

THE CHOSEN KING

Saul Becomes
King
1 Samuel 8:4–9:2;
10:17–27; 11:12–15
1049 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God is our true leader.

BIBLE VERSE

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation. Psalm 25:5

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God is our one true leader above all other leaders.

LAW & GOSPEL

I think I know what is best in my life, and I suffer the consequences of my sin.

God the Father is patient with me, forgives my sins, and sustains my hope. In Christ, I am His child.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Desiring to be like all the other nations, the elders come to Samuel asking him to appoint a king over Israel. Samuel vainly tries to warn against their plan, telling the consequences the people face. God reveals to Samuel that he will encounter the handsome Saul, whom he anoints as king over Israel.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 1 Samuel 8:4–9:2; 10:17–27; 11:12–15 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read 1 Samuel 9:3–10:16 and study notes in *TLSB*, for the full narrative of the anointing of Saul.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Plastic or paper crowns
- Digital device
- Pretzel sticks, goldfish crackers, raisins
- Crown pattern, craft foam, stickers, gems, buttons

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

SAY

- Kings and queens wear crowns to show they are important. They are leaders who rule over the people in their countries. Today, we will hear about someone who was chosen by God to be king.**
- Have you ever wanted something very, very much, but your parents said that it wasn't good for you? Today, we'll see how the Israelites got what they wanted, though it wasn't the best thing for them.**

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for all the leaders in our country. Help them do a good job. Thank You for Jesus, who is our King and Savior. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Play a game of hide-and-seek with the Bible narrative. Have students find in your room four things that the people in this Bible account were searching for. Hide in your space four large note cards with the following four sentences written on them (also add a visual cue, like a crown or a donkey): **Israel seeks a king. / Saul is sent out in search of his father's donkeys. / God sends Samuel to wait until he sees Saul. / Saul hides and the people have to find him.** After your students find each note card, talk about and review that part of the narrative.
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Read or listen to the passages directly from Scripture. After you have read Samuel's warnings against kings (this isn't emphasized in the summary narrative), discuss why having a king might not be a good thing. Talk about how this relates to breaking the fear, love, and trust part of the explanation of the First Commandment.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What did the people ask Samuel for? What did God tell them?
- Who did God chose for Israel's first king?
- Who is your King?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- The people wanted a king. God told them a king would make life hard for them.
- This narrative shows how the Israelites, once again, wanted their own way, not God's way. They didn't trust God. Even though God had every right to punish them, He did not. He gave them what they asked for, a king. For a time, Saul was a good and godly leader. But later, Saul fell away from God.
- Jesus is our heavenly King, who forgives our sins, loves us, and cares for us.



CHRIST CONNECTION

In Christ, we not only have our one true leader but we also have the true King, who conquered sin, death, and the devil for us.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Wear a crown on your head as you tell this story.

God's helper Samuel was a prophet and judge in the land of Israel. He told the people about God's plans. He helped them with their problems. But God's people saw how their enemies had kings who helped them win battles. They wanted a king too! So one day, they went to Samuel and said, "You are old now, Samuel. We want a leader who will help us win battles. We want a king like everyone else has."

Samuel was not happy about this. He knew that God was their true leader. So Samuel prayed to God and asked Him what to do.

What do you think God told Samuel? God said, "I rescued My people from Egypt. I took care of them and brought them to the Promised Land. I am their true leader and king. But now they want another king instead of Me. They are making a bad choice, but I will let them have what they want. Tell them, though, what will happen when they have an earthly king."

So Samuel called the people together. He said, "You want a king to rule over you, so you can win battles. But having a king won't be as good as you think. You will have to listen to him and obey his rules. You will have to pay him money and work hard for him. One day, you will be sorry that you didn't listen to God but asked for a king instead. Then, you will want God to fix everything."

But the people still said, "We want a king like everyone else has!" Not long after that, God told Samuel, "I have heard My people's prayers. I know their enemies are hurting them. I am sending someone to you." The next day, a man named Saul came to see Samuel. God said, "He is the one I have chosen to be king."

Samuel told Saul what God said. Then, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head. Pouring oil on someone's head in Bible times was called anointing. It showed that God had chosen Saul to be the king of Israel. Samuel told Saul that he had important work to do as the king of God's people.

Later, Samuel called God's people together. He had Saul stand before the people. Then, Samuel said, "Here is the man God has chosen to be your king." The people all shouted, "Long live the king!"

At first, Saul was a good king. But later, Saul sinned and did many wrong things. But God was still with His people. He kept on forgiving them and blessing them.

Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior and King. God's people didn't make good choices. We don't always make good choices either. We sin. But our King, Jesus, did everything right. Then, He took the punishment for our sin. Because of Him, God forgives our sins. Someday, we will live in God's kingdom with Jesus forever.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Samuel was a good judge and prophet, but his sons did not follow the ways of the Lord. The Israelites didn't want Samuel's evil sons ruling them after he died, so they told him to give them a king like every other nation had.

Samuel didn't want to do this. God was Israel's King. But the people of Israel were stubborn. All the other nations had a king, so they wanted one too. God told Samuel to give them a king like they asked. Here is where we see how wonderful God is. He could have been mad and given them a really bad king. But He loved His people and chose a really good man to be their first king.

Saul was that man. He lived in the tribe of Benjamin. One day, his father's donkeys ran away. His father sent him to go look for them. Saul took a servant along, and they looked all over for them, but they couldn't find them anywhere. Saul's servant told him they should go and ask Samuel. Samuel told Saul he would find the donkeys. But more important, he told him God had chosen him to be king over Israel. Saul was a very shy man who didn't think he was able to be king.

But Samuel poured oil on Saul's head to anoint him as king. Later, the Holy Spirit rushed upon him. With the Holy Spirit upon him, Saul had the courage and everything else

he would ever need to be a great king, to serve God and His people all his life.

Samuel gathered all Israel together to show them the man God had chosen to be their king. Out of the twelve tribes gathered there, God chose Benjamin. Out of all the families in the tribe of Benjamin, God picked Saul's family. And from all the people in Saul's family, God chose Saul. But Saul was nowhere to be seen. God told Samuel that Saul was hiding among some bags. Samuel found him and brought him out to the people. When they saw Saul, they were really excited—he was big and tall like they thought a king should be.

During his first years as king, Saul loved God and cared about God's people very much. He was very brave and courageous and fought hard against the Philistines. His son Jonathan was especially brave because he loved and trusted God. Later, Saul fell away from God. But God still took care of His people. He chose another man, David, to be their new king. David was the ancestor of Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, our Savior.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

King, May I?

Appoint a leader to be king (or queen). He or she wears a crown. The other children stand opposite the leader. The leader gives directions for how the children are to move. For example, "Girls/boys may take two giant steps toward me." Girls/boys ask, "King/Queen, may we?" Leader replies, "Yes, you may." Give several children the chance to be the leader. Say, **You are all children of King Jesus!**



Action Song

Sing this song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

If you know that Jesus loves you, clap your hands.

(Clap, clap.) Repeat

Jesus is our Savior-King;

We will praise Him as we sing.

If you know that Jesus loves you, clap your hands. *(Clap, clap.)*

Sing additional verses: stomp your feet, turn around, give a cheer.



Good Gone Bad Made Good

Through the prophet Samuel, God warned the people against their desire for a king. Have students brainstorm examples of good ideas that eventually went bad. Perhaps a vacation that their family was looking forward to but when everything went wrong. How did God work out good from this situation?



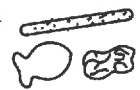
A King for Today

Some countries around the world still have kings. Many of these monarchs have limited powers because their government operates independent of the royal ruler. Have students use online resources to research more about modern monarchies and report their findings to the whole group.



A Choice of Snack

Give children a choice of snack: pretzel sticks, goldfish crackers, or raisins—or a combination. Say, **God lets us make choices. Sometimes, we make bad choices, like the Israelites. But God forgives us for Jesus' sake. Let's thank God for our food and ask Him to help us make good choices.**



Crown Craft

Find a crown pattern online. Trace around the pattern onto craft foam or construction paper and cut out. Give children markers, stickers, gems, buttons, or other decorations to decorate their crowns. Say, **Jesus, our King, has chosen you to be His children!**



Children of the King

Play music and act out a pretend coronation, placing a crown on each child's head. Remind the children that they are children of King Jesus, who rules over His kingdom with wisdom and love. Use a digital device to record asking children what it means to have Jesus as their King. Share the video with parents this week.



LEAVE

SAY

We have many earthly leaders who help us and serve us, but God is our true leader.

PRAY

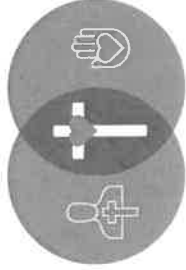
Gracious heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to give us all we need, especially eternal life through His death on the cross. Our King, Jesus, loves us more than an earthly ruler ever could, and that's a love beyond compare. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

THE CHOSEN KING

LESSON 9

1 Samuel 8:4–9:2; 10:17–27; 11:12–15

GOD IS OUR TRUE LEADER.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has chosen me and all believers to be part of His kingdom through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I have been chosen by God to follow and serve Him in His kingdom.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can express, using examples from the narrative, why it is so important that God is my true leader.

YOUTH

I can explain why it is important that God is our true leader.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is our one true leader above all other leaders.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus is my King.

BIBLE VERSE

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

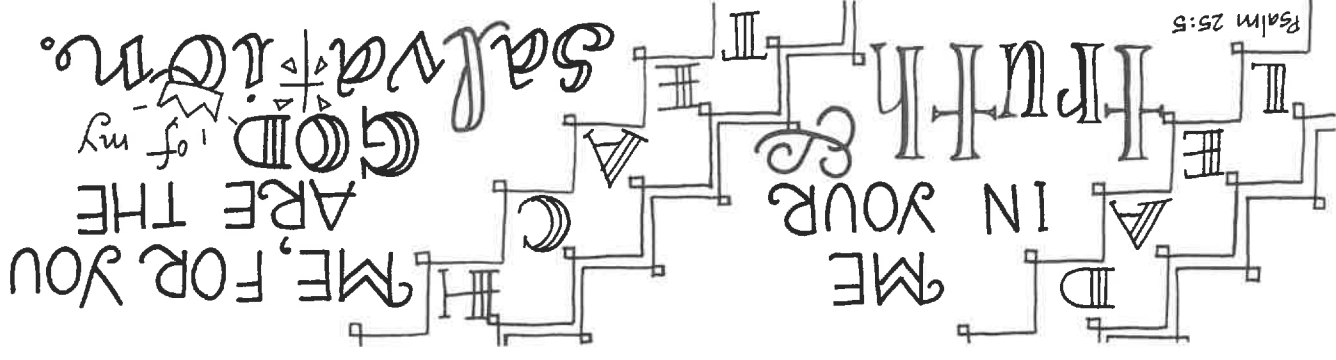
Psalms 25:5

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Desiring to be like all the other nations, the elders come to Samuel asking him to appoint a king over Israel. Samuel vainly tries to warn against their plan, telling the consequences the people face. God reveals to Samuel that he will encounter the handsome Saul, whom he anoints as king over Israel.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ **On the Go**—What did Israel's elders ask for due to the actions of Samuel's sons? Why did God consider this a "rejection"?
- ▶ **At Mealtime**—What characteristics of Saul made him seem like a good choice to be king?
- ▶ **Something to Do**—God is a good, benevolent king. He rules as an eternal fountain of good gifts. Form a "family fountain" by lifting your hands together and naming things that show God's goodness.
- ▶ **Before Bed**—How did God show He was with the people of Israel even though they desired an earthly king? How does God show He is with you even though you are sinful?



Leader Devotion LESSON 9
THE CHOSEN KING—SAUL BECOMES KING
1 SAMUEL 8:4-9:2; 10:17-27; 11:12-15

BIBLE TRUTH

God is our true leader.

BIBLE VERSE

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation. Psalm 25:5

LAW & GOSPEL

I think I know what is best in my life, and I suffer the consequences of my sin.

God the Father is patient with me, forgives my sins, and sustains my hope. In Christ, I am His child.

DEVOTION

“Long live the king!” It seems as if our society is fascinated with all things royal. From British royal weddings to the birth of the next heir to the throne, people spend countless hours glued to their televisions to catch every last detail.

Game of Thrones became a tour de force for HBO, winning countless awards and becoming part of the everyday vocabulary.

Despite God’s warnings against a king, He gives the people what they desire. In time, they would come to regret their choice. “In our repentance today, God provides ‘turning points’ in our lives, so we again hear His words of comfort, promise, and hope. Knowing that Jesus is indeed our Savior and Lord, we can act confidently as agents of God’s kingdom” (T^LS^B, p. 450).

Pray: Thank You, Lord, for working through human instruments to accomplish Your will for the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

LESSON 9 OPENING

THE CHOSEN KING—SAUL BECOMES KING

In our Bible lesson today, you will hear about someone who has the Spirit of God come to him. We believe in one God who reveals Himself in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the “Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16–17). The Spirit works wonders in the Book of Acts, giving the apostles the power to speak other languages to people from all over the world (Acts 2:4).

Sometimes, we think the third member of the Trinity is in just the New Testament. But the Holy Spirit is in the Old Testament too. From the beginning of creation, we hear that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). The writers of the Psalms speak of the Spirit too: “Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11). The prophets were all inspired by the Spirit of the Lord. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises His people, “I will pour My Spirit upon your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants” (Isaiah 44:3).

We hear about the Holy Spirit in the Gospels, which tell the story of Jesus’ life and ministry on earth. Listen to the story of Jesus’ Baptism from Matthew: “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (3:16–17). When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the Father spoke to Him and the Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. Because of this account, we use the dove to represent the Holy Spirit in our pictures and sculptures, like this one. *Show the liturgical art of the Holy Spirit as a dove.*

The Holy Spirit does a lot of important things in the Church and world today. Martin Luther put it this way: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true” (Luther’s Small Catechism, Apostles’ Creed, Third Article).

When you hear the Word of God preached in church, the Spirit is at work. When someone is baptized and the pastor pours water on the person’s head and says “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” the Spirit is at work. When you believe what God says, and you tell someone else about what He has done, the Spirit is at work through you. So listen closely to our Bible story today, and remember the power of the Spirit of God!

Pray: Dear God, thank You for sending Your Spirit to be our Helper. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

1 Samuel 8:4–9:2;
10:17–27; 11:12–15

BIBLE TRUTH

God is our true leader.

FAITH FOCUS

The Fourth
Commandment

LAW & GOSPEL

I think I know what is best in my life, and I suffer the consequences of my sin.

God the Father is patient with me, forgives my sins, and sustains my hope. In Christ, I am His child.

BIBLE VERSE

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.
Psalm 25:5

VISUAL HELPS

A piece of liturgical art that depicts the Holy Spirit as a dove

THE CHOSEN KING—SAUL BECOMES KING

Unit 5, Lesson 9

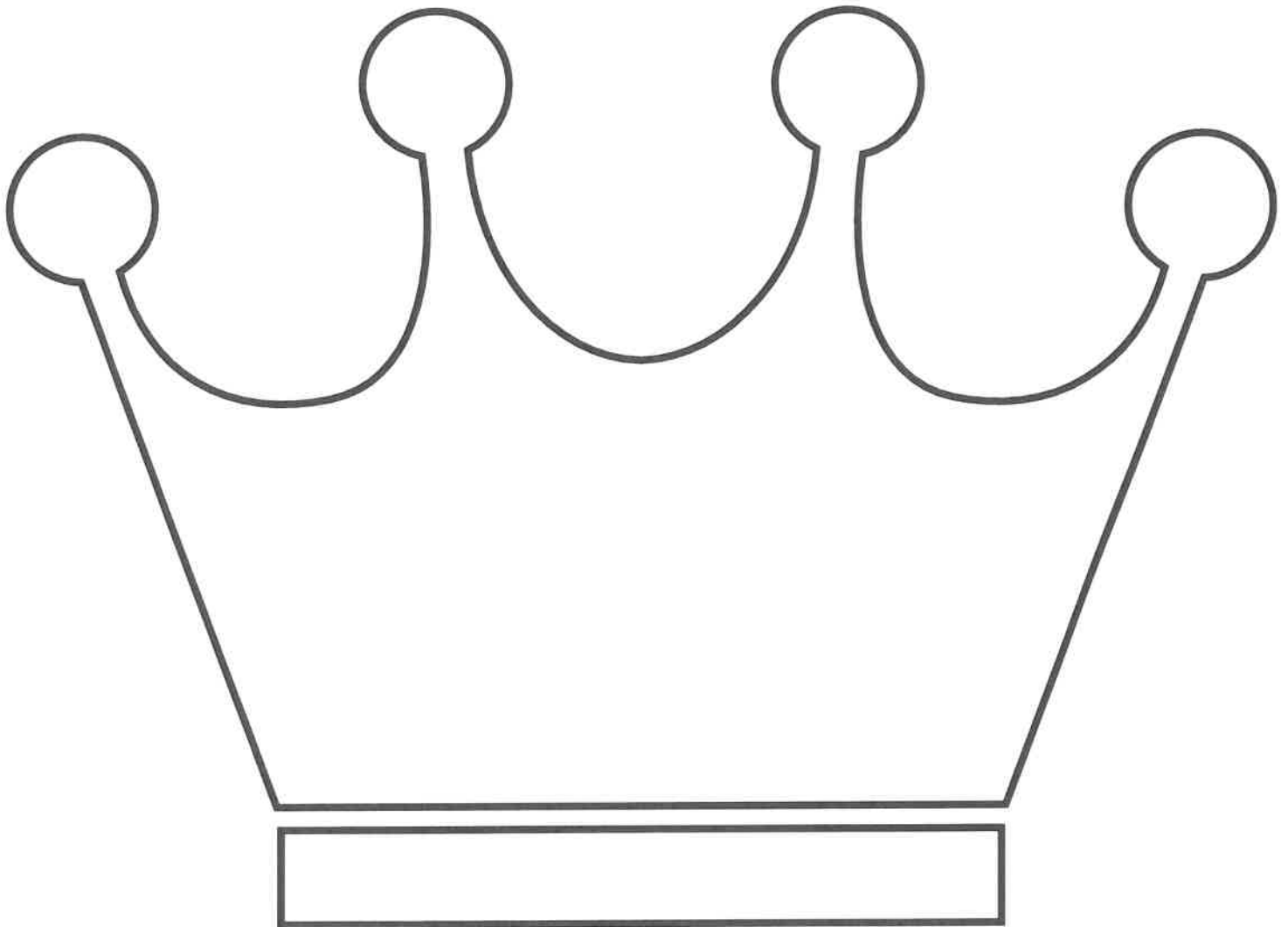
The Greatest King

Directions: God is our true King. Look up or listen to the Bible passages listed below. Inside the crown, write down the qualities of God revealed in each passage that show why we can trust in God to lead and guide us.

Deuteronomy 32:4

Psalms 116:5

Psalms 139:1–4



Psalms 145:9

Isaiah 6:3

Jeremiah 23:24

Malachi 3:6

Matthew 19:26

1 Timothy 1:17

2 Timothy 2:13

1 John 4:8