

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: 2 Timothy 2:15

BIBLE STORY:

Years passed, and prophet the Samuel was getting old. It was time to choose a new leader. The people of Israel did not want another judge. They wanted a king to rule them.

Saul was an Israelite youth, taller than any other man. One day, he left his home with his servant, trying to find some of his family's donkeys that were lost. He went to the home of Samuel, the religious leader. Perhaps the prophet would help him find his donkeys.

Samuel told Saul that his donkeys were already found. He also explained to Saul that God had chosen him to be the king of Israel. He then anointed Saul as king by pouring oil on his head.

Later Samuel called together the Israelites for a meeting where he would present the new leader. Where was Saul? They found him hiding in the baggage! They brought him before the people. Then Samuel said that God had chosen Saul to be the first king of Israel. Everyone shouted, "***Long live the king!***"

Saul became a great king. Later in life Saul disobeyed God. Then he became sick. A boy named David was called to the palace to play his harp. The smooth-sounding music helped King Saul feel better. The king's son Jonathan became a close friend of David.

King Saul ruled Israel for forty-two years.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Why did Saul go to the prophet Samuel? What happened? 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 when he was to be presented as the new leader? 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?