

News Story Summary

Queen Elizabeth II recently celebrated her 90th birthday with her husband Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, her royal extended family, and the entire British nation. It was an affair fit only for a queen as many people, including U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron and three former prime ministers, gave tributes to the monarch. During a special Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the Archbishop of Canterbury noted that the queen had ruled "through war and hardship, through turmoil and change during the course of her 90 years." He asked those in attendance to reflect on her rule "with deep wonder and profound gratitude."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Queen Elizabeth celebrates 90th birthday.")

Focus Attention

After the group has settled, invite group members to share any stories about their grandchildren or children who once pretended or dreamed of being a head of state. Ask: *What causes us to stand in awe of royalty? To covet their position and lives?* Review the news summary about Queen Elizabeth. Ask: *How does has the length of her reign given stability to the United Kingdom? How could a long reign hurt a country?* The queen's birthday celebration was a fairy tale and adored by many. She is, arguably, the only royal person in the modern world who is held in such high esteem.

Today's lesson focuses on the time when Israel asked for a king. Up to that point, judges had led the Israelites primarily as military leaders who had been raised up by God. Challenge the group to look for the rationale of the Israelites as they study today's passage.

Challenge

Remind the group of the pageantry that surrounded Queen Elizabeth's birthday, especially the way she was praised. Ask: *What does this celebration of the Queen say about the people who adore her?* Note that Queen Elizabeth's power does not compare in anyway to the power and glory of God. Challenge the group to dethrone anything in their lives that has taken the place of God. Remind them that He deserves to be King over all humanity with all of the pomp and circumstance that we can offer.