

The Old Testament

Lesson 27 - Saul, Israel's First King

Aims

- * To understand why the Israelites wanted a king
- * To learn why God was not happy with Saul

Materials

- * Bible story about Saul (1 Samuel 9-16)
- * Coloured pictures of the story
- * Material to make a crown - gold paper, stickers, stars, craft jewels, scissors, glue
- * Worksheets

Key words

Anoint - to pour oil onto someone to give God's blessing

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Story - Saul, Israel's First King
3. Questions
4. Activities - make paper crowns, pretend to be kings and queens, worksheets, retell the story
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

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1) Introduction

- * Who knows what a king is?
- * Has anyone ever seen a king or queen? (Show some coins, notes or pictures from books)
- * What do you think it would be like to be a king or queen?
- * What kind of a king or queen would you like to have? (handsome, strong, brave?)
- * What would happen if the king told you to do something? Would you have to do it?
- * Would you have to pay tax money to the king?

Israel did not have a king but they started thinking that maybe they should have one." Today's story is about the first king of Israel.

2) Story - Saul, Israel's First King

When Samuel became old, the Israelites didn't want his sons to be the new leaders, because they were not good examples. The people asked Samuel to give them a king like other nations, but God warned them that a king would take away their freedom. The Israelites still wanted a king, so God gave them one. Samuel chose Saul. At first he was a good king and he won many battles for Israel. But, later, he thought more about himself than God. Because of this, God wanted a new king. David was chosen and Samuel anointed him with oil, Saul continued to be king.

3) Questions

1. Why did the Israelites want a king? - *The people didn't want Samuel's sons to be their leader, because they were not good examples. Other nations had kings and they wanted the same.*
2. What did God tell Samuel a king would be like? - *He will make your sons fight in armies, he will force you to work on the land for him, take the best crops and you will become his slaves.*
3. What did Samuel do to show Saul was chosen? - *poured oil onto Saul's head*
4. What was Saul good at doing? - *Under his leadership, his people won many battles*
5. Why was God not happy with Saul? - *He became proud and began to think more of himself than God. He disobeyed God's words.*
6. Who did God choose to be the next king? - *David, a shepherd boy*
7. What kind of king does God want to have? - *He wants him to be obedient to His words, to listen to his voice, and do what he says. It's not what he looks like on the outside that counts, but what he is like on the inside in his heart.*

4) Activities

- * Make paper crowns - Cut crowns from gold paper and decorate them stickers, stars or craft jewels.
- * Pretend to be a king or queen - Walk around the room. How do you walk? What do you say? Give simple orders, that everyone must obey. Take turns. Who was most like a king or queen? Who the was the best?
- * Worksheets
 - a) Colour of picture of Samuel anointing saul
 - b) Maze - Draw a line and find the way through Saul's crown
- * Retell the story - tell the story in your own words using the coloured pictues

5) Review the lesson aims

- * To understand why the Israelites wanted a king
 - *The people didn't want Samuel's sons to be their leader, because they were not good examples.*
 - *Other nations had kings and they wanted the same.*
- * To learn why God was not happy with Saul
 - *He became proud and began to think more of himself than God.*
 - *He disobeyed God's words.*

6) End with a prayer

Saul, Israel's First King



For many years Judges had led the people of God. Samuel was a Judge over Israel. He was also a priest. He loved God and always tried to do what was right. Samuel tried to teach his sons to be judges but they did not obey God. Samuel's sons tried to cheat the people instead of helping them.

Some of the people noticed that Samuel was getting old. They did not want Samuel to die and leave his sons to be the leaders of the people.

"We want a king! We don't want any more judges. All of the nations around us have kings," they told Samuel. "We want to be like them."

God told Samuel to tell the people what a king would be like. "He will make your sons fight in armies," said Samuel. "He will force you to work on the land for him and he will take the best crops. You will become his slaves.

But the people insisted.

When Samuel told God that his words hadn't changed the Israelites' minds, God replied, "Do as they wish. Give them their king."

One day, Samuel met a tall, handsome man Saul. God had told Samuel where and when he would meet Israel's future king and so was not surprised when he heard God say, "This is the man, who is to rule."

At dawn the next day, following tradition, Samuel poured oil onto Saul's head, as a sign that he was the chosen one.

At first, Saul was a good and popular king. Under his leadership, his people won many battles, but soon, he became proud. He began to think more of himself than he did of God. Saul said, "Look at all the impressive things I've done! The battles I've won! All the sheep and cattle I've captured from our enemies!"

"Before one battle with their enemy the Philistines, Samuel told King Saul to wait for Samuel to make an animal sacrifice to God. So King Saul had to wait, but because the Israelites were getting afraid and starting to leave him, King Saul didn't wait for Samuel. King Saul made the sacrifice to God himself. King Saul knew that God wanted a sacrifice, but King Saul didn't obey God and do it

the way God wanted, which was to wait for Samuel. So King Saul disobeyed God and did the wrong thing. Samuel came just as King Saul was finishing the sacrifice.

Samuel said, 'What have you done?' Samuel told King Saul that he had disobeyed God and that because he had disobeyed God he would not stay as king

God wants us to be obedient to His words. He wants us to listen to his voice, and do what he says. So, God told Samuel that it was time to find a new king.

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God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem, as He had chosen one of Jesse's sons to succeed Saul.

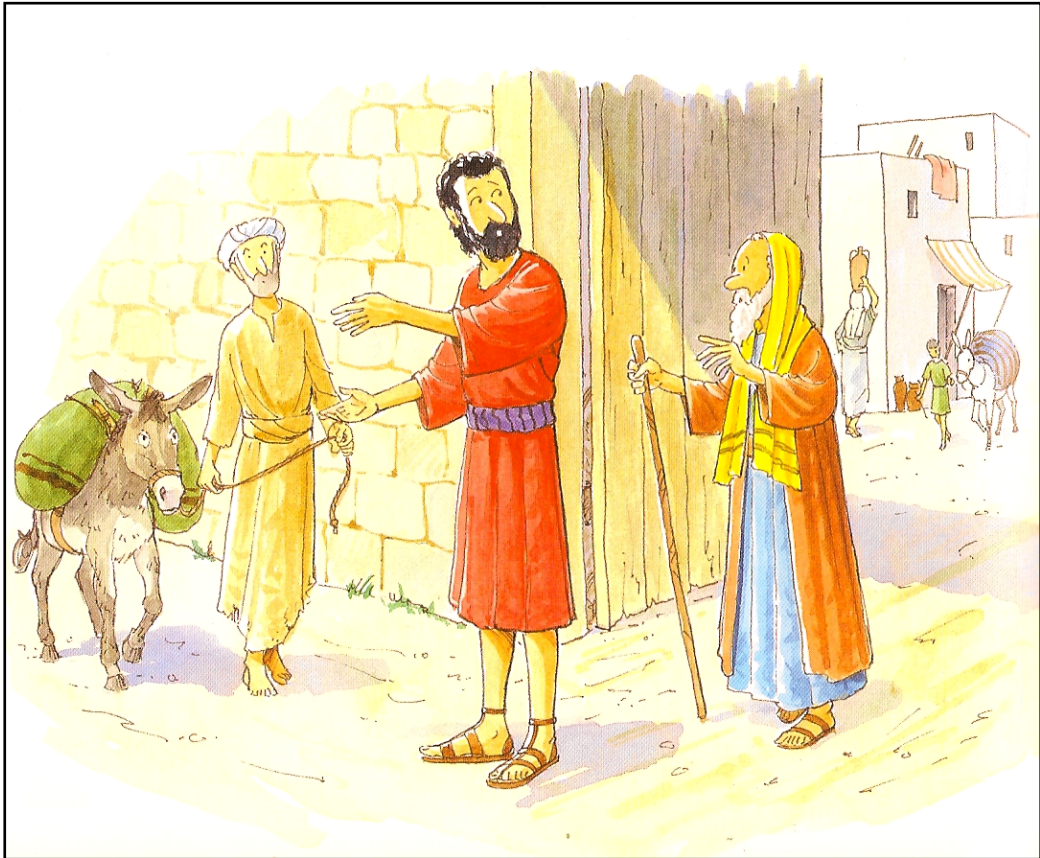
When Samuel arrived, he invited Jesse and his sons to witness an offering for God. He spoke to all of the sons in turn. Each time, he thought, "This fine-looking, young man must be the chosen one." But each time, God said, "No."

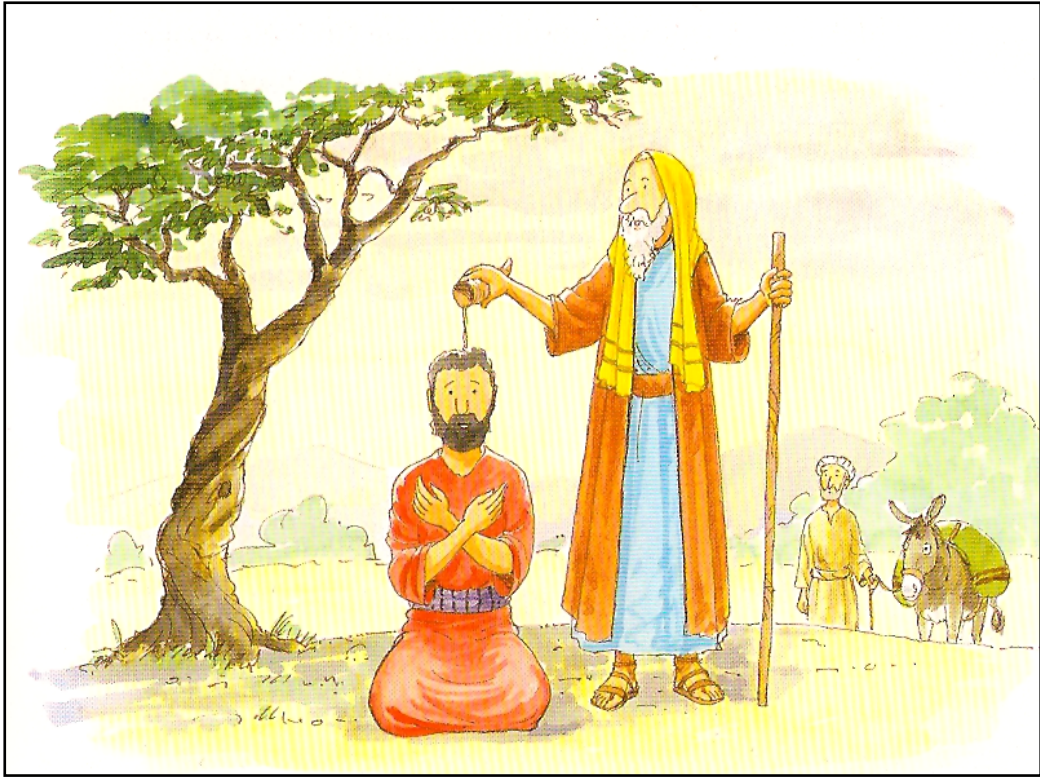
"What's important is not what a person looks like," God said, "but what he is like inside."

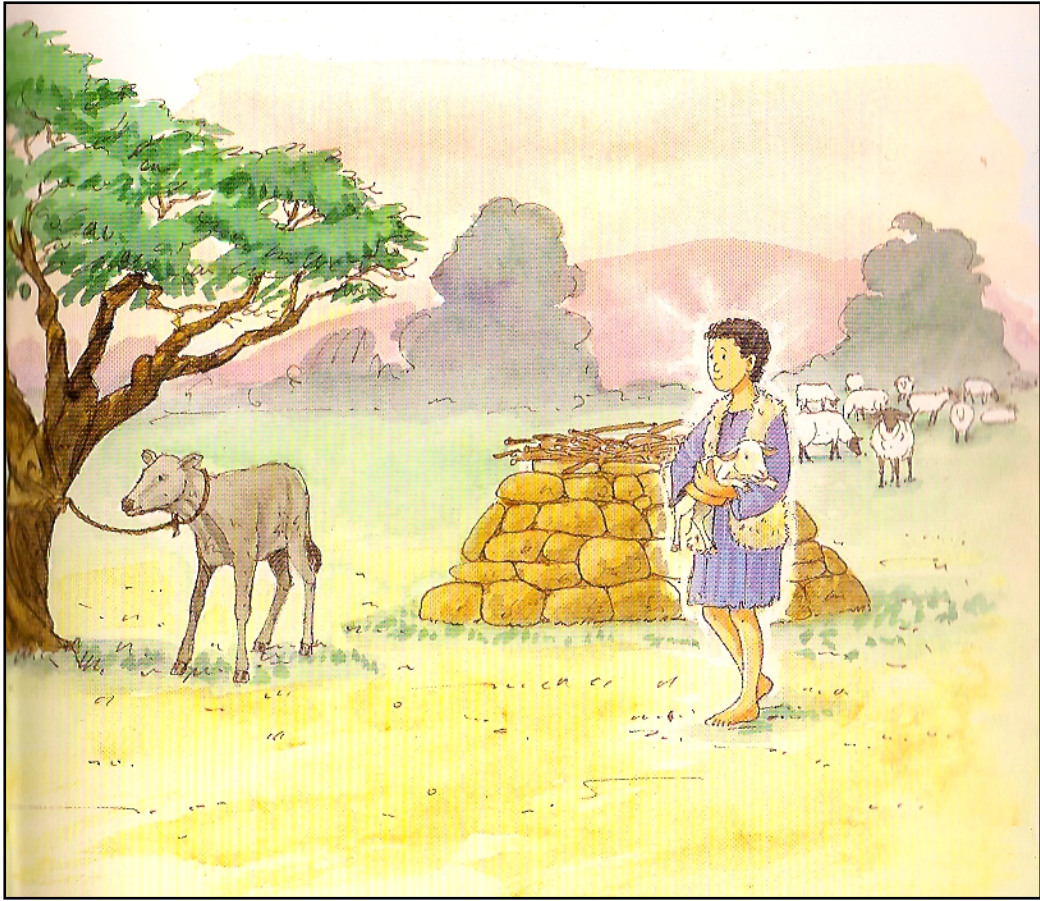
After Samuel had rejected seven of Jesse's sons, he asked if there were any more. Jesse said that the youngest, David, was out looking after the sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to send for him.

As David walked in, God spoke to Samuel, saying, "This is the one!"

So, Samuel anointed David and from that time on, David always felt that God was with him.







Samuel

Anoints Saul

Colour the picture



Saul's Crown

Draw a line and find the way through Saul's crown

