

Saul is made king



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 10:1-7,9-11,14-19,24-27
Samuel appoints Saul



Aim:

To think about being faithful to God



In today's session we find out what happened when Samuel anointed Saul as king.

God chose Saul to be king. Today we will find out how Saul reacted to being made king and we discover whether the people were happy that their prayer had been answered.

Each child will need:

- Watercolour paper (ideally) or card/paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To watch *Easy printmaking for kids: marbling with oil* by The Artful Parent (4:19)
- Resources to set up a marbling station/s: vegetable oil, liquid food colouring or liquid watercolours, water, droppers (optional), cups, large shallow dish, forks and spoons, disposable tablecloth / table protector



Start it

Say:

In our Bible story today we see the beginnings of a tradition that carries on to this day. This religious tradition is so holy that in Britain the public aren't allowed to watch this part of the event.

Ask:

What event do you think I am talking about?

Say:

On 6 May 2023 King Charles III had his coronation in Westminster Abbey.

Watch the following clip and discuss what is happening. Explain that behind the screens the King was anointed with oil by the religious leaders, that the religious leader poured/rubbed oil on the King. This symbolises that God has appointed the King to lead his country following his ways and commands. The idea is that the king or queen is transformed by God at the moment they are anointed. This detail will be important when we look at the story of Saul's anointing later on.

Video

King's Coronation: Monarch is anointed with holy oil behind the screens by Sky News (3:20)



Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God's rules and guidelines are there to help us. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 ICB)

Say:

When we are finding it difficult to follow the guidelines God has set for our lives, it can be helpful to remember just how much he loves us. He wants us to have the best lives we possibly can. Our song for today reminds us of God's faithfulness.

Video

'Faithful' Victory Kids praise dance by Victory Kids Music (2:07)



Tell it

Our story continues from last week, so we are going to start by recapping Samuel and Saul's journey so far. See what the children can remember from last week's session and then watch the clip together.

Video

Samuel anoints Saul by Bible Stories for Kids (5:47)

Watch: 0:00 to 3:59 'Afterwards they went to the rooftop of Samuel's house and talked a very long time.'

Ask:

Who wanted a king and why did they want one?

Say:

Before we focus on the next part of the story, it is important to notice that God answered their prayers. God gave them exactly what they wanted. He was faithful to the promises he had made to his people.

Say:

Let's see what happened next in the story.

Read:

'Samuel took a jar of olive oil. He poured the oil on Saul's head. He kissed Saul and said, "The Lord has appointed you to be leader of his people Israel. You will rule over the people of the Lord. You will save them from their enemies all around. This will be the sign that the Lord has appointed you as leader of his people."'

(1 Samuel 10:1 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What holy ritual did Samuel carry out in front of Saul?
- Think back to the clip that we saw at the start of our Explore It session. How does this holy ritual carry on today?

Say:

Since biblical times, kings and queens have been anointed with oil during their coronation; a priest has symbolically poured oil on them. In Saul's case, it was God's way of blessing him and changing him into the person that would lead his people.

Read:

'When Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart. All these signs came true that day. When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, Saul met a group of prophets. The Spirit of God entered him. And he prophesied with the prophets. People who had known Saul before saw him prophesying with the prophets. They asked each other, "What has happened to Kish's son? Is even Saul one of the prophets?'"'

(1 Samuel 10:9-11 *ICB*)

Ask:

What did people say about Saul after he had been anointed?

Say:

The people could see the change in Saul as God worked in his heart.

Ask:

- In what ways do people see your life as different because you follow God?
- Do you think people notice? If not, do you think they should notice?

Say:

Unfortunately the change in Saul didn't last very long. He was worried what the people would say about him being king and lost his confidence. Watch the rest of the clip to find out what happened next.

Watch: 3:59 to end.

Say:

Hiding in the baggage probably wasn't the best start to his time as King of Israel! Many of the Israelites did celebrate their new king, but the Bible suggests that others weren't quite so happy.

Read:

'So they ran and brought him out. When Saul stood among the people, he was a head taller than anyone else. Then Samuel said to the people, "See the man the Lord has chosen. There is no one like him among all the people."

'Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

'Samuel explained the rights and duties of the king. He wrote the rules in a book and put the book before the Lord. Then he told the people to go to their homes.

'Saul also went to his home in Gibeah. God touched the hearts of certain brave men who went along with him. But some troublemakers said, "How can this man save us?" They hated Saul and refused to bring gifts to him. But Saul kept quiet.'

(1 Samuel 10:23-27 *ICB*)

Say:

Saul had only just started his reign over the people and already some were unhappy.

Ask:

Why do you think some of the Israelites were unhappy to have Saul as their king?

Say:

God had been faithful and answered their prayers, but they still weren't happy.



Action it

Discuss with the children how oil was used to symbolise the change in Saul's life. Explain that to help them remember the story, they are going to create a painting using food colouring and oil.

Prior to the session, watch the following clip to discover how to make an oil and water marble painting. The children do not need to watch the clip. Depending on how many children you have, and how many helpers, you may want to set up more than one marbling section. Remind the children to write their names on the back of their paper before marbling, so they know their work when it dries.

Video

Easy printmaking for kids: marbling with oil by The Artful Parent (4:19)

Pray it

Say:

The plain paper was brought to life by the oil and paint. God does something like that in our lives. Through the power of his Holy Spirit, God changes each one of us. He loves us just as we are, but through his power we can be transformed. He is a faithful God who always sees the best in us.

At this point, give the children the opportunity to share how they got on with their acts of kindness from last week. Who were they able to help? Can any of the children remember the Bible verse that they chose for the week? If so, encourage them to share it.

Say:

Our acts of kindness for others don't need to stop this week. We can carry on helping others and showing them what it's like to follow God's way in our lives.

Ask:

You don't have to name them, but is there anyone who makes fun of you or makes you feel uncomfortable because you are a Christian? Describe what that feels like.

After the children have shared their thoughts, pray with them. Ask God to change their hearts so that they can follow him with confidence and can discover, just like Samuel, how faithful God is.



Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Saul is made king

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 10:1-7,9-11,14-19,24-27
Samuel appoints Saul



Aim:

To think about being faithful to God



Pray

In this week's *Explore It* session we thought about how our lives should look different when we follow God. Spend some time each day asking God to fill your life with his beautiful colour, changing your heart and making the world a brighter and more loving place to be.



Experiment

This week we looked at the way Samuel used oil as a symbol that Saul had been changed by God. Watch the video and ask someone at home to help you recreate this amazing oil experiment.

Fascinating oil and water science experiment for kids by TheDadLab



Song for the week

'Faithful' Victory Kids praise dance by Victory Kids Music (2:13)



Memory verse

'The Lord's orders are right.
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Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

Saul becomes King



Bible verses:
1 Samuel 10:1,23,24



Aim:
To know that Saul became a king



Memory verse

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 *ICB*)



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Start it

Saul was taller than everybody else and they thought this would make him a good leader. But it wasn't true.

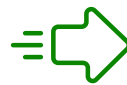


Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Samuel 10:1,23 and 24

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Do you know anybody who is very tall?
- What would you say if you met a king/ queen?
- Where do kings and queens live?
- Which adults lead you or care for you?
- How do kings and queens move around? Do they ride horses?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Can we stand in a long line with the tallest and shortest at either end?
- Play follow-the-leader
- Dress up as royalty and make crowns
- Do a kind action without words and the others have to guess it
- Role-play somebody falling over and everyone else helping them up

