

THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-10



KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *Who is our King? Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.*

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.

STORY POINT: Israel rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

As the time of the judges came to an end, God’s people grew discontent with the leadership of Samuel’s sons. The elders of Israel, desiring to be more like the nations surrounding them, commanded Samuel to appoint a king to rule over them. In His perfect wisdom, God would give His people over to their desire for an earthly king. Yet, God revealed how Israel’s desire for an earthly king ultimately showcased their rejection of Him as their one true King.

What were the spiritual implications of the Israelites’ desire for a king? How does Christ fit into the narrative?

The Israelites once again found themselves in a season of discontentment—unhappy with their circumstances, as well as God’s provision and leadership in their lives. Like their ancestors before them, they forgot how He freed them from slavery and preserved and provided for them as His chosen people. Rather than seeking the Lord with hearts of worship, the Israelites placed their focus on the nations around them. They did not trust in the faithfulness of God to continue providing for them.

Consider the ways we are tempted to place our hope in earthly things rather than on the things above (Colossians 3:2). The people rejected God as their King, and we fall into the same pattern when we seek the things of the world in place of the God who created it.

Lead boys and girls to see how Israel had a divided heart toward God and how Christ came to free us from the power of sin that separates us from Him. When we trust in Jesus by faith, He gives us new hearts that worship Him alone as King. Pray for children’s eyes to be opened to the love Christ has shown us through His life, death, and resurrection—freeing us to follow the God who rules and reigns with all power and with all care for His creation.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid 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.

| **SAY** “What is something you have begged for? Maybe a new toy or time with friends.”

We will do the following game to start the day.

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: PASS THE CROWN



Direct kids to sit down in a circle. Give one kid in the circle a paper crown. Challenge kids to pass the crown around the circle as soon as the music begins. When the music stops, the kid holding the crown should place it on his head, stand up, and give a direction to the other kids. For example, he may say, “hop on one foot.” Continue until all the kids have had at least one chance to wear the crown.

SAY “Kings have the authority to tell people what to do. Some kings may use their power for good, while others may use their power for bad. In our story, we’ll see that Israel wanted to have a king like other nations. **Israel rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king.** When the people chose Saul to be king, we’ll learn how the prophet Samuel warned the people about all the power an earthly king can have.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 10. Explain that the book of 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament and tells us about the time when Israel stopped being led by judges and began being led by kings.

Consider pointing out the location of Israel (F10) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 10:19 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “God told the people that He is the One who has saved them from all their troubles and hardships. No earthly king rescued God’s people from slavery in Egypt. No earthly king helped God’s people when their enemies attacked them. God had always been in charge and was faithful to save His people. But God’s people chose an earthly king over God. Even though Saul would be their king, God ruled over King Saul.”

We all sin and choose to be our own rulers. But God sent Jesus, the King of kings, to die for our sin and rise again so we could be forgiven. King Jesus makes us right before God and helps us follow Him as our King.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “How do we try to be rulers over our lives? Why is this dangerous?”

Tell kids that when we choose to turn away from God and do what we think is best, we are acting like our own rulers. Any disobedience to God is sin, whether we don’t listen to His command to obey our parents or we tell a lie. Following our own way is dangerous because it leads us away from God and toward eternal death.

SAY “Why is God the perfect King?”

Remind kids that Samuel warned the Israelites about the ways a king could use his power for his own selfish reasons. Share how God is the perfect King because everything He does is for His glory and our good. Everything He does is right. God rules the world with love, justice, and mercy. He uses His power to save us from our sin and give us eternal life through faith in Jesus.

SAY “How can Jesus become our King?”

Discuss how Jesus can be King of our lives by trusting in Him as our Savior. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and needs to be saved from their sins. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again, taking the punishment our sin deserved. When we tell God that we have sinned and turn from that sin, God forgives us. Then God helps our hearts want to follow Jesus and obey Him.

Transition from LOVE to LIVE





LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: STORY POINT MEMORY

Print two copies of the Story Point Poster for each group of three or four kids. Cut each copy into 12 cards, one word per card. Lead groups to lay their cards, face down, in four rows of six. Kids will take turns turning over one card and then another to see if they get a match. If a match is found, the kid receives another turn. If not, the cards return to their place. Whoever has the most matches wins that round. Play several rounds as time allows. Then invite kids to volunteer to say the story point from memory.

SAY “*Israel 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. Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.*”

OPTION 2: MAKE A CROWN



Before the activity, precut paper plates to make crowns, one per child. Fold a paper plate in half and cut three lines up to the ruffled edge of the plates by making one cut in the middle, and the two other cuts diagonally on either side. This should create four triangle-shaped pieces. Open the plate and cut along the folded edge, being sure to stop where the ruffles begin on the paper plate. Demonstrate how to bend up each triangle section on the crown to make standing points. Encourage preschoolers to decorate their crowns using crayons, stickers, and adhesive gems.

SAY “*Your crowns make you look like kings and queens. Today we are learning that Israel chose Saul to be their king. The Israelites did not need a king, but God allowed them to have one. God had a perfect plan to send His Son, Jesus, to be the one true King. Jesus is our King, and He rules over the world.*”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.