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FOOLISHNESS AND WISDOM

PRETEEN LEADER GUIDE



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

1 Samuel 8–10



When Samuel grew old, he made his sons judges over Israel. Sadly, Samuel's sons did not follow his example. They were bad leaders of God's people.

The elders of Israel went to Samuel and said, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Give us a king to be our ruler, just as all the other nations have."

Samuel prayed to the Lord. God said, "They have not rejected you; they have rejected me as their king. Listen to them, but also warn them about the power a king has over the people he rules."

Samuel went to the people and said, "Here are the things a king will do. He will take your sons to join his army. He will take your daughters to serve in his house. He will take your best fields and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your crops and your flocks. You will cry out for help, but the Lord will not answer you."

The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No! We must have a king over us," they said.

God told Samuel, "Listen to the people, and appoint a king for them."

Now, there was an impressive young man named Saul who was a head taller than everyone else in Israel. One day, his father's donkeys wandered off, and Saul was sent to find them. After looking for several days,

Saul's servant recommended they ask Samuel for help.

Before Saul met Samuel, God told Samuel that He would send him a man to rule over His people. God said this man would save His people from the Philistines. When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "This is the man who will be king over my people Israel." Samuel took a flask of oil and anointed Saul as the future king. Saul then returned home and said nothing to his family about it.

Later, Samuel called all the people together. One by one, the tribes, clans, and families of Israel came before Samuel, and Saul was selected as king. They searched for him everywhere and could not find him. Then the Lord said, "There he is, hidden with the supplies."

When the people saw how tall and impressive Saul was, they shouted, "Long live the king!" Samuel appointed Saul as king, and then he sent all the people home.

Christ Connection: The Israelites rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king. When we sin, we also reject God's rule in our lives as King. Jesus, the King of kings, died for our sin and rose again so we could be forgiven.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group. Sit with the preteens as the large group lesson begins and throughout large group lessons.

2 SESSION STARTER

Large Group Leader will lead a game.

**Plases be prepared to help with a
game if necessary**

NEXT

LARGE GROUP LESSON

PRAY

Transition to small groups



LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- Why was Jesus known as King?
- Have you accepted Jesus as the King of your life? Do you worship Him alone? Why?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 8. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 8:9. Remind preteens that God told Samuel to warn the Israelites about what it would be like to have a king like the nations around them. God did this out of His love and mercy toward His people, but they rejected God as King and rejected His warning. Sometimes we might think our way is better than God's way. But anytime we reject God as King in our lives, we sin. When we trust in King Jesus, we follow God's plan for our lives.

Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why did the Israelites choose Saul to be their king?

Remind kids that the Bible tells us the people looked at Saul's outward appearance and thought he would make a good king. Discuss how God desired for His people to trust Him, even though they couldn't see Him. Encourage kids to trust in God as King, submitting to His good authority, no matter the circumstance. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 7:24.)

2. How can comparison and wanting what others have tempt us to reject God's authority?

Tell kids that when we begin comparing our lives to others and wanting what others have, we can fall into the trap of thinking we know what is best for us or that God is keeping good things from us. God is King over everything and knows what is best for us. We can trust God's Word and remember how God proved His love for us through His Son, Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:68.)

3. What can we do when we sin and reject God's Word?

Discuss how God tells us in His Word that when we confess our sins, He will forgive us and cleanse us. When we confess our sins to God, we must also turn away from repeating that sin. Instead, we follow God's instructions, trusting that He has the best plans for our lives. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 55:7.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King?

Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 103:19. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Distribute an index card and Bible to each kid. Direct kids to look up Psalm 103:19. Then lead kids to write the verse on their index card. Challenge kids to use their card as a way to memorize the key passage throughout the week.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, asking God to help us trust Him as King in every area of our lives.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

THE KING WHO SAVES

Form kids into groups of three or four, and provide each group with a Bible, paper, and a pen. Instruct groups to look up 1 Samuel 10:17-19. Lead kids to write down all the good things God had done for His people. Then invite groups to share their responses (Example: *rescued Israel from Egypt, saved Israel from distresses, etc.*).

Guide groups to look up and read Isaiah 33:22. Discuss how Saul would never be a king who could save people from their sin. Share how after Saul, the Israelites had many kings, yet none of them could bring salvation. In fact, the people continued sinning and were eventually taken captive by foreign nations. Share how Isaiah reminds us who the true King is—the Lord—and how He alone saves His people.

Remind kids that Israel rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king. Jesus is the true King who saves people from their sins. Unlike Israel, we can ask God to give us hearts that accept Jesus as Savior and King.