

Investigating God's Word...

YEAR FOUR

**II Samuel 1-12,
I Chronicles 1-20**

Sunday School Curriculum

Spring Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Spring Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	II Samuel 13-14
Week Two	II Samuel 15
Week Three	II Samuel 16
Week Four	II Samuel 17
Week Five	II Samuel 18:1-19:8
Week Six	II Samuel 19:9-43
Week Seven	II Samuel 20
Week Eight	II Samuel 21
Week Nine	II Samuel 22
Week Ten	II Samuel 23
Week Eleven	II Samuel 24, I Chronicles 21
Week Twelve	I Chronicles 22-27
Week Thirteen	I Chronicles 28-29

Summer Quarter: John



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Proverbs 9:10-12</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>The Day of Atonement</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Atonement</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>II Samuel 21</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>I John 2:2</i>	2-3 min.

Lesson Eight

II Samuel 21

Overview

II Samuel 21 recounts some other events that occur during David's reign as king of Israel. The first event involves a severe famine in Israel—one that lasts three years. David seeks the face of God to discover why the famine is going on so long. God, in His mercy, shows David that the cause of the famine is the unresolved genocide of the Gibeonites by the late King Saul. David immediately goes to the Gibeonites to make restitution for Saul's sin. The price for atonement is the death of seven of Saul's male descendants. David agrees and the seven are put to death. God sees the atonement and releases the land from its curse. Rizpah, mother of two of the dead sons, mourns their deaths. David brings the bones of Saul and Jonathan home for a fitting burial.

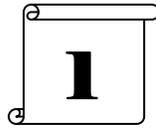
The second part of the chapter focuses on David's recurring problems with the Philistines. They continue to send their giants from Gath in order to kill him. Abishai and his fighting men realize the danger of losing David in a battle and forbid David from stepping into harm's way again. Along with Abishai, three other courageous men fight the giants of Gath and defeat them. God has once again delivered David and His people from their enemies.

Preparation

Read and meditate on II Samuel 21 this week.

Teaching Encouragement

II Samuel 21-24 are some of the more ignored chapters in all of the two books of Samuel. They are often treated as just extra tidbits of David's reign that have little relevance for the Christian life today. This is an unfortunate view to have about any of God's revealed and inspired Word! To skip over the first half of II Samuel 21 would mean missing out on another lesson about the need of atonement for sins. Your children need to be reminded of their sin, their separation from God because of sin, and the need for blood to be shed to deal with that sin. They also get the opportunity to see the mercy of God in II Samuel 21. God mercifully delivers Israel from the famine caused by Saul's sin, and he mercifully protects David from his enemies by the strength of the mighty fighting men. Enjoy these stories that you may never have heard before!



Welcome

Greet the children. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students to study today, read Proverbs 9:10-12.

¹⁰“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. ¹²If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.”

Say: *How do you begin to grow in knowledge? [By fearing the LORD.] With following the LORD comes the potential blessing of a long, rewarding life. With disobedience comes needless suffering. Let's enjoy life today by studying God's Word!*



Drill Time

Let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *What animals were sacrificed in Israel on the Day of Atonement? What did the priests do with the first goat? What did the priests do with the second goat, called the scapegoat? How often did Israel have the Day of Atonement?*

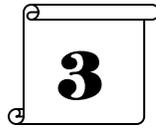
Call on volunteers. Work together as a class, if needed

Answers:

1. A bull and two goats.
2. The first goat was sacrificed as a sin offering. Its blood was shed for the sins of the people.
3. The priest put the sins of the people “on” the scapegoat, and then sent it out of the wilderness.
4. Once a year.

Say: *The Day of Atonement was a very important day for the Israelites because it dealt with all of their sins for the year. The blood of the bull and the goat was shed as a sacrifice for sins. But did that blood really take away their sins? No! That blood was a picture of what Jesus does for us. That leads us to our W.O.W!*

The answers to today's **Drill Time** questions can be found in **Leviticus 16**.



W.O.W!

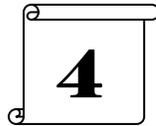
Our *W.O.W!* (Word of the Week) this week is **ATONEMENT**.
Write it on the board.

To understand the word ATONEMENT we first must know that human beings are born as enemies of God because of our sins. We are all separated from God and deserve to be sent to Hell for our sins. Do you all understand that?

ATONEMENT is the process of becoming friends with God again by the “covering” of our sins. Our sins need to be dealt with. They must be covered so that God’s anger for sin is satisfied.

Another way to remember what ATONEMENT is all about is by looking at the word this way: It is becoming AT-ONE with God again. When our sins are forgiven, we can become AT-ONE with God (in relationship with God) instead of separated from Him.

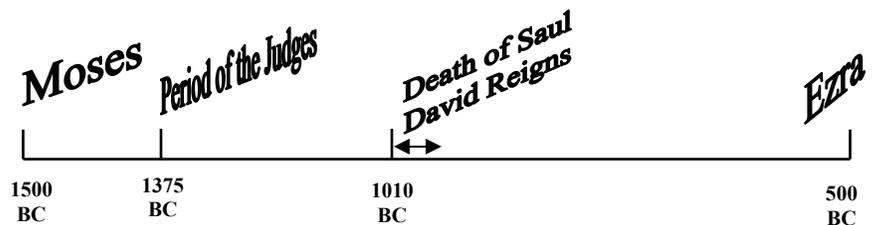
According to God’s way, the only thing that can bring ATONEMENT for sin is the shedding of blood. Someone else’s blood must be shed to ATONE for your sin. Whose blood must be shed to bring you ATONEMENT? [Jesus’ blood!]

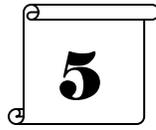


Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board to help the students put the lesson in historical context.

II Samuel 13-24 Timeline





Bible Investigation

Have the children turn in their Bibles to II Samuel 21.

Introduction: *King David is now back in Jerusalem, reigning over God's people. He has survived a rebellion by Absalom as well as one from Sheba. God continues to protect David, even though David is receiving the consequences of his sin. These next few chapters of II Samuel recount stories that occurred some time during David's reign.*

Let's begin our reading. Read II Samuel 21:1.

¹ During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death."

Discussion: *What did David do after Israel experienced three years of famine? [He prayed to the LORD.] What did God tell David was the cause of this severe famine? [It was because Saul put the Gibeonites to death.] Do you remember the Gibeonites? We'll remind ourselves about them in a moment.*

Application: *The important thing to learn here is how David looked to God to figure out why Israel was suffering from such a famine. Often times we just try to figure things out on our own. We should go to God in prayer! When Christians go to God in prayer, He often gives us insight into our difficult situations.*

Let's continue. Read verse 2.

² The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not a part of Israel but were survivors of the Amorites; the Israelites had sworn to spare them, but Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them.)

Discussion: *We are reminded about who the Gibeonites were. They were the ones who deceived Joshua and the elders of Israel so that they were promised protection by Israel. Years later, King Saul tried to wipe out all of the Gibeonites, which went against the promise made to them by Israel. So the famine was brought on the land because Saul shed innocent blood of the Gibeonites. The people of Israel were receiving the consequence of Saul's sinful behavior. It is very merciful of God to reveal this insight to David—so he can do something about it!*

What will David do? Read verse 3.

³ David asked the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make amends so that you will bless the LORD’s inheritance?”

Discussion: *Now that the LORD has shown David what the problem is, the king goes to the Gibeonites to solve it. But how can Israel make amends for all of the blood that King Saul shed?*

Let’s see. Read verses 4-6.

⁴ The Gibeonites answered him, “We have no right to demand silver or gold from Saul or his family, nor do we have the right to put anyone in Israel to death.” “What do you want me to do for you?” David asked. ⁵ They answered the king, “As for the man who destroyed us and plotted against us so that we have been decimated and have no place anywhere in Israel, ⁶ let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and exposed before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul—the Lord’s chosen one.” So the king said, “I will give them to you.”

Discussion: *The Gibeonites must have known God’s Law. In God’s Law, the only way to ATONE for the shedding of blood is that the person who shed blood must lose his life as well. But Saul can’t be killed for his sin because he is already dead! So the Gibeonites asked for seven of Saul’s sons to be killed to make ATONEMENT for Saul’s sins.*

Application: *Now this might not sound right to us in today’s modern world—but it was right according to God’s Law given to the Israelites. The only way murder could be cleansed from the land is if blood was shed to ATONE for it. Thankfully, someone has now ATONED for the sins of God’s people, so we don’t have to shed blood for our own sins. Who has made ATONEMENT for our sins? [Jesus has!] Because of Jesus ATONING for His people’s sins, we don’t receive the wrath of God. We don’t have a spiritual famine anymore. Isn’t that great?*

Let’s read on. Read verses 7-9.

⁷ The king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath before the LORD between David and Jonathan son of Saul. ⁸ But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, whom she had borne to Saul, together with the five sons of Saul’s daughter Merab, whom she had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite. ⁹ He handed them over to the Gibeonites, who killed and exposed them on a hill before the LORD. All seven of them fell together; they were put to death during the first days of the harvest, just as the barley harvest was beginning.

Discussion: *Why did David spare Mephibosheth?* [Because he was Jonathan's son whom David promised to save and protect.] *So other descendants of Saul were chosen to die, to make ATONEMENT for his sin. Did God accept this ATONEMENT? How do we know?* [We're told that the barley harvest was beginning.] *The famine was now over!*

Application: *Just to emphasize it again: The only way for our sins to be covered is by a perfect Savior making ATONEMENT for our sins. Thank God that we have Jesus!*

Let's continue. Read verses 10-14.

¹⁰ Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds of the air touch them by day or the wild animals by night. ¹¹ When David was told what Aiah's daughter Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done, ¹² he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. (They had taken them secretly from the public square at Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them after they struck Saul down on Gilboa.) ¹³ David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from there, and the bones of those who had been killed and exposed were gathered up. ¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul's father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, and did everything the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land.

Discussion: *This is a pretty sad scene, isn't it? Rizpah was mourning the loss of her children. David sympathized and gave Saul and Jonathan a decent burial. A very sad ending to the life and legacy of King Saul. Yet the most important fact is at the rest of this section. Did God answer David's prayer on behalf of the land? [Yes!] This ATONEMENT brought restoration to the land and no more famine. The sin of Saul had been dealt with.*

Now, another story. Read verses 15-16.

¹⁵ Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines, and he became exhausted. ¹⁶ And Ishbi-Benob, one of the descendants of Rapha, whose bronze spearhead weighed three hundred shekels and who was armed with a new sword, said he would kill David.

Discussion: *You remember the Philistines, right? David defeated the top warrior of the Philistines as a young man. What was his name? [Goliath.] The Philistines were constantly fighting against Israel. And, they were always looking to kill David!*

Let's read what happens. Read verse 17.

¹⁷ But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished."

Discussion: *That was close! Who rescued David? [Abishai.] More importantly, David's mighty fighting men realized that it was much too risky to have David involved in the battles. He was God's anointed king! He was the "lamp" of Israel that brought light to the people.*

Let's read more. Read verses 18-19.

¹⁸ In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha. ¹⁹ In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod.

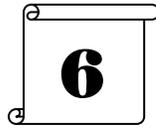
Discussion: *Now we learn the names of two more of David's mighty fighting men. Both of these men killed some of the most powerful men of the Philistine army. The LORD used both Sibbecai and Elhanan to protect Israel from the Philistines.*

Let's finish our reading. Read verses 20-22.

²⁰ In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha. ²¹ When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimeah, David's brother, killed him. ²² These four were descendants of Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men.

Discussion: *Can you imagine what this last giant looked like—with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot? He and those four other giants of Gath were just like Goliath—and they were defeated just like Goliath. God used David's mighty men to defeat these horrible enemies.*

Conclusion: *So we learn two major things in our reading today. Who can tell me what you learned? Allow answers. We learned that we need ATONEMENT for our sins—by the blood sacrifice of someone else. Who has made ATONEMENT for us? [Jesus.] We also learned that God protects His people from their enemies, through the God-given strength of other people. David needed His mighty men to defeat these giants of the Philistines. We will continue reading in II Samuel next time...*



Lesson-At-Home

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (I John 2:2) together.

I John 2:2 (NIV)

²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Say: *Who is this verse talking about? Who is the ATONING sacrifice for our sins? [Jesus!] That’s right, Jesus came to make ATONEMENT for the sins of all His people in the entire world. Memorize this verse so you can always remember who has come to ATONE for your sins.*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.