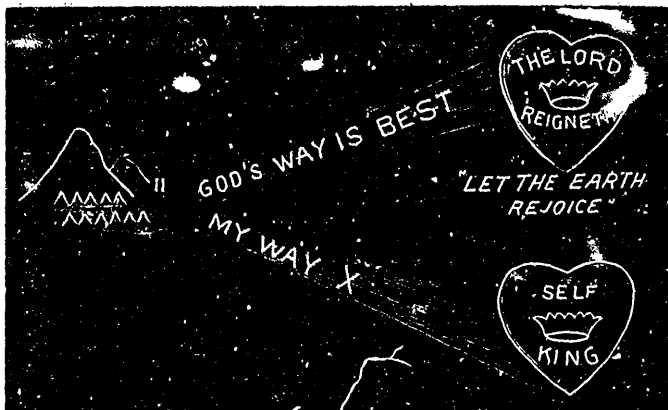


people had to choose which one they would have for their king. God knew and told them which would be the best for them to choose, but they wanted to have their own way and so they chose Saul. They would not have God (the best way) so God allowed them to have their own way, which we find out later was not the best way. Make two ways or roads on board and in one print "God's way," and in the other "Israelites' way."



Why did they want Saul to be their king? Because they wanted to be like the other nations, and thought if they could get away from God a little bit and have Saul for their king they could do more as they wished themselves. So it really was self they wanted for their king (rub out "Saul" and print "self" on crown). So it is with people now, and even little boys and girls although they know that God knows what is best for them still they want to have their own selfish way, want self to reign in their hearts instead of God (draw hearts over the crowns). Let us not be like the Israelites but let us choose God's way for it is best (write "is best" after "God's way.") Let us have him for our king and let him reign in our hearts. The Golden Text is "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." Let him reign in our hearts and our hearts will rejoice. As a closing thought change "Israelites way" into "my way" and ask the children which they will choose, crossing out "my way" in response to their answer.

LESSON VII—November 17th, 1895.

Saul Rejected. I SAM. 15: 10-23.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: "To obey is better than sacrifice." I Sam. 15: 22.

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT: Obedience.

III. REVIEW: What did the people want in last lesson? Whom did they choose? Was it the best choice? Who knows what is best for us?

IV. INTERVENING EVENTS. When Saul was crowned king Samuel made a farewell speech and all the people bore witness to his just and good rule. Soon after this the Philistines tried again to conquer Israel and came up with a great host. God gave Saul the victory over them, but Samuel told him that because he had shewn himself impatient and disobedient God would have to take him away from being king. Still God gave him another chance. If he had only repented at this first warning, and done what God sent him to do to the Amalekites, he might have been forgiven. The Amalekites had treated the children of Israel very badly when they came out of Egypt, ever since they had tried to do them all the harm they could. They too had been warned a long time and had not paid any attention. Now the time of their punishment had come.

V. LESSON STORY: Saul had been king now for about ten years. How had he been getting on all this time? When first he began to reign everything seemed bright and prosperous, he had Samuel to advise him and tell him what God wished him to do. God himself was his friend and promised to be with him if he would follow and obey him. But after a while Saul seemed to forget God, and instead of obeying him disobeyed him, and many times instead of doing that which would please God did that which pleased himself. In this lesson we have a story about his disobedience. God told Samuel to tell Saul to go to war with the Amalekites and to utterly destroy them all and everything they had. After the battle Samuel went to see Saul. He found him at a place called Gilgal (point out place on the map). Saul said to Samuel "Blessed be thou of the Lord; I have performed the commandment of the Lord." "If you have," Samuel said, "what mean the bleating of the sheep in mine ears and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" When Saul told him they had brought these