



## A resource to help you enjoy church at home as a household

This page is designed to help you enjoy family-church time together before or after the online church service at 10am. Of course, what you choose to use is totally up to you. That might just be watching the video. That's fine. You can choose just to do the prayer bit. Great! It might be giving your kids some worksheets while you watch the service together. That's fine! Whatever works. Life is full of things that worry and stress us right now; this resource is here to bless you, not stress you!

We've adapted today's content from [a Mustardseeds lesson](#) (if you would like access to the full lesson, please email [office@stbedes.com.au](mailto:office@stbedes.com.au)). Below, you will find content and links to help you explore a Bible story, sing & pray as a household, and some craft activities that you will hopefully have received in your letterbox!

If you'd like to print them, find the PDF of these items [here](#).

We'd love to see how you're going. If you're comfortable, post news videos and greetings, or pics of craft on our [private Facebook group](#)!



### 1. Singing Together

Spend some time singing [this song](#) by Colin Buchanan - "The Lord is King" together. It's a great song to help each other remember that God is in control. Have a go together!



### 2. Listening to God Together

a. If you'd like to go through the story again, have a watch of [this video](#) from Saddleback Kids which introduces us to our character, Samuel!

Find the words for our passage today (CEV) here:

#### 1 Samuel 8

Samuel had two sons. The older one was Joel, and the younger one was Abijah. When Samuel was getting old, he let them be leaders at Beersheba. But they were not like their father. They were dishonest and accepted bribes to give unfair decisions. One day the nation's leaders came to Samuel at Ramah and said, "You are an old man. You set a good example for our sons, but they haven't followed it. Now we want a king to be our leader, just like all the other nations. Choose one for us!" Samuel was upset to hear the leaders say they wanted a king, so he prayed about it. The Lord answered: Samuel, do everything they want you to do. I am really the one they have rejected as their king. Ever since the day I rescued my people from Egypt, they have turned from me to worship idols. Now they are turning away from you. Do everything they ask, but warn them and tell them how a king will treat them. Samuel told the people who were asking for a king what the Lord had said: If you have a king, this is how he will treat you. He will force your sons to join his army. Some of them will ride in his chariots, some will serve in the cavalry, and others will run ahead of his own chariot. Some of them will be officers in charge of a thousand soldiers, and others will be in charge of fifty. Still others will have to farm the king's land and harvest his crops, or make weapons and parts for his chariots. Your daughters will have to make perfume or do his cooking and baking. The king will take your best fields, as well as your vineyards, and olive orchards and give them to his own officials. He will also take a tenth of your grain and grapes and give it to his officers and officials. The king will take your slaves and your best young men and your donkeys and make them do his work. He will also take a tenth of your sheep and goats. You will become the king's slaves, and you will finally cry out for the Lord to save you from the king you wanted. But the Lord won't answer your prayers. The people would not listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want to be like other nations. We want a king to rule us and lead us in battle." Samuel listened to them and then told the Lord exactly what they had said. "Do what they want," the Lord answered. "Give them a king." Samuel told the people to go back to their homes.

b. Learning as a household (from Mustardseeds lesson). You will have found the worksheets in your packs from a few weeks back, for beyond Easter. You can use 'Saul - Week 1 Worksheet C' as an easy way of discussing the passage together.

**Today's big idea: God is the best king for us, and is always good.**

You know, Israel was ruled not by a human King in those days, but God. Samuel was the last in a long line of 'judges' who God had given Israel to help people follow him as King. But after a while, Israel started looking around at the nations near them. They all seemed to be powerful. They all seemed to be doing alright for themselves. And Israel? Not so much. The people of Israel didn't realise that this was because they had stopped listening to God! They thought to themselves, it's because they have a strong, handsome, powerful human king! And so they said to Samuel, you're old and your sons aren't good people - so choose a king for us, so we can be like the nations around us!!

Now: God had always planned to give his people Israel a king. We'll see that in a few weeks. But what's wrong with this request? Here's what is wrong: Israel thought that trusting a strong handsome human king was going to be safer and better for them than trusting their good, powerful God!!

Samuel said, you know, this king you want? He's going to use you selfishly. He's not going to be good or nice to you. He's not going to be good and kind and generous in the way that God is!!

You know, 1500 years later (or so), God gave them the perfect king. Jesus! Who was both God and Human! And he wasn't like this. He was the opposite. He gave up his life for us! But more than that: he died to give us a better version of what Israel wanted when they asked for a king! He gives us safety! Kindness! Love. He gives us forgiveness. When he is our king, not even death is the end.

SO: Sometimes we can be like Israel. We don't trust kings to give us the things we think we need the most...but we trust other things. "If I was more popular with people I would be happier. If I had more toys or games I would be more comfortable. If I didn't have to do everything that my parents and teachers say, I'd be happier." But you know what? When we trust these things the most, it never ends up as good as when we trust Jesus the most. Because he is always good! He loves us always. And promises to bring us to heaven to be with him forever. He's worth trusting!



### 3. Praying Together

a. Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you that he is the best king that anyone could hope for. Thank you that he always gives us what is best for us, and that he died for us to make us your friends and children. Help us to see how great he is every day, so that we can remember how good he is and how much we can trust him. Help us to do that especially when we're stuck at home and away from our friends and normal life. Amen!

b. Activity: Remember reverse pass-the-parcel from a few weeks? Start unwrapping the next layer and pray for that thing together. Or want to start a new one? Instead of wrapping gifts for pass-the-parcel, you can wrap prayer points. So, write a bunch of basic prayers, wrap each one in a new layer by random. Over the next few weeks, unwrap one or two layers each time and pray through that together.

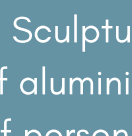
OR,

c. Add some more people to your prayer chain! Remember: hang it somewhere where you can see it is a family. Pray through that list together, taking turns.

OR,

d. Pray the Lord's Prayer together, alongside Christians across the world:

*Our father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
forgive our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Don't let us fall into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever,  
Amen.*



### 4. Getting Creative Together

a. Foil Sculptures: Israel wanted the best looking King - tall, strong, handsome. Out of aluminium foil, or something from your garden, create a model of the kind of person you think would fit. Remember - try to re-use the foil, or at least recycle when you're done!

OR,

b. Colour in some more "Thinking of You" cards that you can take on your next walk. Make some for your friends, but don't stop there! Why not deliver some to the neighbours you prayed for, or someone who you think could do with cheering up?

c. Have a go at the worksheet for this week (in your packs, or link above)

OR,

d. Enjoy the amazing colouring sheets that Amelia Rand has drawn just for us! They should be in your letterbox.

**Thanks for doing church at home with us! We hope this was helpful and fun - remember to post some pics and vids on our facebook group to show us what you got up to, or pass on some encouraging words to your friends. We'd love to know how we can help make this experience better, so if you have any thoughts please email [office@stbedes.com.au](mailto:office@stbedes.com.au)**

**Feel free to visit [www.stbedes.com.au](http://www.stbedes.com.au) for the rest of our Sunday service!**