

Samuel was a judge for God’s people all his life. As long as Samuel lived, God helped the Israelites stand against their enemies. When he was old, Samuel told his sons to judge for God’s people. But Samuel’s sons weren’t like him. His sons were not fair or truthful. They didn’t follow God’s ways like Samuel.

The Israelites told Samuel, “You’re old now, and your sons don’t judge the way you do. So choose a king for us. All the other nations have kings.”

This made Samuel very sad, so he asked God about it.

God said, “Listen to the people. They’re not turning against you. They’re turning against me as their king. They’re doing what they have always done. They’re forgetting me. They’re following false gods. So listen to them. But first tell them what will happen. Tell them what a king will do.”

Samuel told the people what God had said. “This is what a king will do. He will make your sons work for him. Some will serve in the army, and some will work in the fields. Your daughters will have to cook for the king. A king will claim for his own your best fields, crops, servants, and animals. You’ll have to serve the king.”

But the people wouldn’t listen. They cried out, “We want a king. Then we’ll be like the other lands. A king can lead us.” So God told Samuel to find a king for them.

God sent a young man named Saul to Samuel. When he was coming into town, God said, “Samuel, here’s the man I told you about. He will be the king for my people.”

Samuel took out a jar of oil and anointed Saul as king, and God’s Spirit came on Saul. Samuel told Saul, “God has made you king of his people.”

Samuel called God’s people together. He told them what God said, “I took my people out of Egypt. I saved you from your enemies. But now you’ve turned against me. You have asked for a king to rule you. So now you must come and stand in front of me.”

All of the tribes came to Samuel. In front of them, God picked Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, to be the new king. But no one could find Saul, because he was hiding. The people searched and found Saul. Then they brought him to Samuel. Saul was handsome and strong. When he stood up, Saul was head and shoulders taller than everyone else.

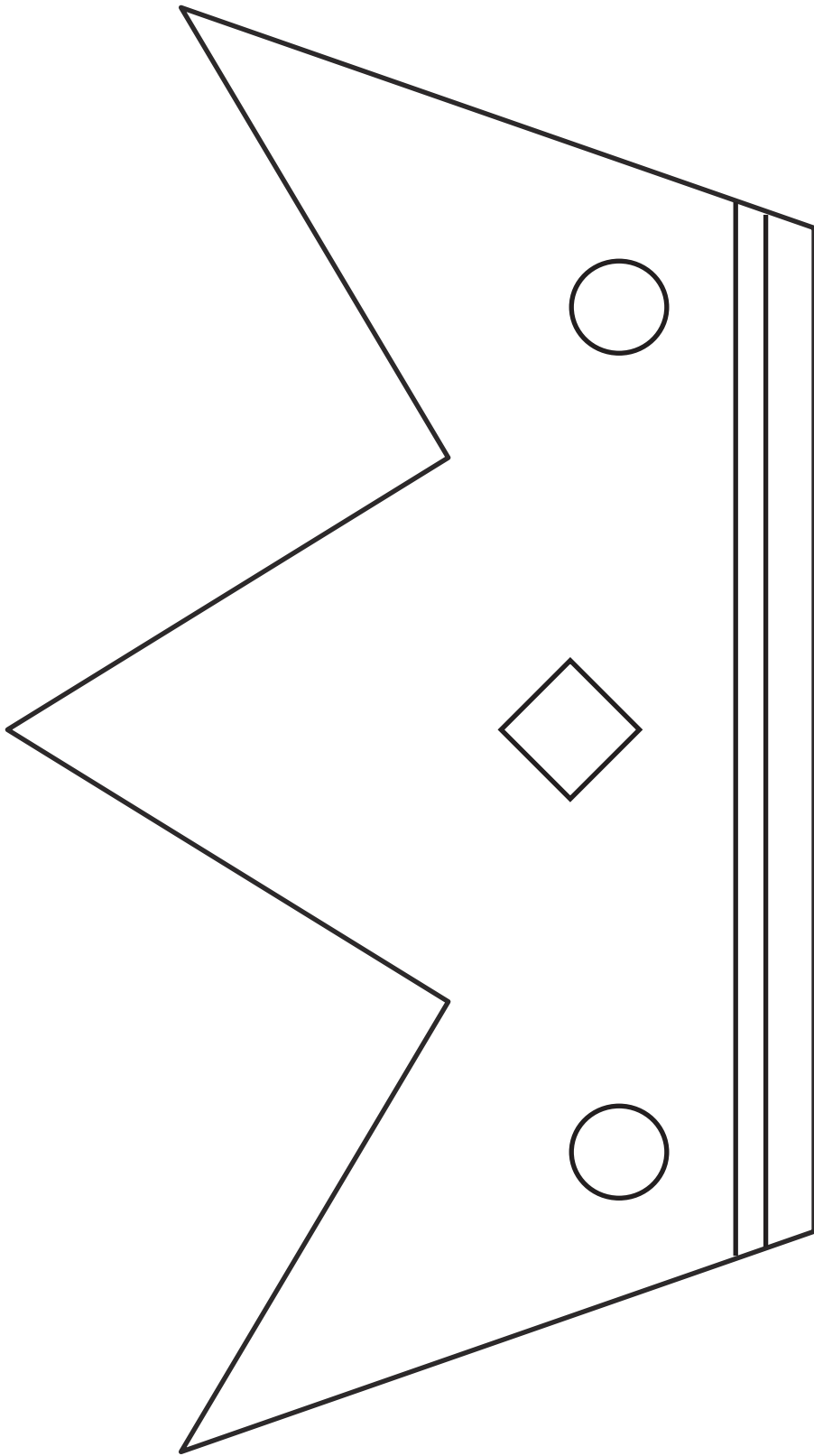
“See this man?” said Samuel. “God has chosen him to be your king. There’s no one else like him.”

The people celebrated their new king and shouted, “Long live our king!”

(Based on 1 Samuel 7:15–8:22; 10:17–24)



# 7b Make a Crown - Puzzle (Preschool)



# What's Different? – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

7c

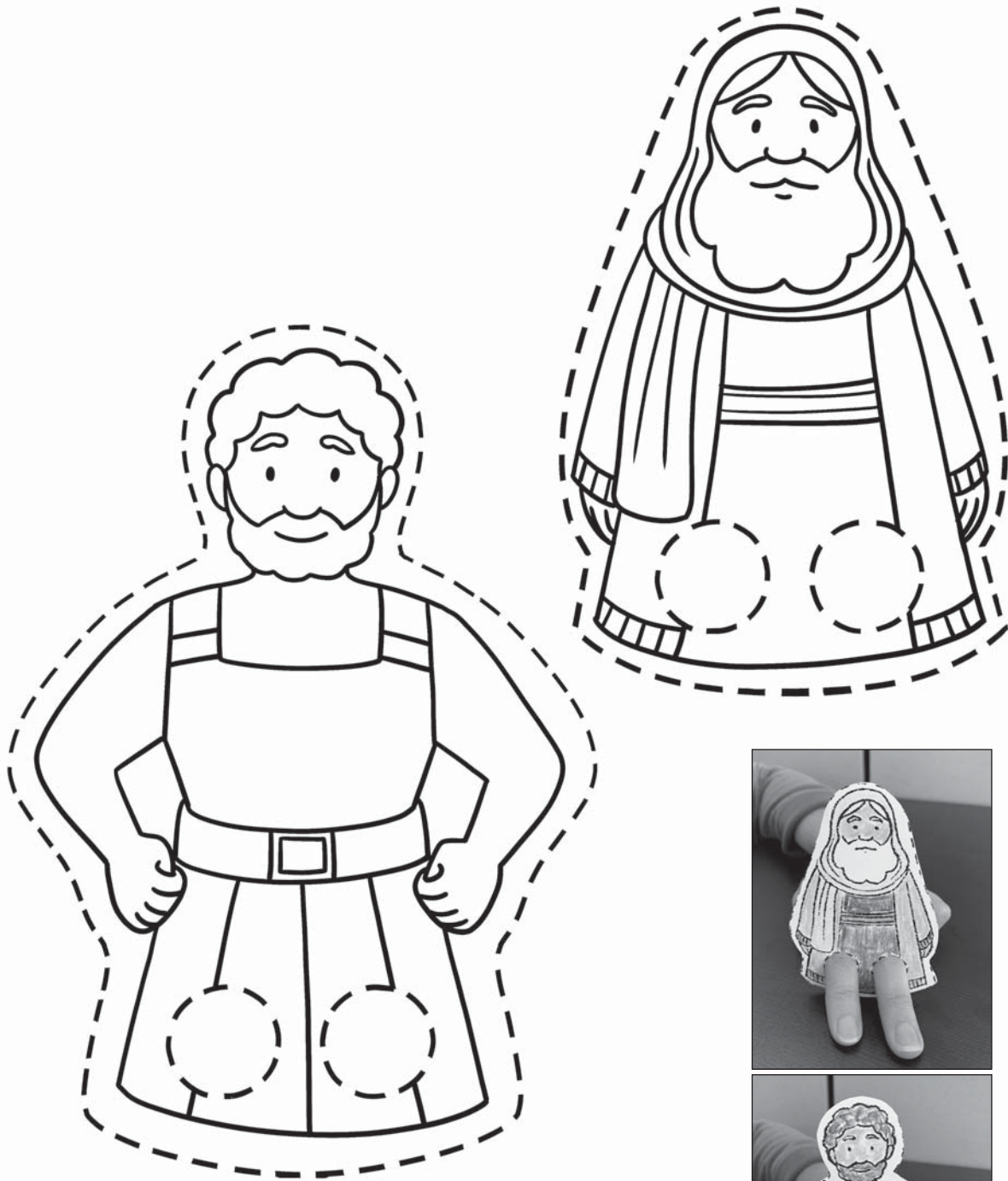
Samuel chose Saul to be the first king in front of all the tribes. Look carefully at the two pictures and find 10 differences. Circle them as you find them.



## **7d Search for the Answers – Puzzle (Older Elementary)**

Search 1 Samuel 7–10 in your Bible to find the answers to the questions.

1. What did the Israelites ask Samuel to do?
2. Why did they want this?
3. How did Samuel feel about the Israelites' request?
4. What did God tell Samuel to do?
5. What did Samuel warn the Israelites that a king would do?
6. Who was God's choice for Israelites' first king?
7. How did Samuel meet Saul?
8. What did Samuel do to show Saul had been chosen by God as king?
9. What happened to Saul after he was anointed as king?
10. Where was Saul when it was announced that he was chosen to be king?
11. What did the people say to Saul?
12. When did Saul's family find out that he had been chosen as king of Israel?



# 7f Would you rather... or ...? – Activity

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| 1. Dance                                 | 1. Sing                                  |
| 2. Be incredibly funny                   | 2. Be incredibly smart                   |
| 3. Brush your teeth with soap            | 3. Drink sour milk                       |
| 4. Work as a group                       | 4. Work by yourself                      |
| 5. Be able to jump as far as a kangaroo  | 5. Hold your breath as long as a whale   |
| 6. Design a new toy                      | 6. Create a new TV show                  |
| 7. Live in a cabin in the woods          | 7. Live in a shack near the ocean        |
| 8. Instantly become an adult             | 8. Stay your age for two more years      |
| 9. Play outdoors                         | 9. Play indoors                          |
| 10. Be an athlete in the Summer Olympics | 10. Be an athlete in the Winter Olympics |
| 11. Do a book report                     | 11. Do a science project                 |
| 12. Never have to eat                    | 12. Never have to sleep                  |

## Communities Transition

**1 Samuel 7:15-8:22; 10:17-24**

God had chosen prophets like Samuel to lead the Israelites and had spoken to them through the prophets. But the Israelites decided they didn't want to follow God's leading. They wanted a king to follow like all the other nations. Samuel warned them that having a king was a bad idea, but they wanted to be like everyone else. God told Samuel to give the people a king, and Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul by pouring oil on his head. Then the Spirit of God came on Saul, and God gave him a different heart.

### Verse of the Month

"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

## What Do You Think?

Do you think Saul wanted to be king?

Have you ever gotten your way about something, but the situation turned out different than you thought it would?

### Family Activity

Name the people in your life who help you follow God. How do they help you?

How do you process decisions in your family? Make sure everyone in the family knows the process.

### Prayer

Dear God, help us make good decisions about following you. Thank you for being our king; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

