

LESSON PLAN

SAUL MADE KING

I Samuel 8 –10

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 106:15 – “And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul.”

Lesson Aim: Do not demand that God give you everything that you ask of Him. Learn to ask for things that will make you a better servant for Him and not for selfish things. Let Him choose what is best for you.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever asked your parents for something, and after you received it, you did not like it? Maybe you asked for a game, but after you have played with it once or twice, you got tired of it. It no longer was any fun. A boy might ask to go fishing, but when he does not catch any fish, he may wish he could do something else. A girl might want to wear a very pretty dress to a friend’s party, but when the other girls go outside to play and she cannot play outside in her pretty dress, she may wish that she had not worn that dress. Ask the children to tell of their own experiences.

The idea that children should get from this discussion is the danger of demanding that certain things be given to them, when later they may regret that they asked for such things.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse teaches us that God may answer our selfish prayer, but the thing we wanted so much will make us weak and sickly. Explain the following words in Psalm 106:15:

“Request” – something you ask for (in prayer)

“Leanness” – thin; here it means to be weak in a person’s life with the Lord

“Soul” – spiritual life of a person

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

(If you have not read the Introductory Notes on how to prepare a lesson, please do it now. Also be aware that in most cases it is not wise to give your students the outline of the lesson. The outline is for your benefit to remember the main points of the story. You are to tell the lesson as a story.) In this story we shall see that the leaders of Israel asked for something that was not good for them. However, God gave them the thing that they desired. Does anyone know what it was that they desired? If no one remembers, listen and I will tell you.

I. Israel Requested a King (8:1-5)

Samuel was getting old and his sons, who would take his place, were not godly like Samuel, so the leaders of Israel decided this was the best time to ask God to give them something that they wanted. But they made a big mistake: they did not ask God to give them what was best for them. They demanded that God give them a king so they could be like other nations. This was the wrong reason for them to ask God for a king.

WE: When we forget to ask God for wisdom, we will be asking God for the wrong things. Also, when we ask for things so we can be like unsaved people, we will be asking for the wrong things.

II. Israel Rejected the Lord (8:6-18)

Samuel did not like to hear the people ask for a king, so he prayed to the Lord. The Lord told Samuel that they had not rejected him, but rather they had rejected Him as their King. They were serving other gods. However, the Lord told Samuel to make a king for the people, but to warn them of the great cost of a king.

WE: We need to learn that God knows what is best for us. However, if we want something very strongly, He will often give it to us. But before He gives what we want, He will warn us that those things will make us unhappy in the end. But if we insist on having them, He will give them and let us suffer with those things that we wanted so much.

III. Israel Refused Samuel’s Warning (8:19-22)

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The leaders of Israel did not listen to Samuel but demanded that he give them a king. Why? (1) They wanted to be like other nations. (2) They wanted a permanent judge over them. (3) They wanted someone to fight their battles for them. God was better for them than any king, but their heart was not right with God. So they refused to listen to Samuel, and with God's permission, Samuel promised them a king.

WE: We will discover that it is a wicked thing for us to demand that God give us what we want. We will learn too late that we made a serious mistake. It is best to listen to God now than to find out later that He was right.

IV. Israel was Rewarded with a King (9:1 - 10:1)

God chose Saul to be Israel's king to answer the people's prayer. Saul was a sharp young man (9:2), whose father was "a mighty man of power" (9:1), a man of wealth. Saul was a tall man, "higher than any of the people" (9:2). He also was obedient to his father (9:3-5). He was respectful of God's prophet (9:7-8), and he was humble (9:21). This was no ordinary man, but as we shall learn in up-coming lessons, he had some hidden faults and was not God's best choice for Israel. God's best was not yet born. So God prepared Saul to be Israel's first king and told Samuel to anoint Saul (9:15-17). Samuel did as the Lord told him (10:1).

WE: We need to be careful not to demand that God give us something that we want. He may give us what we demand, but it will not be good for us. Sooner or later we will be disappointed with the thing that we demanded of God. Our demand will sooner or later make us weak and sickly. God's gift in His time will give us joy and strength. Choose to wait for God's gifts.

BE (for Action): We need to learn to pray like Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane whenever we strongly want something. We should pray to God, "Not my will, but your will be done" (Luke 22:42). What does this mean? It means that we will not force God to give us what we want, but instead, we will be happy with what He gives us. How many of you will try to pray like Jesus prayed and will say to God at the end of your prayers, "Not my will, but your will be done," and really mean it? If you will try to pray this way, raise your hand, and then I will pray for you.