

Loving Hearts & Working Hands



Lesson 3

Israel's First King

Theme: Faith — Trusting that God's way is always best

Memory Verses

“Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.”

1 Samuel 12:24-25

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Samuel 8:1-13, 19-22
- 2 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 15-21, 25-27
- 3 1 Samuel 10:1-8, 17-19, 25-27
- 4 1 Samuel 12:6-15
- 5 1 Samuel 12:19-25

Men of Israel came together to talk to Samuel about a king for Israel. Samuel was getting older and his sons were not good and honest men. Israel's enemies were attacking. The men of Israel looked around them and decided they wanted a king like other nations.

God warned that a human leader like they were asking for would take their children to be soldiers and servants, and would make people pay taxes. But the

1 Samuel 8:1-13, 19-22

Israel wanted a king to be like

By asking for a king, who were the people rejecting as their leader?

- Abraham
- Samuel
- God



people thought having a king like the nations would be good for Israel. They did not listen to God's warning. They wanted what they wanted, and God told Samuel to listen to the people's demands and appoint them a king.

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 15-21, 25-27

Write two things about the way Saul looked.

Saul was from what tribe?



A King Like Other Nations

Though the people rejected God's leadership, God still loved and cared for them. He would give them a king. Israel's first king was *both* God's choice and the people's choice. But how could this happen? The answer is that God chose a king of the kind the people demanded. He gave them what they wanted. God wanted Israel to have a king who would lead the nation in God's way. The people wanted a king like other nations. Saul turned out to be more the kind of king they wanted instead of whom God wanted.

Saul, Israel's First King

Saul was a good soldier and a tall, handsome man, though he had no plans to be king. But when people demanded a king, God chose Saul. God said he would be with Saul, if Saul and the people wanted Him to. Saul could be a good king and a great leader. God would help the nation make the best of their bad decision of wanting the wrong kind of king. God said, "Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king

shall be swept away" (1 Samuel 12:24-25).

Can you believe the people of Israel rejected God as their king in favor of a human king like all the nations had? We can make the same mistake. Sometimes we don't follow God's will as we should because we think some other way is better. Can you



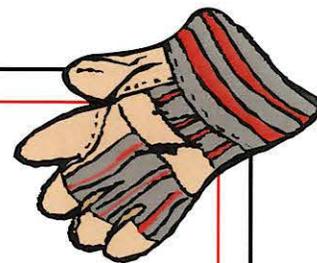
1 Samuel 10:1-8, 17-19, 25-27

What does it mean that Saul would be "changed into another man?"

- he would look different
- the Spirit of God would cause him to prophesy
- his personality would change

True or False? Saul was to wait seven days at Gilgal for Samuel to come and offer sacrifices.

believe we do this?! We must learn to fear and follow the Lord with all our heart and never turn away.



1 Samuel 12:6-15

Why did Samuel remind the people of all the good things God had done for them?

- to make them angry and disgusted
- to encourage them to obey God

Why do your parents remind you of all the good things you have?

- to make you angry and disgusted
- to encourage you to obey



1 Samuel 12:19-25

Connect the words on the left to the correct words on the right:

If you do wickedly

because of the great things He has done for you.

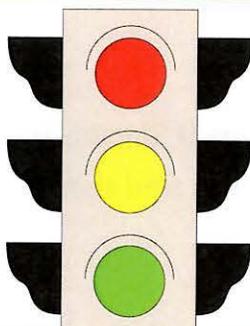
The Lord will not abandon His people

both you and your king will be swept away.

Fear the Lord and serve Him

because He has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.

I want to do things like the people around me do them, even if it's not right.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

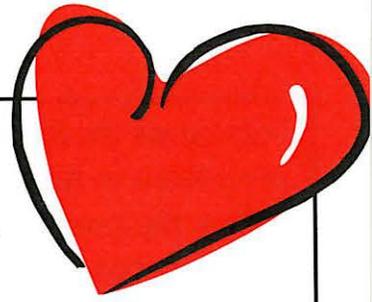
Red — always

Yellow — sometimes

Green — never

Think About It ...

When the Spirit of God came on Saul, he was able to prophesy and with God's help was "changed into another man." When we learn about God and decide to obey Him, in what ways will we be changed?



Working Hard on Bible Facts

Right now, take your Bible and turn to Deuteronomy as fast as you can. Now turn to 2 Chronicles, then to Romans, and finally to 2 Thessalonians. Draw a star here for each book you found without help.

Which book of the Old Testament is about praising and praying to God with songs?

On a map inside the back cover, find Canaan, Jerusalem, and the Jordan River. Put a 😊 beside the map you used to find these places. Be ready to locate these places on a map in class.