

SAMUEL AND SAUL

Bible Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 8:4-9, 19-22; 9:27—10:1; 10:10; 15:26-28

Lesson Focus: God spoke and acted through Samuel as judge, priest, and prophet to bring Israel its first king, Saul.

Big Question: Is God still speaking and acting through us today?

Key Words: TRIBES, KING, MONARCHY

BIBLE CONNECTION

- 1 After the reign of the judges (Samuel was the last one), the people of Israel wanted a king to rule over them.
- 1 God warned the people that having a king meant they would, once again be ruled over and could potentially face slavery again.
- 1 Unfortunately, the people of Israel ignored God's warnings, and Saul became their first king.
- 1 Hannah promised to give God her son if she had one (1 Samuel 1:11).
- 1 Samuel was about five years old when Hannah dedicated him to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:22).
- 1 Having a king meant God was no longer the sole ruler of Israel, and that could put Israel back into slavery.
- 1 God disagreed with the people of Israel but anointed Saul as Israel's first king (1 Samuel 9:15-16).
- 1 Saul was age 30 when he became king, and he ruled for 42 years (1 Samuel 13:1).
- 1 God regretted having made Saul king when he turned away from God (1 Samuel 15:10-11).

CARTOON CONNECTION

- 1 Why is this person reluctant to step up?
- 1 What talents do you have to share with others?
- 1 Why would God choose to work through a kid?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 36: The Top 10 Bible Heroes

- 1 In what category do you place today's hero, Samuel?
- 1 What can you conclude about God's choice of people through whom to speak and act?

Here We Stand Student Book page 231: How to Reform the Church When It Strays from the Gospel

- 1 How can you be sure that you are representing God's word and God's will when you interact with others, especially others who may not be Christians?
- 1 Is God speaking and acting through you?

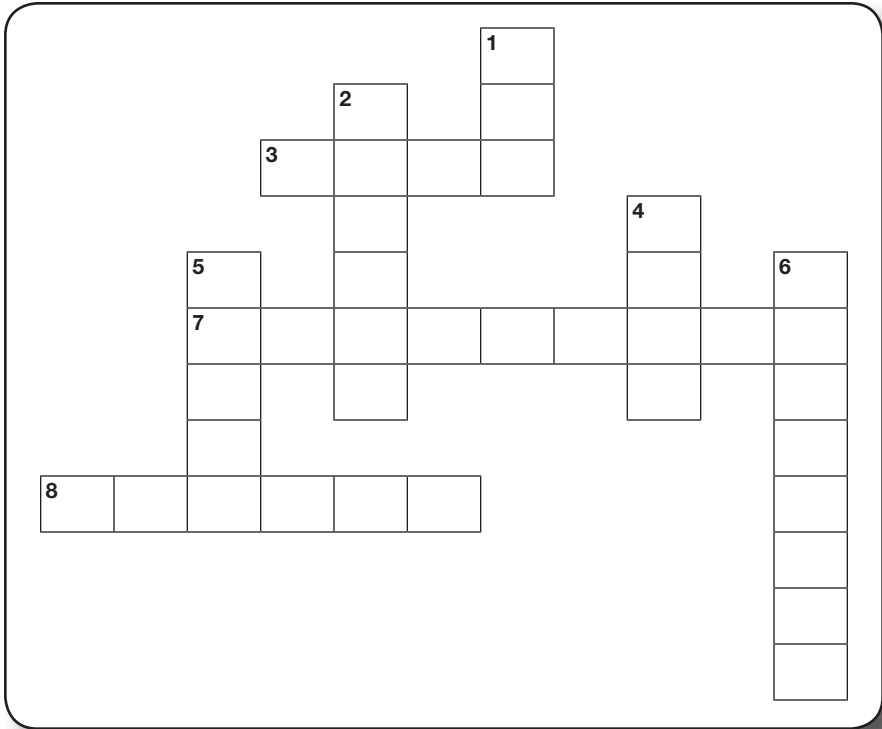
LIFE CONNECTION

During this lesson, you talked about, identified, and prayed for the leaders in your congregation. Now go one step further—serve those who serve God and you. Make treats and plan to serve them to council members at one of their meetings. Thank them for their leadership in the church. Lead a prayer of thanks for all the ministers (leaders) who listen for God's voice and carry out God's will in your congregation.

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Crossword

Write the correct answers for each clue in the crossword puzzle below.



ACROSS

- 3. _____ was the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9:17).
- 7. God wants _____ more than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).
- 8. A characteristic of Samuel's two sons (1 Samuel 8:3).

DOWN

- 1. Samuel poured _____ over Saul's head to show he was chosen to be king (1 Samuel 9:27 – 10:1).
- 2. God called _____ to serve as priest, prophet, commander, and judge (1 Samuel 3:19-20).
- 4. Israel demanded that God give them a _____ (1 Samuel 8:5).
- 5. Israel would not listen to Samuel's _____ (1 Samuel 8:19).
- 6. Because of Saul's disobedience, God _____ him as king (1 Samuel 15:23).

Answers: Across 3. Saul 7. obedience 8. greedy Down 1. oil 2. Samuel 4. king 5. voice 6. rejected