

Vacation Church School

Life of Christ #2

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. John 10:16

Lesson: Samuel prophesies of Christ

Memory Verse: *...he did bring glad tidings to my soul. Helaman 5:8*

Goals:

1. Remember the name of Samuel the Lamanite.
2. Know the distinction between Lamanite and Nephite.
3. Remember that Samuel had great faith in God.
4. Understand that prophesy is a great gift that God uses to warn and inform us.
5. Relate the story.
6. Know the story came from the Book of Mormon.

Vocabulary:

1. Samuel the Lamanite
2. Nephite
3. Lamanite
4. prophesy

Scripture References:

Helaman 5:1-5

Introduces Samuel the Lamanite. Samuel was removed from the city but returned after God told him to prophesy what was in his heart. Samuel stood on the wall of the city.

Helaman 5:75-88

Signs of Christ's death. These things are declared to the people so that they will repent and not be forced to suffer.

III Nephi 4:4-30

The fulfillment of Samuel's prophesy.

III Nephi 4: 51

Christ came into the world to bring redemption.

Materials and Preparation Needed:

Story-

- copy of story for each child to read

Introduction and Story:

The Bible and the Book of Mormon both teach us about Christ. Our memory verse for the week is John 10:16. Christ himself tells of other sheep that He will visit. Many of the first people mentioned in the Book of Mormon knew about Christ, just as many people of the Old Testament knew of Christ. Our lessons this week will tell of a group of people on this land that knew of Christ.

Just imagine if an angel came to you and said, "Child's name, the Lord wants you to speak to your city. Tell them they are sinners and they have to repent or be destroyed. Also, there are some signs that they must watch for. When they see them, they will know that Christ is coming to visit them."

What would you do? You might be nervous because you have probably never seen an angel. But remember our memory verse today, "*And behold, an angel of the Lord hath declared it unto me, and he did bring glad tidings to my soul.*" (Helaman 5:8) When the angel visited Samuel he wasn't filled with fear, he was filled with happiness!

Do you remember the difference between a Nephite and a Lamanite? (Allow time to answer) Yes, the Nephites served God while the Lamanites were wicked. The big difference was that, for our story, the Nephites were wicked and the Lamanites were good. It was very hard for the Nephites to accept the words of a Lamanite, even if they were the words of God. Samuel told the Nephites many, many things about their wickedness and then of the birth of Christ. He also tells the signs of Christ's death. Our story comes from the Book of Helaman in the Book of Mormon.

Samuel Prophecies

Samuel had told the people Jesus Christ was going to come into the world very soon. He could have run away from these people who wanted to take his life. But God had put more in his heart to say.

"There is yet another sign!" Samuel cried. "A sign of the Saviour's death. In that day the sun shall be darkened... and the moon and the stars. There shall not be light for three days until the time that he shall rise again from the dead. At the time of his death there shall be thunder and lightening for many hours. Earthquakes will shake the earth so powerfully that they will knock down entire mountains. The ground will heave up dirt and rocks, piling upon each other higher and higher, until new mountains are made where once there were valleys."

Five years later the signs of Christ's birth appeared in the sky just as Samuel had prophesied. Many people believed and rejoiced that the Savior had come. Others hardened their hearts and grew more wicked with each passing year. Thirty-four years passed.

Then one day it happened. A terrible storm began. Thunder shook the earth. Lightning crackled from the sky catching entire cities on fire. The ground trembled and cracked, leaving huge holes in the earth. One city sank into the ocean.

Then came the darkness. It was so dark; you couldn't see your hand in front of you. Fire refused to burn there was nothing but darkness. Then the people began to cry, "If only we had listened to Samuel. If only we had repented and believed in Jesus Christ!"

On the fourth day the light returned to the sky. Nothing was the same. Rocks were everywhere. Great new mountains stood against the sky. The once great city of Zarahelma lay smoldering in a pile of ashes. Moronihah, the city, could be glimpsed through the clear, green water of the sea. It lay on the bottom of the ocean now.

What was that? A voice? A voice spoke, a quiet, gentle voice, yet it could be heard throughout the land. "Behold my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him."

From the sky, a man in glowing white robes came and stood before them. "Behold I am Jesus Christ." Truly, the prophecies of Samuel were the words of God!

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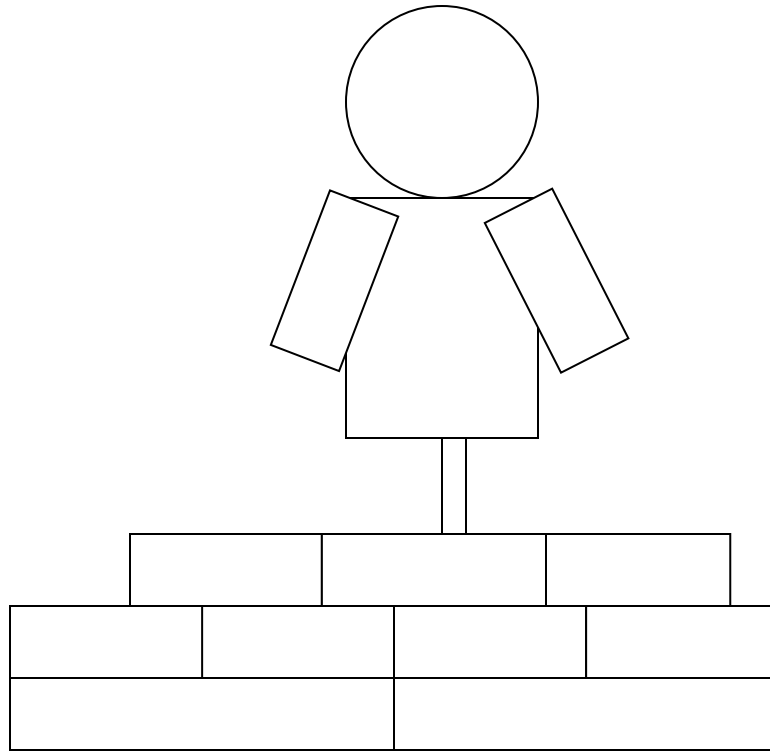
John 10:16

Conclusion: Wouldn't it have been wonderful to hear the voice of God and then see Jesus descend from heaven? Who thinks they would be scared to see these things? Like the people who believed the words that Samuel prophesied, you wouldn't have to fear. You would know that great and wonderful things would happen. As at the time the angel spoke to Samuel the Lamanite, your heart would be filled with gladness.

Optional Activities:

Craft: Samuel Puppet

- ❑ Pencils, markers, crayons
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Glue
- ❑ Construction Paper
- ❑ Patterns 6,7,8
- ❑ Straws or Popsicle sticks
- ❑ Yarn
- ❑ Optional: Fabric, buttons, ric-rac for decorating Samuel's clothes.
- ❑ Prepare:
 1. Cut out 9 blocks for each child. Optional: write memory verse on each block and assemble the blocks so that each child has a set.
 2. Samuel pattern 2 for each child
 3. Clothing pattern 2 for each child
- ❑ Directions-
 1. Glue two Samuel figures to a Popsicle stick, one on either side of the Popsicle stick.
 2. Have children decorate Samuel.
 3. Have children assemble memory verse blocks to make a wall.
 4. Write memory verse on each block.
 5. Review story by reenacting the story with their puppet.



Outside Activity: Samuel on the Wall

- 5 foot square area marked off by trees, etc.
- a flag, like a sock that can be tucked into clothing.
- Directions
 1. The game is played like "King of the Mountain"
 2. A five foot square area is the mountain that "Samuel" protects. The children all try to get into Samuel's area without being caught, grab the flag, and return to the "base." If a child is tagged by "Samuel", he must return to the base. The child that gets the flag first and returns to the base becomes "Samuel."