

Upper Elementary

Saul Becomes King

Checklist

- Print warrior/question mark and fold in half so each is visible on one side (can tape ends closed or laminate, if desired)**

Topic:	Saul Becomes King
Intro:	Ask children to choose the words that would describe a famous person, like a movie star, singer or athlete, (beautiful, handsome, talented, cool, strong, etc). Make a list on the board. Then ask them to choose words that would describe a good leader, (kind, honest, brave, thoughtful, etc). Compare the two lists. Why are they different? Which words describe someone you would want to serve? (the second) Should we pay attention to the things the world cares about (first list) or the things God cares about (second list)? Who is the only one who could be a perfect leader? (God)
	The Bible tells us God is our king. He is a perfect and loving ruler. Serving Him helps us to make the right decisions in life. Look at the lists again. Which kind of person is it more important to be like? (the second) How can you become a person like that as an adult? The choices you make every day are what will make you into the person you will become when you grow up.
1 Samuel 8:4-7	Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together and came to Samuel to Ramah. They said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons don't walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." Samuel prayed to Yahweh. Yahweh said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they tell you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me as the king over them.



Saul Becomes King



1 Samuel 8:4-7

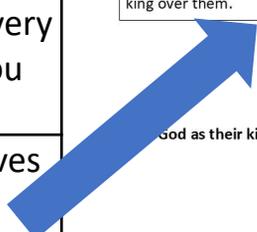
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Israel's choice:

God as their king

A human as their king



Warrior Picture	<p>Show children the picture of a warrior. What words describe him? (strong, powerful, fierce, intimidating, etc) Would you feel prepared for battle with this man at the head of your army? Turn the card over to show the question mark. No one could see God. They had to just believe He is there. Many Israelites thought they would be safer with someone who looked intimidating leading their army instead of an invisible leader. Is any human, no matter how strong looking, more powerful than God?</p>
	Israel's choice: God as their king or a human as their king.



<p>1 Samuel 8:19-22</p>	<p>But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles." Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of Yahweh. Yahweh said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice, and make them a king." Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Everyone go to your own city."</p>
	<p>God could have said no. He could have made the Israelites stay without a king. He could have punished them right away. He knew they were making a mistake. But God wants us to choose Him and His plan freely, not because He is forcing us. So sometimes we have to learn lessons the hard way. No human ruler could be as good as God. So the people would have to deal with all the problems that come from having a human as their leader.</p>



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God's choice:
 Let them learn from their mistake



In ancient times, kings had absolute power over their subjects. They could make any rules they wanted and force the people into slavery.

Punish the Israelites immediately



1 Samuel 9:1-2	Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. He had a son whose name was Saul, an impressive young man; and there was not among the children of Israel a more handsome person than he. From his shoulders and upward he was taller than any of the people.
	How is Saul described? (better looking and more than a head taller than anyone else) How was Samuel described? (a man of God) Is it more important to you that people know you for being good looking and impressive, or for being a person of God? What kind of person were the Israelites looking for in a leader at this time? (someone impressive looking) Do you think this will work out for them in the end?
Standing	Have children stand up and take turns giving a speech, telling everyone why they should vote for them as king. Have them list things about themselves (it's okay to be a bit silly).



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God cares about what is on the:

Inside

Outside



<i>Resume</i>	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<u>Saul, Son of Kish</u>
<input type="radio"/>	• Son of a wealthy man
<input type="radio"/>	• From an important family
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	• Better looking than everyone
<input type="radio"/>	• More than a head taller than everyone
<input type="radio"/>	
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<p>1 Samuel 9:15-17</p>	<p>Now Yahweh had revealed to Samuel a day before Saul came, saying, "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He will save my people out of the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon my people, because their cry has come to me." When Samuel saw Saul, Yahweh said to him, "Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! He will have authority over my people."</p>
	<p>Even though the Israelites were rejecting God, He still cared about them. He knew they were being picked on by their neighbors, the Philistines. He chose Saul because He knew he could lead them well and keep them safe. Benjamin was the smallest tribe, so it might have seemed strange to Samuel to choose a king from that tribe, but Samuel obeyed.</p>



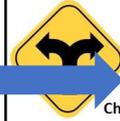
The Israelites wanted a king to lead them into battle against their neighbors. The neighbors who caused the most trouble for the Israelites were the Philistines. The Philistines were also called the Sea-Peoples, because they lived next to the Mediterranean Sea.



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Samuel's choice: choose a king on his own or obey God's instructions.



Samuel's choice:

Choose a king on his own Obey God's instructions

So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by their families and the family of the Matrites was chosen. Then Saul the son of Kish was chosen; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. Therefore they asked of Yahweh further, "Is there yet a man to come here?"



1 Samuel 10:20-24

So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by their families and the family of the Matrites was chosen. Then Saul the son of Kish was chosen; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. Therefore they asked of Yahweh further, "Is there yet a man to come here?"

Yahweh answered, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." They ran and got him there. When he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom Yahweh has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" All the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

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Discuss ways to make a decision. Which are good ways and which are bad?

Ask children if they have read Choose-Your-Own-Adventure stories (in which the reader makes choices for the main character). Read the story, letting children vote on what choices the character should make. Discuss how each choice led to the final outcome. Read through again, as much as time allows, trying different combinations of choices. Give them the template to create their own choose-your-own-adventure story at home on their own.



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Saul Becomes King



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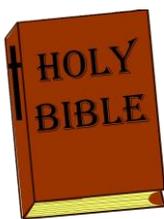
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God’s choice:

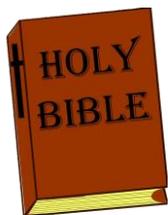
**Let them learn from
their mistake**

**Punish the Israelites
immediately**



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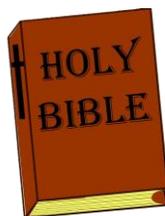
Resume

Saul, Son of Kish

- Son of a wealthy man
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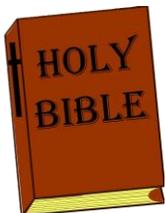
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Samuel's choice:

Choose a king on his own

Obey God's instructions



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All the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"



Which questions help us to make a good decision?

- What does the Holy Spirit tell my heart about it?
- What do people on TV say about it?
- Is it fun?
- Could it hurt anyone, including me?
- Is it fair?
- Is it cool?
- How would I feel if somebody did it to me?
- Have I seen famous people doing it?
- Have I ever been told that it's wrong?
- How will I feel about myself later if I do it?
- What would my parents say about it?
- Do I feel like doing it?

Saul Becomes King



Name: _____

T	A	L	L	E	R	F	O	P	G	H
Q	N	U	A	S	D	N	I	L	K	J
W	O	A	S	E	B	I	R	T	F	L
E	I	S	D	S	A	M	U	Y	D	U
R	N	D	A	X	Z	A	R	T	O	G
T	T	F	C	M	F	J	K	I	N	G
Y	E	G	V	G	U	N	W	Q	K	A
U	D	N	B	H	D	E	E	A	E	G
I	H	W	N	J	S	B	L	S	Y	E
O	J	O	M	K	L	P	O	L	S	I
P	P	R	O	P	H	E	S	I	E	D
L	K	C	Q	W	E	R	T	O	Y	U

SAUL

SAMUEL

ANOINTED

BENJAMIN

TRIBES

LUGGAGE

KING

PROPHESED

CROWN

DONKEYS

OIL

TALLER

	<p>he saw a room full of diamonds and stuffed them into his pockets</p> <p>he saw a room full of diamonds and decided to make it a museum</p> <p>he saw a room full of singing fish and tried to capture them</p> <p>he saw a room full of singing fish and asked to join them</p> <p>he thought he saw a mermaid, so jumped in the water</p> <p>he thought he saw a mermaid and ran inland in fear</p> <p>soldiers came and he told them what happened</p> <p>soldiers came and he challenged them to a swordfight</p> <p>he passed another ship and called out to it</p> <p>he passed another ship and attacked it with his canons</p> <p>he threw his map in the sea out of frustration</p> <p>he studied his map carefully</p> <p>he got lost and caught a ride with some friendly dolphins</p> <p>he got lost so sailed back in the direction he came from</p> <p>he reached an island and decided to explore it</p> <p>he reached an island and stayed on his ship</p>	<p>when he swam back to his ship, the diamonds fell out and down to the bottom of the sea</p> <p>he became rich and famous</p> <p>the fish fought back and he was chased out of the cave</p> <p>the fish taught him how to sing as beautifully as them</p> <p>he reached a magical underground city</p> <p>he got lost in a jungle</p> <p>they helped him catch the thief who took his ship</p> <p>he lost and was thrown into the dungeon</p> <p>he joined the ship's crew and became a sailor in the queen's navy</p> <p>he was captured as they thought he was a pirate</p> <p>he was never seen again</p> <p>he discovered a new island and it was named after him</p> <p>the dolphins showed him many new things in the ocean</p> <p>he returned home and never sailed again</p> <p>he was chased away by the local chief</p> <p>he was invited ashore by the local chief</p>	<p>he followed the tunnel to the right, which sparkled</p> <p>he followed the tunnel to the left, which had beautiful music coming from it</p> <p>his ship was missing so he walked along the coast</p> <p>his ship was missing, so he called for help</p> <p>he sailed for an hour</p> <p>he sailed all night</p> <p>he sailed until he couldn't see the shooting star anymore</p> <p>he kept sailing in the direction of the shooting star, even after he could no longer see it</p>	<p>he saw bats and followed them into their cavern</p> <p>he was frightened by the bats and ran out</p> <p>he chose to follow the north star</p> <p>he chose to follow a shooting star</p>	<p>The sailor walked into a cave</p> <p>The sailor set out to sea</p>
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