

Saul becomes King

Get your Bibles and please turn to 1 Samuel 7:15-8:22, 10:17-24.

Samuel was a fair and just leader for the Israelites, but Samuel's sons did not follow in his footsteps. When Samuel appointed his sons to be judges in Beer-sheba, there was trouble. Samuel's sons were corrupt and unjust. Some of the Israelite leaders, fed up with Samuel's sons, went to Samuel and asked him to appoint a king for them. One of the reasons the elders gave for wanting a king was so that Israel "could be like other nations."

Samuel was upset by the Israelites' request, so he prayed. God assured him that the Israelites were not rejecting Samuel; instead, they were rejecting God. Since being delivered from bondage in Egypt, Israel was a covenant community, rooted in an understanding of God as divine king. God saw Israel's demand for a king as a denial of God's leadership. The desire of Israel to "be like other nations" represented a shift. Israel was moving away from being a people with a particular identity and conforming to the patterns of other people. Even though Israel's request for a king was a rejection of God's sovereignty, God tells Samuel to do as the people have requested and give them a king. So, Samuel chose Saul as the first king of Israel. God gave in to Israel's desire for a king, but that does not mean God abandoned Israel. God was still Israel's God.

Often in Israel's history, we witness the people's struggle to follow God and not conform to the world around them. The church today faces the same struggle. The church is called to be in the world-yet to follow God, not others. This was not easy for the Israelites, and this is not easy for us. We are called to listen to God's voice so that we may know how to be God's people.

Read the scriptures.

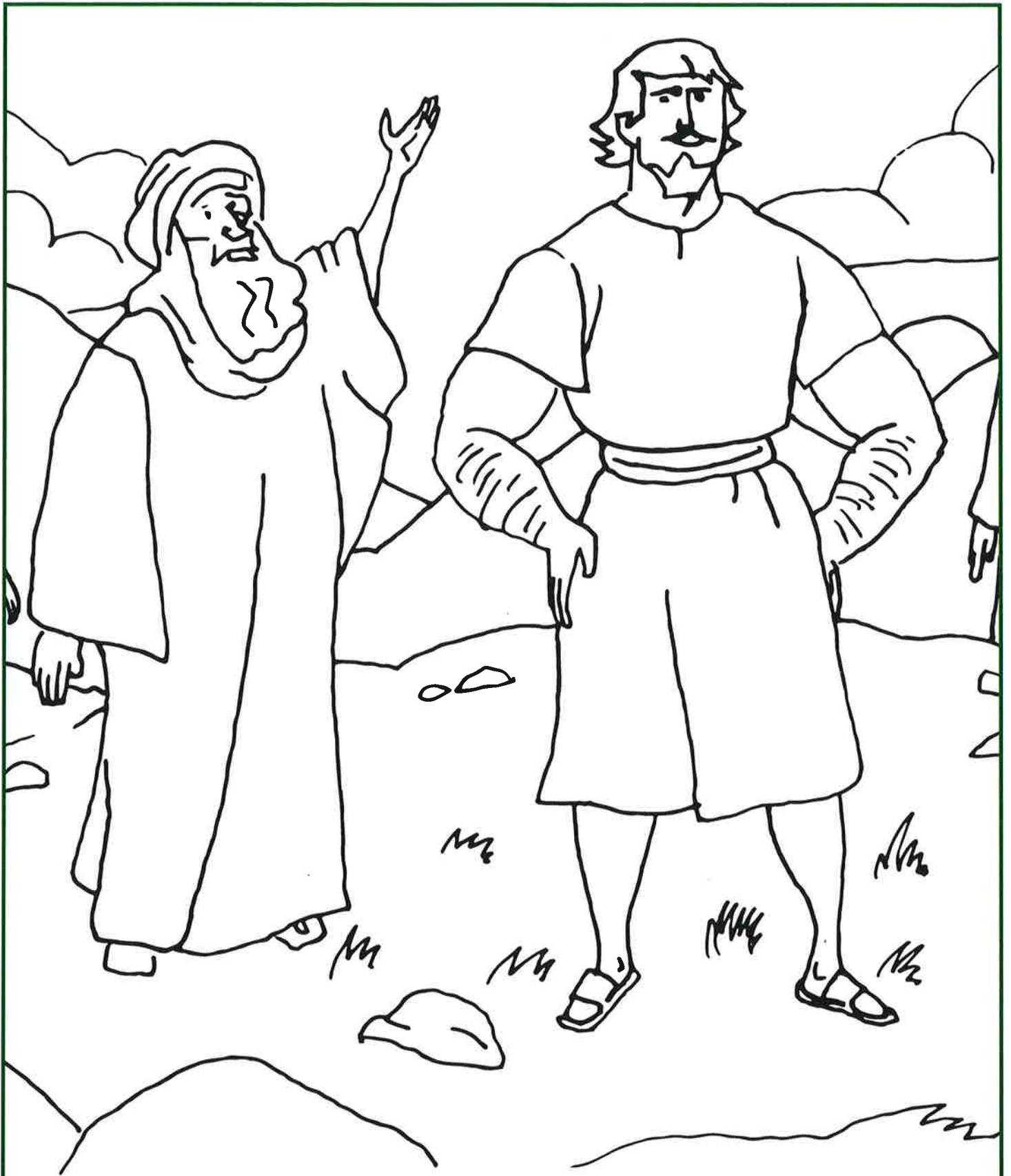
As we read our Bibles let's look at scripture on 3 levels-our heads (details of the verse), our hearts (prayerfully considering what the verse says to us and how we can apply it to our life) and our hands (how we can take the verse and examples of how we can become the hands and feet of Jesus on earth).

Questions to answer (using our heads!!!!).....what are the facts in this Bible story?

Questions to answer (using our hearts!!!!).....1) What can you take from this Bible story and apply to your life? 2) What lessons do you see from these verses?

Questions to answer (using our hands!!!!).....How can these Bible verses go from your heart to your hands? Share some examples of being the hands and feet of Jesus from these verses.

Close with a prayer.....ask if anyone has any prayer requests. Hold hands and let whoever wants to pray out loud pray and have someone designated to close the prayer. Praying together as a family is an AMAZING GIFT to all!!



Saul was Israel's first king.

Name: _____

Date: _____

King David

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

Tent Samuel Israelites Glorify Temple Promise House David Saul King God
Anoint