

Discipleship Notes 4: May 2020

“Samuel the Kingmaker”

I Samuel 8-11

Before we meet:

You might find it helpful to read through 1 Samuel chapters 8 to 11 prior to meeting.

Opener

Can you recall a time when you have really, really wanted something?

How did you go about trying to get what you wanted? Was your mission a success?

Have you ever been disappointed when you finally got something you really desired?

Welcome:

The books of Samuel are really about leadership. Israel was in desperate need of political, social and economic leadership. Yet what Israel really lacked was spiritual leadership. French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville said: ‘In democracy we get the government we deserve.’ Would Israel get the king they deserved?

Reading these chapters might make us wonder what qualities it is that we look for in our leaders today. Do we prefer competency over faith? Skills and communication over spirituality and a real relationship with God? When the people of Israel demanded a King, we may wonder what it was they were really looking for.

Read: 1 Samuel 8: 1-22

- Who should have replaced Samuel as he grew older? Suggest some reasons as to why they were unsuitable spiritual leaders.
- What did the elders of Israel want from Samuel? Why did this displease Samuel?
- What did Samuel do? How do we react when people displease us?

- Try to list some advantages and disadvantages of having a king.
- Look at verse 22. What does God let the people have?
- Why might God let us have things that are actually not good for our relationship with him in the long term?

Reading 2: 1 Samuel 9: 1-2 & 1 Samuel 9: 15-10:2

- From our readings, can you think of some qualities that would make Saul a good potential king?
- Are there some reasons as to why Saul might not be a suitable candidate?
- What happens?

Reading 3: 1 Samuel 10: 9-27 & 1 Samuel 11: 12-15

- How is Saul recognised as the leader of Israel?
- What are some of the ways we might 'recognise' leadership in our church community?
- Are there any hints of future problems in these readings?
- What qualities do we look for in the following Christian leaders?
 - i) A business leader
 - ii) A church leader
 - iii) Sunday club teacher
 - iv) Parent or grandparent

Prayer Pointers:

- We pray for wisdom for our national government and other leaders
- We ask that God lead us through the routines and challenges of each day
- We remember those who are self-isolating at home.
- We pray for the staff and residents at our local care home, Austen House.
- We ask for God's protection and leadership on everyone in our church community.
- We thank God for 'Earley Help hub' and good relations between our local churches.