

Family Theme | **Israel's First King** Date | **March 23, 2025**

Study Text | **1 Samuel 9:1—10:24; 1 Samuel 16:6–13**

Read the Word: 1 Samuel 9:1—10:24; 1 Samuel 16:6–13

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how God's Word should be our top source for direction, not the lost world.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: Leaders Should Be Judged by Their Character
(1 Samuel 9:1–2; 16:6–13)

APPLY: Judge others, especially leaders, by their character, not by their outward appearance.

- *What is the danger in assigning leadership to someone simply because he or she "looks the part"?*
- *Although we might not want to admit it, we are human and are likewise influenced by physical characteristics. How can we overcome this inclination toward emphasizing physical appearance?*

APPLY: Value character over money, power, connections, and influence.

- *What are some other common qualities, actions, and characteristics that the world values that contrast with what God values according to His Word?*
- *How can we make sure we don't get swept up in show over substance? What safeguards can prevent us from being led astray by charisma that lacks character?*



Key Truth: Believers Look to God for Direction, Not to the World
(1 Samuel 9:3—10:4)

APPLY: Look to God, not to the world, for guidance.

- *In what areas do people look to the world instead of trusting in God's guidance? (Political ideologies and programs; where to find fulfillment; how to get ahead; etc.)*
- *Why is God's guidance better than the world's guidance?*

APPLY: God will supply what we need when we need it in order to accomplish His purposes.

- *When have you seen God do amazing things to supply your needs? What did you learn from this?*

APPLY: Place God's interests above your own.

- *In what areas do you need to place God's interests above your own?*
- *What differences do you notice between those who live for God and those who live for self?*



Key Truth: Believers Should Be Filled With the Spirit and Submit to God's Will
(1 Samuel 10:5–24)

APPLY: Remain humble and zealous for God's glory, not your own.

- *How can we guard against the temptation to make our accomplishments all about us?*

APPLY: Let love for God and love for your neighbor guide all your actions.

- *Saul started off on the right path but his selfishness and dependence on self ultimately led to his downfall. Why does selfishness get us off God's path for us?*
- *How will loving God and loving people help us make right decisions?*

APPLY: Continually submit your will to God's will, listen to His voice, and allow Him to guide your every step.

- *How do we submit to God's will? How will that change our lives?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What were some reasons the Israelites wanted a king to lead them?
- In asking for a king, who were the Israelites really rejecting as their leader?
- What are some qualities we should look for in a leader and demonstrate when we are leading?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **1 Samuel 12:24**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

Israel was a theocracy where God was their ruler until Saul was anointed king.

Everyday Extras:

Play a game of *Tug of War*. The first time you play it, make the sides totally uneven and talk about why one side easily won. The next time you play, make the sides more even. Talk about how life sometimes feels like this game and name different things that are pulling our attention away from God (TV, sports, material items, friends, etc.). Discuss how we should keep God as the leader of our lives and encourage family members to stay active in His Word to help fight against the pull of the what the world values.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned one night Samuel heard a voice. He thought it was Eli calling him, but it wasn't. It was God speaking to Samuel. God told him to tell Eli his two sons would be punished for their wicked actions and for not following Him. God used Samuel to give people messages. Just like God used Samuel, **God Can Use Me** too.