

Unit 11: Session 1: Israel Demanded a King

1 Samuel 8–10

Christ Connection:

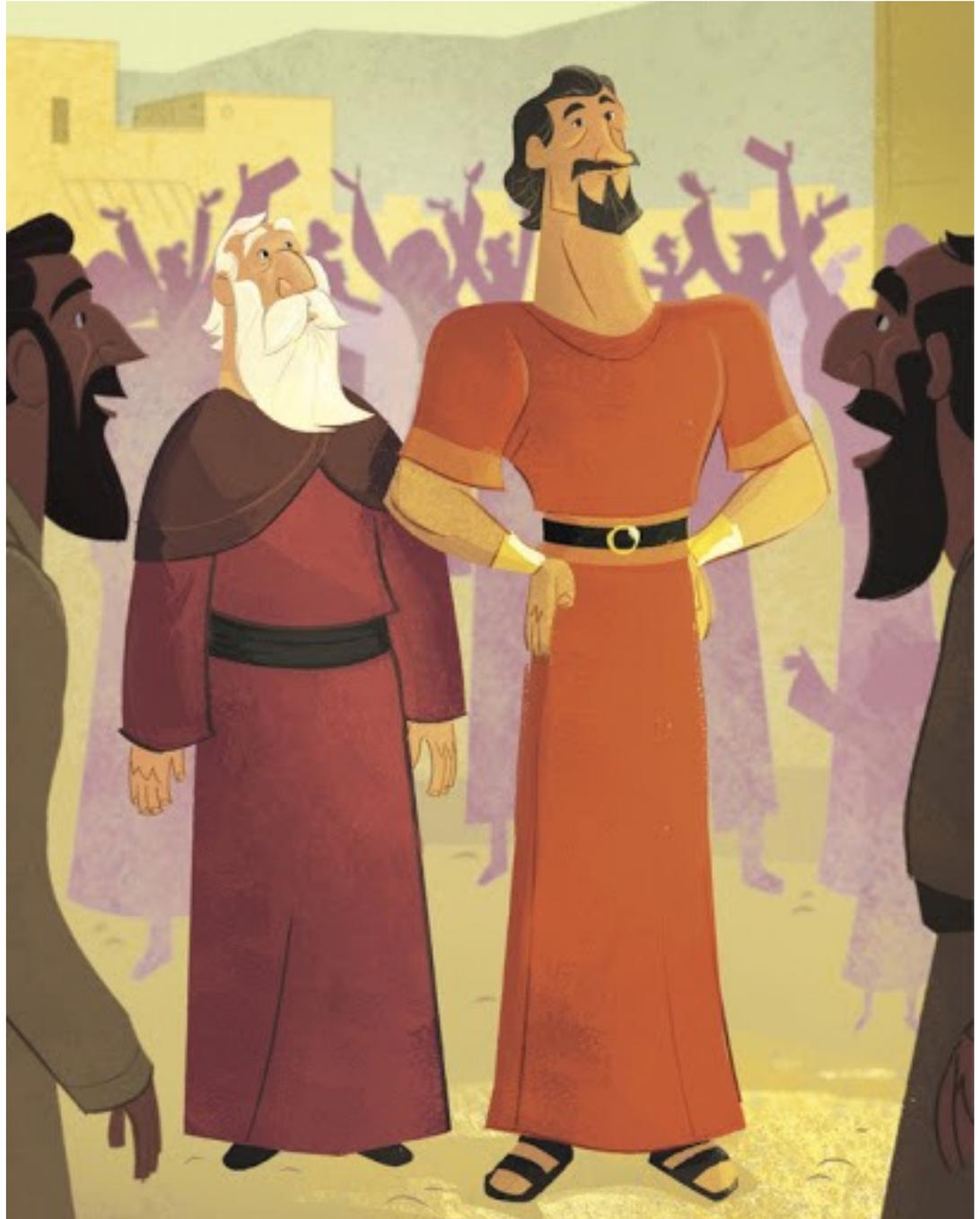
The Israelites demanded a king, so Samuel anointed Saul. God intended for a heavenly king to rule over them, but the Israelites didn't trust God's plan. God had a plan to one day send His Son, Jesus, to rule the entire world. Jesus would be the perfect King who would bring peace and salvation to the world.

Adult Connection

Point:

God is omniscient (all-knowing). God's plans are always based on His own perfect knowledge. He says: "I am God ... I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: My plan will take place" (Isa. 46:9-10). God is in control in a way that is unfathomable to human

reason. God's knowledge of the future means that none of my trials or difficult circumstances are a surprise to Him. God knows me much better than I know myself. He knows the good things about me. He knows the sinful things about me, yet He still loves me. He still desires my salvation. He has always had a plan to save His people.



Family Devotion:

Materials: paper, marker, envelope

Prior to beginning your devotion, write a number on a piece of paper and seal it inside the envelope. Begin by showing your family the sealed envelope. Ask them to tell you what number you've written on the paper inside the envelope, but don't reveal the answer just yet.

Read Isaiah 46:9-10 aloud. Say, "The Bible tells us that God knows all things, including what number I wrote on this paper. Isaiah tells us that God knows what happened in the past, He knows what is happening now, and He knows what will happen in the future. As humans, we only know things based on our experiences, and it is impossible for us to know what our future will look like."

Reveal that anyone's attempt to figure out the number you wrote would be a guess. Tell your family what number you wrote on the paper, and then show it to them. Say: "I knew what number I wrote on this piece of paper, so I knew how this exercise would end. God knows what the future holds for each person on earth, not just those in our family. A long time ago, the Israelites demanded a king from God. They did not rely on God to guide them, and that made God sad. They did not know that God's plan was to send Jesus to earth to be the perfect king."

Ask your family to close their eyes and pray silently, asking God to help them rely on Him right now and in the future. Close the prayer time yourself after a few minutes.

Unit 11, Session 2: God Rejected Saul as King

1 Samuel 13:1-14; 14:18-48; 15:1-35

Christ Connection:

God's message to Saul was clear: Obey Me and all will go well for you. But Saul did not obey God. Samuel told Saul he would not last as king. God rejected Saul as king, but He had a plan to bring Jesus—His Son and our perfect King—to rule over His people forever.

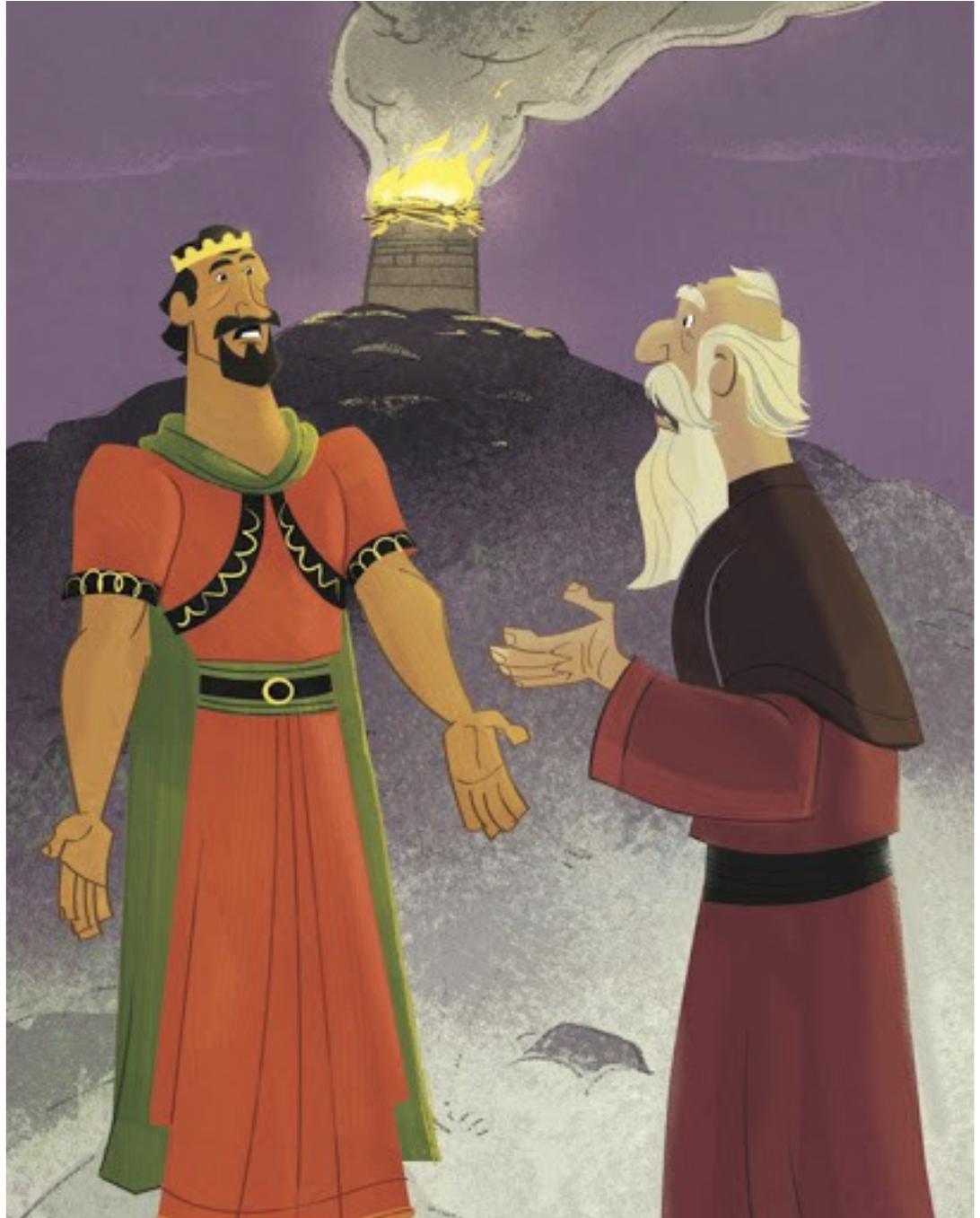
Adult Connection

Point:

If disobedience meets with rejection from God, what hope do we have to be right with God? God's love is expressed to humans in His goodness. It extends to His enemies, but it was a costly love. God gave Himself in sacrificial love by sending Jesus, His Son. (See 1 John 4:8-11.)

When we focus on God's self-giving love, we see that it is the

basis for our salvation. We love because He first loved us. (See 1 John 4:19.) Christ's love compels us (2 Cor. 5:14), and we show the world that God is loving, good, and merciful by our actions and words.



Family Devotion:

Invite each member of your family to recall a time when she was not chosen for or didn't get to do something she really wanted to do. Encourage each person to share how that experience made him or her feel.

Read 1 John 4:8-11 aloud. Say: "The Bible teaches that God loves completely because He is love. God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die the death we deserve for our sin."

Play a basic game of "Simon Says." Increase the difficulty of the instructions as you proceed in the game. Give other family members an opportunity to be Simon if they would like.

Ask: "Was it easy to follow the instructions you were given to be successful in the game? How did you feel if you were eliminated from the game? God rejected Saul as king because Saul was disobedient. When we trust in Jesus, God does not reject us for our sin because Jesus came to die in our place. God wants us to turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus. We can ask Him to help us obey Him."

Pray, asking God to help your family follow His leading in your lives.

Unit 11, Session 3: David Was Anointed and Fought Goliath

1 Samuel 16–17

Christ Connection: The Israelites were up against their toughest enemies, the Philistines. They didn't stand a chance against Goliath, the mighty Philistine warrior. God gave David power to defeat Goliath. David reminds us of Jesus, who came to save us from our greatest enemies: sin and death. Jesus, the ultimate hero, gives us salvation and eternal life.

Adult Connection Point:

Goliath defied the armies of the living God and therefore defied His holiness. God is holy, just, and jealous. He raised up David to strike down Goliath. As Christians, we no longer have reason to fear God's wrath. On the cross, Jesus bore the wrath that we deserve. He rescues us from the wrath to come. (See 1 Thess. 1:10.)



Family Devotion:

Materials: 2 sheets of paper, measuring tape

Position one sheet of paper on the floor. Use a measuring tape to mark a tossing line 9 feet 6 inches away from the paper. Crumple the second piece of paper and give each family member a chance to toss the paper so it lands on top of the sheet on the floor. If younger kids need additional help, let them stand closer to the goal. Play several rounds.

Say: "David fought Goliath with a slingshot and five smooth stones, but only one stone was needed. God helped David defeat Goliath."

Talk about the difficulty involved in making the paper stop on top of the other paper. Ask how David might have felt as he approached Goliath. The Bible doesn't tell us David's exact feelings, but kids can surmise about how they might feel if they were David.

Say: "The Bible tells us that David was willing to confront Goliath because Goliath had spoken out against God's holiness. David knew that God would give him the power to defeat Goliath, even though the situation was scary."

Pray, praising God for His holiness. Thank Him for sending Jesus to take the punishment we deserve for our sin.

Unit 11, Session 4: David and Jonathan Became Friends

1 Samuel 18:1-12; 19:1-10; 20:1-42



Christ Connection:

Jonathan was a true friend to David. Jonathan's life gives us a glimpse of Jesus, the mighty friend of sinners. Jesus calls us friends. (John 15:15) He gave up His position in heaven to come down to us, gave up His life to save us, and intercedes for us before God.

Adult Connection

Point:

Jesus is divine; He is God, the Second Person of the Trinity. If

Christ is not divine, then He could not represent God to man and man to God as a mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). As man, Jesus is able to sympathize with us in our weakness and serve as our Great High Priest (Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-16). As the eternal God, He is able to eternally intercede for and offer a final and full sacrifice on behalf of sinful people (Heb. 7:22-28). It is amazing that Jesus, who is God, would call us friends.

Family Devotion:

Materials: paper, pencils, your family's favorite board game

Give each family member a piece of paper and a pencil. Invite him to think of his best friend and make a list of things he likes about that person. Ask: "What kind of qualities make up a good friend?"

Read John 15:15 aloud. Ask: "How cool is it that Jesus calls us friends? What qualities of the friend you listed does Jesus also have?"

Read Hebrews 2:14,17 aloud. Say: "The Bible tells us that Jesus was human just like us when He lived on earth. He had flesh and blood, but He never sinned. The Bible tells us that He had to be like us so that by His sacrifice we can be forgiven." (See Rom. 8:3-4.)

Gather your family around your favorite board game and enjoy some family time. When the game has ended, talk about friendship. Tell your family members how much they mean to you.

Pray, thanking God for family and friendship. Thank Him for Jesus, the mighty friend of sinners.