

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 82: SAUL AND HIS SONS DIE IN BATTLE
1 SAMUEL 31

Once the Philistines were fighting Israel at Mount Gilboa. Israel's soldiers ran away from the Philistines, and many of them were killed and wounded in Mount Gilboa. The Philistines closed in on Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. The fighting was fierce around Saul, and he was badly wounded by the enemy's arrows. Saul told the soldier who carried his weapons, "Kill me with your sword! I don't want those worthless Philistines to torture me and make fun of me." But the soldier was afraid to kill him. Saul then took out his own sword; he stuck the blade into his stomach, and fell down on it. When the soldier knew that Saul was dead, he killed himself the very same way that Saul did. Saul was dead, his three sons were dead, and the soldier who carried his weapons was dead. They and all his soldiers died on that same day. The Israelites on the other side of the Jezreel Valley and the other side of the Jordan all learned that Saul and his sons were dead. They saw that the whole Israelite army had run away, so they ran away too, and the Philistines moved into the towns the Israelites had left behind. The day after the battle, when the Philistines returned to the battlefield to take the weapons of the dead Israelite soldiers, they found Saul and his three sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines cut off Saul's head and pulled off his armor. Then they put his armor in the temple of their goddess Astarte, and they nailed his body to the city wall of Beth-Shan. They also sent messengers everywhere in Philistia to spread the good news in the temples of their idols and among their people. The people who lived in Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul's body. So one night, some brave men from Jabesh Gilead went to Beth-Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons, then brought them back to Jabesh and burned them. They buried the bones under a small tree in Jabesh, and for seven days, they fasted, which means they went without eating, to show their sorrow.

82. SAUL AND HIS SONS DIE IN BATTLE

1 SAMUEL 31



Saul told the soldier who carried his weapons, "Kill me with your sword! I don't want those worthless Philistines to torture me and make fun of me." But the soldier was afraid to kill him. Saul then took out his own sword; he stuck the blade into his stomach, and fell down on it.

1 SAMUEL 31:4

82. SAUL AND HIS SONS DIE IN BATTLE

1 SAMUEL 31

MEMORY VERSE:

"Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you from being king." **1 SAMUEL 15:23**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The Philistines fought against Israel and the Israelite soldiers ran away and many died or were injured. TRUE or FALSE
2. The Philistines chased Saul and his sons, but never caught them.
TRUE or FALSE
3. The battle was fierce, and Saul was badly injured by the enemy's arrows.
TRUE or FALSE
4. Saul told the man who carried his weapons to take his sword and kill him so that the Philistines wouldn't torture and kill him. TRUE or FALSE
5. So the man who carried Saul's weapons did what Saul asked him to do.
TRUE or FALSE

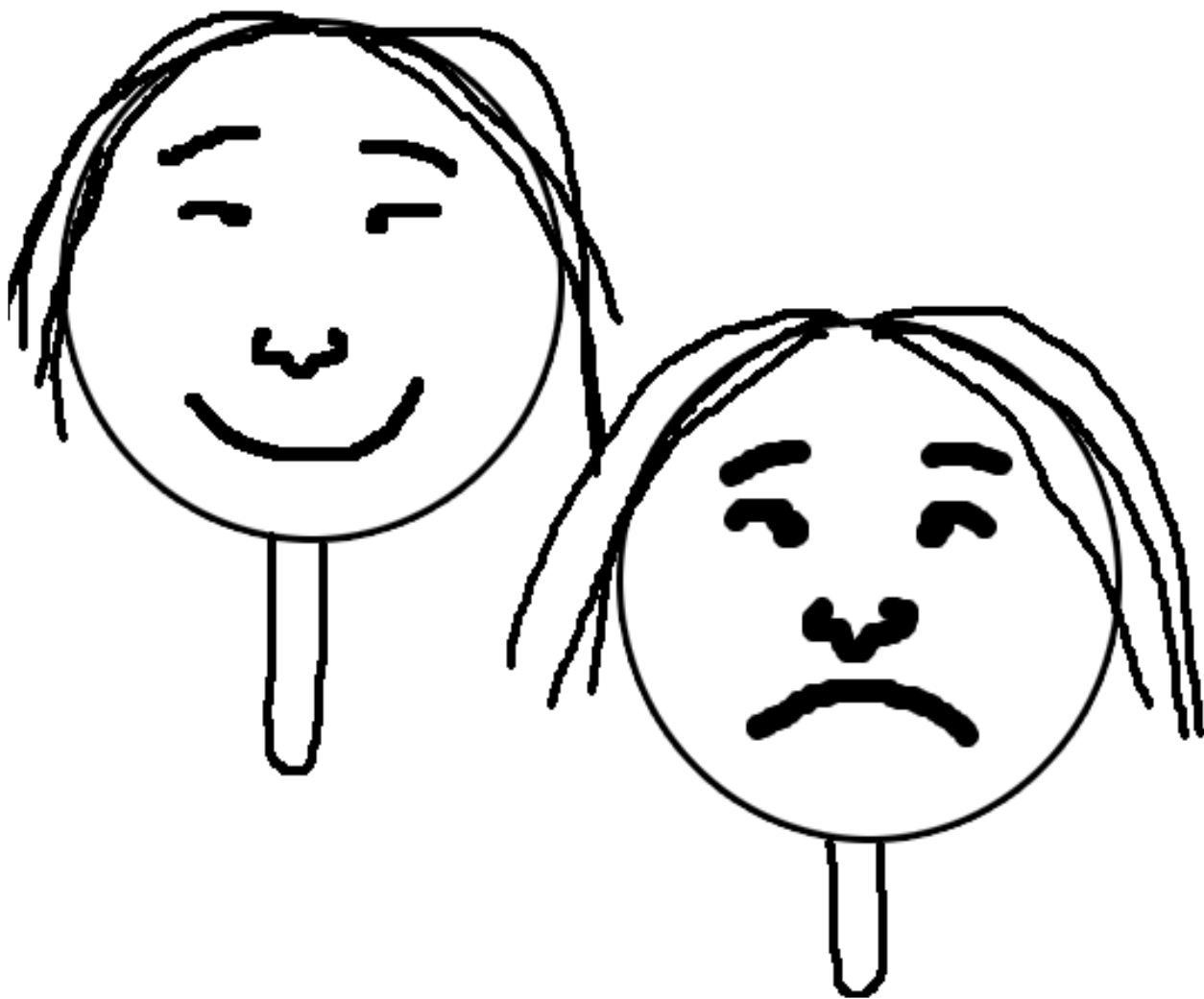
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What happened to Saul's three sons? Did the Philistines kill them?
2. When the Philistines came back to the battle field what did they do to Saul? Did they cut off his head? Ewww!!
3. What did the men from Jabesh Gilead do with the bodies of Saul and his sons? Did they take them down from the city walls?
4. Were the Israelite people sad that Saul and his sons were dead?
5. What did they do to show that they were sad? Did they stop eating? Do you remember what it's called to stop eating?

Lesson 82 Craft

Happy Face Sad Face

Make a sad face/happy face puppet Craft - Glue or staple two plates together back to back with a large craft stick in the middle of them. Have the children draw a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other. Let them glue, draw, or tape on hair. (You can use cut strands of yarn for the hair if you want). Show how the Israelites became sad when they heard that King Saul and his sons were dead by flipping the puppet around to the sad face.



PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be obedient to God's Word. Ask the Lord to help the children to make the right choices leading to a blessed life. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.