you this week. May you be kept safe from all evil. May you know God is with you in times of danger and trust that He is able to protect you.**

For more information about blessing your child, go <https://trufirecurriculum.com>. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.