

Bible Story 17: SAUL, CHOSEN BY GOD AS FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 8:1-10,19-22; 9:1-20,26-27; 10:1,16-24; 13:1; 14:47-48; 15:10-11; 16:17-23

MEMORY VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 2:13

BIBLE STORY:

Years passed, and elderly Samuel was still the prophet and judge over Israel. It was time for a new leader. Samuel's sons did not follow his good example. So the Israelites went to Samuel, demanding that they did not want his dishonest sons to judge and lead them. Now they wanted a king, like all the countries around them.

An Israelite youth named Saul was a head taller than any other man. One day his father Kish called him and said, "*Son, take with you one of our servants and find our lost donkeys.*" Saul obeyed. He left and searched everywhere. Finally he and his servant went to ask the prophet Samuel for help.

The moment that Samuel saw him approaching, God revealed to him that Saul was to be the next leader of Israel. Alone with Saul along side of a road, Samuel obeyed God and poured oil on Saul's head. In those days, this was the custom for Samuel to do in order to appoint Saul as the king of Israel.

Later Samuel called together the Israelites for a meeting in Gilgal to present the new leader. Where was Saul? They found him hiding among the baggage! They brought him before the people. There Samuel said that God had chosen Saul to be Israel's first king. Everyone shouted, "*Long live the king!*" Saul was thirty years old.

King Saul was a courageous, brave warrior who led the Israelites to fight against their enemies. God gave him many victories.

In the beginning of his reign, Saul obeyed God. As the years passed, Saul became disobedient to God.

As time passed, King Saul became sick. A boy named David was called to the palace to play his harp. The smooth-sounding music helped calm Saul.

The king's son, Jonathan, became a close friend to David.

King Saul and his son, Jonathan, died in a battle against the Philistines. Saul had ruled Israel for forty-two years.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. God had a special plan for the youth Saul. He was chosen to serve as king to Israel. Follow God's plan for your life.
2. Saul was probably afraid when he hid among the baggage. Whenever afraid, trust in God because he is always with you.
3. At the beginning of his reign, Saul obeyed God. Always obey God.
4. David played an instrument for King Saul. Develop your musical skills and other talents that God has given you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Saul go to Samuel? Why did Samuel pour oil on Saul’s head?
2. Was Saul a youth or an adult when he was anointed by oil as king? Does it matter how old you are in order to serve God? Why?
3. Why do you think Saul was hiding among the baggage? Are you ever afraid? What are some reasons why someone may become afraid? Who can help us when we are afraid?
4. Did Saul begin his reign by obeying God? Was Saul obedient to God in his later years? Is it important to obey God all your life or just sometimes? Why?
5. Who helped calm Saul when he was sick? How? How can you help someone who is sick?
6. Who was a great friend to David? Who are some of your friends? How can you be a good friend to them?
7. David liked music and he played the harp. In fact, there are many songs written by David in the book of Psalms in the Bible. What are some things that can be done with music? How can you use your musical abilities? How can you improve your music? What are some other talents that you can develop?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Talk about the president of your country and explain how he leads the country. (If possible, show a picture of him.)
- If possible, show a crown or picture of a crown. Explain that in England, and a few other countries today, the people are ruled by their kings and/or queens. Continue by explaining that in this series of Bible stories, until now the people in Israel had judges rule them, such as Gideon, Samson and Samuel. All the countries around Israel had kings rule over the people. Because Judge Samuel was old, it was time to choose another leader. Samuel’s sons were dishonest and did not follow his good example. So the people demanded that this time they wanted a king to rule over them. Tell the Bible story.

5. Pass out titles of songs or let those present choose their song. Then each one sings a part of a song while the others guess what song it is.
6. Visit a sick person or an elderly person. Sing/play some songs.

BOTTLE GAME: “WHAT TO DO?”

For this game choose one of the following:

1. **SHARE A STORY:** Describe situations of being afraid.
2. **MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS:** Cut out several pictures from magazines or newspapers that illustrate situations where a person may become afraid. (Examples: a crime or a riot is taking place; personal crisis, such as an illness, an accident, bullying; natural disasters, such as a flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake and/or fire. Glue these to sheets of paper. Place these pictures face down.
3. **CLIPS OF VIDEOS:** Select scenes of different stories that illustrate circumstances where someone may be afraid.

***Attention:** Be aware of the age group and maturity of those present in choosing the illustrations.*

PLAYING THE GAME:

- Sit in a circle. In the middle of the circle, put a bottle, such as a disposable coke bottle. Spin the bottle. When the bottle stops, it will be pointing in the direction of someone in the circle. That person will listen to a story, pick up one of the pictures, or the group will watch a video clip. That person will explain what the situation is and why someone may be afraid. Then ask the group what they should do if this ever happened to them. Afterwards that person spins the bottle and the game continues.

VISITOR(S):

1. Invite one or more people to bring, show and play different instruments. If possible, let those present touch and try to play the instruments themselves.
2. Invite a person to come and talk about fears and ways to overcome their fears.

MUSIC:

1. Sing favorite songs, choruses, jingles, etc.
2. Gather different instruments and play some songs together.
3. Make up and write a song together.
4. Play or sing parts of a song and let those present guess what song it is.

DAILY BIBLE READING 1 Samuel 8:1-10,19-22; 9:1-20,26-27; 10:1,16-24; 13:1; 14:47-48; 15:10-11; 16:17-23

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
1 Samuel 8:1-10,10-22	1 Samuel 9:1-14	1 Samuel 9:15-20	1 Samuel 9:26-27, 10:1,16	1 Samuel 10:17-24; 13:1	1 Sam. 14:47-48; 15:10-11	1 Samuel 16:17-23