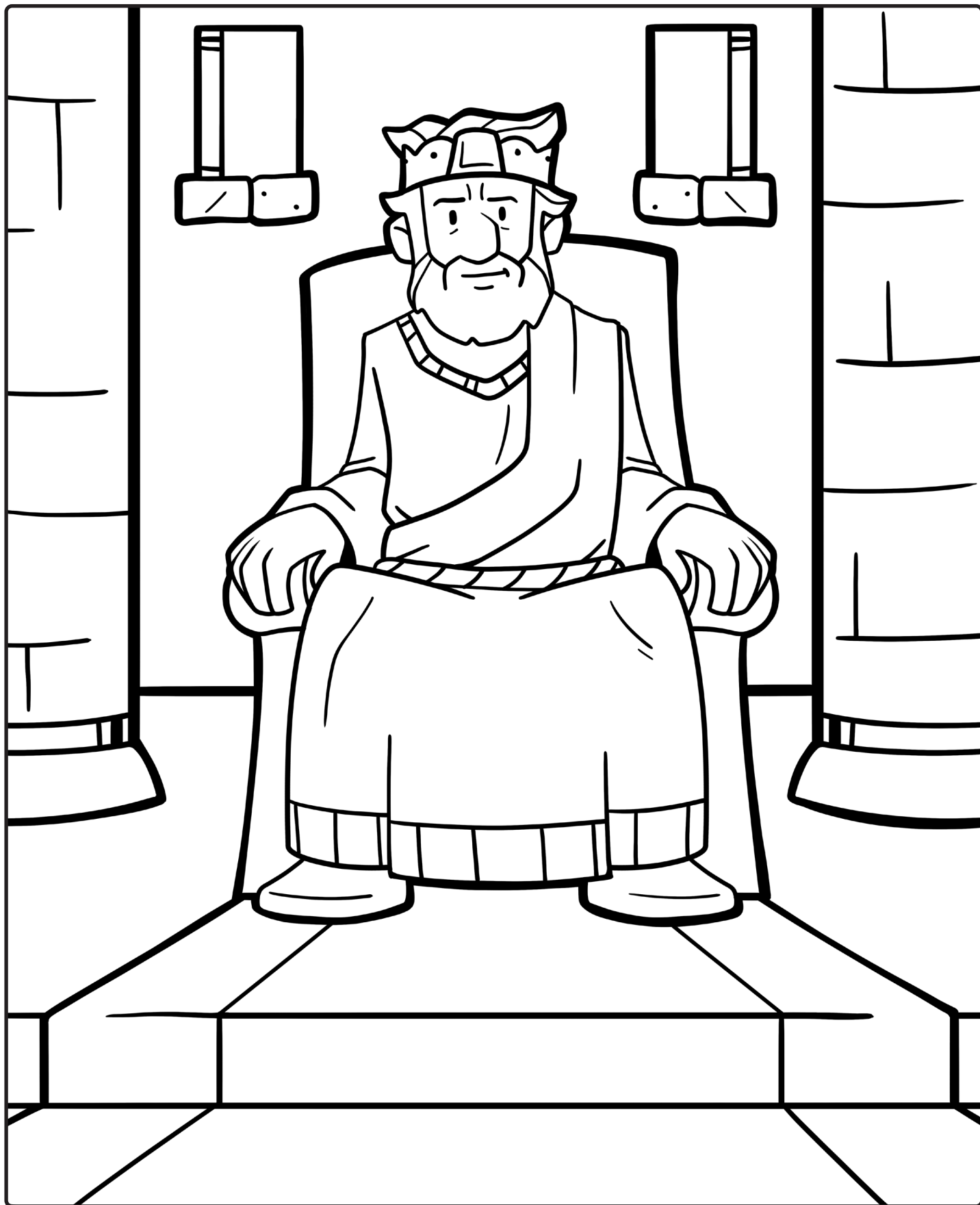


The Rise and Fall of Saul
1 Samuel 8–10; 13; 15

Wonder Truth:
God Is in Charge



LESSON 1 THE RISE AND FALL OF SAUL

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: 11" x 17" paper (7 sheets), desk or table, chair, microphone (or toy microphone), video camera (optional), blazer/sport coat (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Audience Cards Sheets, Experience It! Script (1 plus 1 extra copy), News Theme Song Sound Effect

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Audience Cards Sheets on 11" x 17" sheets of paper. (There is also an 8.5" x 11" version available.) Invite a leader to assist as the stagehand and provide her with a copy of the Experience It! Script. Set up the stage to look like a newsroom with a desk (or table) and chair at the front. Consider inviting a second volunteer to serve as the cameraman who stands next to a video camera, "pretending" to film the news anchor. The news anchor (either you or a different storyteller) will hold a toy or real microphone and, if possible, wear a blazer/sport coat. The news anchor will have the Shhhh Audience Card Sheet at the news desk/table. The stagehand will stand and hold the other six Audience Card Sheets off to the side of the stage.

Some kids might be unfamiliar with a traditional news broadcast or the idea of a live studio audience. So before getting started, take a moment to explain the following: **Some television stations record news shows with a host, or anchor, announcing the news, and some television shows are filmed with people in the audience. During live broadcasts, stagehands hold up cue cards with instructions on them for the audience. The audience members say or do what the cue cards say. Keep that in mind as you listen to today's story! OK, let's get started ...**

STAGEHAND: Quiet on the set, please. Shhhhhh! We're about to go live. In three, two, one ...

Play the News Theme Song Sound Effect for several seconds, then fade it gradually. The news anchor begins speaking after the song has faded.

NEWS ANCHOR: We interrupt our regularly scheduled program to give you this special news bulletin. We are reporting live about what has taken place in the ancient nation of Israel. Let's review what happened up to this point ...

Through everything, God showed His people that He was in charge and that He knew best.

Stagehand holds up the Clap Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond by clapping. (Stagehand can also read the Clap Audience Card Sheet aloud and lead the kids in several seconds of clapping.)

God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt and brought them into the land that He had promised them. He raised up leaders for them and showed that He loved His people and cared for them. God had kept them safe from enemies. But God allowed other nations to conquer the Israelites whenever they turned away and served other gods.

The Israelites didn't like this system. They looked around and saw that all of the other nations had kings leading them. Those kings seemed powerful and mighty, able to win battles and defend territory. Instead of trusting God to be in charge, Israel decided they wanted to have a king, just like all the other nations.

Stagehand holds up the Bummer! Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond by saying, “Bummer!” (Stagehand can also read the Bummer! Audience Card Sheet aloud along with the kids, so they know to follow along.)

Folks, it looks like our live audience isn’t too fond of that idea! Of all the things God has done for those Israelites, now they want a king like the other nations have!

STAGEHAND: Are you kidding me?

News Anchor holds up the Shhhh Audience Card Sheet, and the kids respond.

NEWS ANCHOR: (whispering to stagehand) We are live, you know! Sorry, folks! So, the Israelites went to God’s messenger, the prophet Samuel, and told him to pick a king to lead them.

Stagehand holds up the Bummer! Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

Except they forgot about one thing.

Stagehand holds up the Huh? Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

They forgot they already had a King in charge: God! But, once again, they didn’t trust God and wanted to do things their way.

STAGEHAND: Are you kidding me?

News Anchor holds up the Shhhh Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

NEWS ANCHOR: (whispering to stagehand) Would you please stop interrupting? Sorry, folks! Back to our live coverage. The people went to the prophet Samuel and told him to pick a king to lead them, but Samuel didn’t like this idea! So, he prayed to God, and you’ll never guess what God said!

Stagehand holds up the What? Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

God said, “Listen to everything the people are saying to you. You are not the one they have turned their backs on. I am the one they do not want as their king” (1 Samuel 8:7).

STAGEHAND: Are you kidding me?

News Anchor holds up the Shhhh Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

NEWS ANCHOR: Actually, folks, I’m not kidding. God even told Samuel to warn the people that a king would take money from them as a tax and make them work hard for him. But the Israelites didn’t care. They wanted to be like the other nations. They wanted Samuel to pick a king to be in charge. God gave the people exactly what they asked for.

Stagehand holds up the Gasp Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

God showed Samuel the man who would be king over Israel. His name was Saul; he was tall and handsome, and everyone thought he would be a great leader.

Stagehand holds up the Clap Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

But when Samuel went to introduce Saul to everyone, Saul was hiding among the supplies! They brought him out, and everyone was glad Saul was made king. They were excited to follow him, and they forgot that God was the one in charge.

For a while, Saul was a good king. He helped the Israelites fight their enemies, the Philistines, and he brought them lots of success.

Stagehand holds up the Clap Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

But Saul became impatient and disobeyed God. Instead of waiting for Samuel, who often heard from God, Saul started to do things himself. Instead of defeating all of Israel's enemies like God said, Saul started to make up his own rules. Saul's pride got the better of him.

STAGEHAND: Are you kidding me?

News Anchor holds up the Shhhh Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

NEWS ANCHOR: (whispering to stagehand) **Seriously! Sorry, folks! Back to our live broadcast ... Samuel went to Saul and asked him why he hadn't obeyed God. Saul made excuses, saying he wanted to give God a good sacrifice as a gift—killing the best animals they took from their enemies as a gift to God. But Samuel said, "What pleases the LORD more? Burnt offerings and sacrifices, or obeying the LORD? It is better to obey than to offer a sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).**

Eventually, Saul ran out of chances. His heart had turned away from God, and he was disobedient. So, God decided that Saul wouldn't be king any longer. Samuel told Saul that God had torn the kingdom away from him.

Stagehand holds up the What? Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

I'm here to report to you that God took away the kingdom from Saul, and he is no longer king. God is giving it to someone else.

STAGEHAND: Are you kidding me?

Stagehand holds up the Cheer Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

NEWS ANCHOR: Saul could have obeyed God and remained king, for God made Saul a powerful military leader. But Saul and the Israelites didn't follow God's design. They wanted to be in charge.

Sometimes we want to do things our own way, just like the Israelites did. But I'm here to report that God loves us and leads us, and He knows what's best. We can always trust Him, and we can remember that God is in charge.

Stagehand holds up the Cheer Audience Card Sheet, and kids respond.

Now, back to our regularly scheduled program.

Thank kids for their full participation.

Bummer!

shh

Hi there?



What?

Good Spelling

Cher

**Be still,
and know
that I am God.
I will be honored
among the nations.
I will be honored
in the earth.
The LORD
who rules over all
is with us.
The God of Jacob
is like a fort to us.
—Psalm 46:10–11**