

This week our study covers the subject of leadership. The Israelites wanted what the world had and demanded an earthly king.



Torchlight

"When men choose to have their own way, without seeking counsel from God, or in opposition to His revealed will, He often grants their desires, in order that, through the bitter experience that follows, they may be led to realize their folly and to repent of their sin."

– Patriarchs & Prophets pp. 605, 606



King Saul

Daily Devotional 35



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for keeping me safe while I slept. Thank You that I have another day in which to learn more about You and to share You with some one else. Help me to be obedient to my parents, and kind and helpful to my family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 8:1-22



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

We are told in our reading from the Bible today that Samuel had handed over some of the judging responsibilities to his sons down at Beersheba. But verse 3 tells us that Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah, were not doing the right thing. They had chosen not to follow in the footsteps of their father. So the Israelites came and complained to Samuel and asked for a king to rule over them so they could be like the nations around them. Up until this time it was God who was the head of the nation and God had used people like Samuel to carry out His work. But now the Israelites wanted an earthly king to rule over them. Samuel, with a heavy heart, took their request to God. God instructed Sam-



uel to tell the Israelites what was going to happen if a king ruled over them. The future life of the Israelite nation, ruled by kings, was not going to be a rosy one. There were going to be some good kings but the majority of them were going to be wicked men. Even though Samuel warned the people, the Israelites still wanted a king. God allowed them to have a king even though He knew it was not best for them. God allowed them to have free choice. God allows us free choice as well. God always wants the very best for us. He knows the end from the beginning. We can choose to serve Him or choose to serve the world. Whom do you choose to serve?

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 8:_____

“ _____, _____, _____, _____
_____, _____, _____ the behaviour of the
king who will reign over them.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for loving me so much. Help me to worship You alone and to be Your obedient child. Please bless me with wisdom and discernment so that I can make good choices in my day-to-day journey with You. Thank You for my Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 9:1-13



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

In our reading today we were told about a man named Kish who had a tall and handsome son named Saul. Kish sent his son, Saul, and a servant on an errand to find some lost donkeys. They spent three days searching for the donkeys but they could not find them. Saul's servant suggested that they go and see Samuel the prophet, who lived near by in the city of Ramah, to seek some advice on what to do next.

Just like Kish, who sent Saul out to search for his donkeys, God sent His son Jesus out to this earth to search for us. Jesus was sent to this earth to show us what God “is like” and to live a life as an example for us to follow. Jesus came knowing that He would die on the cross to save us from our sins so we “have a chance” of having eternal life with Him. Jesus made an amazing sacrifice for us. He came to seek and save the lost. Check out *Matthew 18:11*.



FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 9:_____

“When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, ‘Come, let us return, _____’”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins so I have the opportunity of eternal life with You. Lord I want to be Your best friend; please help me to draw close to You and to be faithful and obedient. Please help me to build my trust in You as I read Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 9:14-27 &
10:1



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our Bible reading today tells us about the meeting between Saul and Samuel. God had confirmed to Samuel, the day before, that this meeting would take place. So when it did God confirmed again that this indeed was the man to be king. Samuel informed Saul that his donkeys had been found and invited Saul to the sacrificial feast after the offering had been made to God. Verse 20 tells us that Samuel indicated to Saul that something was going to happen to him to change his life forever. After the feast Samuel took Saul back to his house and spoke with him regarding the work that was ahead for Saul. The next day Samuel anointed Saul as king.



Verse 25 tells us that Samuel had already started teaching Saul. This was the beginning of a father/son type relationship between Samuel and Saul. God wants to be your Father as well. He wants to teach you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, how to live your life so you will be a blessing to others. Look up these Bible verses: *Psalm 27:11, Psalm 68:5, Psalm 143:10, Matthew 5:16* and *Colossians 3:16*.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 9:_____

“When they had come down from the high place into the city, _____
_____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for my Mum and Dad. Help me to be grateful for all that they do for me. Father, I want to be kind to my brothers and sisters. Can You please come into my heart and help me to do that. I want a change of heart so I can shine for You.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 10:2-16



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today we read that Samuel told Saul about a series of events that would happen to him on his homeward journey. This was to confirm to Saul that what had just happened to him was all in God's will. And they all did come to pass. Two men told him that his father's donkeys had been found, and he received two loaves of bread from a group of three men. Also, Saul did join a group of travelling prophets and, indeed, the spirit of God did come upon Saul. The Holy Spirit gave Saul a new heart; he became a converted man. This was done to prepare him for the work and responsibilities of being the King of Israel. The people who knew him, who witnessed this event, were astonished at Saul's transformed behaviour.



Saul was tall and handsome and had the appearance of royalty, but he was too inexperienced to take on the role of a king. God, in His love and mercy, sent the Holy Spirit to Saul to change his heart and mind so that he could rule the nation with wisdom and lead the people's hearts to serve God. The power of the Holy Spirit can also change your heart. You can ask the Lord to send you the gift of the Holy Spirit so that you can work for Him in guiding others to Jesus. Check out these verses: *Psalm 51:10* and *Ephesians 3:14-19*.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 10:_____

“ _____, _____
_____ meet him; then the spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for the sunshine and the rain. Thank You for the food I eat and the water I drink. Help me to be more grateful for the everyday things which You provide for me. Please send me Your Holy Spirit so I can understand what I read in my Bible today.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 10:17-27



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us that Samuel called the tribes to come to Mizpah to choose their king. With prayer and casting of lots, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen, then the family of Kish, then Saul the son of Kish. When they went in search of Saul he could not be found. Saul was so overwhelmed with the responsibility ahead of him he had hid himself, but God told the people where to find him. Saul was publicly proclaimed as king. Verse 25 tells us that Samuel wrote a book about the behaviour of royalty. This was done because God wanted them to realize that, even though they had rejected Him as their ruler, the king was still to be subject to God and was to keep His commandments. If they followed this guidance it would be a successful monarchy. Verse 27 tells us that there were a group of Israelites that were not happy with Saul being chosen because he was from the smallest tribe. They thought a leader should have been chosen from one of the larger more powerful tribes. Saul was chosen as their earthly king, but God was still to be recognized as the higher power over them. It was with Samuel's help as priest, prophet, and judge that Saul was to lead the people, by example, to look to God and worship Him alone – not the idols of the land. Jesus asks us to follow Him and be an example to others. Check out *Matthew 16:24* & *Ephesians 5:1-4*.



FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 10:_____

“ _____; _____
_____, he was taller than any of the people
from his shoulders upward.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for keeping me safe this past week. Thank You for the many blessings You shower upon me day after day. Help me to understand what I read in the Bible today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 11:1-15



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

In our reading today the Bible told us that there was a battle on the east side of the Jordan in the territory that had been given to the tribe of Gad. The Ammonites came up against them at a town called Jabesh Gilead. King Saul and three hundred and thirty thousand Israelites came to their rescue. Like Gideon, Saul divided his army into three groups and came upon the Ammonite encampment from three different directions early in the morning, when they did not expect it. Because of the surprise attack, the Israelites won the battle and the Ammonites



were completely defeated. It was suggested to Samuel and Saul that the people who refused to acknowledge Saul as their king should be put to death. But Saul, because of the Holy Spirit changing his heart, did not want to kill these men in an act of revenge. He had the spirit of forgiveness and compassion for his fellow brethren. Samuel called the Israelites to Gilgal to offer peace offerings to the LORD and to confirm again the kingship of Saul to the nation.

Jesus wants us to be compassionate towards others. Read *1 Peter 3:8-9*.

FIND AND FINISH THIS VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 11:_____

“Now there was Saul, coming behind the herd from the field; and Saul said, ‘What _____, _____?’ _____.”

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for all the wonderful things You do for me. Lord, I want to surrender my heart to You and I ask that You please forgive me for my sins. Help me to enjoy the Sabbath today and to be a blessing to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - 1 SAMUEL 12:24

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you”.

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Samuel 12:1-25



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our reading today sums up what our study has been about this week. Samuel presented Saul to the nation again to confirm him as their king. Samuel repeated Israel's past history and God's continued hand of deliverance over them. He warned them that, for a successful monarchy to occur, the Israelites and Saul must follow God's commandments. If they didn't, God would deliver them into their enemy's hands. For the Israelites to move forward and prosper as a nation, God needed to lead them to repentance for their sin of rejecting Him. In response to Samuel's prayer, He sent a very violent storm upon the land to show them that He was their real King. With humility of heart they confessed their sins. From verse 20 onwards, Samuel encouraged them to keep serving God and, if they did, the LORD would not forsake them. Samuel told them he would continue to teach and pray for them even though they had rejected him as their leader. Verse 24 is our memory verse for this week and it sums up Samuel's ministry, leading the people never to forget the good things that God had done for them and, in gratitude, to serve God with all their hearts. God does not want to force us to worship Him. He wants us to worship and serve Him from our hearts because we are so grateful for what He has done for us.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. What did Kish lose that he asked Saul to go out and find?

2. What did Samuel anoint Saul with? _____
3. How many loaves of bread did the three men give to Saul on his way home? _____
4. What was the name of the town that was attacked by the Ammonites? _____
5. What did the Israelites have to repent of? *Clue in 1 Sam 12: 17, 19*
