

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... AT SCHOOL

**I SAMUEL 10-15
MARK**

**2ND GRADE
BIBLE CURRICULUM
UNIT 4**



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DEDICATED TO THE STUDENTS OF **CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL**

USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Investigating God's Word...At School is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the "big picture" of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

Introduction. Each "Day One" starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to "call" them to study.

Quiz Time. Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

W.O.W! The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

Historical Context. Each lesson, the Scripture text is placed in historical context by use of a timeline. It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

Bible Investigation. The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of discussion, questions, and application points. This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Scripture Memory. At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

Quiz Time. Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

Historical Context. As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God’s Word.

Bible Investigation. Again, this is the heart and soul of each day’s Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God’s Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

Worldview Builder. This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a “pillar” of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

Defend the Faith. A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

Scripture Memory. The day’s lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

AND FINALLY...

Teaching God’s Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

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LESSON 1 // I SAMUEL 10:9-11:11

OVERVIEW

God has chosen Saul as king of Israel and has also changed Saul's heart. As I Samuel 10 continues, we witness the process by which Israel comes to know that Saul is king. First, Saul begins to prophesy with the prophets, calling attention to the fact that the Spirit of God is now upon him. Then, his uncle questions him regarding what Samuel had said. Saul keeps the information about his kingship quiet. Finally, Samuel stands before all Israel to reveal God's choice of Saul. God also condemns the people again for rejecting Him in order to have a human king. Most of Israel rejoices over Saul; some troublemakers despise him. Samuel goes over the rules and regulations of life under a king.

I Samuel 11 describes Saul's first opportunity as the newly crowned king. The Ammonites have besieged Jabesh Gilead, forcing its people to surrender. The men of Gilead look for help from anywhere in Israel. Saul answers the call and immediately (and forcefully) gathers a huge army. Just as the people desired, this new king sought to protect Israel. Saul and his army attacked the Ammonites, thoroughly subduing them. The people of Gilead were delivered. This seems to be a pretty good start for Israel's new political system!

PREPARATION

Read over and meditate on I Samuel 10-11 this week.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Just as in so many other stories in Scripture, we clearly see a God who chooses in our reading today. Even though Israel begged God for a king, it was still God who chose their king for them. Whether or not God is rejected as King does not mean He ceases to be King! Use the opportunity to train your children to begin to learn how God chooses all those in authority, as He also chooses all those who are to become His. We only choose to follow Jesus because the LORD has graciously chosen us first! This sovereign electing will of God should give us both rest and extreme humility. As much as your children will grow up thinking life is all about themselves and their choices, it's really about God's choosing. Their joy should come from the fact that God has chosen to redeem His people from their sins!

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 111:10
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

God's chosen people
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

Chosen
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 10:9-24
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Psalm 33:12
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

Saul made king
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 10:25-11:11
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Providence
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

Is God unfair?
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Psalm 33:12
3-5 mins.



INTRODUCTION

Begin by reading Psalm 111:10.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Say: *Do you want to gain wisdom and understanding? Do you want to learn more about God, His ways and His world? This verse tells us that the way to wisdom is through obedience to God. Just studying God's Word is not enough! We must obey God and do what He has commanded us to do. Can you and I fully obey all that God has told us to do? [No!] That's why we need Jesus! As we study today, turn your hearts to Jesus, God's chosen One.*



QUIZ TIME

Now, let's move on to QUIZ TIME.

Today's questions: *What small nation did God choose to become His people? Why did God choose Israel as His own people? Has Israel always followed God? Why did Israel want their own king?*

Answers:

1. Israel.
2. Out of His own grace and mercy; for His own purposes.
3. No.
4. So they could be like other nations. So they could have someone to save them from their enemies.

Say: *When Israel asked for a king, they were really rejecting God as their King. Even though the LORD had chosen them, the Israelites were regularly rejecting Him, turning to other gods. Does this make any sense? Unfortunately, our sinful hearts lead us to rebel against God, just like Israel.*



W.O.W!

Our Word of the Week is the word **CHOSEN**. Write the word on the board. This is a word we use quite often. Who can tell me what it means to be CHOSEN? **Allow answers.**

Have you ever been CHOSEN for something? Maybe you have been CHOSEN to be the leader of a game or activity. Maybe you have been CHOSEN to receive a special gift. We like to be CHOSEN to receive good things or privileges, don't we?

To be CHOSEN, someone must CHOOSE you. You cannot make your parent or teacher CHOOSE you, right? Your parent or teacher has to decide whom he or she will CHOOSE. It is the CHOOSER'S decision!

We have learned that Israel was CHOSEN to be God's special people. They didn't deserve to be CHOSEN; God simply CHOSE to CHOOSE them. It was His good pleasure. Being CHOSEN meant that they enjoyed the special love and grace of God.

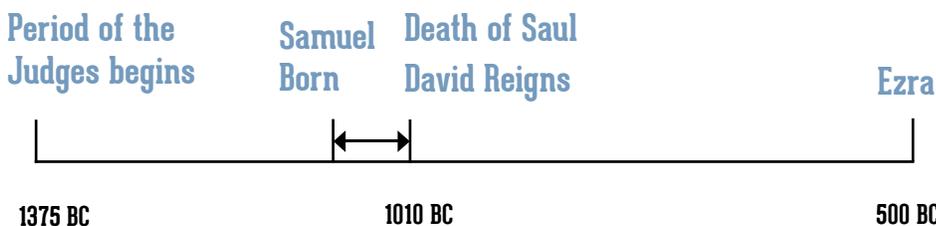
Watch for our Word of the Week in our reading today. We will again be reminded about whom God has CHOSEN!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Put the following timeline on the board to teach the children when the stories of the Bible take place in history.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Introduction: *Who did Samuel anoint as the first human king of Israel? [Saul.] Remember that God CHANGED Saul in order to make him into the first king of Israel. Saul's heart was CHANGED; now he was waiting for the time to be right to become king.*

Let's begin our reading. Read I Samuel 10:9.

⁹ When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

Discussion: *This reminds us of where we left off last quarter. As we just said, God CHANGED Saul's heart. Remember that He also provided several signs in order to show Saul that he would really be king.*

Let's read on. Read verses 10-12.

¹⁰ When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. ¹¹ And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹² And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

Discussion: *One of the signs God said would happen was that Saul would prophesy with the prophets. Did this sign come true? [Yes!] The people were amazed that Saul was among the prophets. They saw a CHANGE in Saul, but didn't yet know what it was all about. But we do, don't we?*

Let's continue. Read verses 13-16.

¹³ When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place. ¹⁴ Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." ¹⁵ And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." ¹⁶ And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

Discussion: *Saul was keeping it a secret that Samuel had anointed him to be king over Israel. It was not time yet for God to show the people that Saul would be their king.*

Listen to what happens next. Read verses 17-19.

¹⁷ Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah.



¹⁸ And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ ¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands.”

Discussion: *Did you hear how God reminded the people that they have rejected Him as the one and only King of the universe? Even though God has CHOSEN Israel and had delivered Israel from Egypt, the people had turned away from God over and over again. So now God would give them a king—even though it wouldn’t be good for them. As we have read before, this was just another rejection of the LORD.*

Application: *It is so important for you to remember that it is God who saves you from your sin through Jesus Christ. If you do not believe that it is God who saves, you will try to save yourself in some other way—just like Israel did. You will look to other people or idols to save you. Instead, turn to Jesus Christ as your King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Now it’s time to unveil Israel’s king! **Read verses 20-22.**

²⁰ Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. ²¹ He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. ²² So they inquired again of the LORD, “Is there a man still to come?” and the LORD said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

Discussion: *Samuel brought together all of Israel to stand before God. Which tribe of Israel was “taken” or CHOSEN by God? [Benjamin.] Then, God CHOSE the clan of Matri, and finally, God CHOSE the family of Kish. What was the name of Kish’s son who was CHOSEN to be king of Israel? [Saul.] Yes, now everyone knows that Saul was CHOSEN by God to be king. But where is Saul? [He’s hiding!]*

Let’s read on. **Read verses 23-24.**

²³ Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. ²⁴ And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”



Discussion: *Who has CHOSEN Saul as king? Did the people CHOOSE him? [No!] God has CHOSEN him. Saul was Israel's first human king because God had CHOSEN him.*

Application: *You will only be one of God's children when He has CHOSEN you. It is God's CHOOSING love that changes our hearts so that we can follow Him.*

Conclusion: *Even though we are very close to the end of this story, we will have to stop there for today. I want you to think one more time about how God is in total control of all things. Even though the Israelites have CHOSEN to have a human king, it was God who CHOSE that king. It wasn't the Israelites who CHOSE Saul and it certainly wasn't Saul who CHOSE to be king—he was hiding from the job!*

So, God is the one who CHOOSES us and then change our hearts so that we will not reject Him. If life were totally up to our own CHOOSING, we would be in big trouble! Think about that!



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 33:12) together.

Psalm 33:12 (ESV)

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Say: *Who did God CHOOSE to be His people? [The Israelites.] Do you know that, if you put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you become part of true Israel also? It's true—it is such a blessing to be a people whom God chooses. All who are CHOSEN by God will put their faith in Jesus as their true Savior and Deliverer.*

Review the verse a couple of times. Close in prayer.

DAY TWO



QUIZ TIME

Let's begin today with QUIZ TIME. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *When God changed Saul's heart, what did he start to do that he never did before? What tribe was Saul from? What was Saul's father's name? What was Saul doing when Samuel announced him as king? What did the people say when Saul was announced as their king?*

Answers:

1. He started prophesying with the prophets.
2. Benjamin.
3. Kish.
4. He was hiding among the baggage.
5. "Long live the king!"

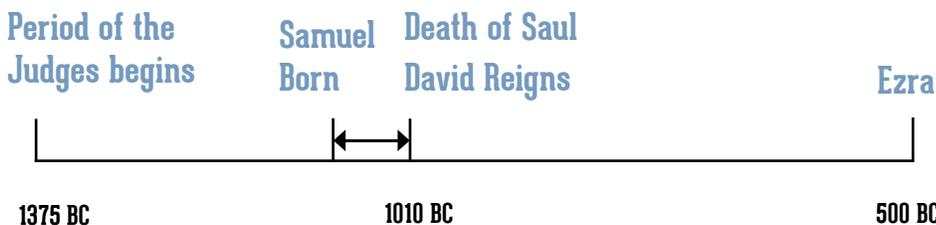
The people seemed excited about having Saul as their first human king. Will this be a good thing? Will they see that they have really rejected God as their KING?



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Put the following timeline on the board to teach the children when the stories of the Bible take place in history.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Introduction: *We pick up the story of the early days of King Saul at the end of I Samuel 10.*

Let's start reading. Read I Samuel 10:25-27.

²⁵ Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. ²⁶ Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. ²⁷ But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

Discussion: *Notice the response from the people. Those whom God had touched eagerly followed this new king. Other people hated the fact that Saul was king. Samuel again explained what life would be like living under a king. How do you think it will go?*

Application: *When God CHOOSES leaders to put over you, it is vital that you follow your leaders. This gives glory to God. He is the One who CHOOSES all who are in authority.*

Let's continue in I Samuel 11. Read I Samuel 11:1-3.

¹ Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you." ² But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel." ³ The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days' respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you."

Discussion: *Do you understand what's going on now? Right after Saul is made king of Israel, the Ammonites decide to attack one of the cities of Israel. The people of Jabesh surrender to the people of Ammon—but it comes at a high price: the loss of all their right eyes. So they are now looking for someone to deliver them. Will the new king save them?*

Let's see. Read verses 4-7.

⁴ When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud. ⁵ Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, "What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?" So they told



him the news of the men of Jabesh. ⁶ And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. ⁷ He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, “Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!” Then the dread of the LORD fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.

Discussion: *When Saul found out what was happening to the men of Jabesh, how did he respond? [His anger was kindled.] Yes, the Spirit of the LORD came upon Saul so that he was bold to do something about this attack. He called on all of Israel to stand up and fight against this enemy.*

*Let’s see what happens next. **Read verses 8-10.***

⁸ When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. ⁹ And they said to the messengers who had come, “Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.’ ” When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad. ¹⁰ Therefore the men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you.”

Discussion: *Wow! Saul put together a huge army, didn’t he? They followed his leadership and were ready to fight. Saul, by the power of God, announced that Jabesh would be delivered. These Israelites were so happy, weren’t they?*

*Let’s finish our reading for today. **Read verse 11.***

¹¹ And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

Conclusion: *Did Saul and his army deliver the people of Jabesh? [Yes!] Just as he promised, Saul attacked the Ammonites and defeated them. He is starting out as a great king, isn’t he? Don’t forget that God had CHOSEN Saul to be king, even though the Israelites had rejected God as their king. This is God’s grace for His people! God empowered Saul to deliver the people of Jabesh. Saul was doing just what the people wanted. The question is: Will the people ever look to God as their true King again? Will you? We will pick up here next time and continue to read how God deals with His people—and with you and me!*



WORLDVIEW BUILDER



Say: *It's time to use what we have learned in God's Word this week to build our Christian minds. God has given us minds to think rightly and to believe the TRUTH.*

Draw the "Providence" pillar on the board. *We will be building on our "providence" pillar today. Who can tell me what God's PROVIDENCE is? **Allow answers.** God's providence is His wise and sovereign rule over all creation.*

So, what truths did we learn about the providence of God in I Samuel 10-11?

Assist your students to think of the following truths (connect them to the pillar on the board):

1. God provided Israel with a king, even though they rejected God as King.
2. God changed Saul so that he could be king.
3. God used Saul to deliver His people from the Ammonites
4. God provides for His people even when they do not obey Him.

The LORD is gracious to His CHOSEN people. When you think that you know best, remember that God always knows what is best for your life!



DEFEND THE FAITH

Say: *Now, it's time to build our "defenses" up. You and I must always be prepared to defend and protect our faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember what the apostle Peter said:*

I Peter 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ ...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

Let's get more PREPARED to give answers about the hope we have in Jesus Christ! Let me ask you yet another question and see how you do...



Q: Is it unfair that God chooses?

*The Bible teaches us that it is God who chooses. He is in control of all things. Just as He chose Saul as king, He chooses all whom He will call as His people. Some people think this is UNFAIR of God. They want to be able to make final choices for themselves! They want to be in charge of their own lives! So, is God unfair for choosing some and not choosing other people to be His chosen people? **Allow answers.***

Make sure the children have these elements in their answer:

A: The truth is that we all deserve to go to hell for our own sins. True fairness would be that no one would go to heaven! So it is God's mercy that He is a choosing God. He chooses to love unlovable people and He chooses to save those who cannot save themselves!

Say: *It is a glorious thing that God would choose to have mercy on His people. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you demonstrate that He has chosen you!*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Write this lesson's Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 33:12) on the board.

Psalm 33:12 (ESV)

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Use any method to review the verse with your students.

Close in prayer.

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 30:5-6
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

Samuel
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

Renewal
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 11:12-12:11
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

I Samuel 12:24
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

I Samuel review
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Samuel 12:12-25
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Providence
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

The need for teachers
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

I Samuel 12:24
3-5 mins.

LESSON 2 // I SAMUEL 11:12-12:25

OVERVIEW

Now that Saul has defeated the Ammonites, the Israelites were re-ally excited about his kingship. Some of them even went over-board, expressing a desire to kill all Israelites who were against Saul as king. Samuel quieted that notion and redirected the people to simply reaffirm Saul as king. A great celebration at Gilgal ensued.

I Samuel 12 details Samuel's farewell speech now that Saul had become king. He begins on a highly personal note, asking the people whether or not he had been a godly, upright leader. The people affirm that he had been. Samuel went on to confront the people with the truth about what God had done for them and their fathers. The LORD had delivered His people from Egypt. He constantly rescued them during the time of the judges. Yet when the Ammonites attacked, they looked for a human king to protect them. It makes no sense. On the heels of this confrontation, Samuel calls on God to bring a miraculous thunderstorm. This brings fear and repentance into the hearts of the people.

The rest of Samuel's farewell speech is really a sort of covenant renewal ceremony. Even though the people had rejected God, He would not reject them. They would have more opportunities to obey God and serve Him with all their hearts. Samuel also says that he will pray for the people and continue to teach them too.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on I Samuel 11-12 this week.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

We who have been Christians for awhile understand how vital it is that God's mercies are new for us every day. We always have a new opportunity to obey and serve the LORD! Impress upon your children today that same grace that is available to them in Jesus Christ. When they sin, they can enjoy forgiveness. When they turn away from God, they can turn back. When they disobey, they can obey again. All this is only possible for those who rest in Christ alone for salvation. And, it is supremely necessary since we do continue to wrestle with our sin each day. Use Samuel's farewell speech to encourage the children to focus on what God has done for them already and what He will do in the future!