

Bible Story 17: SAUL, CHOSEN BY GOD AS FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 8:1-10,19-22; 9:1-20,26-27; 10:1,16-24; 13:1; 14:47-48;
15:10-11; 16:17-23

MEMORY VERSE: "I WILL SING AND MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD." PSALM 27:6B NIV

BIBLE STORY:

Years passed, and prophet Samuel was getting old. It was time to choose a new leader. The people of Israel did not want another judge. They wanted a king to rule them.

Saul was an Israelite youth, taller than any other man. One day, he left his home with his servant, trying to find some of his family's donkeys that were lost. He went to the home of Samuel, the religious leader. Perhaps the prophet would help him find his donkeys.

Samuel told Saul that his donkeys were already found. He also explained to Saul that God had chosen him to be the king of Israel. He then anointed him as king by pouring oil on his head.

Later Samuel called together the Israelites for a meeting in Gilgal where he would present the new leader. Where was Saul? They found him hiding in the baggage! They brought him before the people. Samuel then said that God had chosen Saul to be the first king of Israel. Everyone shouted, "*Long live the king!*"

Saul became a great king. But unhappily, he later began to disobey God. He became sick. A boy named David was called to the palace to play his harp. The smooth-sounding music helped the king feel better. The king's son Jonathan became a close friend of David.

King Saul ruled Israel for forty-two years.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.