

Getting Ready for Chapter 9

Take Home



Our Land and God's Kingdom

The Jewish people in the promised land were guided by the wisdom of several leaders called judges. But some Israelites wanted a king to represent all the tribes of Israel. The judge and prophet Samuel asked God for guidance in choosing a king. God revealed how the people could follow a king and remain loyal to the covenant. A family can function well under different styles of leadership, as long as God is behind all its decisions.

ACTIVITY

Your Kingdom Is Your Castle Think of your home as your family's kingdom. Have family members draw or paint a sign expressing what this kingdom is all about. The sign may show a popular expression or your last name with symbols of things you value, such as a cross. Hang the sign in a prominent place.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Think of fellow parishioners as travelers on the journey to God's kingdom. Ask God to bless them.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Francis of Assisi (1181–1226)

As a young man Francis enjoyed a rich and easy life. After a conversion experience, he gave up all his wealth to follow Jesus. He began living as a mendicant, begging for his daily needs. He spent his time preaching and caring for the poor and sick. He is the founder of the Franciscan order of religious.

Feast Day: October 4



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, help us to build your kingdom on earth as the saints have done, that we may enjoy everlasting happiness with you in heaven. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

From Judges to Kings During Samuel's rule as a judge, Israel was invaded by its neighbors, the Philistines. Samuel was a man of power and influence, and many looked to him for help in selecting a leader who would protect them. Although Samuel wrestled with the idea of an earthly king, he ultimately selected Saul as the first king of Israel. Samuel realized that it was God's will that the country have a human ruler to unite it against its enemies. Read 1 Samuel 8—10 to learn how the monarchy was established in ancient Israel, uniting all Israelites under a single ruler.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in the Holy Land

St. Catherine's Church Next door to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is the Roman Catholic church of St. Catherine. Built by the Franciscans in 1881, the church is situated over a cave where, according to tradition, Saint Jerome lived when he was translating the Scriptures from Greek to the Latin Vulgate in the fourth century. A statue of Saint Jerome stands in the church's courtyard, which was once part of a Crusader cloistered convent.