

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

June 4-10, 2018

*Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.*

### BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: 1 Samuel 8:4–20, (11:14–15) (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=388726228>).

Other readings are: Psalm 138, 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1, Mark 3:20–35.

The theme is: Choices and Consequences.

Last week we learned of Samuel's call and his new role as leader of Israel. At the time of this week's reading, Samuel is old. It is time for a new leader. In another case of history repeating itself, Samuel's sons prove to be corrupt, just as Eli's sons had been. Samuel's sons cannot be counted upon to provide the kind of leadership that Samuel had. Israel must look elsewhere. Since the surrounding countries were led by kings, Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king. As God's messenger, Samuel warns the people of the consequences of having a king. Under a king, the people would lose many of the freedoms that they had gained after leaving Egypt. Kingship would be bad for them. They had not only God's wisdom but the lessons of history to tell them just how bad kingship would be. Still, the people persisted. Their neighbors had kings; Israel wanted a king. While we are probably not surprised by human nature as described in this story, we may be surprised and even a bit disturbed by God's nature as revealed here. Although God knows that a king will be bad news for the people, God gives them what they want. Samuel anoints Saul as the first king of Israel, despite God's warnings that a monarchy is not in the people's best interest. Despite the lessons of the past, despite God's firm and dire warnings, the people choose to trust a king they can see, the cultural norm of their neighbors, rather than the God who they cannot see and yet who loves them despite their lack of faith.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

*"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.*

**Why might God give the people a king even though that was not what God wanted for them? Do you ever want what everyone else has instead of God's best for you? In those moments, what can help you to follow God's leading?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of June 3:

**As Samuel's mentor, Eli helped Samuel discern God's call. Think about who might be a mentor to you. How can you initiate or nurture that relationship?**

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