



## BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 24

### SAUL ANOINTED (1 SAMUEL 9)

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 9:13–37, 10:1

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Cups, donkey page, scavenger hunt clues, construction paper, pieces of paper cut like confetti.

#### Ask:

- Who was the last judge of Israel? (Samuel)
- When and how was he called? (By God three times in the night)
- Today, we're going to find out what happened after the time of the judges.

#### Explain:

During the time of Samuel, the people of Israel began to grumble against the Lord. They wanted to have a king like other lands did. God didn't want them to have a king, because he was supposed to be their king. However, God gave the people what they wanted, but not without warning them the damage a king would do to their nation. Still, the people begged for a king, so Samuel anoints Saul, the son of Kish as the first king of Israel.

#### Play a Game:

Saul never planned on becoming king. And the story begins with him searching for his father's lost donkeys. So we're going to go on a scavenger hunt for some donkeys of our own.

**Note for the teacher:** This is something I can't create for you, because it depends on your room and space for children's church. At the end of the lesson are clue cards. Use as many cards as you like, depending on the age of your kids and time you have. Write the clues out, with one clue leading to the next and hide them accordingly. If you're good with rhymes, it's fun to make a short verse that feels like a riddle.

**Read:** 1 Samuel 9:13–10:1

**Activity:**

You can either do this immediately after your scavenger hunt (before reading the passage) or after the reading. Create a horn by rolling paper and taping it (it will look like a funnel). Fill it with confetti and anoint those that found the donkeys.

Explain anointing was used in the Bible for several purposes. Priests were anointed, and some kings were too. They were set apart for a special service to God.

**Read:** 1 Samuel 10:20-25

**Ask:**

- Why do you think Saul hid? (Allow for answers. Maybe afraid, uncomfortable)
- Would you have wanted to be king?
- Imagine running an errand for your parents and finding out you're the next king.

**Activity:**

Look for Saul among the "baggage." Place the small crown or a coin in the top of a stack of paper cups. Stack the cups up. Have the kids remove sections of cups to see if they find the crown. If they pull from the top, they must put the cups on the bottom. If they pull a section from the bottom, they must put it on the top. Go until the crown is found. Fun story, my kids made this game up for this lesson and it is surprisingly fun!

**Apply:**

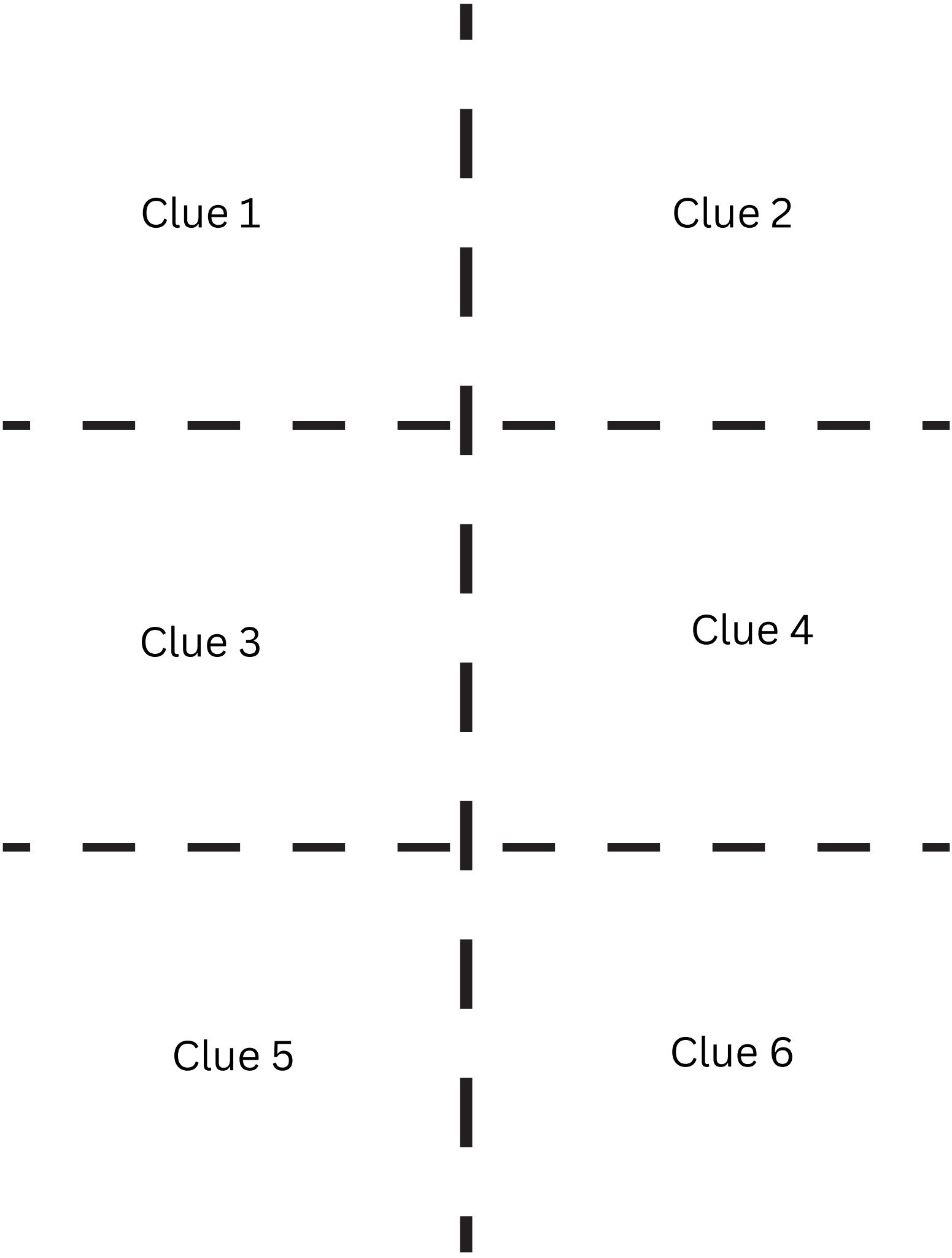
Sometimes we feel afraid of the things God calls us to do. Saul was so afraid, he hid. To feel afraid is normal, but we can step out and follow God, even when we're afraid. If God calls us to something, we can trust that he will help us, even when it feels too hard or too big of a task for us. He is with us!

**Comic Book Bibles:**

Have the kids draw the story of Saul becoming king. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

**Memorize:** 1 Samuel 9:17

**Close in Prayer**



Clue 1

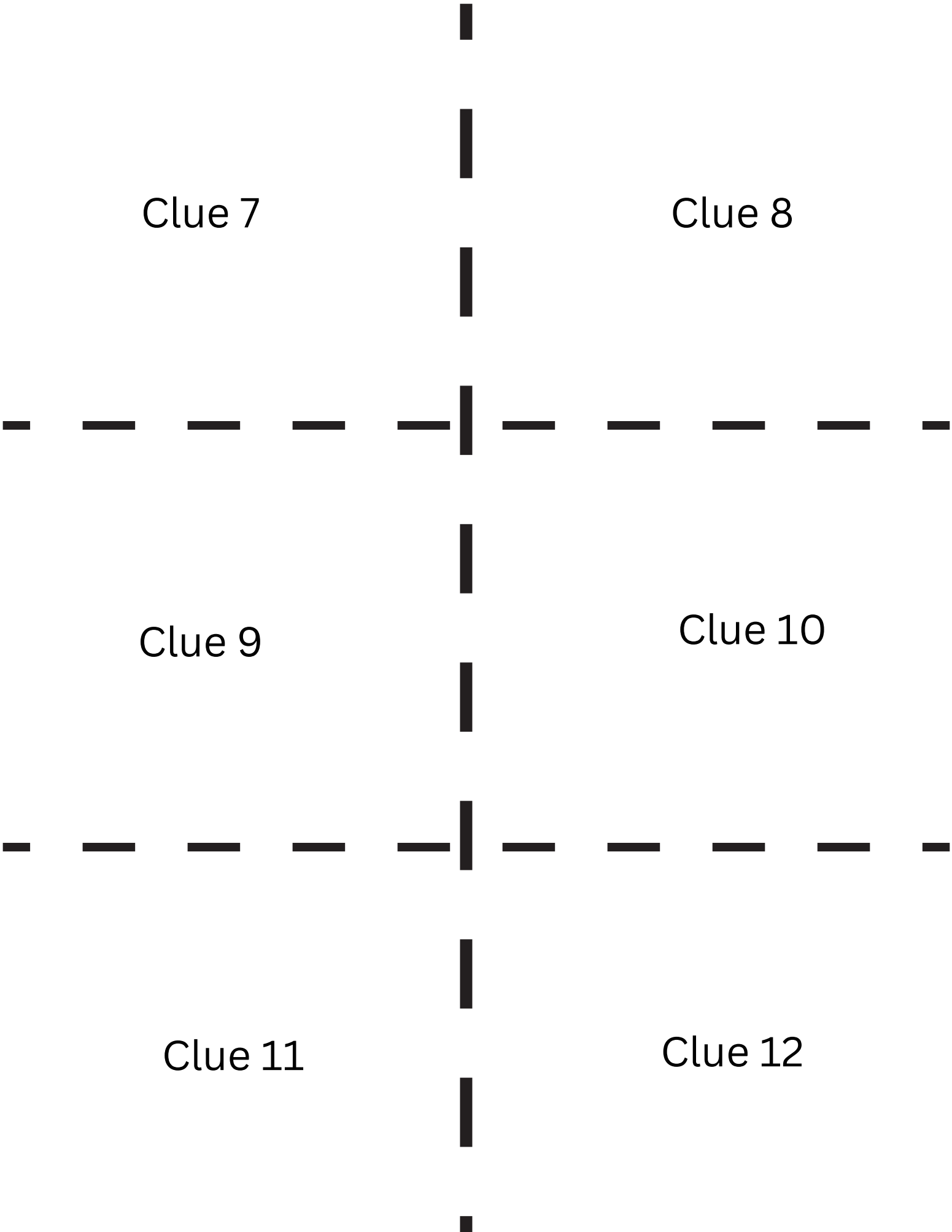
Clue 2

Clue 3

Clue 4

Clue 5

Clue 6



Clue 7

Clue 8

Clue 9

Clue 10

Clue 11

Clue 12

## Donkeys for scavenger hunt



Place the crown (or coin) on top of an upside down cup stack. Cover it with more cups. Have the kids either pull cups from the bottom, check for the coin, and then put the cups they pulled onto the top, or pull cups from the top, check for the coin, then move them to the bottom.

