



September 11, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we transition to our next theme in the biblical narrative: *Kings*. We start with Israel's first king, Saul. Saul was a great candidate for king, but eventually lost his kingship due to disobedience. Saul's kingship shows us that there is only one true King that can perfectly obey God and care for God's people rightly. That King is Jesus Christ.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Kings*: Saul

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 9-11, 15 (selected portions)

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 67 (Pages 136-139); Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 108-109; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 169-173.

Teaching Points:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God was with His people, the Israelites, and He never left them.
- Samuel was the leader of God's people. He served God and God's people, the Israelites.
- Samuel appointed his two sons to help lead God's people too. But Samuel's sons were terrible leaders who did not love God.
- God's people cried out to Samuel for a king because the surrounding nations had a king.
- God granted His people's cry, but it meant they had rejected God as their true King.
- God chose Saul to be Israel's first king; Samuel anointed and presented Saul to Israel as their king.
- Saul was disobedient however. He did not follow the Lord's command and this cost Saul the kingdom.
- The true King of Israel, and of us, is the Lord Jesus.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Crown

Supplies: 2 crown pieces, jewels, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions: Decorate crown pieces with jewels and crayons/markers, tape pieces together to form crown.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Banner

Supplies: Blue banner, straw, tape, crayons/markers

Instructions: Fold banner at top along black line toward back of banner, secure with tape to form casing (leave open on each end), slide straw into casing to hold banner.



Story: Kings: Saul

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, Do you know what the leader of our country is called? Do you know his name? Does he wear one of these? (Place the crown on your head). No the president of the United States doesn't wear a crown. Who wears crowns? Kings and Queens do! And in other countries, kings and queens are the ones in charge. Today I'm going to tell you about the first king God gave to Israel.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (1 Samuel 2:2)

Catechism Questions (1-11)

Sing Songs (optional)

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was the prophet who spoke God's words?
- What did the leaders ask Samuel to give them?
- What was the king's name?
- Who is our King, the King who is greater than all kings?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why did Israel want a king?
- What was wrong with that?
- What did Samuel tell Israel would happen if they had a king?
- How did Samuel anoint Saul as king?
- How is Jesus our perfect King?

Scripture Memory for September:

"There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no God but you. There is no Rock like our God." 1 Samuel 2:2

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*

Story

Samuel

Before there was a king in Israel, there were prophets and judges who were the leaders in Israel. There was one very special prophet who we learned about last week. Do you remember his name? It was Samuel. A prophet is a person who speaks God's words; that's just what Samuel did. God would give the prophet Samuel special words to tell the people and Samuel would say those words, God's words. Samuel would travel from town to town and help the people. The people in Israel served the Lord and were happy while Samuel was their judge.

"Give Us A King!"

But Samuel was growing old. He had two sons and they helped Samuel rule over Israel, but Samuel's two sons did not love the Lord like Samuel did. So one day all the leaders in Israel gathered together and came to Samuel, "You are old, and your sons do not love the Lord like you do; choose a king to lead us, just like all the other nations have!" When the leaders of Israel said those words it made Samuel very unhappy. The Bible tells us Samuel prayed for God to help him. The Lord told Samuel, "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; the people are not turning against you, Samuel. They are turning against Me. The people do not want Me to be their king. That's the way they have been for a long time. So listen to them; but tell them what a king will do once they have one."

So Samuel explained to the people what the Lord had said. He told them that if Israel had a king, that king would take their sons and daughters and make them into soldiers and cooks to serve the king. A king would take part of their fields and give them to the people who worked for him. A king would take the best sheep and cattle from his people. With all these warnings, the people refused to listen to Samuel. Instead the people said, "No! We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

Those words were very sad words that the leaders in Israel were saying to Samuel. You see the Israelites really had a King all along. They had Someone who led them, who went out before them and helped them fight their battles against their enemies. The LORD was their King. He had been their king and they had been His people. But instead the Israelites wanted to look like every other nation. Other nations had kings and they decided that instead of trusting God alone, they wanted a king so that they would look like everyone else. That was very sad. So the Lord said to Samuel, "Do as they ask, and make them a king" and Samuel told all the leaders of Israel to go home.

Saul

Then the Lord spoke to Samuel again, "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Make him the king over Israel." Sure enough the very next day Samuel met a young man named Saul. The Bible says Saul was "an impressive young man – a head taller than any of the other men in Israel" (Show what that means – they'll remember it!) Saul and his servant had come to the town where Samuel lived looking for some of his father's donkeys. The donkeys were lost. The Bible says when Samuel first saw Saul, the Lord said to Samuel, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will be the king of my people." Samuel told Saul, "Do not be worried about the donkeys, for they have been found." This surprised Saul because he had not said a word about the donkeys to Samuel. Samuel then said something very important to Saul, "Are you not the man for whom all Israel is looking?" Saul was confused, and said to Samuel, "Why do you speak this way to me? I am no one and I am not important." Samuel did not continue the conversation with Saul. But Samuel did invite Saul and his servant to dinner and then to stay the night.

The next day Saul and his servant got ready to leave. Samuel walked outside with them and said to Saul "Tell your servant to go on ahead of us so that I may give you a message from the Lord." Saul asked his servant to walk ahead. Then Samuel took a little bottle and opened it. Inside the bottle was oil, a special oil. Samuel poured the special oil on Saul's head and then he kissed him and said, "I have anointed you king over Israel. The Lord has chosen you to be the leader of His people."

Then the prophet Samuel told Saul three things that would happen to him on the way home. The first thing that was to happen was the lost donkeys would be found, the second thing to happen was three men would meet Saul on the way home and give him two loaves of bread, and the last thing to happen to Saul on the way home would be a group of prophets would see Saul on the road and upon meeting them the Spirit of the Lord would come upon Saul. Sure enough all three things happened to Saul. The Lord was with Saul and had changed his heart. Saul loved the Lord and wanted to serve Him while he was king.

A few days later Samuel gathered all of Israel together to present their new king. Saul stood there before the people, handsome and tall – his head and shoulders above the crowd. Samuel pointed at Saul as he said to all the people, "Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." And the people shouted with joy, "Long live the king!" It was a very happy day in Israel.

Saul Loses the Kingdom

Many years later after Saul had become king, God delivered instructions to Samuel to tell Saul. God told Samuel to tell Saul, "Gather your army and go fight the Amalekites. Destroy everything that they have. Do not save anything. They do not love Me as God and they want to hurt My people." The army of Israel marched out into the desert where the Amalekites lived. The Israelites fought a great battle and won; they did exactly as the Lord commanded. Except for one thing. The Israelites kept the best cattle and sheep for themselves.

That night God came to Samuel in a dream. God told Samuel, "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has disobeyed Me." Samuel got up the next morning and went to see Saul. Once Samuel arrived at Saul's camp, Saul greeted him by saying, "Blessed are you in the Lord. I have done all that God commanded me." Samuel, knowing what really happened, asked, "Why do I hear sheep and cattle? Didn't God command you to not save anything?" Saul replied back to Samuel, "The people saved the best cattle and sheep to sacrifice to the Lord. We have not saved anything else!"

This did not matter to God. God wanted Saul to be obedient. Samuel told Saul what God had told him in the dream, "Does the Lord have as great delight in sacrifices as in obedience? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king."

Saul had lost the kingdom because He had been disobedient. As Samuel turned to leave Saul, Saul reached out and grabbed the prophet's robe and it tore. Samuel turned and said to Saul, "As you have torn this cloth, so the Lord has

torn the kingdom from you, and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you are.” Samuel went home and never visited Saul again. Samuel was sad because Saul had proved himself so bad a leader for God’s people.

The True King

No matter how great Saul was a king at times, he ended up being a disobedient king. Saul failed God and God’s people. What God’s people needed was a true King, a good and better King. That King would be God Himself and He would one day come to rescue His people. This King is Jesus Christ. Jesus would be the King that obeyed God. Jesus would be the King that would never fail God’s people. Jesus is the only King.