



# 11

## God Rejects Saul as King



### Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 13:5–6, 13:13; John 14:15

### Lesson Focus

- God wants us to obey Him.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will color and decorate the Crown Coloring Sheet as a review of the previous lesson and/or play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—Students will hear that King Saul disobeyed God, but God wants us to obey Him.

**Song**—Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the Memory Verse Song, the “God Calls You” song, and a new song, “We Gather All Around.” Lyrics to the songs are found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 1: Hide!

Students will quickly find a hiding place when the teacher gives the signal, “The Philistines are coming!” They will return when the whistle blows, remembering that, “We must obey. We can't hide. We have GOD on our side!”



### Activity 2: Stop! and Go!

Students will obey as they walk, hop, and jump toward the finish line.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse using flash cards.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### COME ON IN

- Print one Crown Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Crown Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Optional: Jewel or other type stickers to decorate the crown (available at craft stores)
- Play dough



### CIRCLE TIME

- Print the six Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for use during the lesson.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Bible
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Six Lesson Illustrations
- Stuffed animal for prayer time



### HIDE!

No preparation necessary.

- Lesson Illustrations 1, 2, 3, and 4



### STOP! AND GO!

- Use masking tape to make a finish line on the floor where you will stand for the game.

- Whistle, horn, or some noise maker
- Masking tape



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- If you haven't already done so, print and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flash Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- One set of the Memory Verse Flash Cards
- Poster putty or tape



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson this week, please prepare your heart and mind by reading 1 Samuel 13:1–15 and 15:10–31. Prior to this account, the people had demanded a king so they could be like the other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). God demands that His people worship Him alone as king; He will not share His glory with another (Isaiah 42:8). In demanding a man-king, the people were rejecting God and His kingship. God warned them that life would not be easy for them under worldly kings, but they would not listen. Now Israel was to be under human kings for the next 400 years. Saul was chosen by God to be the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9:17).

Our passage today in 1 Samuel 13 picks up two years after Saul became the king. Israel was afraid of the multitude of Philistines who seemed about to attack. Saul was in Gilgal, and the people with him were trembling with fear (1 Samuel 13:7). Saul felt the need to offer a burnt offering to request the Lord's protection in the coming conflict. However, Samuel, as the Lord's priest and prophet to Israel, had told Saul to wait for him seven days (1 Samuel 10:8), and Samuel had not yet arrived.

Disregarding Samuel's instructions, Saul decided that it would be better to offer the sacrifices himself rather than to wait for Samuel (1 Samuel 13:9). This might appear reasonable. Saul was apparently seeking to honor the Lord and seek His protection, and the people were scattering from him (1 Samuel 13:11). However, when Samuel arrived, he made it clear that Saul had acted foolishly (1 Samuel 13:13). Saul had not obeyed the Lord. In spite of what Saul perceived as real, imminent danger, he should have obeyed and trusted God to prevail. The anxiety and concern Saul felt over the Philistines was the product of his lack of trust in God, which led to his disobedience. And we will see that God's priority is always a trusting, obedient heart, not the outward performance of religious duty.

Saul continued to establish his reign over Israel. He fought against his enemies on every side (1 Samuel 14:47–48). He had not, however, learned the lesson of obedience to the God and Creator of all things. The events of 1 Samuel 15 show again Saul's tendency to trust his own judgment rather than to obey God. In this chapter, Israel fought against and defeated the Amalekites. God had clearly commanded Saul to destroy all of that tribe, including women, children, and livestock (1 Samuel 15:3). But again Saul considered his

own wisdom above God's wisdom. In disobedience to God's direct command, Saul kept the king and the best of the livestock alive, presumably for the purpose of showing off the defeated king and making sacrifices to God (1 Samuel 15:15). Samuel confronted Saul again with God's priority, declaring plainly that God desires obedience from His people more than even the sacrifices that are meant to honor Him (1 Samuel 15:22). Saul not only disobeyed, but as king, he also set an example for the people of Israel that God would not tolerate trusting self as opposed to trusting God.

Saul suffered severe consequences for his disobedience. The Lord rejected him from being king over Israel (1 Samuel 15:26). The Lord promised that the kingdom of Israel would be taken from him and given to a neighbor who was better than he (1 Samuel 13:14, 15:28). Saul would no longer benefit from the wise counsel of Samuel, his friend and God's prophet and priest (1 Samuel 15:35). The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him (1 Samuel 16:14).

As we consider the life of Saul and his failure to trust and obey God, we know that the unchanging God still demands obedience from His people. In very simple terms, John 14:15 states this critical biblical principle: "If you love Me, keep My commandments." A heart that loves God will produce a life that keeps His commands—not perfectly, but characteristically.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Saul did not realize several things that God intended to accomplish in the commands that He gave. God intended to show the glory of His guardianship of the nation of Israel by the complete destruction of the Amalekites, who had treacherously harried the Israelites after God had delivered them from Egypt (Exodus 17:8–16). This may seem harsh to us, but God intended a particular display in history of His complete and jealous protection of His people, Israel.

Furthermore, God designed Israel's history to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, Jesus. Jesus alone may carry the offices of prophet (His words carry God's authority—Matthew 17:5), priest (He offered Himself for our sins—Hebrews 7:26–27), and king (He is the King of kings—Revelation 19:16). Saul's presumption in performing the role of priest in the sacrifice at Gilgal was contrary to God's purpose to preserve the honor of His Son, who alone is worthy of all of these offices. It is

true that Saul may not have understood God's purposes fully, and in that regard, we may find ourselves sympathizing with him. However, the issue that is inescapable is that of simple obedience.

We find ourselves quite often without the ability to see how things will turn out—in situations that make obedience to God seem impractical or (to our minds) impossible. Yet God clearly calls us to obey, and He commands us to obey even (or especially!) when we cannot discern how that obedience will either benefit us or glorify God. Seen in the proper perspective, such a situation is precisely when our trust in God can be fully displayed. It is far easier to obey God when the benefit of obedience is clear. Such obedience coincides with self-interest. In the book of Job, Satan accused Job of obeying God, not because he loved and trusted Him, but because Job saw that it was in his own best interest to obey (Job 1:9–11). Of course, Job continued to worship God even after everything was taken from him, giving us an example to follow.

The heart that truly loves and trusts God will act in obedience simply because it accepts that God is good and His commands are right, regardless of the apparent outcome. Such obedience demonstrates a heart that believes that God does not need to explain Himself—that whatever He commands is good. In that kind of obedience and trust, God is glorified.

In the end, a disposition of the heart to love God inclines us to honor Him with our obedience, and it is that kind of heart that God seeks. Saul's heart was inclined to obey God in the way that Saul thought best, rather than to unconditionally trust that God's commands were good. We must be careful not to repeat Saul's mistake.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Precious Redeemer and Living Word, thank you for providing such a great salvation. How I long for the day when you rule as King. In the meantime, help me and my students to grasp that you desire our obedience above any sacrifice we can bring. Convict us through your Word that we would choose your way over ours—your way, according to your holy Word. Holy God, for the students in my class that don't know you as Lord, please convict them of their sins so they would become truly repentant and long for the forgiveness and the love of the Savior.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color and/or decorate the Crown Coloring Sheet as a review and/or play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.*

*Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, six Lesson Illustrations, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** *Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we're sorry for the sinful things we've done.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.

**I'll start. Dear God, you will forgive all our sins. Please forgive me for . . .**  
*(insert personal prayer).*

*Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.*

**Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.**

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **Who made you?** *God.*
- ? **What else did God make?** *All things.*
- ? **Why did God make you and all things?** *For His own glory.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? **Where is God?** *God is everywhere.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.*

## Bible Pass Around

► Use a sticky note to mark the first passage to be read.

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.**  
*Hold up your Bible. God's Word is true and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number (choose a number). You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

*Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around. Refer to the Lesson 10 Flip Chart Page.*

**God called Samuel to be the leader and judge over Israel. But the people decided they wanted to be just like the nations around them who had kings for rulers. So the Israelites rejected God as their King and wanted a**

man to be their king instead. God warned them that there would be a lot of problems if they did this, but they wanted it so badly! So a man named Saul was chosen to be their new king.

Let's open the Bible to 1 Samuel now! We'll see that it didn't take long for the trouble to start. Listen carefully as I read this. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is.* **Let's see how Saul did as the new king of Israel.** *Show the students where the verse is. Have the student sit back down. Read 1 Samuel 13:5 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

1 Samuel 13:5

? Who gathered to fight? *The Philistines.* Say that with me, Phil-i-stines.

? Who were the Philistines coming to fight with? *Israel.*

Yes! They wanted to fight against Israel. They were mean and strong soldiers and warriors. *Show Lesson Illustration #1. Lay it on the floor in the circle.* There were 30,000 chariots! *Show Lesson Illustration #2. Lay it on the floor.* 6,000 horsemen! *Show Lesson Illustration #3. Lay it on the floor.* And lots of these soldiers—these Philistines! *Refer to Lesson Illustration #1.* This looks scary doesn't it? Well, I think the Israelites WERE scared! Listen to this. *Read 1 Samuel 13:6.*

1 Samuel 13:6

? The people knew they were in danger! What did they do? *They hid in rocks, in holes, and in pits. Show Lesson Illustration #4. Lay it on the floor.*

Some of them ran and hid in rocks, in holes, and in pits. Others ran away! And the Bible says the people were trembling!

? Do you know what that means? *Allow discussion.*

? It means they were REALLY scared. And they were SO scared their bodies were shaking in fear! Have you ever been that scared? *Allow discussion.*

Well, Saul was the king now. He was the leader. But he was really scared, too! *Show Lesson Illustration #5. Lay it on the floor.* He knew God could help, but he was supposed to wait for God's prophet, God's priest, Samuel. *Show Lesson Illustration #6. Lay it on the floor.* Since Samuel was God's priest, he would offer a sacrifice to the Lord to bring God's blessing and protection on Israel. Saul waited and waited, but Samuel didn't come. Saul probably thought, "Samuel should have been here by now. What's taking him so long?" King Saul was scared. And he just couldn't wait any longer. He made the offering to God instead of waiting for Samuel to make it, and just then Samuel came and saw what Saul was doing. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

Listen to what Samuel said to Saul. *Read 1 Samuel 13:13 emphasizing "you have done foolishly. You have NOT kept the commandment of God."*

? How had Saul acted? *Foolishly!*

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

1 Samuel 13:13

? What did Saul do that was so foolish? *He disobeyed God; did not keep the commandment.*

Saul did not keep the commandment of the Lord. He disobeyed God! Saul didn't wait for Samuel, and God would punish him for his sin. King Saul would not be king anymore. God was going to find someone else to be the next king.

? What did God want Saul to do? *Obey Him. Wait for Samuel.*

? What does God want US to do? *Obey Him.*

? When should we obey God? *All the time.*

God wants us to obey Him all the time. God wanted Saul to obey Him. And guess what? Jesus said the same thing. Jesus said we must obey. Just listen to this! *Read John 14:15 emphasizing you will "keep my commandments."*

John 14:15

? What will we do if we love Him? *Keep His commandments!*

Yes. If we love God—really love Him—then we will obey or keep His commands. We will obey God's Word. As you grow up, remember that. Saul didn't obey. He did not trust God. He did not wait for Samuel, the prophet. Saul didn't listen to God's Word. And God punished Saul. God took the kingdom away. Saul was no longer the king of the people. God was going to choose a new king!

## SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse and Song Pages as you sing.

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. God wants us to memorize His Word. It's easier to obey if we know God's Word! Let me see who is learning God's Word. We'll sing our Memory Verse Song. Ready? Sing together while clapping and marching around the room.*

*Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Good job! This next song will remind us that God calls us to obey Him. Let's sing "God Calls You." Ready? Sing and repeat together "God Calls You." You may want to add clapping or skipping in a circle. That was great!*

God wants us to worship and obey Him in everything we do. He is there when you are watching TV, or playing with your toys, or even in the middle of playing a game. You can worship God all the time! Think about Him, talk to Him, and remember Him. This song is a good reminder that God is with us wherever we go and in whatever we're doing. Sing this song with me. It's called "We Gather All Around." *Teach the words and motions then repeat the song together. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.*



# Hide!

## MATERIALS

- Lesson Illustrations 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Whistle, horn, or some noise maker

## INSTRUCTIONS

*This is a game like "Hide and Seek." Have students stand together in a circle facing outward. When you give the signal, "The Philistines are coming!" the students will run to a wall and pretend to hide. Then blow the whistle or other noise maker. They will return to the circle and repeat the phrase, "We must obey. We can't hide! We have GOD on our side!"*

*Repeat the phrase with them a few times before you start. Have them say it loud, soft, whisper, etc. as you repeat the activity.*

**Remember in our lesson that there were some mean fighters called the Philistines? They were enemies of Israel and hated them. Show Lesson Illustration #1 or Flip Chart. They were so mean and cruel that the Israelites were really scared! They had chariots and horsemen!**

*Show Lesson Illustrations #2 and #3. The Israelites ran and hid. They didn't trust God! Show Lesson Illustration #4. Today, we're going to pretend that we are the Israelites and the Philistines are coming. When I shout "The Philistines are coming!" I want you to run and hide! When I blow the whistle I want you to run back here and say, "We must obey. We can't hide. We have GOD on our side!" Let's practice that a couple of times. Repeat the phrase with the children, and then play the game.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Philistines were evil and mean enemies. The Israelites were so scared of them that they ran and hid from them! God tells us in His Word that we don't need to be afraid. We don't have to hide. He is always with us. He wants us to obey Him. We have GOD on our side!



# Stop! and Go!

## MATERIALS

- Masking tape to mark finish line

## INSTRUCTIONS

Students will play an obedience game similar to “Red Light, Green Light.” Mark a finish line on the floor in front of where you will stand with masking tape. Have the students line up across the room from you. Put your hands over your eyes (so you can peek if you need to) and say “Go!” Tell the students to move forward until you take your hands away and shout “Stop!” When you say stop, the students should repeat the jingle again “We must obey. We can’t hide. We have GOD on our side!” Students who do not obey completely must take three steps back. When they reach the finish line, start the game again.

Games can be played with children walking, hopping on one foot, jumping with both feet, taking baby steps, or crawling.

God wants us to obey. So we’re going to play a game to see if you can obey! Line up next to each other. I’m going to stand over there behind that line. That’s the finish line. When I cover my eyes and say “Go!” you need to walk forward toward me. But be careful—when I say “Stop!” you have to stop where you are. When you stop, I want

you to repeat our jingle, “We must obey. We can’t hide. We have GOD on our side!” You can’t move after I say stop and you must say the jingle! If you don’t, you have to go back three steps. When you get to this line you can put up your hands and say, “Hurray!” Are you all ready? *Play the game.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God does want us to obey Him. Sometimes it’s hard to obey. We saw in our lesson today that Saul couldn’t obey. He didn’t trust God and He didn’t want to wait for Samuel to get there. *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.*

? How do we know what God wants us to do? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible tells us.*

? Can you think of some ways to obey God? *Allow for answers.*

The Bible, God’s Word, tells us how to obey God. It says we need to obey our parents, be kind, love others, worship only God, stop complaining, and many other commands. God wants us to obey! That’s what I want you to remember!



# Memory Verse Review and Activity

**1 Samuel 16:7b** For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times.*

## MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flash Cards
- Tape or poster putty for sticking cards to the wall

## INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's use our flash cards for a game. I'm going to stick the cards up here on the wall. Every time I stick one up, we'll say the **words**. *Using tape or putty, stick each card, in order, up on the wall within easy reach for students. Have students repeat the words after you as you stick the cards up.*

Great! Now say the whole verse with me.

**Ready?** *Recite the verse again, pointing to each card on the wall.*

Okay, now I'm going to make it tricky.

**Watch. I'm going to take away a card!** *Take away one card.*

**Can we still say it? Let's try.** *Recite the verse.*

*Take away another card and recite. Choose students to come up and take away a card, reciting after each card is taken away.*

**Great job, everybody!** *Repeat as time allows or sing the Memory Verse Song.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God wants us to obey. One reason He gave us the Bible is so we can learn how to obey Him. The more we learn His Word, the easier it will be to obey Him.



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review the lesson with the children while enjoying the snack for the day.*

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* Saul was the new king. God said there would be trouble and there was! The enemy was attacking! And then Saul did not obey God. He made a sacrifice to God, but he was supposed to wait for Samuel, the prophet. God wanted King Saul to obey. God took King Saul's kingdom away from him. God would make another man the next king!

God wants us to obey. We can learn to obey God as we learn more about God's Word.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

We might wonder what all this has to do with us. After all, it happened a very long time ago! Well, we don't have prophets like Samuel, do we? But, let's think a minute. We are supposed to obey and trust God just like Saul was supposed to. God has given us His Word and all of His commands. He wants us to live by this book—the Bible. I want this book, the Bible, to be your very favorite book when you learn to read! It will tell you all about Samuel, Saul, God, and Jesus! It will really change your life. And it will teach you how to obey, trust, and love God more!



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Pray that we will choose to obey Him every day.
- Pray that God will give us hearts that truly love Him.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## 1 SAMUEL 16:7

*(To the tune of "Are you sleeping?")*

*Shout: 1 Samuel 16:7!*

**For the Lord,**  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

**For the Lord,**  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

**Does not see—**  
*(Brother John?)*

**As man sees!**  
*(Brother John?)*

**Man looks at the outward—**  
*(Morning bells are ringing.)*

**The ou-outward appearance.**  
*(Morning bells are ringing.)*

**But the Lord—**  
*(Ding, ding, dong,)*

**Looks at the heart!**  
*(Ding, ding, dong.)*

*Shout: 1 Samuel 16:7!*

## GOD CALLS YOU!

*(To the tune of "Skip, Skip, Skip to My Lou")*

**God calls you to obey.**  
*(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou.)*

**God calls you to obey.**  
*(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou.)*

**God calls you to obey.**  
*(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou.)*

**Yes! I'll obey today, Lord!**  
*(Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.)*

*Think of fun ways to sing. For example:*

*Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction.*

*Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out!*

*Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.*

## WE GATHER ALL AROUND

*(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")*

*With hand motions*

**We gather all around.**  
*(The farmer in the dell,)  
Walk in circle, holding hands.*

**To hear God's holy Word.**  
*(The farmer in the dell,)  
Stand still, hold hands like open book.*

**We pray and thank him every day.**  
*(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)  
Bow head, fold hands.*

**We praise and love our God.**  
*(The farmer in the dell.)  
Stretch both arms up in praise, then cross arms over heart.*

**God is with us there.**  
*Point away.*

**God is with us here.**  
*Point to self.*

**God is with us everywhere.**  
*Stretch both arms up, then outward.*

**We praise and love our God.**  
*Stretch both arms up in praise, then cross arms over heart.*

