

Choices and consequences

Samuel led God's people for many years as a judge, but he was getting old and the elders, who helped Samuel rule, wondered who the leader would be when Samuel died ▲. They talked to Samuel and said, 'Your sons are not wise like you. We think that we should have a king like other countries.'

Samuel felt sad ✳. He prayed to understand what God thought about the idea. God told Samuel to warn the people that they must be sure that this is what they really wanted. A king would take their sons to be soldiers and their daughters to be his cooks and perfume makers. A king would take the best of the land and the animals. A king would tax the people and take their riches for himself. Samuel explained all this, but the people said that they did not care, they still wanted a king ▲. So Samuel waited to see whom God would choose.

One day, a man named Saul came to visit Samuel to ask his advice. Samuel knew straight away Saul was God's choice to be king. To show that Saul had been chosen by God, Samuel anointed Saul's head with oil ✳, but Saul wasn't sure he wanted to be king ▲. Some days later, Samuel showed Saul to the people as the one that God had chosen to be king. The people were in danger from their enemies ✳. King Saul led the people into battle and won a huge victory. The people agreed that Saul truly was their king.

See session outline on p.40.

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the ✳ to share these points with the children.

- ✳ God's people hadn't been led by a king before, and Samuel thought they should still be led by a judge. He was sad because the Israelites didn't think the same way.
- ✳ When someone is anointed, oil is poured over their head with a prayer to show that they have been chosen by God for a special job.
- ✳ The Israelites had enemies on three sides of the country and were in danger from all of them.
- ▲ See p.41 for **Choose your own ending** activity.

