

General Church Education



Saul Is Chosen and Anointed

1 Samuel 9:1-6, 14-27; 10:1-7, 17-27

Lesson 5

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is Our King

For ages 10-11

Saul Is Chosen and Anointed

1 Samuel 9:1-6, 14-27; 10:1-7, 17-27

Teacher Background

The children of Israel begged for a king who could lead their nation in battle and bring them prosperity. As the Lord's prophet, Samuel would anoint the first king. Saul met Samuel while he was looking for help with finding his father's donkeys. To his surprise, Samuel invited him to a feast and treated him as an honored guest. The following day, Samuel anointed him as Israel's first king and promised that he would receive three signs that would confirm this choice. Later, Israel cast lots to see who would be their first king and Saul was chosen. But Saul could not be found. He was hiding among the equipment. When Saul emerged, the people were pleased to see that he was tall and handsome.

The first three kings of Israel, Saul, David and Solomon, picture the way in which we progressively understand the truth. To begin with, we understand true ideas superficially and judge by appearances, like Saul. Then gradually we see its deeper application to our thoughts and motives, like David. Finally, we can have the truth written on our hearts by obeying what is true, like Solomon. Young people tend to look towards their peers for approval, and less to the Lord, but in time they can develop trust in the Lord and His leading to make good decisions.

Focus Points

- While Saul was looking for his donkeys he met Samuel, who told him he would be king.
- Samuel anointed Saul with oil.
- While the Israelites were unaware that Samuel had anointed Saul, they cast lots and selected him as their king.

Readings from the Writings

"A life of freedom is simply and solely being led by the Lord." *Arcana Coelestia* 892

"The reason why oil was used for anointing was that oil was the sign of...the good of love received from the Lord, and consequently is the good of love to the Lord. This good is the indispensable element within every single aspect of heaven and eternal life." *Arcana Coelestia* 9474

As a king Saul symbolized Divine truth. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 166.3

"Saul and Jonathan were lovely, they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions . "Saul" here as king, and "Jonathan" as the son of a king, mean truth protecting the church." *Apocalypse Explained* 278.10

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear...
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Psalm 2:10-12)

Projects and Activities (see back of lesson for answers)

Saul, the First King, Questions

Look at the lesson or read 1 Samuel 1 Samuel 9:1-6, 14-27; 10:1-7, 17-27 and answer questions on the story.

Saul Chosen as King Word Search

Look for key words from the story of Saul being chosen as the king of Israel. Make the search easier by finding a partner to help you.

Additional Project and Activity Choices

Cast Lots Using Dice to Select a King or Queen

Simulate casting lots by throwing dice to find out who will be king or queen.

Sensory Experience: Oil

Samuel used a flask of oil to anoint Saul king. In ancient times oil was very precious. Only wealthy people could afford it. People used perfumed oils to soothe their feet and hands from the hot dry climate, especially after a journey.

New Church teachings tell us that oil has the heavenly meaning of love. Good leaders should have a love for the Lord in their hearts because the Lord's love can guide them in what they do. It can give them love for the wellbeing of the people in their care.

In a safe place, for example over a sink, pour a little olive oil or some fragrant oil into your hand. The oil that Samuel used to anoint Saul was probably a perfumed oil and not a cooking oil, but you can imagine how the oil would feel to someone living in a hot dry climate. Rub the oil into your hands or other parts of your body. Notice how it feels and smells.

Saul Is Chosen and Anointed

1 Samuel 9:1-6, 14-27; 10:1-7, 17-27

Vocabulary

seer—another word for a prophet

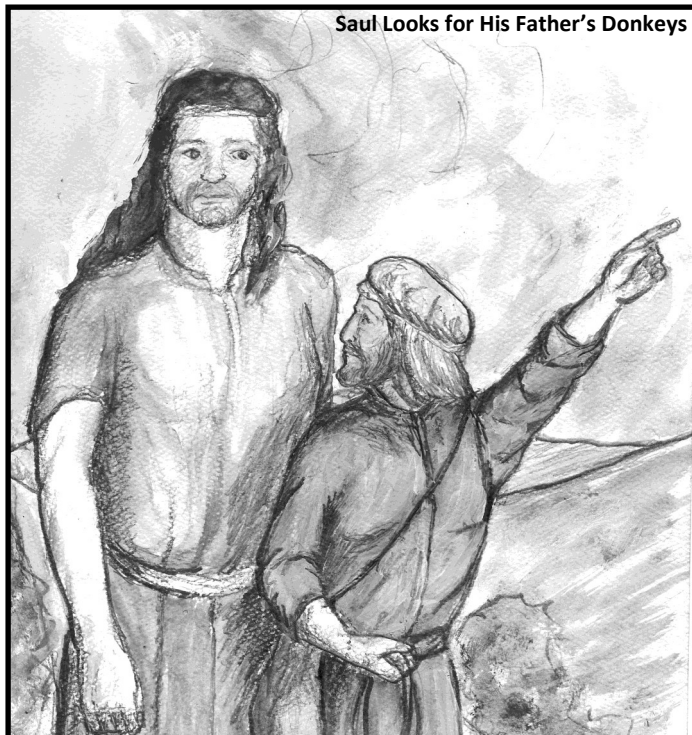
outskirts—the parts of a city furthest from its center

flask—a small pottery or glass bottle

The Israelites Get a King

The Israelites were about to start a new period in their history. For the first time, they were going to have a king. Think back to how the children of Israel had been led up to this time. Moses, Joshua, and the judges, especially Samuel, were all leaders who reminded them to worship the Lord and obey His commandments.

Now, the Israelites wanted a king who would lead them in battle and bring them honor, glory and power. They wanted to be looked up to, even feared, by the nations around them. The first kings did indeed lead Israel to become a powerful nation.



Who Would Be the First King?

Today's story tells how the Lord showed Samuel which man was to be the first king. His name was Saul. He was the son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul was tall and handsome. The Word says,

“There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.” (1 Samuel 9:2)

Saul looks for his father's donkeys

Saul's father, Kish, sent Saul and a servant to look for his donkeys, which had

Lesson 5 • Saul Is Chosen and Anointed

wandered off. After traveling a long distance, they still had not found them. Saul thought they should go give up and return home because his father would be worried about him.

But Saul's servant told him that there was someone in the town nearby who might be able to tell them where they could find the donkeys.

“Look now, there is in this city a man of God; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go.” (1 Samuel 9:6)

Saul Meets Samuel

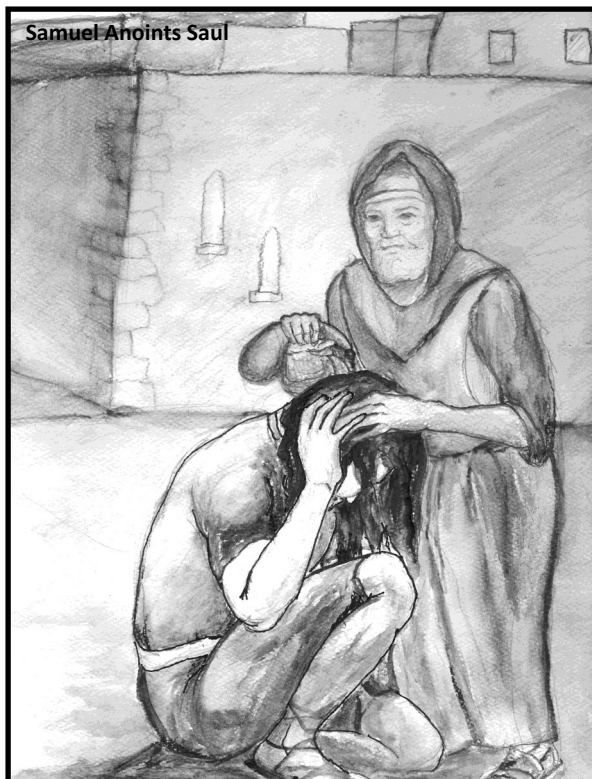
You can probably guess who this man of God was. Yes, it was Samuel, the Lord's priest and prophet. Saul and his servant climbed the hill to the city. Samuel saw them coming. The Lord told him that this was the man He had chosen to be king.

Saul did not know that the man he saw coming towards him was Samuel. He asked him where they could find the seer.

Samuel said, “I am the seer.” He told Saul that the donkeys had been found and then he said something that really surprised him.

“And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?” (1 Samuel 9:20)

What could Samuel mean? Saul couldn't understand how it was possible that a man from Benjamin, the smallest tribe of Israel was being chosen for such a great honor.



Samuel Anoints Saul

Samuel invited Saul to eat with him at a feast. He gave Saul the chief seat, and the hind quarter of the leg, a special piece of meat usually given to the priest. It was a sign of great honor. Saul must have been wondering what was happening! He would soon find out.

Early in the morning, Samuel woke Saul and took him to the outskirts of the city. He sent the servant away.

Then Samuel took a flask and poured special olive oil on Saul's head.

This is called “anointing.” It is a very old custom. Oil is a symbol for love. It was a sign that Saul would be king, and that he would need the Lord's love to be a good ruler of his kingdom.

Saul was anointed as the future king of Israel, but for now only Samuel and Saul knew about it. Saul did not tell anyone.

The Lord Gives Saul Three Signs

Saul must have found it hard to believe that he would be king! How would you feel if someone came and told you that you were going to be a king? Saul needed to be shown that it was really true. Samuel told him that the Lord would give him three signs. You can read about these signs in 1 Samuel 10:2-5. The three signs helped Saul believe that the Lord really had chosen him.

Casting Lots

When the time had come for Samuel to show the Israelites who would be their first king he called all the tribes to a place called Mizpah, which means “watchtower”. The city was on a high hill north of Jerusalem. Here the Israelites would cast lots to choose their king. But it was really the Lord who would choose the king because he would guide the lots.

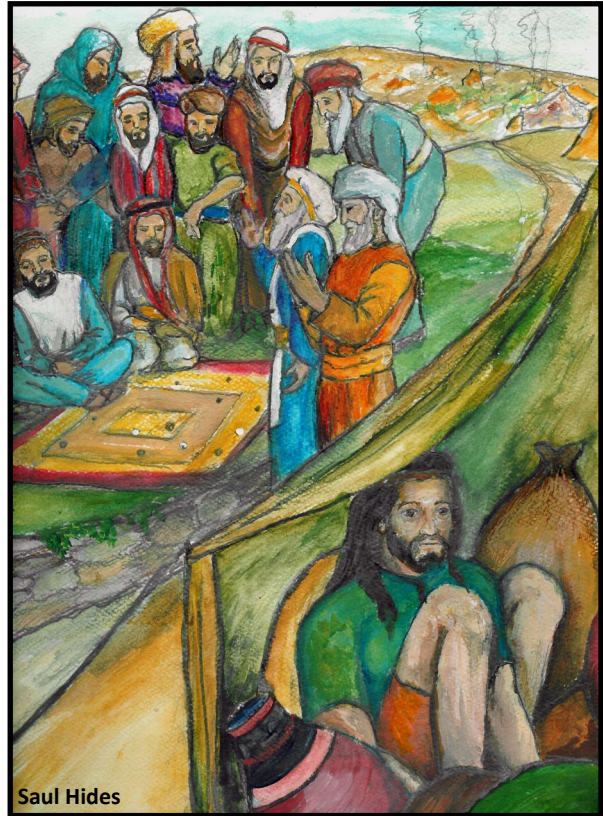
First, lots were cast among all the tribes and the tribe of Benjamin was picked. Then lots were cast among the families of Benjamin and the family of Matri was chosen. Then lots were cast among the family of Matri and Saul was appointed. Of course, the Israelites were eager to see who would be their king. They looked for Saul but he had hidden. He felt unworthy to be king.

The people asked the Lord, “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord replied, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.” (1 Samuel 10:22) You can imagine how excitedly they ran to find Saul! When they saw a tall and good looking man they were pleased. They shouted, “Long live the king!” (1 Samuel 10:24)

The Israelites Are Happy With Their King

The people were happy because Saul was tall and handsome. Are those the important qualities for being a king? Did Saul’s appearance show if he would be a wise king? Would Saul prove to be as fine inside as he appeared on the outside?

The Lord knew that Saul was the only kind of king the people would accept and follow. Over time, they would come to see that he was not a truly strong and wise king. He did not turn out to be the kind of king they expected. Following their own way would not bring them the same happiness as doing things the Lord’s way.



Saul Hides

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear...
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” (Psalm 2:10-12)

Projects and Activities (answers are at the back of this lesson)

Choose one or two.

Saul, the First King, Questions

Look at the lesson or 1 Samuel 9-10 and answer questions on the story.

Saul Chosen as King Word Search

Look for key words from the story of Saul being chosen as the king of Israel. Make the search easier by finding a partner to help you.

Saul, the First King, Questions

1 Samuel 9-10

Use the lesson or read the story from the Word (1 Samuel 9-10) to answer the following questions.

1. What tribe did Saul come from?
2. What did Saul look like?
3. What is another name for a seer?
4. How did Samuel and Saul find each other?
5. What might Saul have thought about the way Samuel treated him when they met?
6. What private act did Samuel do that let Saul know he would be king?
7. Why was casting lots the best method for choosing a king?
8. How did Saul react when news that he was Israel's king first became public?
9. What personal qualities are important for ruling a nation?
10. Was Saul the kind of king you would have chosen?

Saul Chosen as King Word Search

1 Samuel 9-10

Look for key words from the story of Saul being chosen as the king of Israel. Make the search easier by finding a partner to help you.

E	J	A	R	X	Q	L	S	K	B	I	Y	F	F	U
W	M	N	J	E	Y	A	Y	T	Y	S	H	F	L	A
P	T	O	V	O	I	C	E	C	L	V	B	E	A	E
R	V	A	S	N	A	G	K	B	C	H	U	Z	S	O
S	K	X	K	D	D	Z	N	X	T	M	X	B	K	Q
Z	D	I	W	D	N	D	O	C	A	B	S	G	K	F
Y	S	R	E	E	S	A	D	S	T	R	I	E	O	S
H	A	L	O	G	H	R	H	E	Y	E	J	F	A	V
X	N	X	I	V	Q	G	O	N	L	E	U	C	C	J
Y	F	P	R	W	F	V	M	Y	M	L	R	N	K	U
N	I	M	A	J	N	E	B	C	K	I	R	P	Z	A
I	J	Q	I	V	T	Y	T	F	F	K	X	B	T	P
A	W	E	A	R	F	I	C	I	F	K	O	K	N	C
T	E	K	F	H	C	I	C	A	N	O	I	N	T	S
W	C	V	B	Y	K	E	O	P	W	Q	C	X	D	R

Words to find:

1. Benjamin (the tribe that Saul came from)
2. Kish (the name of Saul's father)
3. handsome (Saul was thought to be very handsome)
4. donkeys (this is what Saul and his servant were looking for)
5. Samuel (they went to Samuel for help finding the donkeys)
6. seer (someone who can see the future)
7. sacrifice (this is what Samuel was doing when Saul found him)
8. anoint (pour oil on a person)
9. reign (rule a land as a leader)
10. flask (container for oil)

Answers

Lesson 5

Saul, the First King, Questions

1. Benjamin, 2. tall and handsome, 3. a prophet, 4. Saul was looking for his father's donkeys, 5. surprised, 6. anointed him with oil, 7. the Lord did the choosing, 8. he hid, 9. wisdom, 10. no.

Saul Chosen as King Word Search

E	J	A	R	X	Q	L	S	K	B	I	Y	F	F	U
W	M	N	J	E	Y	A	Y	T	Y	S	H	F	L	A
P	T	O	V	O	I	C	E	C	L	V	B	E	A	E
R	V	A	S	N	A	G	K	B	C	H	U	Z	S	O
S	K	X	K	D	D	Z	N	X	T	M	X	B	K	Q
Z	D	I	W	D	N	D	O	C	A	B	S	G	K	F
Y	S	R	E	E	S	A	D	S	T	R	I	E	O	S
H	A	L	O	G	H	R	H	E	Y	E	J	F	A	V
X	N	X	I	V	Q	G	O	N	L	E	U	C	C	J
Y	F	P	R	W	F	V	M	Y	M	L	R	N	K	U
N	I	M	A	J	N	E	B	C	K	I	R	P	Z	A
I	J	Q	I	V	T	Y	T	F	F	K	X	B	T	P
A	W	E	A	R	F	I	C	I	F	K	O	K	N	C
T	E	K	F	H	C	I	C	A	N	O	I	N	T	S
W	C	V	B	Y	K	E	O	P	W	Q	C	X	D	R