

FOOLISHLY THINKING GOD IS NOT ENOUGH

Theme : Devoting ourselves to God's unfailing leadership despite our rebellion within.

Grade 9 - Unit 1 Lesson 2

Teacher's Preparation

Help students understand that our faith in God means at all times. We often seek the counsel of other people before God, often forgetting all that He has done for us.

1. Reflect on how God created us with free will and let's us experience the consequences of our choices. Many times we replace the goodness of God with the depravity of mankind. (1 Samuel 8: 7-9).
2. How did God feel about the Israelites despite their disobedience? (1 Samuel 12: 20–24).
3. What was the consequence if they “did wickedly” (1 Samuel 12:25).
4. What can we understand about the heart and nature of God in the way He responds to Israel's demand for a king?
5. How can asserting our will over God's will, affect us?
6. What does God really want from man today? (1 Samuel 12: 22 and 24)

Aim:

To understand that God loves us and knows what is best of us, even though we are sinners

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1 Samuel 12

Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to you in all that you have said to me, and have set a king over you. ² See, it is the king who leads you now; I am old and gray, but my sons are with you. I have led you from my youth until this day. ³ Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you." ⁴ They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from the hand of anyone." ⁵ He said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they said, "He is witness."

⁶ Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ Now therefore take your stand, so that I may enter into judgment with you before the LORD, and I will declare to you all the saving deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your ancestors. ⁸ When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your ancestors cried to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your ancestors out of Egypt, and settled them in this place. ⁹ But they forgot the LORD their God; and he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of King Jabin of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. ¹⁰ Then they cried to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served the Baals and the Astartes; but now rescue us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.' ¹¹ And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak, and Jephthah, and Samson, and rescued you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you lived in safety. ¹² But when you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' though the LORD your God was your king. ¹³ See, here is the king whom you have chosen, for whom

you have asked; see, the LORD has set a king over you. ¹⁴ If you will fear the LORD and serve him and heed his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well; ¹⁵ but if you will not heed the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king. ¹⁶ Now therefore take your stand and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. ¹⁷ Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain; and you shall know and see that the wickedness that you have done in the sight of the LORD is great in demanding a king for yourselves." ¹⁸ So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

¹⁹ All the people said to Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for your servants, so that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of demanding a king for ourselves." ²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; ²¹ and do not turn aside after useless things that cannot profit or save, for they are useless. ²² For the LORD will not cast away his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. ²³ Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. ²⁴ Only fear the LORD, and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you. ²⁵ But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

Aim:

To understand that God loves us and knows what is best of us, even though we are sinners

Student Introduction

As we go through today's lesson, we will see how Samuel demonstrates his integrity before the people of Israel and asks anyone to bring charges if he has been dishonest or sinful in anyway. Amazingly no one does. Let's pause and think about this for a minute. Would we pass that test?

Do we trust in the Lord and "wait upon him," or rather trust our own judgment and disobey His commandments? How do people try to justify their actions, as Saul did, when they do not wait? At times, we need to be reminded when we have sinned.

Bible Exposition

Samuel was dedicated to God from birth by his parents. He grew up in the house of the Lord, under the leadership of Eli, the High Priest. God called Samuel when he was a little boy, and began to speak to him. Throughout his life, Samuel stayed close to the voice of the Lord and allowed the Lord to make him a blessing to Israel. He spoke as a prophet to turn the hearts of the people to the Lord, and helped lead them to victory in battles with their enemies. The Lord wanted to continually guide Israel and be their Savior and Redeemer. But sadly, the people of Israel decided that they preferred to have a king reign over them, like the nations around them. God wanted them to be separate and unique from those around them, but they wanted to conform to the world around them. Samuel was grieved at the people's choice. But the Lord reassured him saying "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them." (1 Samuel 8:7).

We see here a picture of a gracious God with a tender heart. Even though His people rejected God, He did not destroy them or force His will upon them. He gives in to their request for a king. Much like the father of the prodigal son in Luke 15, though grieved by the Israelites decision to He allows them to make their own choice and gives into their desire. That is the heart of God. God created us with free will free will, even though our decision saddens Him. We must remember that we can not succeed when we asserts our independence from God's presence. The choice that Israel made in asking for a king was to assert that they knew better than God and wanted independence from Him. God told Samuel to warn the people of Israel that they were making a grave mistake in doing so.



Activities

Questions for discussion.

Count all the ways that God helped the Israelites, from Moses up to Samuel's day?

Do you give up on prayer if it is not answered in your time?

Have you sought the counsel of others when you should have reached out to God?

As Samuel rebuked them, he called on The Lord to send thunder and rain, even though it was not the season for rain. God heard his prayer and sent thunder and rain in response. Seeing these signs, the people recognized their error and were filled with terror. But yet again, we see the tender and fatherly heart of God when speaking through Samuel. He reassured the people through Samuel, asking them not to fear. And then we see the wonderful words, "For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people." (1Samuel 12:22). This speaks to the message of the gospel of to us today, where in Romans 5:8 it states, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." The beautiful thing about God's sacrifice through Christ is that those who are redeemed did not choose Him first or do anything to deserve His love and goodness. He did it all! We could never doing anything to be worthy of this amazing gift. We could never be righteous in His eyes. For those who God redeemed, He sent Jesus to die for them, that through His blood, they might be acceptable in God's eyes.

We are here today because our loving Father in Heaven was pleased to create us and gave us the ability to choose whether or not we will serve Him. No different than the Israelites, we continually choose to turn away from God. This is the nature of man and what Samuel is reminding the people. Because of our rebellion against God, we need the Holy Spirit to change our lives and accept Christ as our Lord and Master. In Romans 8:34 it reads, "Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us." If we recognize God's love for us, like Samuel, we will truly find our hearts overflowing with love for Him. The beauty of Christianity is that God is loves us and rather than demanding that we do more and more, He declares that everything has been done already. His Son has finished and perfected His demands for righteousness on the cross and when we accept Christ, God sees His finished work on the cross and is satisfied. Our part is to understand in whom we have to put our trust and hope in. That is Jesus Christ.



Values for Life:

God's Word repeatedly assures us that the pain of going to Him is far less than the pain of avoiding Him. It also assures those saved by Grace that because of Jesus we can "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy"

Serve and seek the Lord in all your struggles and ask for his mercy to guide you in the path of righteousness.

Memory Verse

Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

1 Samuel 12:23

Closing Prayer

Dear God, through Christ's saving work on the cross; His redeemed are enabled to serve you. However, sometimes we are filled with doubts and worries as we face challenges in our own lives. Enable us to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior so we can meet these challenges with confidence that you will never forsake us. Amen

