

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23
Saul Anointed by Samuel, Reigns As King (1 Samuel 8-11, 13, 15)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord adapts His treatment of us to our states.
- B. When we try to have our own way in anything, it is always to some degree a rejection of the Lord.
- C. Trust in the Lord instead of in ourselves is the basis of spiritual progress.
- D. Saul images the state of young adults who feel they have the answers to everything; they are well-meaning but see only the surface of things, the external appearances, and are not yet wise.
- E. Faith in the Lord involves obedience to Him even against our own judgment.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Last time we learned about Samuel, the little boy who grew up in the tabernacle serving the Lord. All the children of Israel knew that Samuel was the Lord's prophet. Samuel spent his whole life serving the Lord as a judge of the people. He was a good and fair man.
 - 2. But Samuel grew old and made his two sons judges to help him. And his sons were dishonest and took bribes and didn't judge fairly.
 - 3. So the elders of Israel came to Samuel and asked to have a king to judge them instead. They wanted to be like all the other nations who had kings.
 - 4. Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord told him to do as the people asked, but to warn them about the behavior of the king who would rule over them.
 - 5. Today we will learn that Saul was chosen to be king. We'll find out that he started out as a good king, and he meant to obey the Lord, but he had some faults and made some serious mistakes. So in the end the Lord was no longer with Saul, and a new king was needed in Israel.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Saul Anointed and Proclaimed King
 - a. Read the attached retelling of I Samuel 9 & 10.
 - b. Ideas to Discuss
 - (1) Had Samuel been a good judge that all Israel respected? (Yes)
 - (2) Then why did the children of Israel want a king instead? (Because Samuel's sons were evil judges; because they wanted to be like other nations)
 - (3) What was Saul's reason for going to find Samuel? (He couldn't find his father's donkeys and thought Samuel could tell him where to look.)
 - (4) What did Samuel do to Saul before he went home the next day? (Poured oil on Saul's head, i.e., anointed him, and told Saul the Lord had chosen him to be king.)
 - (5) When Samuel called together the children of Israel before the Lord at Mizpah, how was it decided who should be king? (They cast lots.)
 - (6) Whom did the Lord choose through the casting of lots? (Saul)
 - (7) The people couldn't find Saul at first. Where was he? (Hiding among the equipment)
 - (8) Why do you think he was hiding? (He didn't think he was prepared to be king of his people.)
 - (9) Were the people happy with the Lord's choice? Why? (Yes; because, Saul was so tall they thought he looked strong and brave like a king should.)
2. Saul as a Good King
 - a. Read the attached retelling of I Samuel 11.
 - b. Ideas to Discuss
 - (1) When the people of Jabesh Gilead needed help to fight against the Ammonites, who was the man brave enough to gather an army of 330,000 men and to lead that army to victory? (Saul, the king)
 - (2) How did Saul convince the men to help him fight? (He cut up a yoke of oxen and sent the pieces throughout Israel saying whoever didn't go to fight would have his oxen cut up also.)

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

- (3) Did Saul -I-eke credit for his victory over the Ammonites? (No; he gave credit to the Lord.)
- (4) Do you think Saul was a good king?
(Yes)

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

3. Saul's Mistakes

a. Read the attached retelling of I Samuel 13 & 15.

b. Ideas to Discuss

- (1) What was Saul's first mistake that the Word tells us about? (He didn't wait for Samuel to make the burnt offering but did it himself instead.)
- (2) Samuel told him that he had acted foolishly and had not obeyed the Lord. What did Samuel say was going to happen because of this? (Saul's kingdom would not continue because the Lord wanted a king who would obey Him.)
- (3) We read about another thing that Saul did wrong. When Samuel told Saul that the Lord wanted him to attack the Amalekites, exactly what was Saul to do? (Kill *all* the Amalekites and destroy *everything* they had.)
- (4) Did Saul do as he was told? (No) What did he do wrong? (Spared king Agag and the best livestock)
- (5) What reason did Saul give for saving alive the best animals? (That he planned to sacrifice them to the Lord)
- (6) When Samuel told Saul that he had not done what the Lord had said, did Saul admit right away that he had not? (No; instead, he claimed, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.")
- (7) What did Samuel say had happened because Saul had rejected the word of the Lord? (The Lord had also rejected Saul from being king.)
- (8) Did Saul ever see Samuel again? (No)

C. Further Ideas to Discuss

1. The Choice of Saul as King

The children of Israel were happy with the Lord's choice of Saul as their first king. Do you remember why they liked Saul? (Because he was tall and handsome)

If you were going to choose a king to rule over you, which would you choose: the tallest, most

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

handsome man, or the wisest man? The wisest, of course!

But the children of Israel were not that smart. If they had been, they would have kept Samuel, the Lord's prophet, as their leader, for he was a good and wise man. But the children of Israel were not ready to see that Samuel was the best kind of leader, and the Lord knew that. So the Lord chose a king for them that He knew they would follow, even though He also knew that Saul would not be a wise leader.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

2. Why Saul Was Not a Good King
Saul was supposed to listen to Samuel and do what he said because Samuel was a prophet and spoke for the Lord. But Saul disobeyed Samuel two times: He made the burnt offering himself instead of waiting for Samuel to come and do it. And he kept king Agag and the best animals alive, even though he'd been told to destroy them.
Saul thought his own way was better than the Lord's. Sometimes children don't do exactly as their parents tell them to because they think their own way is better. Just as Saul would have been much better off to trust in the Lord and to do exactly as he'd been told, so children would be better off trusting their parents and doing exactly as they say. We learn to trust and obey the Lord by trusting and obeying our parents first.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," HYMNAL #169.
2. "Al I that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," HYMNAL #246 (Hebrew version of #245).

B. Activities

Photocopy the Primary Level hidden donkeys picture from General Church Religion Lessons Family Lesson on I Samuel 9. Give to children at end of project time.

C. Project: "TV PROGRAM" ON THE STORY OF SAUL

See attached project description (adapted from GCRL Family Lesson on I Samuel 9).

IV. Teaching Aids

Illustrations of:

- A. Tall Saul
- B. Samuel anointing Saul

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 3:

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

"Asking for a King" (I Samuel 8), pp. 45-58.

"The Choosing of Saul" (I Samuel 9;10), pp. 59-71.

"Saul's Impatience" (I Samuel 13), pp. 72-86. "Saul Spares Agag" (I Samuel 15), pp. 112-115.

B. The WORD, I Samuel 8-11, 13, & 15.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

RETELLING OF I SAMUEL 9 & 10, 11, 13 & 15

Saul Anointed and Proclaimed King (Retelling of I Samuel 9 & 10)

- 9:1 There was a man of the tribe of Benjamin whose name was Kish,
- :2 and he had a son named Saul who was the most handsome man among the children of Israel. And he was taller than any of the people.
- :3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish sent his son Saul and a servant to look for them.
- :4 They looked for 3 days but couldn't find the donkeys, so they went to the
- :10 city where Samuel lived to ask him where to look for the donkeys.
- :20 Samuel told Saul that the donkeys had already been found.
- 10:1 Early the next morning as Saul was leaving to return home, Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"
- :14 And Saul returned home.
- :17 Then Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah.
- :21 And after lots were cast to see who should be king, Saul the son of Kish was chosen, but he could not be found.
- :23 He was found hiding among the equipment; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people.
- :24 And Samuel said to the people, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" So all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

Saul As a Good King (Retelling of I Samuel 11)

- 11:1-2 When Nahash the Ammonite and his men camped outside Jabesh Gilead and threatened the people of that city,
- :3-4 messengers were sent to Gibeah where Saul lived to find men to help fight against Nahash the Ammonite.
- :6 Then the spirit of God came upon Saul, and his anger was aroused against Nahash the Ammonite.
- :7 So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout the territory of Israel, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen."

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

:11 And 330,000 men came with Saul and killed the Ammonites until no two of them were left together.

:13 And Saul said, "Today the Lord has accomplished salvation in Israel." :15 So all the people went to Gilgal and made sacrifices to the Lord and rejoiced greatly.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 23

RETELLING OF I SAMUEL 9 & 10, 11, 13 & 15, continued

Saul's Mistakes (Retelling of I Samuel 13 & 15)

13:1 When Saul had been king for two years,

:5 the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel.

:7 So Saul and his men prepared for battle.

:8 Then Saul waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come.

:9 So Saul offered the burnt offering [instead of waiting for Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, to do it].

:10 As soon as Saul had done this, Samuel came

:11 and said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When you did not come within the days appointed,

:12 I felt compelled and offered a burnt offering."

:13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not obeyed the Lord.

:14 Now your kingdom will not continue. For the Lord wants for Himself a king who will obey His commandments, and you have not."

15:3 And Samuel told Saul, "Thus says the Lord: 'Go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

:4 So Saul gathered together 210,000 men

:7 and attacked the Amalekites as the Lord had commanded.

:8 He utterly destroyed all the Amalekites with the edge of the sword.

:9 But their king, Agag, he spared, as well as the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good.

:13 Then Samuel went to Saul and said,

:18 The Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

:19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?"

:20 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

:21 And the people kept the best animals which should have been destroyed to sacrifice to the Lord your God."

:23 Then Samuel said, "Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

:35 And Samuel did not go to see Saul ever again. And the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.