

## **March 11**

### 1 Samuel 12:1-25

The people had asked for a king and they were given one. His name was Saul. As the time came for Saul to begin his rule, the prophet Samuel prepared to step aside, but as he did so he warned the Israelites about the risky path they had chosen by asking for a king instead of completely trusting God.

*Question to Consider:*

The Israelites were unwilling to trust God completely and instead wanted an earthly ruler. Can you think of an example illustrating our continuing tendency to choose worldly things (people, etc.) instead of God?

*Prayer:*

Father God, sometimes I make choices that seem to make sense, but bring trouble later. Please forgive me, and help me to make good choices in the future. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## **March 12**

### 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Even though he was still king, Saul was a failure so God chose a successor for him and called on Samuel to anoint his chosen one - David.

*Question to Consider:*

God said to Samuel, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." That means God knows us better than we know ourselves and looks deep within us. Is that good news, or bad news?

*Prayer:*

Loving God, you search me and you know me. Help me to love and trust you enough to always see it as good news that you know me better than I know myself. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **March 13**

### 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Saul did not yet know that Samuel had anointed David to eventually become king. In these verses, we read about David beginning a time of service under King Saul.

*Question to Consider:*

David had been anointed by Samuel, yet Saul was still king and David began to serve him. Why do you think God would have David do that instead of just going ahead and becoming king?

*Prayer:*

Almighty God, you may call me to something for which I need some time to prepare. Please give me patience to wait on you and a willingness to do things in your time. I pray in the name of our Savior Jesus, Amen.

## **March 14**

### 1 Samuel 17:1-16

This is the first of 3 parts of one of the more familiar stories in the Old Testament - the story of David and Goliath. In these verses, Goliath is described and the stage is set for what will come.

*Question to Consider:*

Did you ever have to face a bully? What was the result?

*Prayer:*

All-powerful God, the day will come when I have to stand up to someone. Fill me with your strength and give me the courage to do the right thing. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **March 15**

### 1 Samuel 17:17-37

In this second section of the story of David and Goliath, David went to the camp, saw what Goliath was doing, and convinced Saul to allow him to face the Philistine.

*Question to Consider:*

Have you ever had to persuade someone that you were capable of something few people thought you could do? What was it? How did you do?

*Prayer:*

Gracious God, you have given me gifts and talents. I pray that I am able to effectively use them in your service, even when others are filled with doubt. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.