



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**

for Christ and the Church



Judges Period

People with problems

Saul - A Big Man with Little Confidence

1 Samuel 9:1 – 10:24

Teaching Aim

To learn that, even when we lack confidence, we can have confidence in the Lord.

Setting the Scene

The Israelites are now well settled in the Promised Land but they start comparing themselves to the countries round about who all have kings as leaders. So they begin to ask for a king. Samuel sees this as being disrespectful to God who brought them out of slavery in Egypt into this land. However, the Lord is willing to allow them to have a king (1 Sam 8:22). The question is who will it be and how will he be chosen?

Saul's Search

Read 1 Sam 9:1-14. This story has a simple beginning. Some donkeys were lost and Kish sent his son, Saul, to find them. Look how verse 2 describes Saul – *impressive, young, without equal, head and shoulders above all others*. With his servant, Saul travelled many miles in search of the donkeys without success. Convinced that he would never find them, Saul wanted to return home (v5) but his servant suggested they should take advice from a highly respected man of God (v6). That man, of course, was Samuel and they went to find him (vv 11-14).

Saul's Surprise

Read 1 Sam 9:15-10:1. It was no surprise to Samuel that Saul would come to see him because God had told him (vv15-17). But what happened when he met Samuel was a great surprise to Saul. First of all, Samuel invited him to a special meal being prepared at the high place, the place of worship (v19). Then he told him that the donkeys have already been found and, thirdly, Samuel gave Saul a 'coded message' that he would be God's answer to Israel's desire to have a king (v20). Perhaps Samuel said it this way because he didn't want the servant to know, but Saul's answer (v21) told Samuel that he understood what Samuel meant. His answer also showed that, although he was physically a big man, he was a very modest man with not a lot of confidence. In effect he said, "Who me? It can't be, for I'm from a small family in the smallest tribe in Israel."

At the meal, there was another surprise. Saul discovered he was the guest of honour and Samuel took Saul to his house and talked to him about being a leader and a king. In the morning, before Saul left to go home, Samuel took him on one side and, in a very private service, he anointed him as king (10:1).

Saul's Assurance

Read 1 Sam 10:2-16. Big as he was, Saul's knees may have been knocking at this point. To show him that all he had been told was true Samuel told Saul that, on his way home, he would have three signs. Two men would tell him his present worries were over as the donkeys had indeed been found (v2), three men would give him gifts (v3) to show that the people liked him and, when he met a procession of prophets, God would send His Spirit upon him as the assurance of His approval and His presence with him for his role as king (vv5-7). It all happened as Samuel had said but Saul still didn't have the confidence to tell anyone (v16).

Saul's Selection

Read 1 Sam 10:17-24. Although Samuel knew that God had chosen Saul to be the first king of Israel, it was important that the people also knew that he was God's choice. So Samuel called the people together at Mizpah to choose a king. The method of selection was by drawing lots to choose which tribe, then which clan or family group in the tribe and, finally which person from that family was the chosen one. Saul was chosen but, when the people looked for him, they couldn't find him. He was too nervous and had hidden himself (v22) but the Lord pointed out where he was. When the people saw how tall he was, they shouted out 'Long live the king.' (vv23-24). Their support must have cheered up Saul.

Summing Up

Saul was the biggest man in Israel yet he lacked the confidence to become a leader and undertake things for God. Saul was to learn that he did not have to rely on his own confidence but in God's. For many years, he was a good king, defeating Israel's enemies. We sometimes lack confidence and are nervous about doing things, even for God. But we have the promise of Jesus that He will always be with us (Matthew 28:20b) and that should give us all the confidence we need. Remember, God rarely chooses people who have bags of confidence to do his work. More often he chooses modest people who are willing to rely on Him. - see Moses (Ex 3:10-12) and Gideon (Judges 6:11-15).

Resources

Memory Verse

Saul answered, 'But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?' 1Sam 9:21

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "Saul - A Big Man with Little Confidence - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "Saul - A Big Man with Little Confidence - 2".

Prayer Points

Pray for:

- Those who have no confidence to do things.
- Those who have too much confidence in their own ability and do not listen to good advice.
- The confidence to help you to do your best whenever you are given something to do, especially for God.

Saul

Draw a story board using the verses given in 1 Samuel 9:1 - 10:24.
Include "speech bubbles" in your drawings.

<p>1</p> <p>9v3 Kish said to his son, Saul, ..."Go and look for the donkeys".</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9v22 Samuel brought Saul and his servant and seated them at the head of those who were invited.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>10v1 Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10v10 A procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came on him with power.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10v21 Finally, Saul, son of Kish, was chosen. But, ... they could not find him.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10v24 Then all the people shouted, "Long live the king!".</p>

Saul

Find the following words in the Word Search:

KISH
SAUL
YOUNG MAN
A HEAD TALLER
KING

DONKEYS
SERVANT
LETS GO BACK
A MAN OF GOD

SAMUEL
EAT WITH ME
ON THE ROOF
FLASK OF OIL

POURED IT
SPIRIT
MIZPAH
BAGGAGE

R	K	C	A	B	O	G	S	T	E	L
E	L	I	O	F	O	K	S	A	L	F
L	P	O	U	R	E	D	I	T	L	O
L	U	A	S	P	I	R	I	T	E	O
A	L	N	A	M	G	N	U	O	Y	R
T	E	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	A	E
D	U	G	E	G	A	G	G	A	B	H
A	M	S	N	M	I	Z	P	A	H	T
E	A	T	W	I	T	H	M	E	S	N
H	S	S	Y	E	K	N	O	D	I	O
A	M	A	N	O	F	G	O	D	K	T

Fill in the letters left over in the spaces below to find what Saul thought of the position of his family and himself.
