

DAY ELEVEN - JESSE

To do today: Color ornament # 11, read the following story and choose which activities you would like to do.

“Jesse (meaning uncertain; rich; powerful; my present), grandson of Booz and Ruth, father of King David. Jesse of the tribe of Juda, lived at Bethlehem (Ruth, 4). He was an old man, when Samuel came to Bethlehem to anoint David, the new King of Israel (1 Kings, 16). In the time of Saul, the family of Jesse occupied a humble condition; for David calls himself poor and unimportant (1 Kings, 18). As descendant of David the Messiah is called the “root of Jesse” (Is., 11). The New Catholic Dictionary, page 504 - Imprimatur 1929 Jesse is also called Isai according to the Douay Rheims version of the Holy Bible. The information is located in the Historical Index of the Old Testament.

Israel Ruled by Kings

We know that Jacob had twelve sons. Each of these sons became the forefather of a large group of people known as a tribe. There were, therefore, twelve tribes of Israel, and they were named after Jacob’s twelve sons. When the Israelites had taken the land of Chanaan, each tribe was given a share of land in which to live: In place of the tribe of Joseph, however, the tribes of his two sons received each a share, for Jacob had adopted them as his own children before he died. But the tribe of Levi were not given any land because they were priests and had to live among the other tribes. During the rule of the Judges the different tribes ruled themselves, except when they went out together to meet an enemy. Then they fought under great leaders like Gedeon or Samuel. By and by the tribes of Israel became so large and strong that they needed a powerful leader to bring them all together as one great nation. We shall see how the first king of Israel was appointed by God Himself and how the Chosen People were governed sometimes by good and sometimes by very wicked kings.

The First King of Israel

One day the Lord said to Samuel: “Tomorrow, about this same hour, I will send to you a man of the land of Benjamin and you shall anoint him ruler of Israel.” The next day a young man by the name of Saul came into the town in which Samuel lived, and the Lord said to the high priest: “Behold the man of whom I have spoken to you. This man shall reign over My people.” And Samuel poured oil over Saul’s head as a sign that God had chosen him to be king.

When the people of Israel heard that Saul came into the town in which Samuel lived, and the Lord said to the high priest: “Behold the man of whom I have spoken to you. This man shall reign over My people.” And Samuel poured oil over Saul’s head as a sign that God had chosen him to be king. When the people of Israel heard that Saul was to be their king and saw how he stood head and shoulders taller than any man, they were very happy and shouted: “God save the king.” Then they promised to obey his laws and felt sure that he would help them against their enemies, the Philistines. For two years Saul led the people to victory over the Philistines, and God was with him in every battle. There he became proud and disobedient. God wished him to fight against Amalec and to destroy everything that belonged to the enemy. But Saul saved the best of the sheep and of the herds. Then Samuel came to him and said: “Why did you not listen to the

and of the herds. Then Samuel came to him and said: "Why did you not listen to the voice of the Lord? Why have you done evil?" Saul answered: "I have listened to the voice of the Lord. But the people kept the best of the flocks to offer as sacrifices to God." "God does not want sacrifices," Samuel said, "but wants you to obey. Obedience is better than sacrifices." "You have refused to keep the word of God, therefore God will have nothing to do with you. He has chosen someone else to be a ruler over Israel." Samuel did not see the king again until the day of his own death, but wept over Saul for a long time.

Other stories you might like to read if time permits:

From: Anecdotes and Examples by Rev. Francis Spirago
"The Helmsman" pg. 345

Coordinating Bible Verses: I Kings 16: 1-13

Now can you answer these questions?

1.) How did Samuel know who was to be king of the Israelites?

2.) How did the people feel when they heard that Saul was to be king?

3.) What did they say?

4.) How long did Saul act as God wished him to?

5.) Why was God no longer with Saul later on?

6.) What did Samuel say to Saul about obedience?

The Israelites were happy to have a king and promised to keep all the laws that he would make for them. Are there any kings living today? Who is at the head of the United States?

The fourth commandment tells us to obey not only our parents but also those who have charge over us. Our parents take the place of God in our homes. The Pope, the bishops, and priests, take His place in the Church.

The president, the governors, and all those who help them carry on our government take His place in our country. God expects us to be not only good children of the family and of our parish, but good citizens as well. Tell the class different ways in which you can be a good citizen.

Look over the following words and see whether you are a good citizen. Are you a good citizen? A good citizen is:

**obedient industrious honest polite respectful unselfish clean
useful thrifty loyal kind patriotic considerate**

Interesting things for you to do:

- 1.) Write a list of safety rules for your class.
- 2.) Draw or cut out a picture of the American flag and write under it: "I must be true to my God, to my country, and to myself."
- 3.) Give little plays or movies showing how good citizens should act in public places, at school, and at home.
- 4.) Find stories or poems about children who had habits of good citizenship.
- 5.) Write a list of words each of which tell what a good citizen should be and see whether you can find the opposites of the words in your list; obedient - disobedient, etc.
- 6.) Make a list of all the people you must obey.
- 7.) Write in your character book: "Obedience is better than sacrifices."

Good things for you to read:

"To Thee O country," Ideal Catholic Reader, Book IV, page 272.

"Good Citizenship," Catholic Youth Reader, Book IV, page 207.

"Barbara Frietchie," Misericordia Reader, Book IV, page 236.

"Flags," Cathedral Basic Reader, Book IV, page 103.

"A Pioneer Lad," Cathedral Basic Reader, book IV, page 118.