

## Let's Talk: Day 120-One Story

Israel Wants a King – Israel Rejects God as Their King

Today's Reading: 1Samuel 7 & 8; Hosea 13:9-11

Have a thumb war. The loser must plead to have his or her thumb released.

Questions:

1. How did Samuel make sure people remembered that God answered their prayers?
2. How could you make sure you remember when God answers your prayers? Try out your idea over this next week and see if your memory of God's answered prayers increases.
3. Why did Israel ask for a king? How did Samuel respond? How did God respond?
4. Who was supposed to be Israel's king? What does it mean to make God your "king"? Is God your "king"?

## Let's Talk: Day 121

Saul Anointed as King – King Saul & God's Laws for a King

Today's Reading: 1Samuel 9 & 10; Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Imagine that you were Saul and that you had a cell phone. Who would you call to tell them about your new job?

Questions:

1. What was the servant's idea for finding the donkeys? What is the first thing you do when you lose something?
2. Describe Saul's appearance, character and family background. Do you think he was a likely choice for king? Why or why not?
3. How did the people find out Saul was chosen to be their king? Where was Saul when they found out? If you were the very first king of Israel, what thoughts do you think might have gone through your mind?

4. What instructions did God give kings in Deuteronomy? Why do you think He gave these instructions?

### **Let's Talk: Day 122**

Saul Obeys God – Saul's Coronation, Samuel's Prayer & Praying for the Government

Today's Reading: 1Samuel 11 & 12; 1Timothy 2:1-2

Draw a picture of an American flag. On the stripes write (or dictate) a prayer for our leaders and government. Older option: pray for your elected officials in the state and federal government.

Questions:

1. How did Saul respond to Nahash the Ammonite's threat? When Saul defeated him, to whom did Saul give the credit?
2. What mistake did Israel make regarding a king? Who was their king first?
3. When God had delivered them in so many ways since leaving Egypt, why would they want to be like the other nations? Do you ever find yourself wanting to be like people around you instead of the way God has called you to live? How can you keep God as king in your life?
4. Even though the people had made a mistake, what instruction did God give them so that they could still prosper? What instruction has God given us that we may lead a peaceable life today? As a family, pray for our government

### **Let's Talk: Day 123**

Saul Disobeys – Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice, Sparing Agag & David's Heart for God

Today's Reading: 1Samuel 13:1-15; 1Samuel 15; Acts 13:16-23

You might want to do this activity at the end of the discussion. Read 1Samuel 15:22-23 again. Have each family member decide what phrase they need to meditate on this week, and write that phrase out maybe on a mirror with a dry erase marker or in a prominent place in your house. You can also put a little tune/rap to the phrase and sing it often this week.

Questions:

1. What mistake did Saul make when Samuel didn't arrive? Is it ever hard for you to wait when you are told to wait? How can this story inspire you to wait even when it's hard?
2. How did Saul disobey God regarding the Amalekites? How did Saul first approach Samuel? When confronted with his disobedience, did he admit it or try to blame someone else? What would have been a better response?
3. Who does Saul want to please more than God? Do you ever have this struggle? How can we stay focused on trying to please God first? How can you tell, even at the end of 1 Samuel 15, that Saul is still more concerned about the opinion of people over God?
4. In Acts, what does God say is a difference between Saul and David? What does having a heart after God look like in today's society? How would a modern day David act at school, in his family and at church?

### **Let's Talk: Day 124**

Jonathan's Victory – Jonathan's Faith in God's Ability to Help Those Without Power

Today's Reading: 1 Samuel 13:16-23; 1 Samuel 14; 2 Chronicles 14:1-11

Use words and/or pictures from today's story and create a doodle art. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6D7WrOYyRY> for a quick and easy tutorial.

Questions:

1. What was missing in Israel? Who had the only two in the country?
2. How would you describe Jonathan's relationship with God?
3. What did Jonathan decide to do? How did God give him a great victory? Which came first: God's deliverance or Jonathan's faith? How is Asa's cry in 2 Chronicles similar to Jonathan's attitude in 1 Samuel?
4. How would you describe Jonathan's armor bearer? Do you have a friend like that? How can you be a friend like that?

## Let's Talk: Day 125

David Anointed as King – God Chooses David & Says Not to Judge by Appearance

Today's Reading: 1Samuel 16; Psalms 78:70-72; John 7:24

Have everyone share their favorite superhero (Superman, Spiderman, Batman...) and why. When they are not in their costume, no one knows how strong and courageous they are. That is like us – only God knows the amazing things inside of us and incredible things we can and will do!

Questions:

1. Samuel thought Eliab would be the next king. How did God respond? How do you look at people – by their outward appearance or by their inward character?
2. How many things can you find out about David in 1 Samuel 16? What's your favorite attribute that you learned about David?
3. What did David do for King Saul? Why do you think God put David in the position to minister to the king? Can you think of any circumstance you are in that God might be trying to teach you something for your future?
4. According to Psalm 78, how did David shepherd the people? Who shepherds you? Is there anyone in your life that you can shepherd?

## Let's Talk: Day 126

Today's Reading: Weekly day OFF

Weekly Review: Think back on this week's reading. What story stands out to you and why? As a family, pick a verse from the week to meditate on or memorize.

This month we will be focusing on the Grace@Home building block of "Character." As we begin a study of the kings of Israel, it becomes very evident how the character of the king determines his success. The choices they make are a result of their character. Take a moment individually and assess your character strengths and flaws. Pray for Godly character as a family.