

# STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



## Week Fourteen - Appointing A King

### A Note to the Parents/Teachers

*This week we look at 1 Samuel, primarily seeing 4 characters: Hannah, Samuel, Saul, and David. There's a lot of story to cover so try to keep it simple in explanation, but pray we all get the main idea that God wants our hearts to come humbly to Him, recognizing our need for Him alone to be King.*

- **Big Idea:** God opposes the proud, but lifts up the humble.

### Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Seeing the Seed**

*Ask: Where do marshmallows come from? After a few guesses, let them know it comes from the marshmallow plant. Ask: Where does chocolate come from? Cocoa plant. Ask: Where does coffee come from? Cascara plant. Talk about how God saw the potential in these seeds before man did (because He put it there). God always sees things we can't see, underneath the surface. Today's story is about God seeing the heart.*

### Sing Together

### Story - from 1 Samuel

Years after Israel entered the land God promised them, there was a woman named Hannah who was praying for a child. For many years she couldn't have kids, but after praying at the temple one day for a child God, finally answered her. She gave birth to a boy named Samuel. She was so happy she sang out a prayer:

*I'm bursting with good news from God!  
I'm rejoicing for my salvation.  
Nothing and no one is holy like God,  
nothing strong like our God.  
God brings death and God brings life,  
he lowers the proud, he also lifts up the humble.  
No one makes it in this life in their own strength!  
God will set things right all over the earth,  
he'll give strength to his true King,  
he'll set his anointed on top of the world!*

Because God gifted her a child, she gifted her son right back to God. She devoted him to the temple to work there as a priest when he grew older. When Samuel was older he helped keep the people of Israel focused on following God's ways - but it wasn't easy. They continued to want to rebel and still wanted a human king. Finally, God gave them what they wanted and had Samuel appoint a man named Saul to be king. Saul started off as an okay king, but he quickly became prideful and arrogant. He would make mistakes and go against God's ways, and when Samuel confronted him Saul would never take responsibility.

So, God eventually told Samuel to go to a certain family and pick a new king from their sons. Samuel thought about picking the strongest, tallest, most handsome one to be king. But God sees things differently than we do - He sees what goes on in our hearts. So God told Samuel to pick the youngest one who worked in the fields with the sheep to be king. His name was David.

David ended up being the best king Israel ever had. Of course, he made some pretty awful mistakes too. But when he was confronted about them, he would take responsibility and feel sorry. He would ask God for forgiveness and turn back to God. This was what God was looking for in His people. Just like Hannah's prayer said, God would lower the proud like Saul, and lift up the humble like David. That means that when we humble ourselves and recognize our need for God to be the True King, He will rescue us. Thank God that Jesus came to be the True King of the earth. He is the only perfect King who has every right to be prideful, but instead rules with love, grace, and humility.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- We don't have kings in our culture, but are there other people or things we tend to serve in place of God?
- What do you think made David a better king than Saul?
- What made Jesus a better king than David?
- If Jesus is King over all of the world, how can you serve him as your King?

### Breakout Time

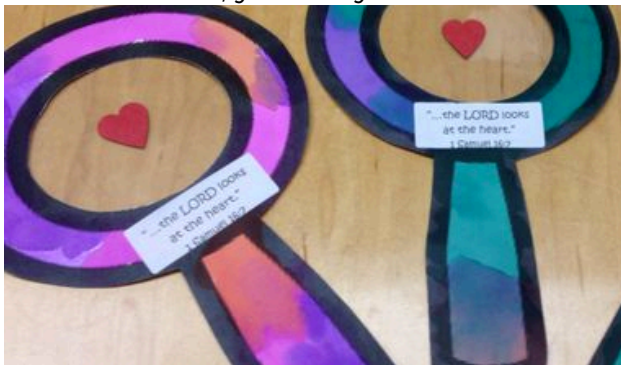
- **Prayer:**

God, thank you for being the true King we need. Rule our lives. Help us to trust you alone to make the world right. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Craft:**

Use the coloring sheet attached for younger kids.

For older kids, you may choose to make a magnifying glass craft like this:



*\*You would need some clear plastic to glue to the paper cutout for the 'glass' part and glue a paper heart on top of that.*

- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**

*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. Samuel's role was to listen to God for what He wanted for His people. Take some time this week to listen to God through music, being outside, praying, and especially, reading the Bible. Ask Him to speak to you.



“...humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.” - 1 Samuel 16:7