



A Prophet's Tale: Samuel

Saul did a good job being King over Israel for a while. He listened to Samuel's guidance and he led the country to many victories. But there were times he chose to do things the way he wanted and did not follow Samuel's council. That was the risk the people took in wanting a king. Samuel would judge the country with God in mind. When you have a king, they sometimes put their own feelings ahead of God. That is what happened with Saul. Before Saul went to battle, he could not wait to hear from Samuel and acted before he prayed to God. He did win the battle, but Samuel was really upset with his decision to go without God.

Q: Why was Samuel a good King of Israel at first?

A: Because he listened to Samuels spiritual guidance.

Q: What is one risk in having a King?

A: They sometimes put themselves over God in making big decisions.

Q: Did Saul wait to hear from Samuel before he went to battle?

A: No





That was Saul's first mistake to his continuing downfall as king. Samuel talked to him about what he had done and warned him to change. He told him to always put God first and listen to God's instruction. Another battle came up on the land and God had strict orders to follow. God asked for everything to be torn down. The people there had to be defeated and God would give them their land, but God also asked Saul to destroy even the animals on the land. Saul did as God asked but he really felt that killing the animals was a waste. He wanted to keep the animals and sell them or just have them. That is not following God's plan. Samuel was so upset with Saul for not following directions. He knew something had to change. Israel could not have a king that does not follow God.

Q: What did Samuel say to Saul after his first mistake?

A: He told him he need to put God first in his decision making.

Q: What did God ask Saul to do?

A: To destroy everything on the land even the animals.

Q: Israel could not have a king that does not follow who?

A: God





Samuel leaves Saul after telling him that God has rejected him as King of Israel. Saul is so upset with this news he runs after Samuel and tugs at his cloak he tore a piece off. Samuel told him just like he tore his garment God will tear his kingdom away from him. That was the last time they spoke in person. Samuel left to find another king for Israel. Saul went home with a heavy heart. He requested soothing music to help him feel better. A young boy named David would play the harp for King Saul sometimes. Saul's mind was so tortured. He could not focus on tasks given to him and the country started to notice. Soon Samuel would anoint young David to be the next King of Israel.

Q: Why was Saul so upset with what Samuel said?

A: Because he said God had rejected him as king.

Q: What did Saul want to help him feel better?

A: Soothing Music

Q: What did the country start to notice?

A: Saul could not focus on being a king.





Craft Class

Check out this week's craft on the next page! View the online video to see how to make it. Have fun!

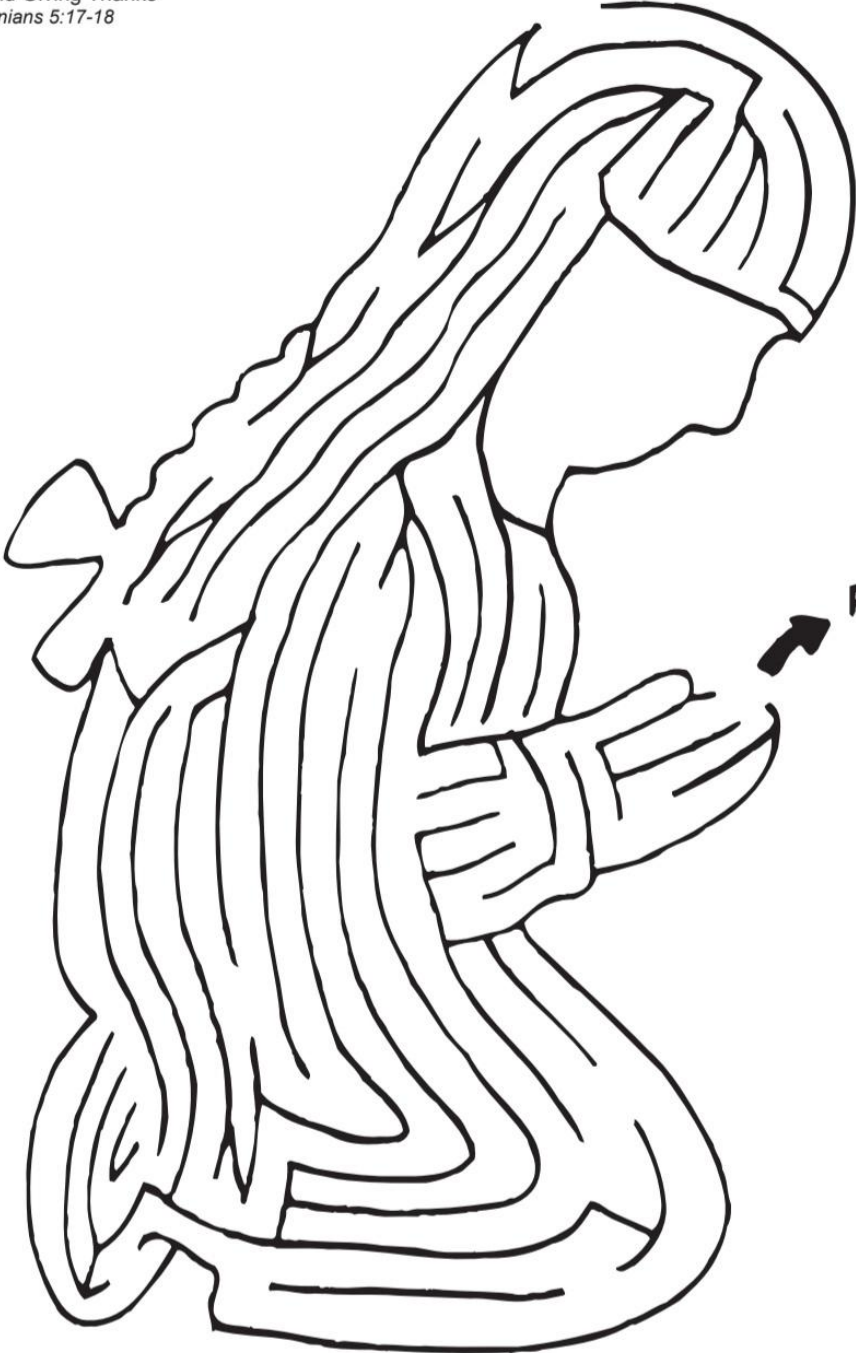
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Praying and Giving Thanks
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

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