

17.08 David Goes to Samuel (1 Samuel 19:18–24)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. 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. (Note: Use discretion about displaying the picture by James Tissot of the prophets’ prophesying.)
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A coat or robe to wear and take off as Saul did

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.

- *to prophesy*: to foretell what will happen; to praise; to sing

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 19:18 Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth. 19 And it was told Saul, “Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.” 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. 21 When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. 22 Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” And one said, “Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah.” 23 And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

Introduction/Review:

Saul the king, although he had sworn to God that he would not slay David, now hated David so much that he would stop at nothing to get rid of him, even to send soldiers to slay him in his bedroom. Thankfully, David escaped these soldiers but had to run away.

Story:

Samuel’s safe place

Where could David go? He was not safe in Gibeah [locate all places], where Saul lived. Ah! The man of God—Samuel! He would know what to do, and Ramah, Samuel’s town, would not be far away.

When David arrived, Samuel took him to stay in a place in Ramah called Naioth,¹ ✓which we think was like a college for preachers and prophets. Apparently, ✓Samuel taught younger men about God’s Word and God’s work and how to prophesy. This school was similar to seminaries where present-day pastors train.

Saul’s sending messengers

Someone told Saul where David was, and, of course, Saul sent messengers to get and slay David. However, when these messengers saw all those young prophets prophesying² and Samuel’s standing over them, the Spirit of God came upon them, and those messengers prophesied in the same way as the young prophets.

Saul got word that his messengers were prophesying; so he sent more messengers. What do you suppose happened when they went to get David? Yes, they prophesied when the Spirit of God came upon them. Saul tried again, a third time, to send messengers, and those messengers—again, prophesied.

Saul decided he himself would go to get David. As he neared Ramah, he stopped at a large well and asked for directions. “Where are Samuel and David?” Saul asked.

Someone answered, “In Naioth in Ramah.”

Saul’s prophesying

So Saul went on his way, but a strange thing happened to him: he, too, began to prophesy and continued to prophesy as he went on, taking off his coat³ and eventually lying down all that day and all that night.

Whatever it was that Saul said or did, the people could tell that Saul was acting as the prophets did. Does that make sense to you? Saul, a wicked king seeking to murder innocent David, yet was preaching, praising, and prophesying, and then lying down all day and night?

Saul had “prophesied” before. On the day Samuel had made him king, he had met some prophets and had prophesied with them (1 Samuel 10:12). At that time, the people had said, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” He also prophesied in his own house when the evil spirit came upon him. Now, people were asking again, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

Although this teacher cannot explain the scene, we know that whatever it was that God was doing by having Saul and his messengers prophesy, it tamed Saul’s murderous heart as a lion may be tamed to act like a kitten. We know, too, that *God* did this.

David’s psalm

David, again, was able to escape certain death. He wrote [students may read this from the printout below],

“O Lord my God, in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me, lest like a lion they tear my soul apart, rending it in pieces, with none to deliver. . . . Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous— you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God! My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. . . . I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High” (Psalm 7:1, 2, 9–11, 17).

Will God deliver David out of all his troubles? Sometimes it will seem as if He will not, but God’s ways are perfect. He will do all His holy will.

¹[Naioth] was in or near to Ramah, as appears by (1 Samuel 19:19); which perhaps was a more retired place . . . or reckoned a more safe place. Here being a school or college of the prophets, might be a kind of an asylum, and where it might be thought Saul would not attempt to lay hands on David, should he know where he was; for if the Philistines gave no disturbance to the hill of God, and the prophets in it, (1 Samuel 10:5); it might be reasonably concluded Saul would not; so the Targum paraphrases it, "he and Samuel went and dwelt in the house of doctrine", or in the school, the school of the prophets (1 Samuel 19:18 - [Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

²Prophesying was “praising, as the Targum; singing hymns and songs of praise to God, under the inspiration and influence of the Spirit of God” (1 Samuel 19:20 - [Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)). It might also have included some foretelling, as we usually think of prophesying.

³The text states that Saul was “naked.” However, Saul was “not entirely naked, both without his upper garment or royal robes, or else his armour; so an unarmed man is said to be naked, though otherwise he has his clothes on. . . . Jarchi, from Menachem, reports, that he had heard from an Arabian, that the word the Targum makes use of for "naked", signifies, in the Arabic language, one that is furious or mad, as persons in an ecstasy, or under a prophetic spirit, sometimes seemed to be; now Saul was kept and held in such circumstances a whole day and night, that David might have an opportunity of making his escape, and getting at such a distance from him that he could not overtake him” (1 Samuel 19:24 - [Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
David did no wrong that deserved his being slain. Jesus was totally sinless; yet jealous religious leaders saw to it that he was put to death. “But he was bruised for our iniquities . . . and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).
- When Christians stand for right, they can expect persecution.

Activities:

- Play dough: well, coat
- Snack: Sandwich cookies (like Oreos[®]) or round crackers sandwiched with peanut butter
- Sing “I am the Door,” “Only a Young Man, David,” or songs found in previous lessons.
- Review questions: (Game: Since *singing*, *praising*, and *worshiping* are interpretations of the word *prophesying*, a student who answers a question correctly may sing a solo of a fragment of a Bible-based song, speak of an item for praise, or quote a Bible verse.)
 1. To whom did David go when he escaped from Saul? [Samuel.]
 2. In what town was Samuel? [Ramah.]
 3. How many times did Saul send messengers to slay David? [Three times.]
 4. What did these messengers do when they got to Ramah? [Prophesied as did the prophets.]
 5. What happened to Saul when he went to from the well at Secu to Ramah? [He prophesied.]

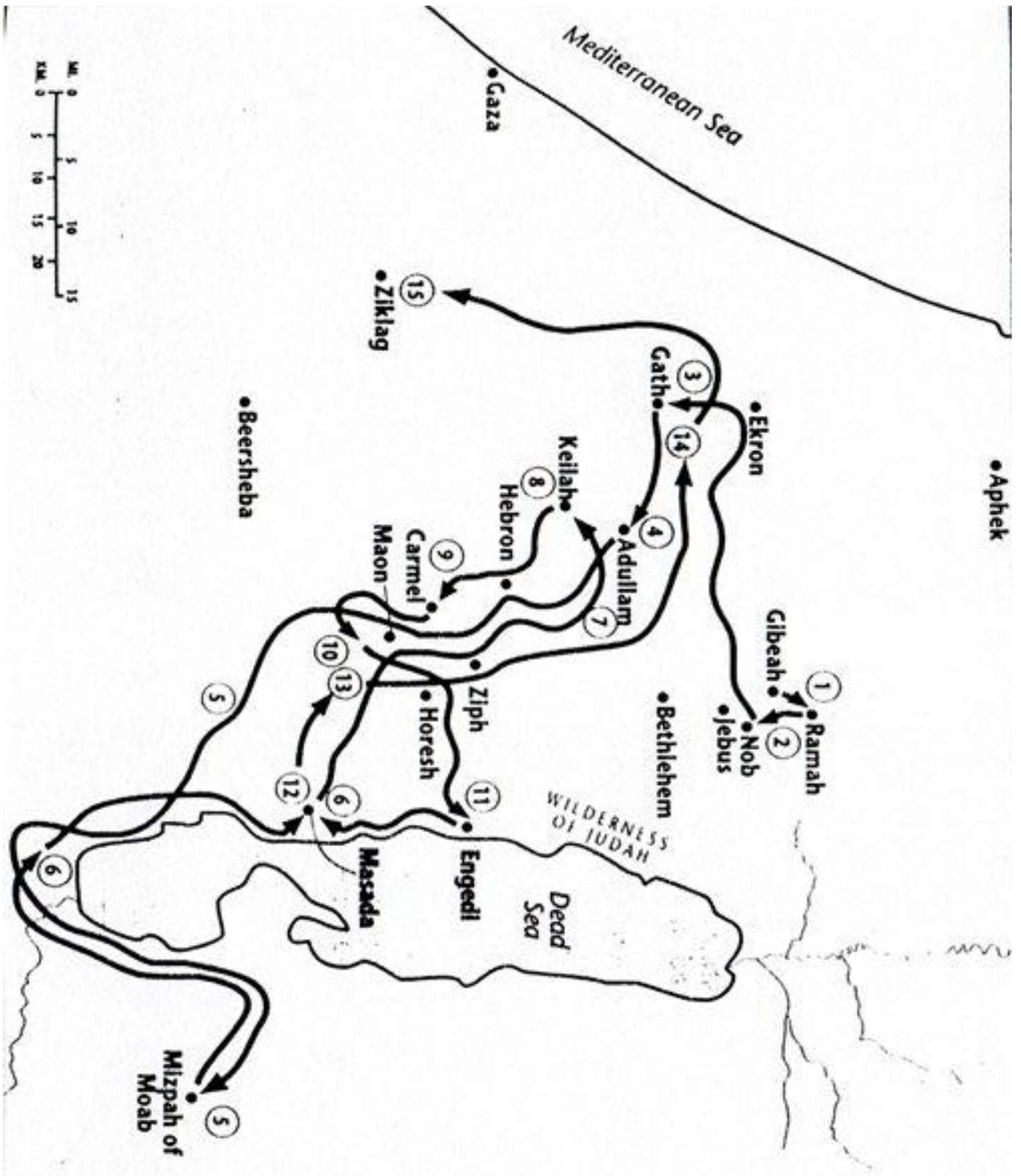
Memory Verse[s]:

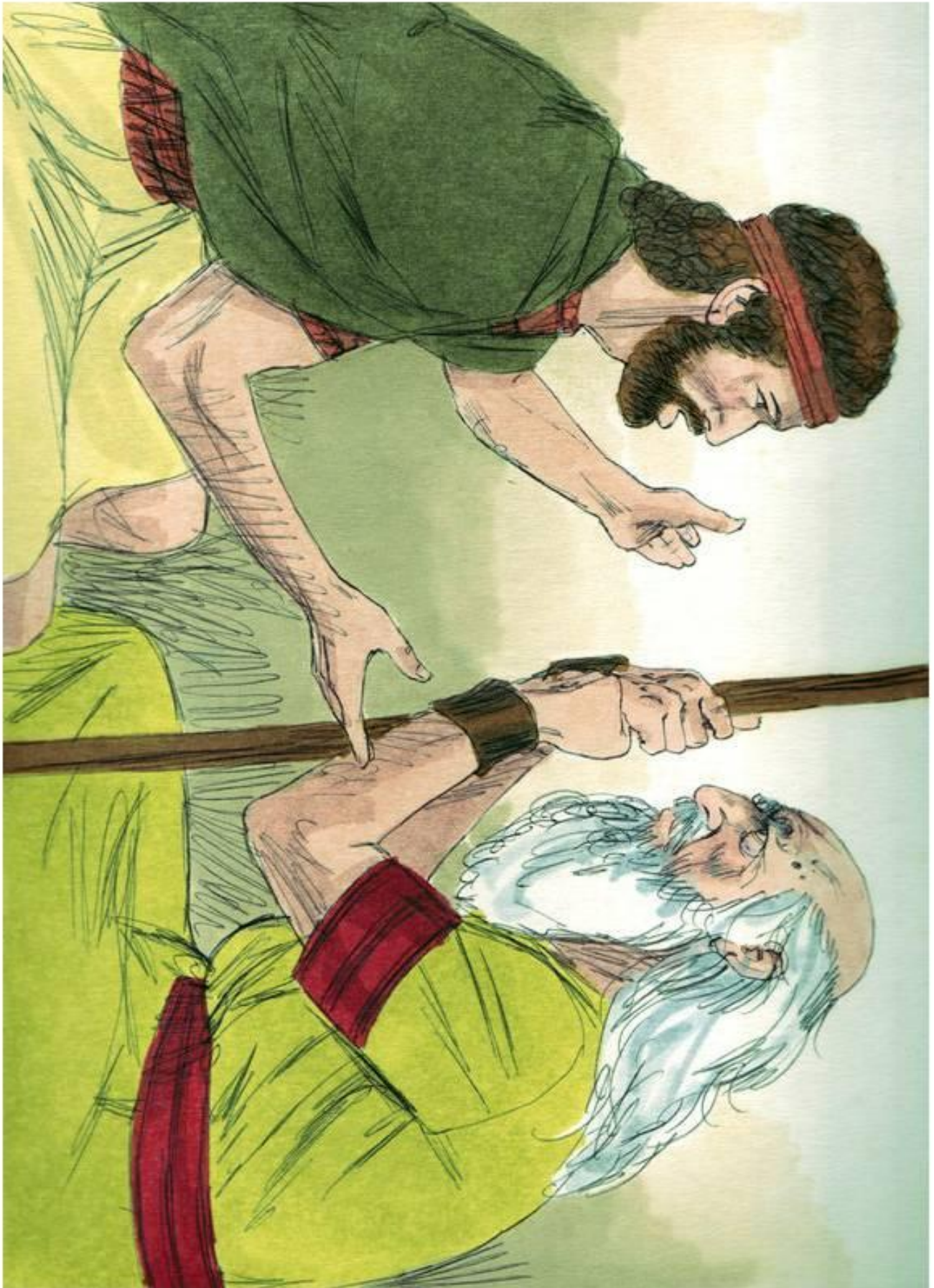
- Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

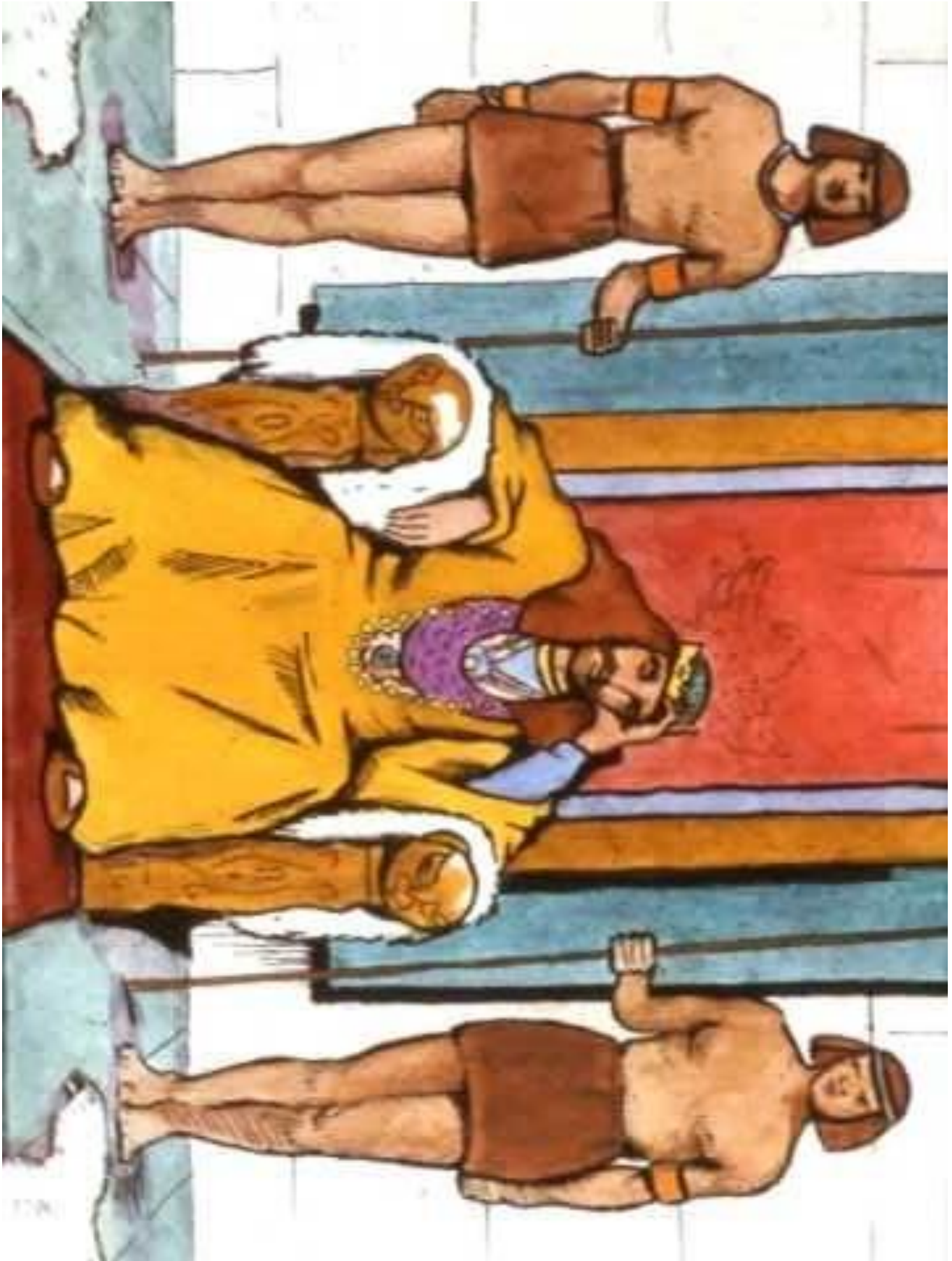
Handwork:

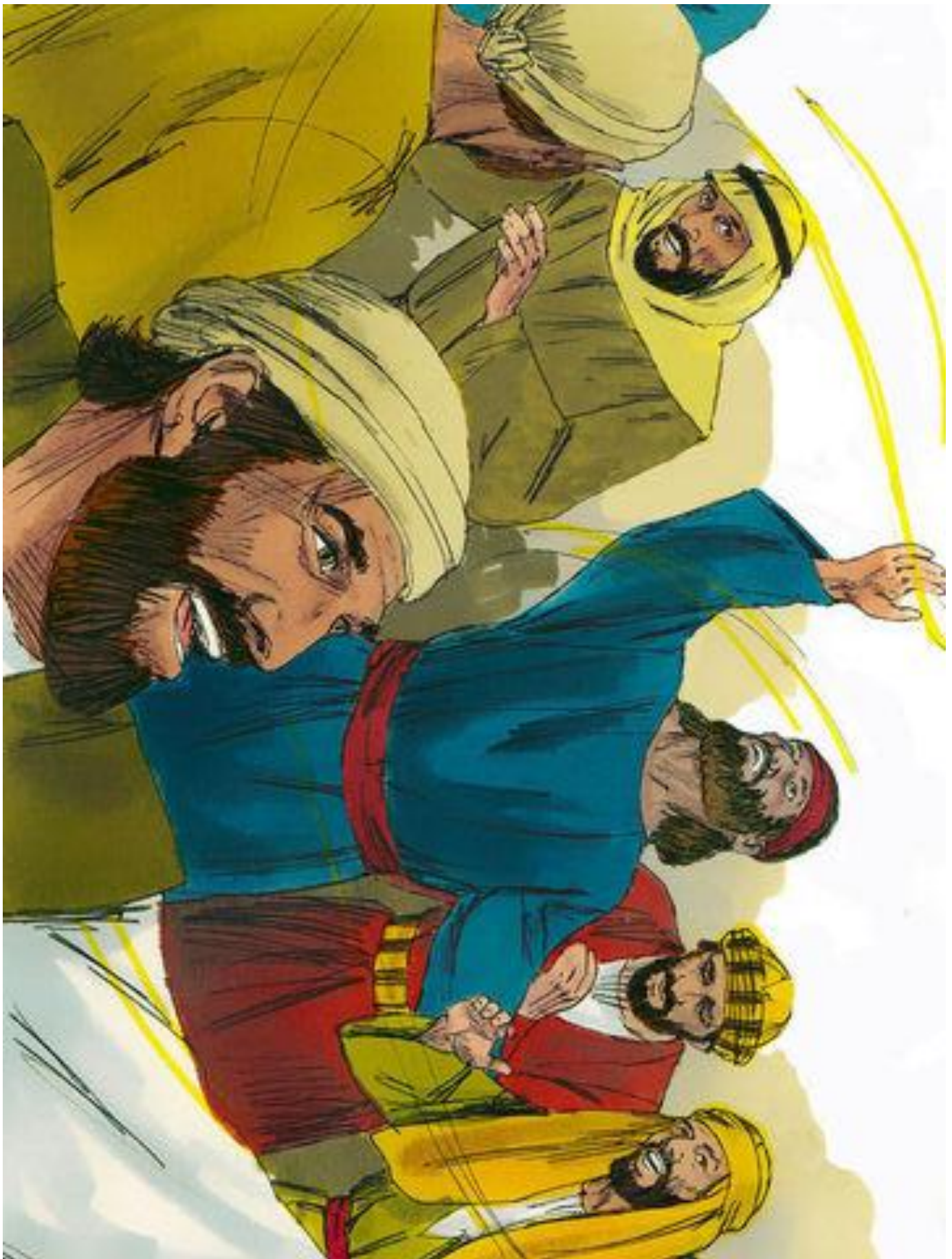
- Print the clipart found below of a well. Students may color the picture and/or cut out small pieces of rock-looking Contact[®] paper to attach to the stones of the well.

to prophesy

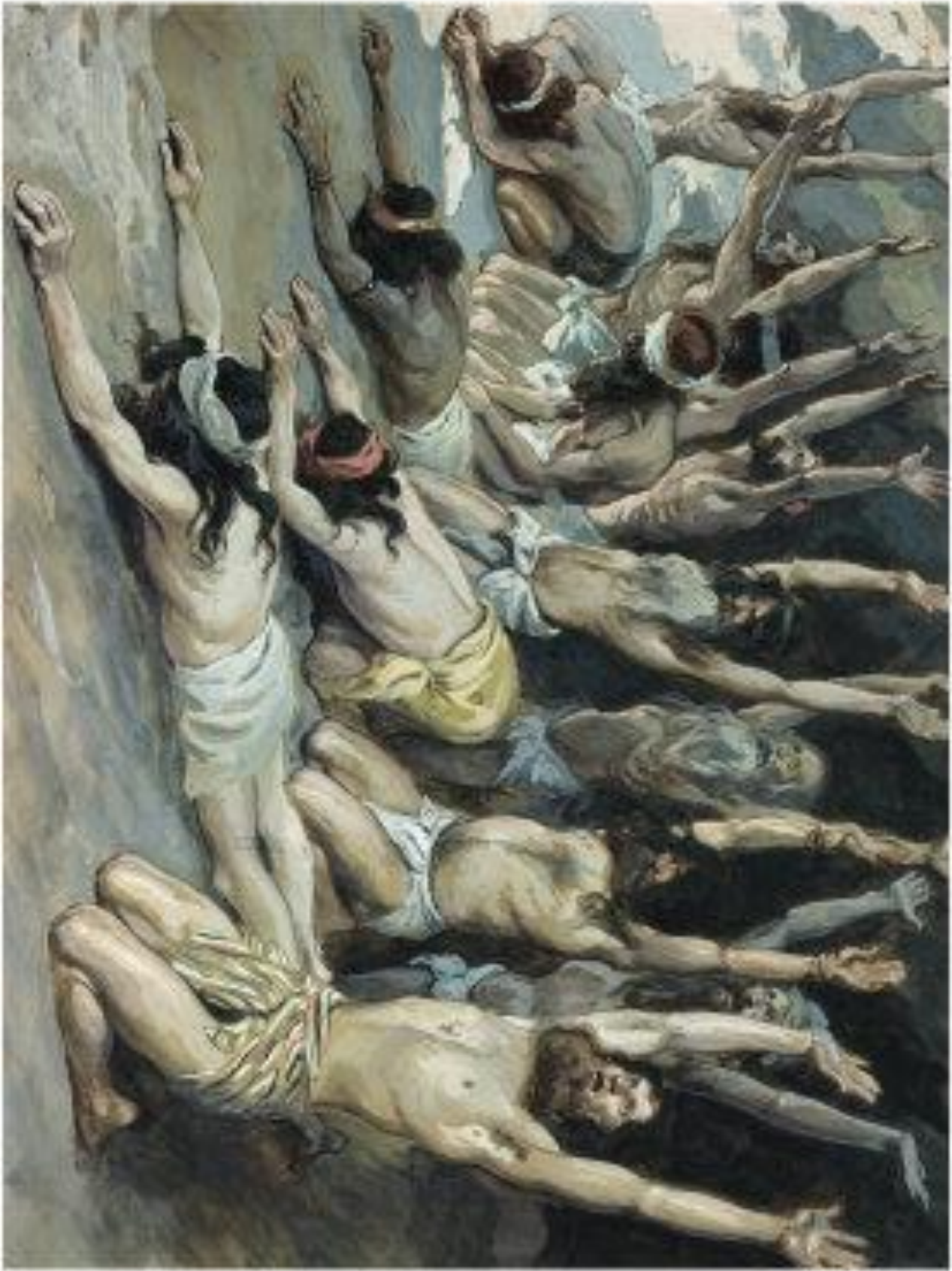








[FreeBibleimages :: Samuel anoints Saul as King :: Samuel anoints Saul as the first King of Israel \(1 Samuel 8:1-10:27\)](#)



“O Lord my God, in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me, lest like a lion they tear my soul apart, rending it in pieces, with none to deliver. . . . Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous— you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God! My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. . . . I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High” (Psalm 7:1, 2, 9–11, 17).

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The Spirit of God came upon Saul at the great well
at Secu, and as he went, he prophesied until he came
to Naiioth in Ramah (1 Samuel 19:22, 23).

