

16.01 Saul Anointed King (1 Samuel 9; 10)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A leather water “bottle” or “skin” or the photo of one found below

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *seer*: another word for prophet
- *humble*: having or showing a low estimate of one’s own importance

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 9:1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish . . . a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. 2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul’s father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, “Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys.” 4 And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

5 When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, “Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us.” 6 But he said to him, “Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go.” 7 Then Saul said to his servant, “But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?” 8 The servant answered Saul again, “Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way.” . . . 10 And Saul said to his servant, “Well said; come, let us go.” So they went to the city where the man of God was.

11 As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, “Is the seer here?” 12 They answered, “He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place. 13 As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately.” 14 . . . As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

15 Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel: 16 “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.” 17 When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, “Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.” 18 Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?” 19 Samuel answered Saul, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. 20 As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father’s house?” 21 Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?”

22 Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons. 23 And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Put it aside.'" 24 So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And Samuel said, "See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests."

So Saul ate with Samuel that day. 25 And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. 26 Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Up, that I may send you on your way." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street. 27 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God."

10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage. 2 When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, 'What shall I do about my son?' 3 Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. 4 And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. 5 After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 8 Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" 12 And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" 13 When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

14 Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." 15 And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." 16 And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

17 Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah. 18 And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' 19 But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands."

20 Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. 21 He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 So they inquired again of the LORD, "Is there a man still to come?" and the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." 23 Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. 24 And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

25 Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. 26 Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. 27 But some worthless fellows said, “How can this man save us?” And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

Introduction/Review:

Whom had the people rejected by asking for a king like the other nations? [God.] God had told Samuel to listen to the people and to get them a king. What would that king be like?

Remember the tribe of Israel that was smallest because they had sinned and the other tribes had warred against them until just a few (600 men) were left? Remember how those 600 men chased girls at Shiloh to get wives? All that had taken place 250 years before today’s story. That would be about as much time as has passed since George Washington was our President until now.

Story:

In that little tribe of Benjamin was a man named Kish, “a mighty man of power.” Kish had a handsome—and I mean *handsome*—son. “There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel” (1 Samuel 9:2). Not only was he handsome, but also was he noticeable, for he stood taller than all the people. Other men were no taller than his shoulders. [Demonstrate the height difference between two students.]

Donkeys lost

Kish had lost his donkeys and asked his handsome son Saul to take a servant and go out to hunt them. The two hunted three days through the mountains of Ephraim [locate], through the land of Shalisha [by Tel Aviv(?)], through the land of Shaalim, through the land of Benjamin [locate], and into the land of Zuph without finding those donkeys. [I cannot find Shaalim and Zuph on maps.]

The servant of Saul said, “We’re close to the city of the man of God.” Who was the man of God? Samuel. What was his city Ramah [locate]. The servant continued, “He is an honorable man and everything he says happens. He’ll be able to tell us where the donkeys are.”

Saul answered, “But we don’t have anything to give to the man of God.”

The servant replied, “I have one-quarter shekel of silver” (0.1 ounce, which is worth about \$2.54 in 2021).

“Okay. Let’s go,” Saul responded.

As they approached the city of Ramah, Saul and his servant met some maidens and asked, “Is the seer in town?”

“Yes,” the girls answered. “He came today to offer a sacrifice. You’ll probably see him when you get to the city.”

Samuel seen

Sure enough. As they entered the city, they met Samuel on his way to sacrifice.

Now, God had spoken to Samuel the day before, saying, “Tomorrow at this time I will send a man from Benjamin whom you will anoint commander over Israel so that he can save my people from the Philistines.” So when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, “There he is, the one I said should rule over Israel.”

Saul approached Samuel and said, “Where is the seer’s house?”

Samuel answered, “I am the seer. Go with me up to the high place, for you are going to eat with me today. Tomorrow I’ll tell you what’s in your heart. Don’t worry about the donkeys; they are found. Now, all the desire of Israel is on you and your father’s family.”

Saul asked, “Why do you say this? I am from an insignificant family in the smallest tribe of Israel—

Benjamin.”

Samuel didn’t answer Saul but brought him to eat with him and about thirty others, giving Saul the place of honor and the best piece of meat. After that they went to Samuel’s house, where they talked and where Saul stayed overnight. (He slept on the rooftop of Samuel’s house.)

The next morning Samuel called to Saul: “Get up so that I can send you on your way. I will walk a ways with you.”

Saul anointed

As they approached the outskirts of the city, Samuel said, “Tell your servant to go on ahead. I have something to tell you—privately. I will announce to you the word of God.”

When the servant had gone ahead, Samuel took a flask of oil, poured some on Saul’s head, and kissed him, saying, “The Lord has anointed you to be commander over His inheritance. Today you will see (1) two men by Rachel’s tomb who will tell you the donkeys are found and your father is worrying about you; (2) three men going to Bethel carrying three young goats, three loaves of bread, and a skin of wine [show leather “skin”]. They will give you two loaves of bread”; (3) “At the hill of God by the Philistines, a group of prophets with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp will be coming down and prophesying. You will prophesy with them.”

Samuel continued, “Go to Gilgal and wait there for me seven days, when I will make sacrifices and offer offerings.”

As Saul went on his way, every one of these three things happened: men told him the donkeys were found, three men gave him two loaves of bread, and Saul prophesied with the prophets at his hometown of Gibeah. When all the people who knew him saw Saul prophesying with the prophets, they said to one another, “What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?”

Saul’s uncle learned Saul had seen Samuel; so he asked, “What did Samuel say to you?”

“He told me the donkeys had been found,” answered Saul, saying nothing about becoming king.

King announced

The seven days Samuel had appointed came to pass. Samuel and Saul and others went to Mizpah. Gathering all the people together, just as he had done at Ebenezer, Samuel announced, “Thus saith the Lord, ‘I brought you up out of Egypt and delivered from all those kingdoms that oppressed you. But you have rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your troubles, and you have said to Him, “No! Set a king over us!” Now present yourselves before the Lord by tribes.’”

Representatives from each of the tribes assembled before Samuel. By casting lots, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. Then Saul’s family was chosen. Finally, Saul himself was chosen.

“Saul, Saul!” cried the people. “Where *is* Saul?” They inquired of the Lord, “Where is Saul?”

God answered, “He is hidden among the stuff—among the baggage.”*

The people ran to find Saul and brought him out. When he came, they saw he was taller than everyone—and very good-looking!

Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.”

And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of a king and wrote them in a book. He later “laid it up before the LORD,” meaning he put it in the tabernacle either in or near the ark of the covenant (John Gill at [1 Samuel 10:25 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Then Samuel sent all the people home. Saul also went to his home at Gibeah. Some valiant men “whose hearts God had touched” went with him.

*“The word signifies household stuff, vessels, utensils, arms which the people had brought along with them for their use, and were laid up in some one place” (John Gill at [1 Samuel 10:22 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Saul was humble at this point. Jesus, though God, was always humble: “Behold, your king [Jesus] is coming to you . . . humble and mounted on a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5).

Activities:

- Play dough: donkey; loaves of bread; flask for oil; two men, one taller from the shoulders up
- Snack: Donkey crackers. Directions are found at [Color My World: Horse Cracker Snacks \(colormyworldbyjen.blogspot.com\)](#)
- Sing “We Want a King” by Diana Dow found at [We Want A King | Bible Songs And More.](#)
- Play “Find the Donkey.” Cut out the clipart donkey found below so that the paper may be folded on the line and the donkey stands up. Hide the donkey in the room. Students try to find it.
- Play-act the following scenes from this story: hunting for donkeys; deciding to find Samuel; asking girls for Samuel; meeting Samuel; seeing two men who say the donkeys are found; getting two loaves of bread from men; prophesying; waiting seven days for Samuel; casting lots; looking for Saul.
- Review questions: (Game: If using a pocket chart, print day numbers found below on cardstock. If using a flannel board, print on paper and back with paper towel or other flocking material. Cut out individual days. For each correct answer, place the day number in the pocket chart or on the flannel board.)
 1. Describe Saul’s physical appearance. [Handsome; taller than anyone.]
 2. Why did Saul and his servant leave home? [To look for his father’s lost donkeys.]
 3. When they couldn’t find the donkeys, what did the servant suggest? [That they ask Samuel where the donkeys were.]
 4. What had the Lord revealed to Samuel the day before? [That Saul would come to him and that he would be king.]
 5. How was Saul treated at the banquet he attended with Samuel? [Placed at the head of the table; given the best meat.]
 6. What did Samuel do to Saul as Saul was leaving the city? [Anointed him as king.]
 7. Seven days later, when Saul was announced as king, where was he? [Hiding among the stuff/baggage.]

Memory Verse[s]:

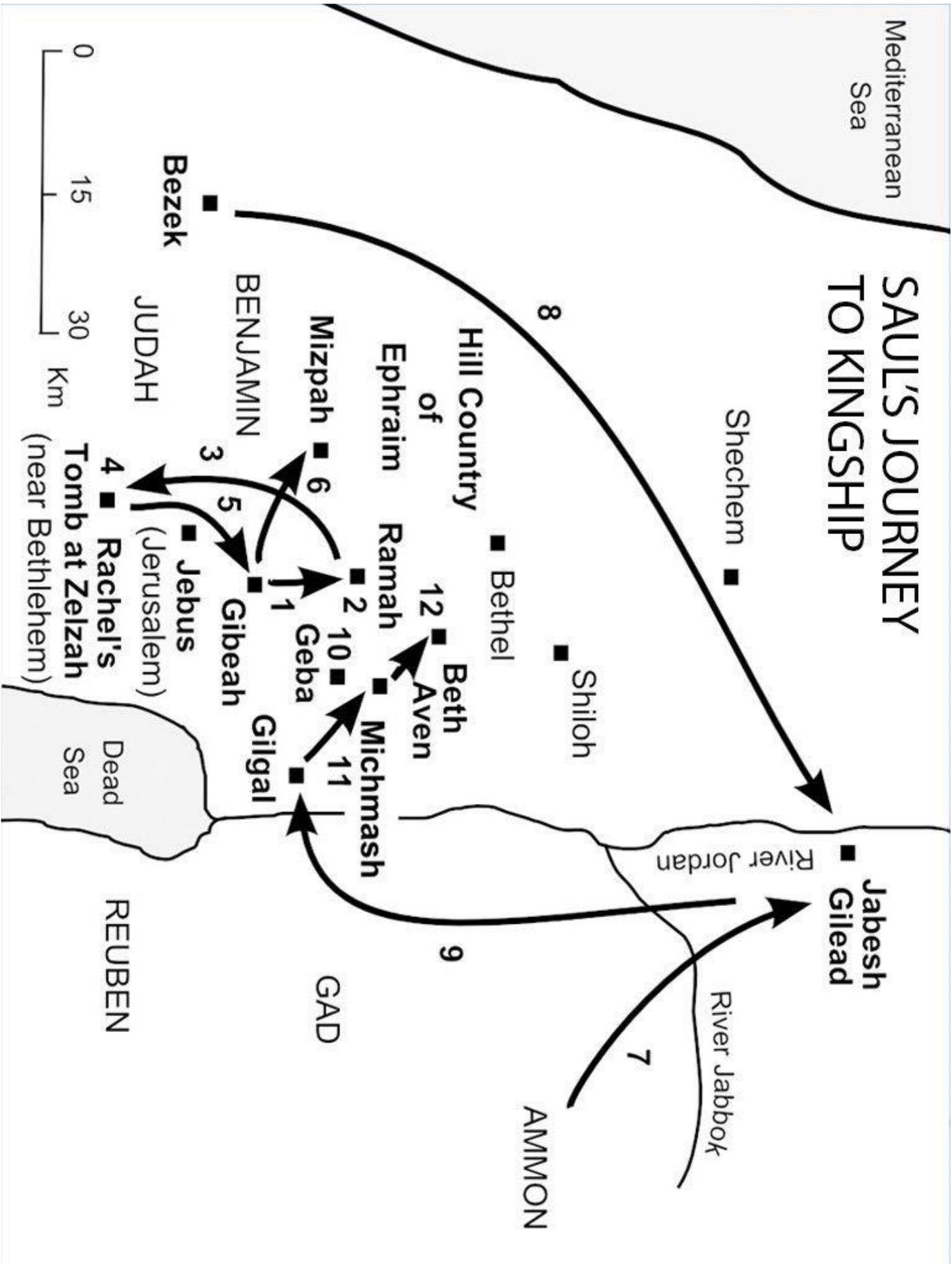
- 1 Samuel 17:12: “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”
- 1 Samuel 2:30: [God said,] “Those that honor me I will honor, and those that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”

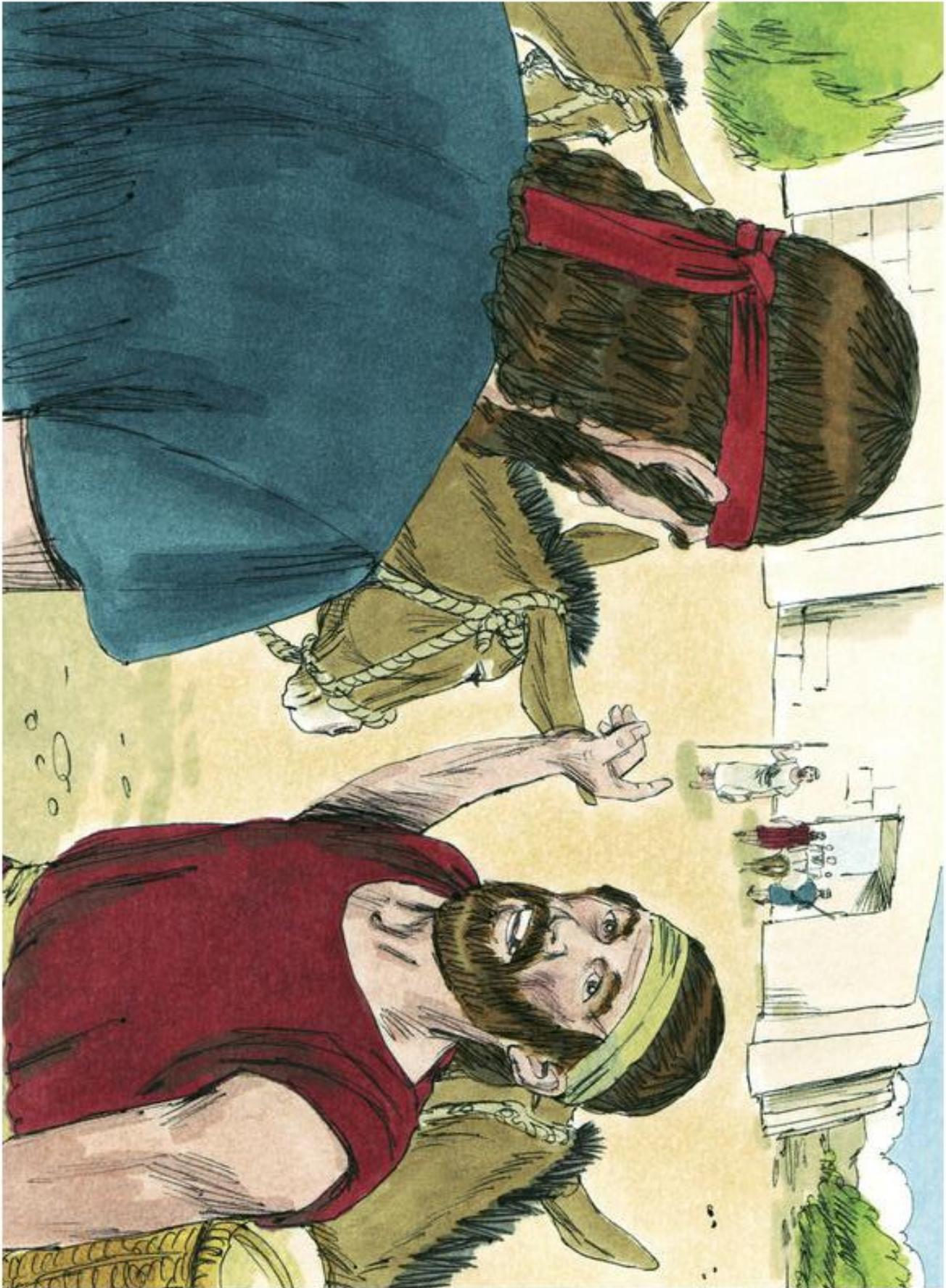
Handwork:

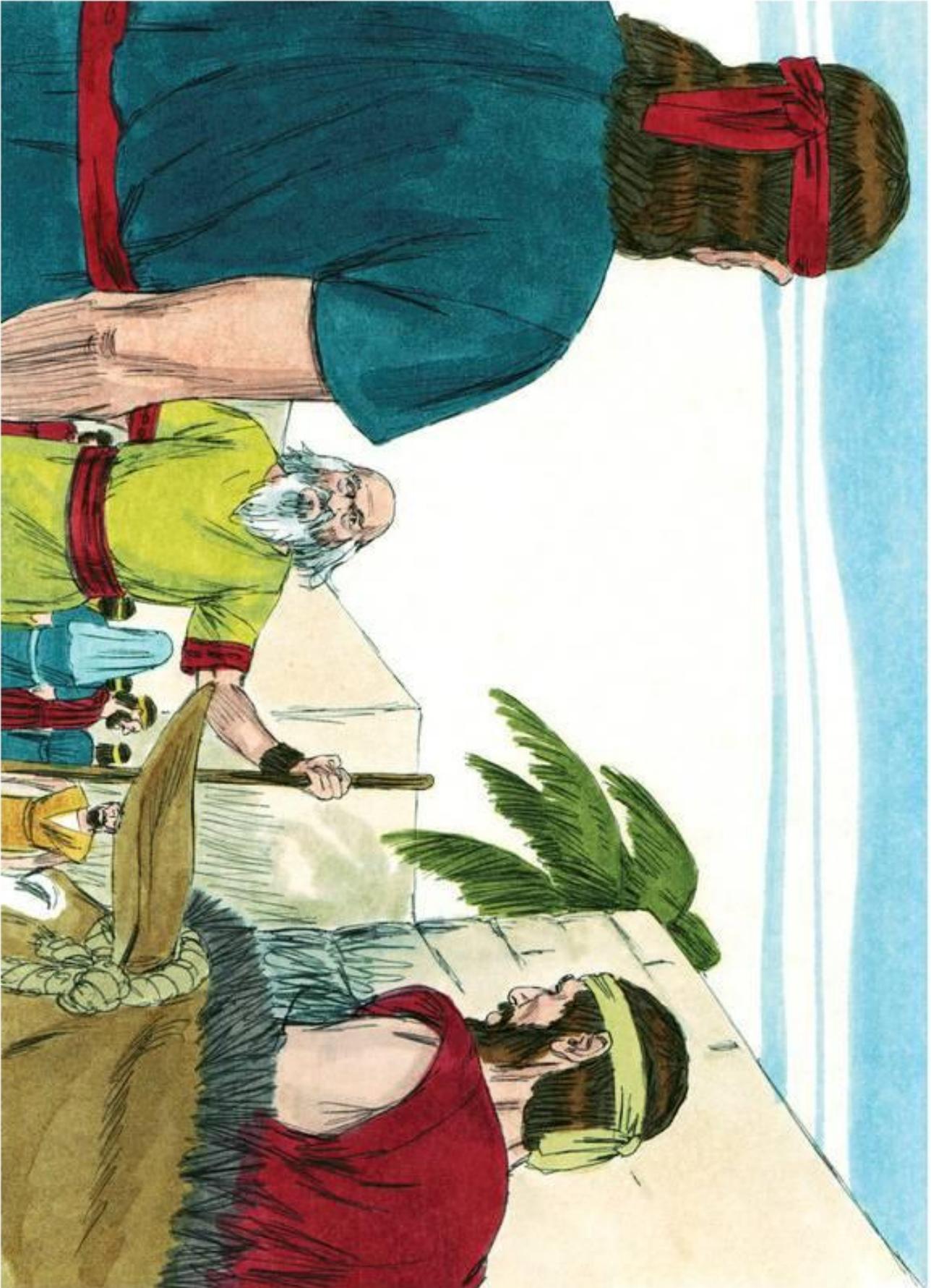
- Print a picture of Samuel’s anointing Saul (found at the end of this lesson) for each student. Students will color the picture.

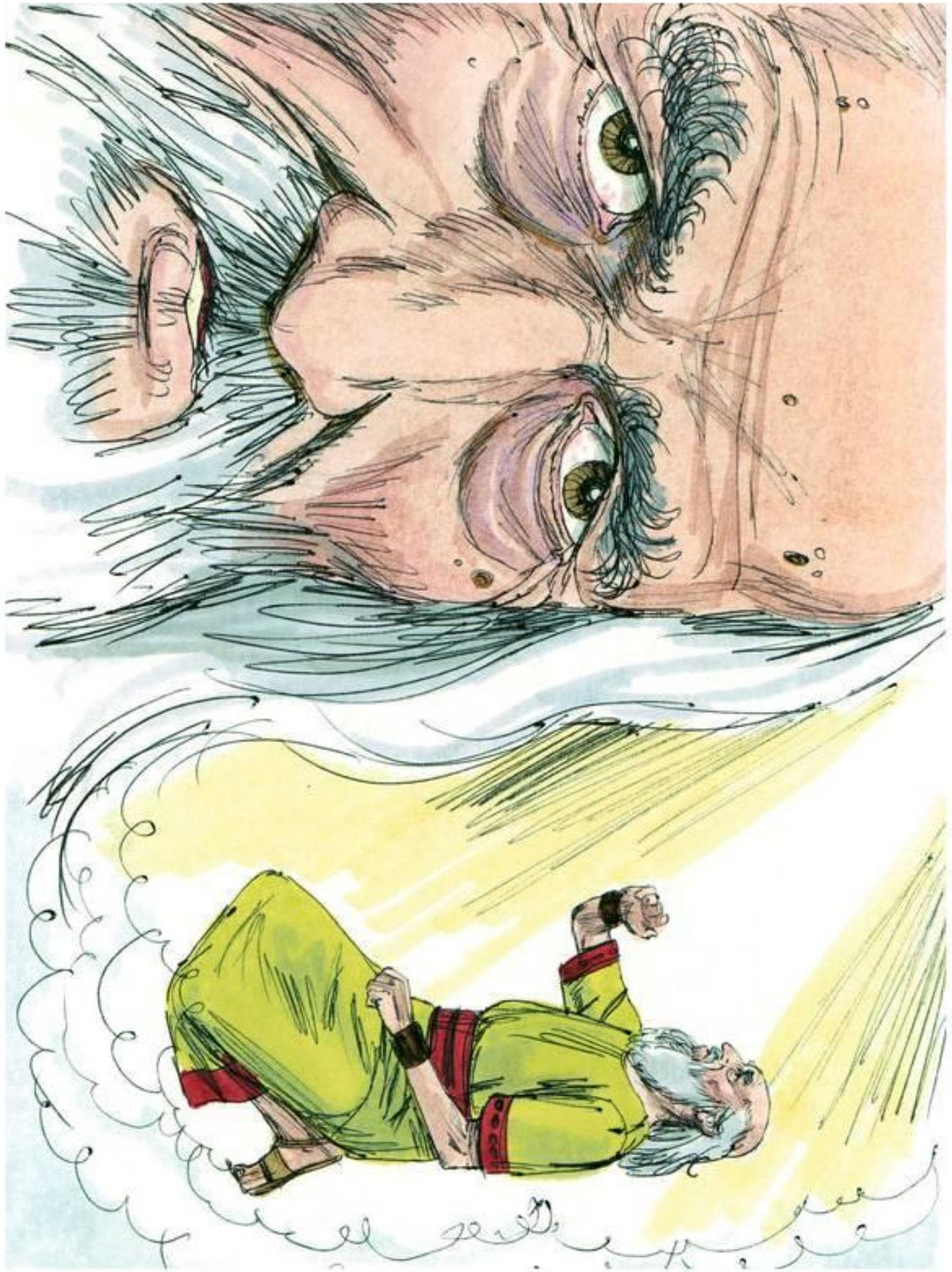
seer

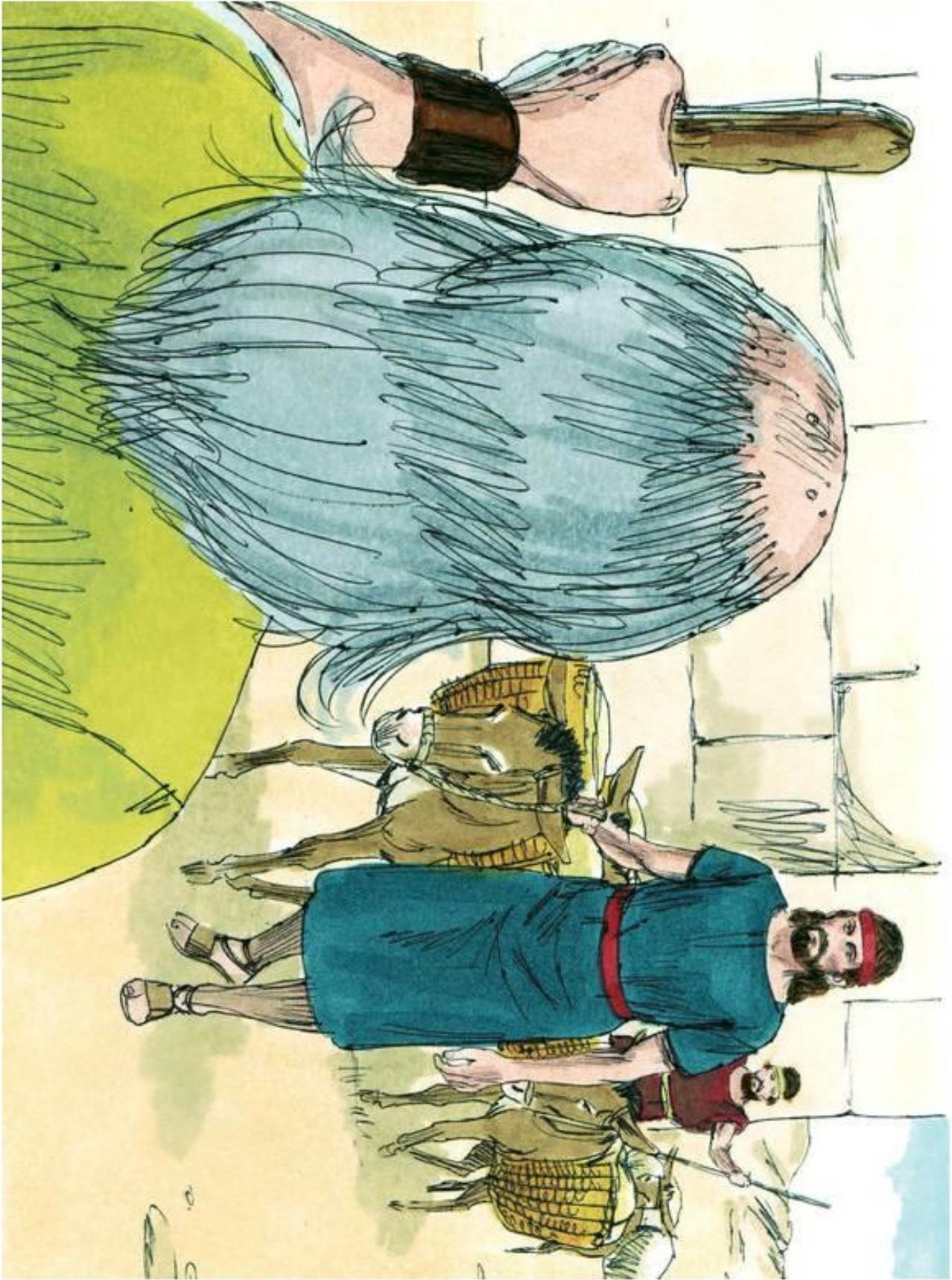
humble

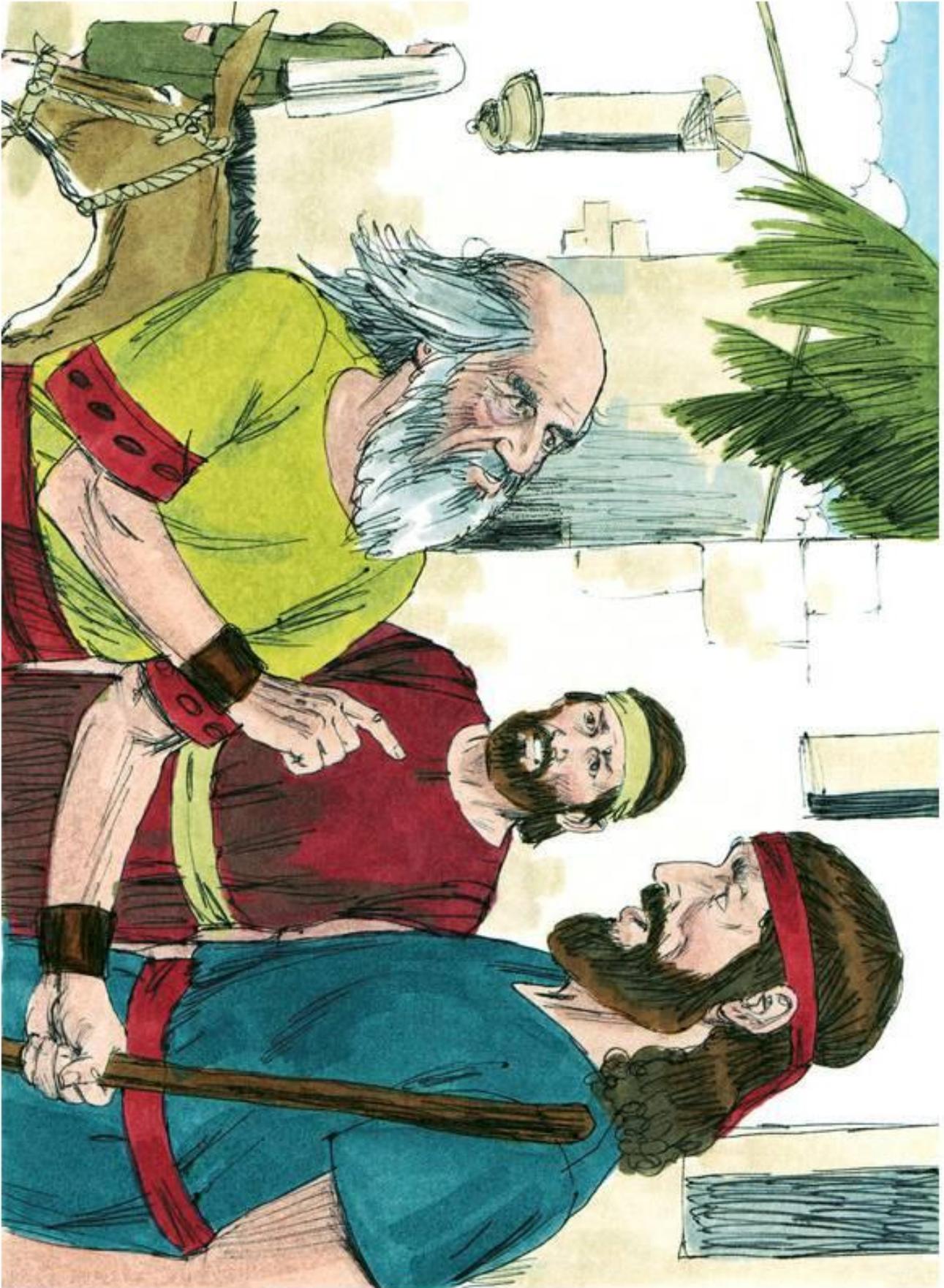


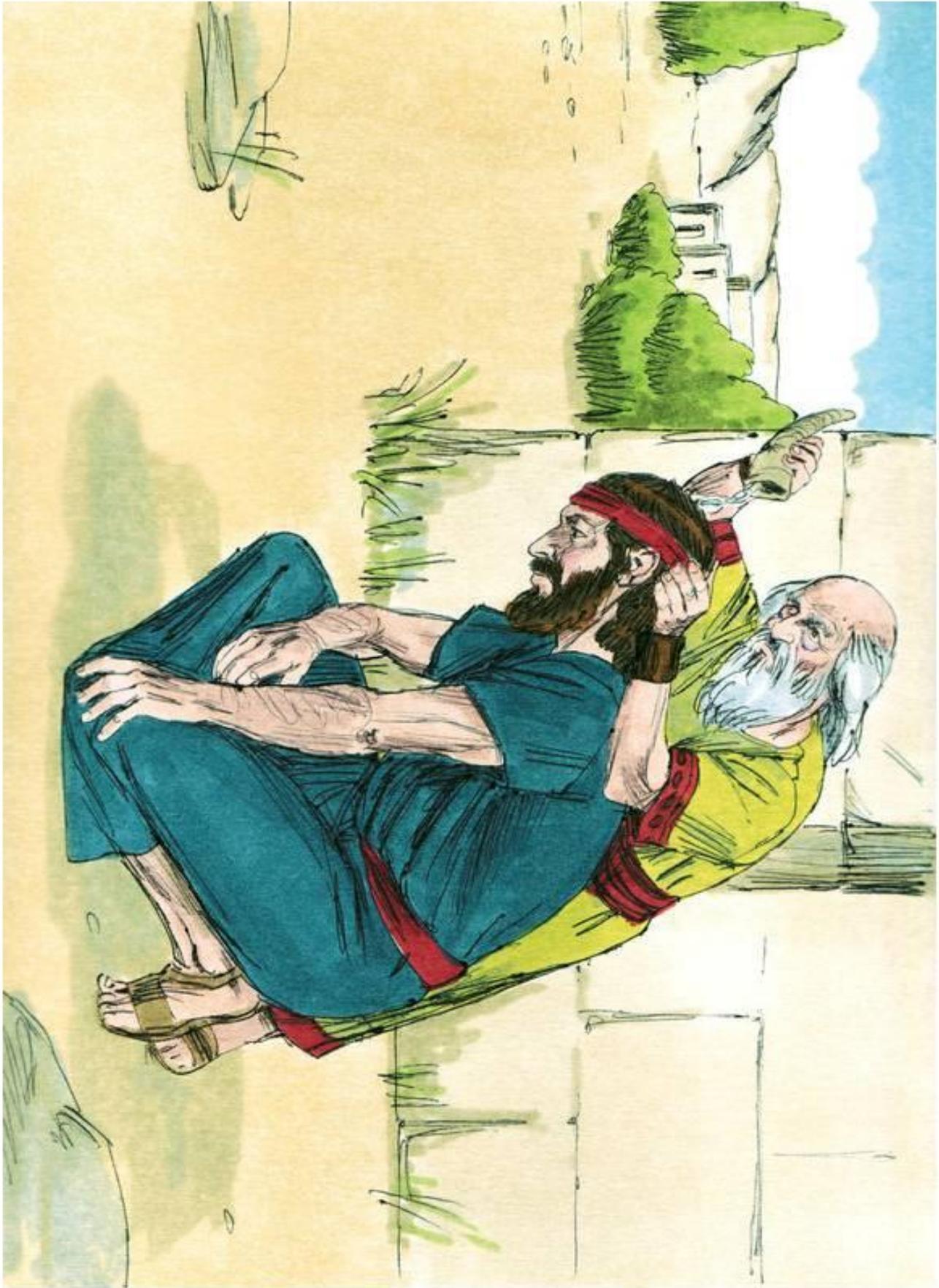










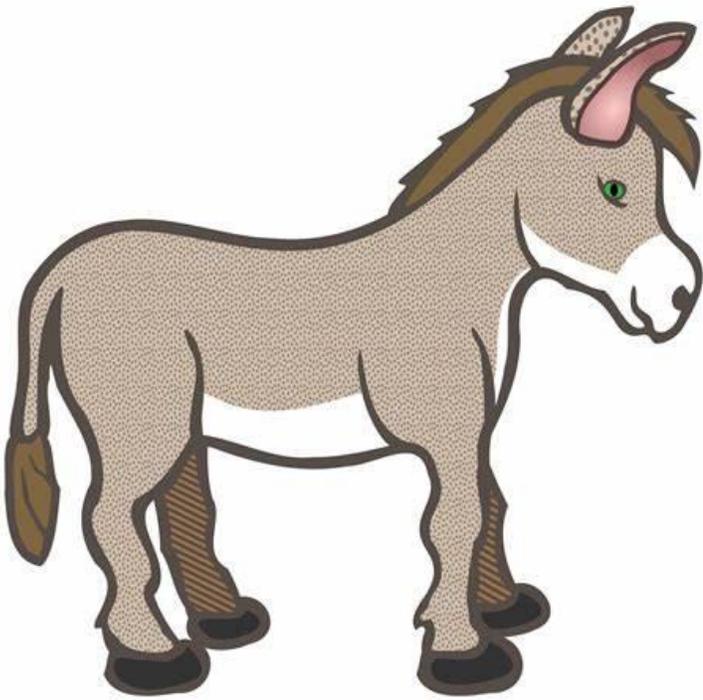
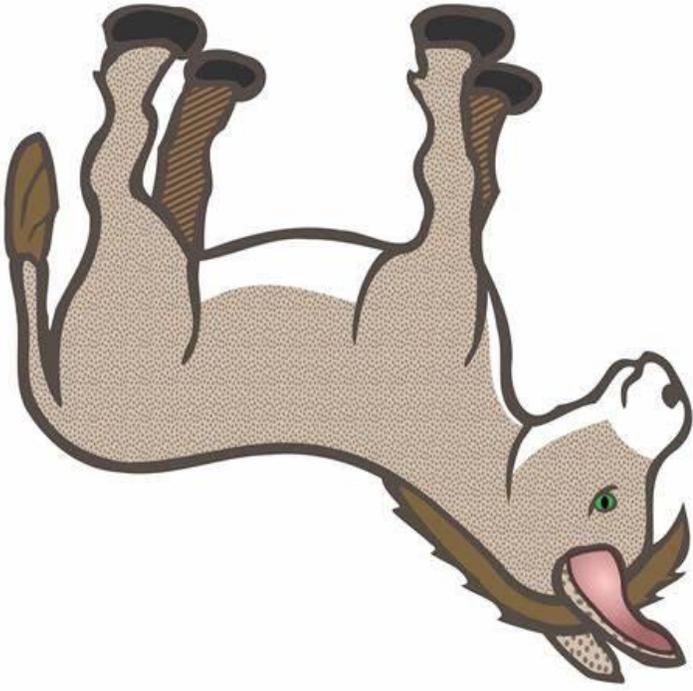




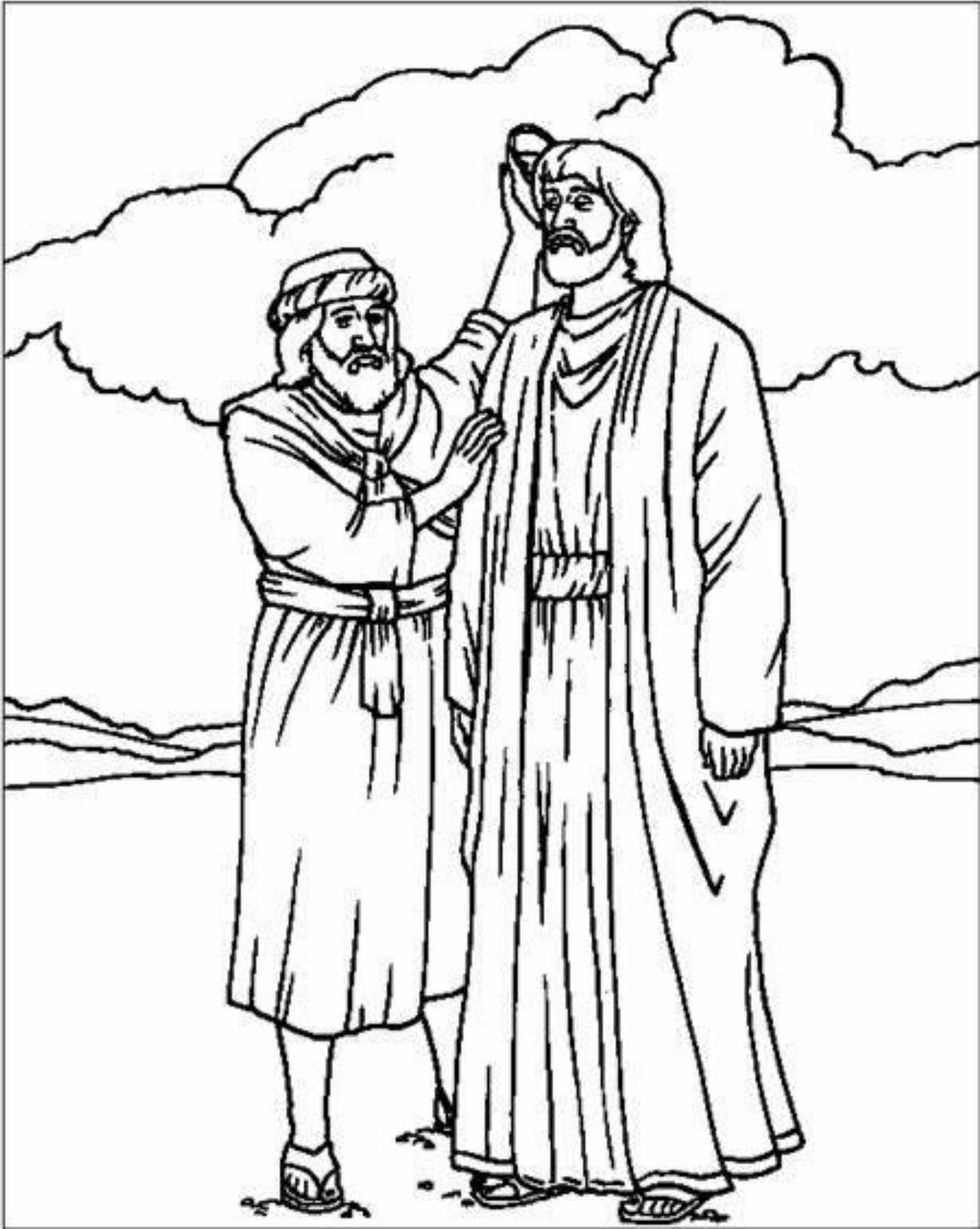




[Leather Bota Bag - Spanish Wine Skin - 1 Liter \(kegworks.com\)](http://kegworks.com)







SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8 - 10



Memory Verse: John 15:19b