

16.03 Samuel's Instruction at Gilgal; Rain-Ruined Harvest (1 Samuel 12)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Cut out clouds, lightning, and wheat as shown below from felt.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (None for this lesson)

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 12:1 And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. 2 And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. 3 Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” 4 They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man’s hand.” 5 And he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they said, “He is witness.”

6 And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. 7 Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers. 8 When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. 9 But they forgot the Lord their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. 10 And they cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.’ 11 And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. 12 And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us,’ when the Lord your God was your king. 13 And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. 14 If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. 15 But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king. 16 Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. 17 Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king.” 18 So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

19 And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.” 20 And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. 21 And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. 22 For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself. 23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to

pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. 24 Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

Introduction/Review:

The Israelites wanted a king, and they got one—a good-looking, tall man who led them in victory over the Ammonites, a nation that was taking over Jabesh Gilead [locate]. When the Lord gave victory to Israel, the people were very excited about that victory *and* about their new king.

Samuel directed them, saying, “Let us all go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom.” Saul had already been crowned at Mizpeh. Now, however, they sacrificed “peace offerings before the Lord, and there in Gilgal Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly” (1 Samuel 11:15).

Story:

Samuel’s defense

Then Samuel got up to speak; he made the following points:

1. “I listened to you and have made a king over you. He’s walking before you here.
2. “I am old and gray-haired, and my sons are here. I have walked before you since childhood.
3. “Tell me. Have I taken an ox? a donkey? Have I cheated anyone? Have I made trouble for anyone? Have I received any bribes? If I have, I will give them all back.”

The people answered, “No, you haven’t done any of these things.”

Samuel verified their answer, “Do you call the Lord to witness what you say?”

The people said, “He is witness.”

Samuel’s review

Samuel continued by reminding the people about God’s works from the time even before they were a nation. He said, “Let me tell you about the righteous things the Lord has done for you and your fathers:

1. “After Jacob went to Egypt, your fathers cried to the Lord, and He sent Moses and Aaron, who brought you out of Egypt into this very place”—Gilgal, where they had first camped when they entered Canaan.
2. “When your fathers forgot the Lord their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera of Hazor, when Judge Deborah led the army and Jael slew Sisera with a tent peg; and into the hand of the Philistines, when God sent thunder to confuse and defeat them; and into the hand of Moab, when Judge Ehud slew King Eglon with his dagger.
3. “Your fathers cried to the Lord, saying, ‘We have sinned in forgetting the Lord and have served idols—Baalim and Ashteroth. Please deliver us, Lord, and we will serve You.’
4. “The Lord sent Gideon, Samson, Jephthah, and Samuel to rid you of your enemies so that you could live safely.
5. “But when you saw Nahash of the Ammonites [last lesson] coming against you, you demanded a king when the Lord was your King. Now here is your king.
6. “You must not forget the Lord. If you fear the Lord, serve Him, and obey Him. If you fear, serve, and obey the Lord, then you and your king will continue to follow the Lord your God.
7. “But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord but rebel against His commandment, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, just as it was against your fathers.

God’s reproof

“Now,” said Samuel, “you are about to see what shall be done because of your *great wickedness* in asking

for a king. It is wheat harvest. You know it never rains during this season. ✓If it did, it would spoil the crop. However, I call upon the Lord to send thunder.”

How had God defeated the Philistines earlier when Samuel had prayed? With thunder. Now Samuel said, “God will send thunder and rain so that you may understand and see that your wickedness is great in God’s sight by asking for a king.”

Then Samuel prayed, and God sent thunder and rain that day. Can you imagine all those soldiers and men standing in the rain with lightning, and thunder all around that God sent? It must have been frightening and awesome.

The Bible states, “All the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.” In fact, the people cried, “Pray for us that we don’t die! We have added to all our sins by asking for a king.”

God’s ways

Samuel reassured them in six of the most wonderful verses of the Bible: “Do not be afraid; you *have* done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but *serve the Lord with all your heart*. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself. Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. *Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.* Nevertheless, I warn you, if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king” (1 Samuel 12:20–25, emphasis added).

What a warning to us—not to turn from God. What can we expect if we forsake God? [Big-time trouble.] Let us “serve Him in truth with all our hearts.”

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Samuel told the people not to fear. Jesus tells His people many times in the Gospels not to fear. Here is one example: “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

Activities:

- Play dough: rain drops
- Snack: Raindrop cake (if one dares try it); instructions may be found at [\(834\) Pinterest/](#). (Look for the ingredient, agar, in the baking aisle, the natural foods, aisle, or the international/Asian foods aisle. Otherwise, you may need to look at a natural foods store.)

Another suggestion is to cut sugar cookie dough into raindrop and/or cloud shapes, bake, and spread with blue or white frosting.

- Play act Samuel’s message: (1) God’s rule; (2) Wickedness; (3) Rain and thunder; (4) Reassurance
- Review questions: (Game: Find the page of raindrops at the end of this lesson. Prepare as directed. Students will place a raindrop in a pocket chart or on a flannel board after answering a question correctly.)
 1. How many oxen or donkeys has Samuel taken from the people? [None.]
 2. Name one event that Samuel reviewed with the people. Here are some hints: Moses and Aaron; judges Deborah and Eglon; other judges. [See “Righteous Acts of the Lord” chart found below for answers.]
 3. Besides worshiping idols, what did Samuel say was *wickedness*? [Asking for a king.]
 4. Who was truly Israel’s king before Saul became their king? [The Lord.]

5. At this time, what grain crop was about to be harvested? [Wheat.]
6. What did God send to show His displeasure with the people for asking for a king? [Thunder, rain, and lightning at the time of wheat harvest.]
7. Whom did the people fear after the thunder, lightning, and rain? [Samuel and the Lord.]
8. Name two things Samuel said that could encourage the people. [Students may look at the raindrops found at the end of this lesson for answers.]

Memory Verse[s]:

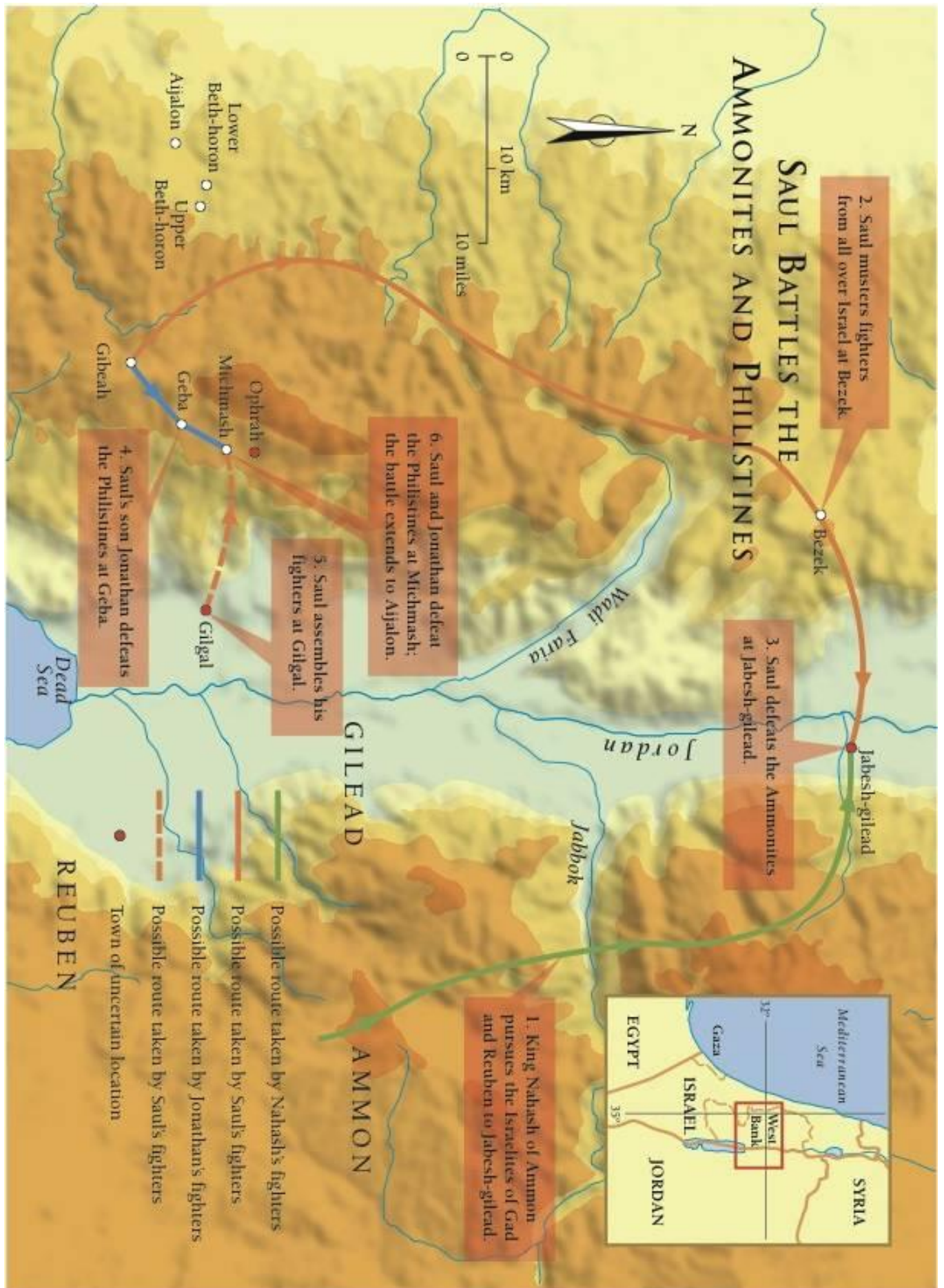
- 1 Samuel 12:20–25: “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself. Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. Nevertheless, I warn you, if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

Handwork:

- Cut raindrops out of blue paper; glue them to dark blue paper. Draw wheat at the bottom or fringe a yellow strip of paper like grass and glue to the bottom of the page. Add lightning and fiberfill clouds in the sky.

Or print on blue paper the raindrops and those with snatches of verse found below and continue as in the instructions above.





RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF THE LORD

- ❖ “The Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought you out of Egypt into this very place,” Gilgal.
- ❖ “When your fathers forgot the Lord their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera (Deborah and Jael), the Philistines; and Moab (Ehud).
- ❖ “Your fathers cried to the Lord, ‘We have sinned in forgetting the Lord and have served idols. Please deliver us, Lord, and we will serve You.’
- ❖ “The Lord sent Gideon, Samson, Jephthah, and Samuel to get rid of your enemies so that you could live safely.
- ❖ “But when you saw Nahash of the Ammonites coming against you, you demanded a king when the Lord was your King. Now here is your king.
- ❖ “You must not forget the Lord. If you fear the Lord, serve Him, and obey Him, and not rebel against His commandment, then you and your king will continue to follow the Lord your God.
- ❖ “But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord but rebel against His commandment, then the hand of the Lord will be against you.





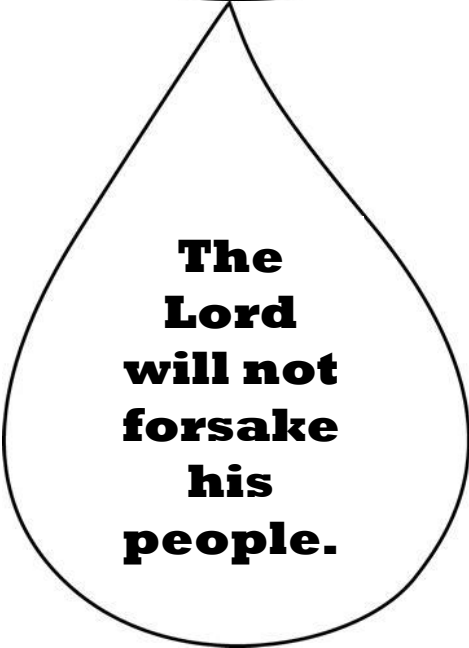
**Do not
be
afraid.**



**Serve
the Lord
with all
your
heart.**



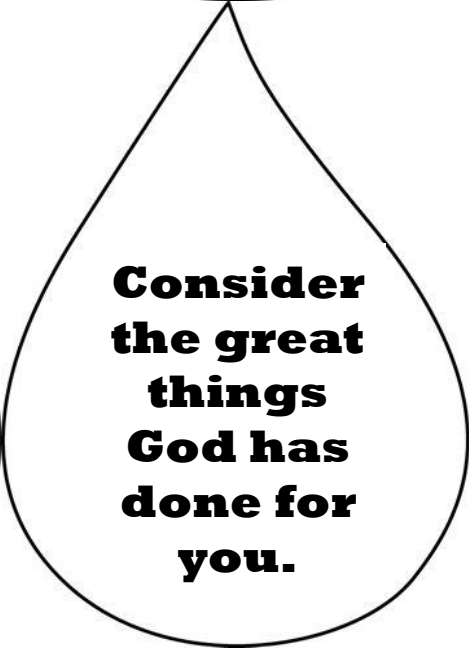
**Do not
turn
aside
after
empty
things.**



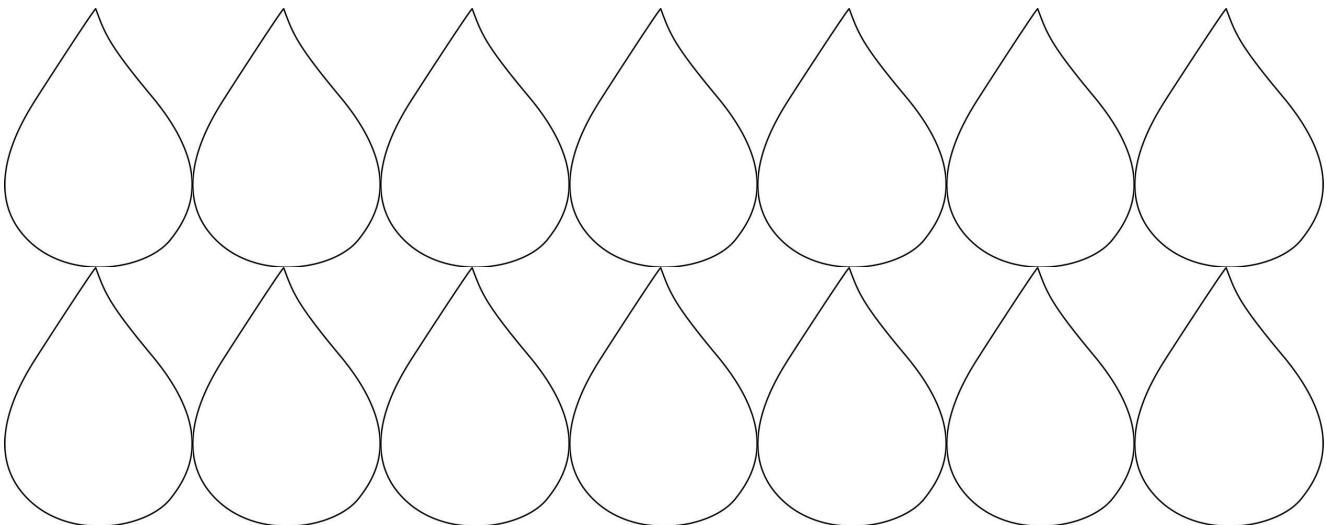
**The
Lord
will not
forsake
his
people.**



**Fear the
Lord.**



**Consider
the great
things
God has
done for
you.**



For a lesson visual aid, print this page on blue cardstock or blue paper. Back paper raindrops with paper towel, cut out, and display in a pocket chart or on a flannel board during the lesson. Use drops, also, for the review-questions game.