

# Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of Saul being chosen as King.

You can find it in your Bible in:  
**1 Samuel 8–9**

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Saul being chosen by you. Thank you that even though Saul was from the smallest family in the smallest tribe you chose him to lead your people.

Help us to be like Samuel, listening to you and living in obedience to you. Help us to see ourselves through your eyes and to trust that you want to use us too.

Help us to be good leaders and examples in our homes, schools and workplaces. Amen

## Discussion

### A question for adults to ask children

*How do you think Saul felt when Samuel said that “all the wealth of Israel” would belong to him and his family?*

When Saul approached Samuel he was going to ask about the journey he had been on, but Samuel already knew all about Saul. Samuel even told Saul that his missing donkeys had been found! Even though Samuel knew so much about Saul, Saul still wasn’t sure, he didn’t think he was important enough to receive such honour. God had made his choice though, He wanted Saul to be King, to God, Saul was very very important!

### A question for children to ask adults

*Can you tell me about a time when you were given a job or role you didn’t feel ready for? Who chose you for the role? Who helped you to succeed?*

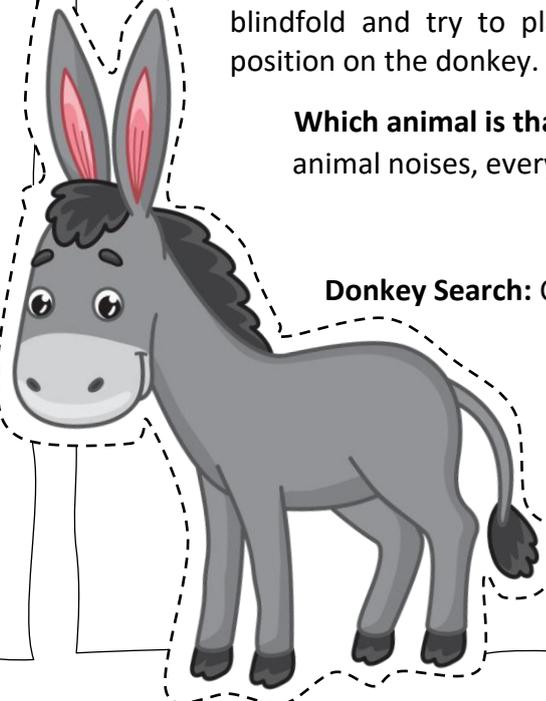
## Family Activity 1

Why not try some of these donkey themed games together.

**Pin the tail on the donkey:** Use the printable on page 4, you will also need some blutack or you could use magnets and play on your fridge. Take it in turns to wear a blindfold and try to place the tail in the correct position on the donkey.

**Which animal is that?:** Take it in turns to make animal noises, everybody else must try to guess what animal you are being.

**Donkey Search:** Cut out and hide this donkey picture. Who can find it the fastest? You could take it in turns and give clues e.g. hotter, colder, or take it in turns to be the person hiding the donkey and all search at the same time!



## A verse to remember

John 15 v 16

**“You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name.”**



These words were spoken by Jesus to his followers. It is not talking about real fruit but using it as a picture to describe how we can share God’s love in the world. How does it make you feel to have been chosen by God? Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

## Family Activity 2

**Musical crowns:** God’s people wanted a King, they didn’t want to be led by Samuel’s sons. Play a game of musical crowns, put on some music and for as long as the music is playing dance around passing a hat between you (even better if you have a crown!) – when the music stops that person is the King or Queen for the round and controls the music.



## Active Listening

Just like God spoke to Samuel in the story He still wants to speak to us today. Unlike Saul we don’t need to go to somebody else to find out what God is saying, we can speak and listen to God directly. It might not always be a loud voice we hear with our ears, sometimes it can be through a feeling in our heart, a picture in our head or a new understanding of something we have read in our Bible.

Spend some time together listening to God together, ask God to speak to you and help you to feel him near you? What might God be saying to you today about his love and plans for you? What messages might God want you to share with others?

*The resource on the next page can be used to help think about what it means to listen to and hear from God.*



## What will you ask?

Saul and his servant wanted to ask Samuel about the journey they had been on, but Samuel had a much more important message to share with Saul about God’s plans for his future. What does God want to say to you today?



## Helping Older Children

Listening to and hearing from God is something we can practice; over time it becomes easier to hear and recognise God’s voice. Older children might question whether what they are hearing is from God or just their own ideas and thoughts. As with all aspects of following God we must have faith and trust that God wants to and does speak to us.

In the story Saul didn’t believe he was important enough to be chosen by God, he questioned what Samuel was saying. God loves each of us and wants to speak to us, none of us is unimportant to God.

# Listening to God

Even though we may not be able to visit our friends and family at the moment, we are never alone. God is always with us and listening to our prayers. God also wants to speak to us and encourage us. Why not take some time to practice listening and hearing what God is saying today.

**Find a quiet space away from distractions. Make sure you are comfortable.**

**Pray and ask God to speak to you.**

**Wait and Listen.**



## Words

You might hear God speaking to you in your head using words or just have one word that you think of clearly.

God can speak to us in many different ways, the more we practice the easier it becomes to recognise His voice. Just like you know the voices of people in your family, we can learn to tune in to God's voice.

## Pictures

You might see a picture in your mind in the same place that you see things when you are imagining.

**Here are some of the ways God might speak to you.**

## Feelings

You might experience a feeling from God – this could be a feeling for you or a feeling that somebody else has that God might want you to pray for.

## Bible Verse

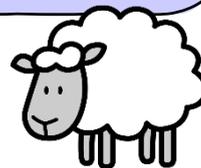
God might remind you of a verse from the Bible.

## Presence

Sometimes you might not hear God but that does not mean that God is not with you. It is also good to just spend time with God in silence – ask God to help you feel that He is close to you.

## Smells & Tastes

You might be able to smell or taste something that isn't there.



## Is it God?

We need to have faith that what we have heard is from God, but should also test it and ask...–

**Does it match with what I know God is like?**

**Does it match what God says in the Bible?**

## What does it mean?

Sometimes we need to take time to ask God to explain what we have heard or seen.

If you are still not sure why not talk about it with a grown up you trust. Sometimes God might use pictures or images from the Bible that we don't know yet but that somebody else could explain for us.

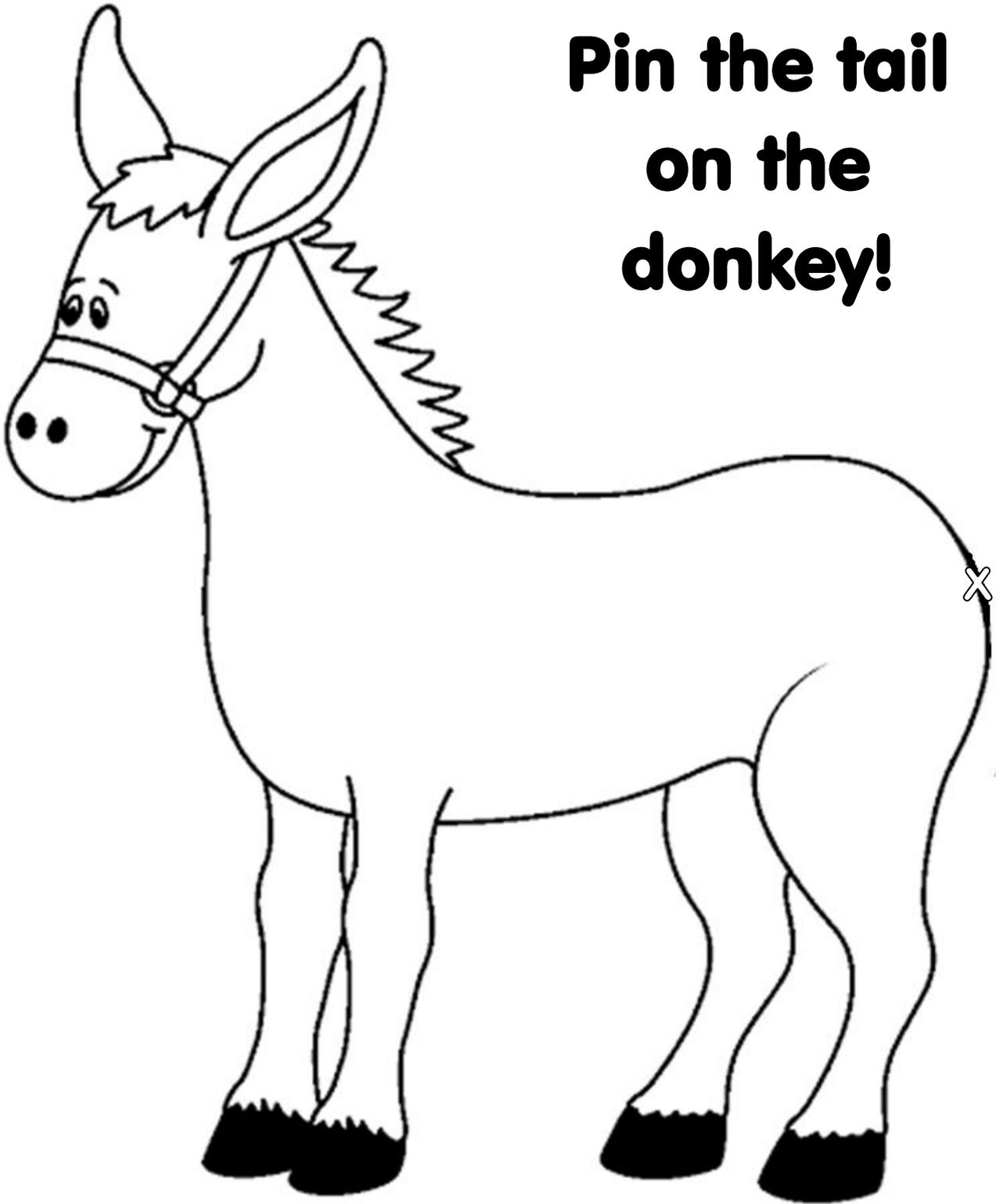
## A message to share



We can also ask God for pictures or messages to share with other people. Here are some things to remember when you share words from God with others.

- 1 Corinthians 14 v 3-4 explains that God gives us messages to share **strength, encouragement, and comfort**. Only share a message if it is kind and matches what God is like and what the Bible says.
- Let the person think about what you have shared and decide for themselves how to respond to it.

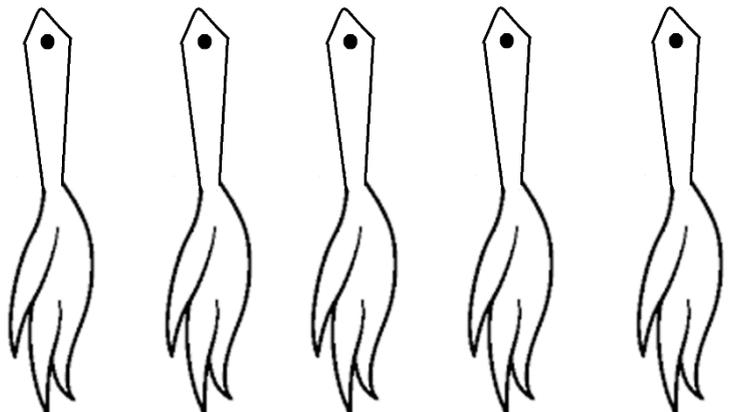
# Pin the tail on the donkey!



Cut out the tails, write your names on the tails or give them different colours.

Attach some blutack or tape to the tails, you could also use magnets and play on a fridge.

Take it in turns to wear the blindfold and see who can pin the tail closest to the right spot on the donkey.



# A colouring page you could print and colour together.

Colourig picture from [www.justcolor.net](http://www.justcolor.net)

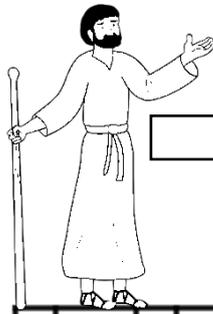
## John 15 v 16

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produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then  
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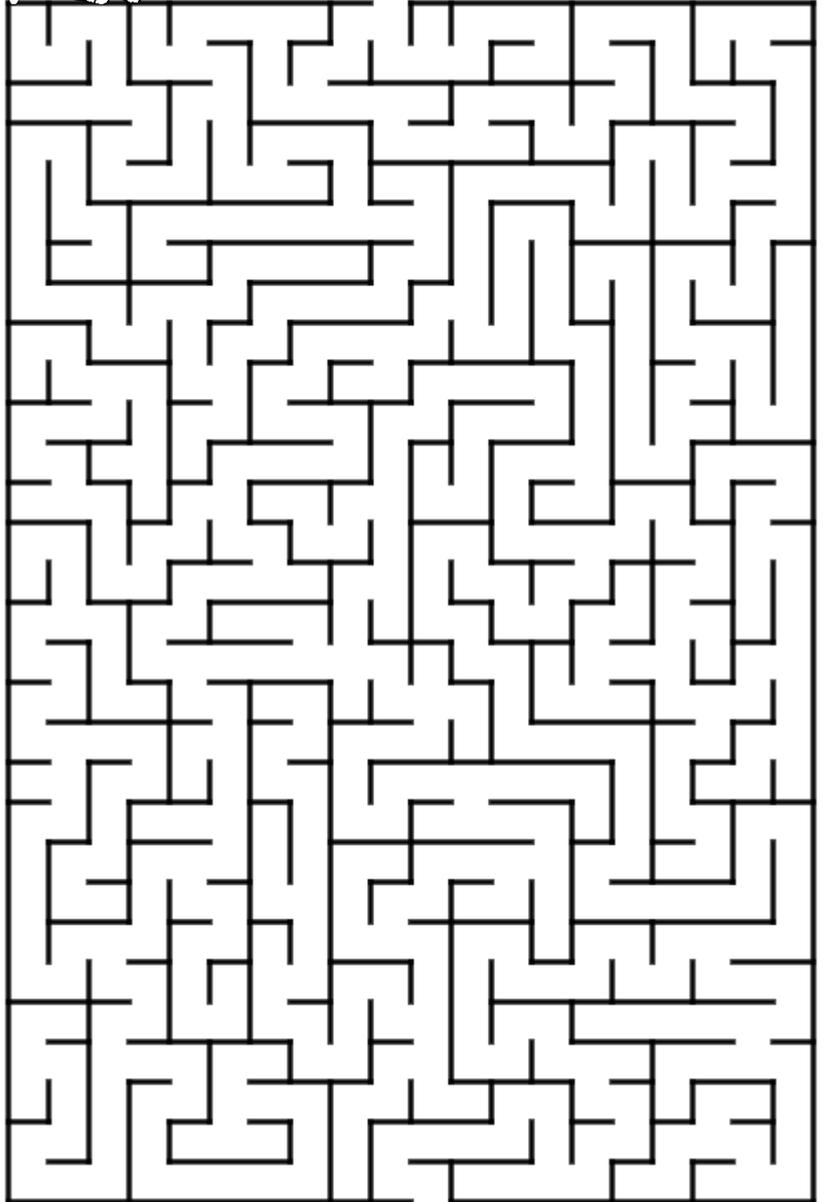
# PUZZLE

# SHEET



Saul is searching for his missing donkeys.

Can you help him make his way through the maze?



Can you find all these words from the story in the wordsearch?

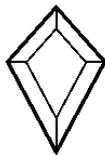
- Saul**
- Samuel**
- donkeys**
- king**
- Ephraim**
- Kish**
- seer**
- chosen**



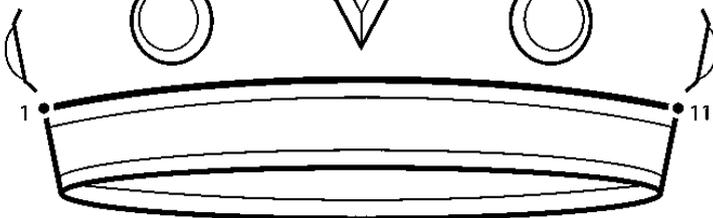
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How many other donkeys can you find hiding on the page?



Saul had been chosen to be King and lead God's people.



Join the dots in order to complete the crown and then decorate it.

