

Saul Becomes King

1 Samuel 9; 10:1-2, 20-24

Teacher Preparation

Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*: <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-05-the-choosing-of-saul.pdf>

Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

Read and Discuss

1. The children of Israel asked Samuel for a king to be like the other countries around them. Samuel and the Lord were sad, because it meant that people didn't want the Lord to be their leader anymore. But the Lord let them have a king, and He picked Saul for them. Saul certainly **looked** like he would make a good king—do you remember why? (very tall and handsome)
2. Read 1 Samuel 9; 10:1-2, 20-24
3. During or after the reading, talk about how it was great when Saul went to ask Samuel about the donkeys, how Samuel knew who he was before he introduced himself, and then told him not to worry about the donkey's because they had been found! Think about strange that must have been for Saul! But it was a good example of how the Lord knows everything.
4. Look at the pictures of Saul being anointed, and explain that in those days, pouring oil on a person's head was a sign that they had been chosen by the Lord. We know that oil represents love, and it showed how, to be a good king, Saul must rule with love—love to the Lord and love towards the people he was king over.
5. While looking at the picture, ask the kids if they have seen an ordination. Discuss how when a minister is ordained, it is like the Lord choosing them for a special job too. We don't use oil, but the Bishop puts his hands on the younger priest's head and blesses him. (This isn't the only service where a minister puts his hands on someone's head—there are others, like weddings, and confirmations, and baptisms, etc.—but each implies a special blessing from the Lord.)
6. So when Saul first met Samuel, Samuel knew right away that he was the one that the Lord had picked, and after the sacrifice and a feast, he took Saul aside and told him the news. The Saul went back to his home, and he told people that he had met Samuel, but he didn't tell them that he was going to be the king! Did you hear why Saul was especially surprised that he was chosen? (Because he was from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe.) He was very humble—not at all the kind of person who brags about being great, or thinks that he ought to be the kind since he's smarter than everyone else.

Read and Discuss (continued)

7. Later Samuel gathered all the people, and he chose a king by lot. Everyone knew that the Lord who was doing the choosing. The tribe of Benjamin got picked, and then Saul. In this way the people of Israel could see that the Lord picked Saul to be their king.
8. What was unusual about Saul? He was tall and handsome, so when the people saw him they all thought that he must be a good king. People who are the best looking are also the smartest and the kindest, right?! Of course not! But they thought he must be. We know that how people look on the outside isn't always how they are on the inside, don't we? Somebody could be plain or even funny-looking, and be a wonderful, kind person. Other people might be handsome or pretty, and then we find out that they are mean.
9. Part of our lesson to learn from this is that you cannot always judge by appearances. Do you think people should choose who they want to marry based on how they look or how much money they have? Of course not! You have to find someone who is kind and helpful. As you get older, and wiser, you will get better and better at being able to really get to know people to find out what they are really like inside, not just on the outside.
10. (To the older kids, if there are any there: We also know from the Writings, that part of what this story is talking about is people being attracted to *ideas* that look really good on the surface. Sometimes people get ideas that they think are really great [which may not necessarily be good or bad] that they follow with great enthusiasm. As people get older, and more experienced, they hopefully will get better and better at seeing what ideas are good and true, and aren't just more than ideas that sound good but lack any real substance.)

Activities and Project

- Act out story as described below
- Choose from several choices at: https://freesundayschoolcurriculum.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/5/0/12503916/lesson_90_samuel_anoints_saul.pdf

Supplies

- Copy of the Word
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of these pictures illustrating the story from the above link
- Script for play, with props as needed (see below)
- Crayons, scissors, glue, and markers

Dramatic Play: Samuel Anoints Saul to be King

Cast

Saul (the tallest kid there?)

Samuel

Man with Saul

Saul's father (could be played by same person as Samuel)

Optional:

People in city

Costumes

Possibly find wraps, shawls, towels or dress-ups to drape around each player's shoulders like robes.

Props

A small cup with a little bit of water in it

A handful of small objects, like stones

A crown? (a pretend one will do)

Teacher can read the following narrative, while the children act out the actions, and say things when prompted/suggested.

Scene 1

Saul's father asks Saul and his servant to look for the lost donkeys. They look everywhere. Saul is ready to give up and go back home, but the servant suggests that they go and ask Samuel, who lives nearby. They go into the city to try to find Samuel, and some women tell them that they can catch him, but he's getting ready to go and give a sacrifice and have a feast. When they see Samuel, they don't know it's him, so they ask him if they know where they can find him. The Lord told Samuel who this was though, so Samuel answers that he is Samuel, and he wants Saul to come to the sacrifice and feast with him, and don't worry, your donkeys are found. Saul wonders why Samuel would pick him, because he is from the smallest tribe, the tribe of Benjamin. When they get to the feast he gets some of the most special food.

Scene 2

After the feast Samuel asks Saul to talk with him privately. While they talk, Samuel tells Saul that he is going to be the king, and then he asks him to kneel down, and he pours some oil on his head to anoint him as king. (Pour water over Saul's head.) Then he prophesies about of people that Saul will meet on his way home. Saul then leaves to go home.

Scene 3

Later Samuel gathers all the tribes of Israel together to choose a king. He casts lots (throw some small items on the floor and appear to be choosing one) and Saul's tribe gets picked, and then his family, and then Saul himself. But they can't find Saul anywhere? He is hiding amongst some stuff. They pull him out, and then Samuel tells everyone that Saul will be their king (pretend to put a crown on his head.) The crowd shouts "Long live the King! Long live the King!"