



Israel Rejects God as King

1 Samuel 8–12



LESSON GOAL

Students will not be self-ruled but will submit to God, who is King.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain why Israel's request for a king was sinful.
- Explain why God was the only king Israel needed.
- List some of the steps in God's choosing Saul as king.
- Describe God's conditions for blessing Israel and their new king.

KEY VERSE

"But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans" (1 Samuel 10:19).

APPLICATION

- Examine your heart to see whether God is your King.
- Trust God and not human wisdom in trying times.
- Rejoice that God blesses those who submit to His reign.

NEXT WEEK

Saul Disobeys God
Read 1 Samuel 13:1–14; 15:1–34.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

In 1 Samuel 1–7, God showed His covenant love by acting on behalf of both individual Israelites and the entire nation of Israel. The Lord heard the cry of Hannah and gave her a son, Samuel. The Lord saw the need of the nation Israel and gave them both the prophetic word and deliverance through the prophet-judge Samuel. God was committed to the welfare of His people. His care was dramatically shown in 1 Samuel 7, when He delivered His people from the Philistines. Throughout the period of the judges, God had been faithful to rescue His people whenever they called on Him. But when Samuel was an old man, the people of Israel became tired of trusting in God for deliverance. Israel rejected God’s rule and wanted instead a king like the other nations.

Israel Rejects the Lord as King (1 Sam. 8)

First Samuel 8 does not specify whether Samuel erred when he made his sons, Joel and Abijah, judges over Israel. While Samuel was physically unfit for the office, being too old, his sons were spiritually unfit. They went after “dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice” (1 Sam. 8:3). Samuel’s placement of his unworthy sons as judges provided the elders of Israel an opportunity to ask Samuel to replace them with a king “like all the nations” (8:5). Samuel was disappointed with Israel’s request and rightly turned to the Lord (8:6). The Lord’s response to Samuel indicated that Samuel was “displeased” because Israel had rejected him as judge when they asked for a king (8:7–8). Although Israel had rejected Samuel (8:8), the Lord told Samuel that the greater rejection was of God Himself. Israel no longer wanted God to rule over them (8:7). The Lord told Samuel to give Israel their king but also to warn them what a king would require from his subjects (8:9).

Although Samuel warned Israel that their king would take their sons, daughters, land, servants, and animals for himself, and that eventually they would cry out to God because of the king they had chosen, the people still wanted a king (1 Sam. 8:10–18). Israel’s motivation for rejecting their divine King and wanting a human king was made explicit in their answer. They responded, “No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles” (8:19–20). The Lord often had foretold that Israel would have a king (Gen. 35:11; 36:31; 49:10; Num. 24:7, 9, 17; Deut. 17:14). But Israel’s motivation was wrong. Contrary to God’s commands that they not be like the nations, Israel wanted to be like the nations! Israel’s pride influenced their decision; they wanted to be able to stand up in comparison to the heathens on the heathens’ standards. Instead of trusting God to fight for them (Ex. 14:14; Deut. 3:22; Josh. 10:14), Israel wanted to trust in a man to “fight [their] battles” (1 Sam. 8:20). Israel’s preference for human rule was an expression of their desire to be independent from God’s rule.

The Lord Selects Saul as Israel's King (1 Sam. 9–11)

Although the Lord authorized Samuel to give the people what they asked (1 Sam. 9:22), He remained sovereign over the situation. Chapters 9–11 reveal how the Lord controlled the selection of the first king of Israel. Saul was the perfect match for people who wanted a king like the nations. Saul came from a rich, powerful family (1 Sam. 9:1; wealth is seen in the family's donkeys and servants) and was taller and more handsome than any other Israelite (9:1–2). Unable to find the lost donkeys, Saul was led by his servant (and the invisible hand of God) to the prophet Samuel. God had told Samuel the day before (9:15) that a man was coming whom he was to anoint as the “commander over My people Israel” (9:16). God explained why He was raising up Saul: “I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me” (9:16). Even in rebellion, the Israelites were God's people; God still heard their cry and was going to deliver them. How unfathomable is God's faithfulness and mercy!

When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told Samuel that he was the one He had chosen (1 Sam. 9:17). Saul stayed with Samuel that night. The next morning he anointed Saul as king (10:1). Samuel gave three signs as proof that Saul had been chosen by God: at an exact location he would meet two men who would tell him that his father's donkeys had been found; he would be given two loaves of bread by three men on their way to offer a sacrifice; and when he met a group of prophets, the Lord's Spirit would prophesy through him (10:2–14). The signs happened as Samuel had said. Saul knew he was going to be king.

Samuel gathered all Israel together and again rebuked them for despising God's reign. He said, “You have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities...and you have said to Him, ‘No, set a king over us!’” (1 Sam. 10:19). Although the method is not clear (perhaps by casting lots), Saul somehow was selected as king over Israel (10:20–21). When he came up missing, the Lord's control over the process was exalted as the people asked the Lord where Saul was, and He told them that Saul was hiding in the luggage (10:22). When tall Saul was brought in front of the people, Samuel announced him as the one “whom the LORD has chosen” (10:24).

The beginning of Saul's reign also demonstrated the Lord's choice of him. When the Ammonites threatened the tribes of Israel east of the Jordan, “the Spirit of God came upon Saul” (10:5). As He had empowered Gideon, Jephthah, and Samuel, God's Spirit empowered Saul. He rallied over 300,000 Israelites who subsequently defeated the Ammonites. Saul humbly attributed the victory to the Lord (11:13). Although there had been some people who were opposed to Saul's reign (10:27), all Israel now met to affirm Saul's kingship and offer sacrifices before the Lord (11:14–15).

Samuel Rebukes Israel (1 Sam. 12)

Although he was “old and grayheaded” (1 Sam. 12:2), Samuel was not ready to quit his prophetic duties. God had given Israel the king they had asked for, but Israel had not yet repented of their wickedness in rejecting God. For the glory of the Lord and the good of Israel, Samuel knew that Israel had to repent of their rejection of God and submit to His Word.

To prevent anyone from discounting the message he was about to give, Samuel challenged the people to bring against him any charges of misusing his authority (1 Sam. 12:2–5). When no one was able to say anything, Samuel began his message. He reminded the people of God's ability to deliver them (12:6–12). Whether Israel was enslaved in Egypt or oppressed by the nations surrounding her during the times of the judges, the Lord always heard their cries for deliverance

and answered by raising up deliverers, such as Moses and Samson. But a change had come across Israel. When the Ammonites threatened them, the people looked for a human king who would deliver them instead of the Lord (12:12). Now that God had given Israel their king (12:13), Samuel called the people to fear, obey, and serve the Lord (12:14). If they and their king obeyed God's commandments, they would be blessed with the privilege of continuing to follow Him. If the people and their king rebelled, God's hand would be against them (12:15). Having a king did not mean Israel could disregard God's law; both king and nation would be held responsible for their obedience.

To help Israel perceive their great wickedness (1 Sam. 12:17), Samuel prayed to God to send thunder and rain on the wheat harvest (12:16–18). Rain not only was unusual at this time of year, but it also would damage the ripe harvest. The miracle had its effect on the people. They "greatly feared the LORD and Samuel" (12:18) and admitted their wickedness: "For we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves" (12:19). Only after a mighty revelation of God's power did the people listen to Samuel's rebuke.

Samuel had good news for the people after their repentance. Although Israel had been changed forever and now had a king, God had not changed. He still expected the same obedience He did before their rejection of Him. The Lord would "not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make [Israel] His people" (1 Sam. 12:22). The Lord chose Israel as His special people to reveal His glory; He would continue to bless obedience and punish disobedience to make the greatness of His attributes known. In conclusion, Samuel called on the people to (1) fear the Lord; (2) serve Him in truth with all their hearts; and (3) consider what great things He had done for them (12:24). The positive commands were accompanied by a stern warning. Samuel said, "If you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king" (12:25). Israel may have thought a king would be able to fight against their enemies, but a king would be impotent against God's wrath.

Conclusion

God often had told Israel that they would have a future king, but Israel wanted a king for all the wrong reasons. The people hoped that having a king would allow them to escape from submitting to and depending on God; they wanted to be like the nations instead of being God's holy people. Israel's desire to be independent did not change God's sovereign choice of Saul. God even graciously used King Saul to deliver His people. Although Israel had sinned in their ill-intentioned request, God did not forsake them. God called both king and people to fear Him, serve Him, and consider the great things He had done. For Israel to be blessed, both king and the people needed to obey God (1 Sam. 12:14–15). King Saul's downfall becomes even more disastrous in light of such strong warnings.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

How did God speak to people in the Old Testament?

God spoke to people through the law and through prophets.

Whom did God call out to in the night?

God called out to the boy Samuel.

How many times did God call out to him, and what did He say?

God called out to Samuel four times. The first three times, Samuel went to Eli because he thought that Eli had called him. The last time Samuel went to Eli, Eli told him to answer the voice, “Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.” Then when God called out to Samuel the fourth time, Samuel answered the Lord as Eli had told him to.

Did Samuel tell Eli everything that God had told him?

Yes, he did, even though it was hard for him to do so because the message was against Eli’s family.

What is a true prophet?

A true prophet is one who speaks on behalf of the Lord and whose words never fail—his message always comes true. Samuel was a true prophet because none of his words failed (1 Sam. 3:19).



What Is a King?

Most students will know a little about kings, but not many will have a biblical understanding of what a king should do. Ask the students for some examples of what a good king would do and what a bad king would do. Explain that God is the King of kings (1 Tim. 6:15). He places kings in charge of nations or countries (Rom. 13:1–2). A good king will serve God and His people by making sure that the people understand and obey God’s law and by protecting and providing for them. A bad king will be selfish and sinful and will expect to be served rather than to serve (Luke 22:25).



A King—Good or Bad?

In today’s lesson, Israel demands a king from Samuel. Although asking for a king was not wrong in itself, God warned Israel about the dangers of having a king. Like many other things, a king could bring both good and harm. Bring a number of objects to class and ask the students whether they are good or bad (knife, medicine, food, stick, money, matches, handcuffs, etc.). These things can be either

helpful or harmful, depending on who uses them and how they are used. In the same way, God warned Israel that their kings would ultimately bring them harm rather than good.



Make Your Choices

Bring in magazine pictures, advertisements, food pictures or wrappers, classified ads, movie or television listings, video ads, etc. Talk about how we make choices every day. We choose what we wear, who our friends will be, what things we will do, how we will spend our free time, how we spend our money, etc. Our parents often make many choices for us, such as where we will live or go to school, things we do as a family, and what they will allow us to do. They also make choices for themselves that affect us, such as what kind of jobs they will have, how they will raise their children, and what they will plan for the future. Explain that we will learn about how God wants us to make the right choices. We will hear how the Israelites continued to want something even though Samuel had told them that it was not what God wanted for them. What do you think about when you make choices? For younger students, bring this down to their level (choosing a friend, an activity, what to eat, a television program, and choosing to obey Mom or Dad). For older students, you can use some other illustrations.



God's Warning about a King

Choose a boy from the class to be a bad king. Ask him what he would choose to have the others do for him. If needed, coach him. Who will wash the dishes? Who will clean up after him? Who will bring him candy or other items? Ask the rest of the students whether they would choose this boy as king. The children of Israel had God as their ruler until they wanted a human king like the other nations had. When God warned them that the king would oppress them, they still wanted a king.



Give Us a King

Use this game to illustrate what God promised would happen if Israel demanded a human king instead of God to rule over them. Explain to the students that God was ruling the people through a judge, but the people were not satisfied with that. They wanted to have a king like all the other nations had. God promised them that if a king were to rule them, their sons, daughters, land, servants, and animals would be taken away. But they did not care and still wanted the king. Illustrate this by assigning groups of students to complete tasks such as doing a puzzle or building a castle with blocks. Have one teacher be the king and take away sons and daughters (group members) and animals and land (resources such as puzzle pieces). Afterward, ask the students whether it was difficult to complete the tasks when their group members and resources were taken away.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read portions of 1 Samuel 13:1–14; 15:1–34.

Introduction

From the time of Moses until Samuel, a human had never ruled the Israelites. They had leaders such as Moses and Joshua, they had elders, and they had judges. But most importantly, whether or not they had been obedient, desired it or not, God always had been their King. He had judged them, led them, and fought for them. Now the people of Israel wanted a human king like all the nations around them. Having a king was not sinful in itself. But the Israelites’ desire for a human king rose out of their rejection of God, and this was sinful.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: How were the people of Israel different from all the nations around them?

Answer: All the nations around Israel had human kings. Israel did not.

LOQ: Since Israel did not have a king, who ruled the people?

Answer: Even though Israel did not have a human king, they did have a king. God was their King. Although God was not physically present, He had special people doing what He wanted them to do. For example, Moses was a leader of Israel, but he was not a king. Joshua was a leader of Israel, but he was not a king. In the book of Judges, we can see that God raised up judges, not kings, to deliver His people from Israel’s enemies. Samuel was both a prophet and a judge. He helped lead Israel, but he was not a king, either.

LOQ: What reasons did the people of Israel give Samuel for wanting a king?

Answer: The people said that because Samuel was old, and his two sons did not walk in the same way that he did (obedient to the Lord, just before all the people), they wanted a king. The people wanted a king to judge them as the kings of other nations did for their people (1 Sam. 8:5).

LOQ: Specifically, what did the people want the king to do for them?

Answer: The people wanted a king to judge them, lead them, and fight their battles for them (1 Sam. 8:5, 20).

LOQ: Who had been judging Israel, leading Israel, and fighting Israel's battles?

Answer: God had been doing these things! Everything that the people wanted a human king to do for them, God already was doing. For example, God provided judges to judge Israel. God provided leaders such as Moses and Joshua. When the Israelites were leaving Egypt, it was God who fought for them (Ex. 14:14). When the Israelites were doing battle with the people in the land, it was God who fought for them (Josh. 10:14).

LOQ: Was God a good or a bad king for Israel?

Answer: Since God is perfect, He was the perfect king for Israel. No man could do a better job of being a king than God.

LOQ: Why did the people want a human king instead of God?

Answer: The people did not want God to be their king because they did not want to do what He said and follow Him with all their hearts. The people wanted to be like all the other nations and do what the other nations were doing. They did not want to be a special people for God.

LOQ: What did Samuel say would happen if they had a king?

Answer: Samuel told the people that it would cost a lot to have a king.

LOQ: In 1 Samuel 8:10–17, the Bible uses a group of three words many times to describe what a king would do. What are those words?

Answer: The group of three words that describe what a king would do is "he will take." A king would need an army (8:11), workers (8:12; "he will appoint"), perfumers, cooks, and bakers (8:13), land (8:14), food and drink (8:15), servants (8:16), and animals (8:17). And all the people would have to serve the king. The king would not have to ask for anything; he would simply take what he wanted, no matter what anyone said.

LOQ: Even though God warned them what would happen if they had a human king, what did the Israelites answer?

Answer: The people did not listen to Samuel. They did not care about what it would cost. Instead of having God as their king, the people wanted a human king.

LOQ: What did God do for the people because of their request?

Answer: God gave the people what they were asking for, a king.

LOQ: How did God go about giving them this king?

Answer: God led a man named Saul to the home of Samuel. God told Samuel that Saul was the one chosen to be king over Israel. Samuel anointed Saul and gave him a sign so he would know that what he said was true.

LOQ: What was unique about Saul?

Answer: Saul was a head taller than everyone and very handsome. He looked like the perfect person to be king.

LOQ: After Samuel presented Saul as king, what did he tell the people?

Answer: Samuel rebuked the people for their wickedness. They were rejecting God as their king by asking for a human king. Then Samuel prayed for rain and

thunder, and it damaged the harvest (1 Sam. 12:16–18). This caused the people to greatly fear God and repent of their sin.

LOQ: What three things did Samuel call the people to do?

Answer: (1) Fear the Lord, (2) serve Him in truth with all their hearts, and (3) consider what great things He had done for them (1 Sam. 12:24).

LOQ: What would be the consequence if they did not obey?

Answer: Samuel said to them, “If you do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king” (1 Sam. 12:25).

Summary

When the Israelites looked at the nations that were around them, they saw that each of them had a human king. The Israelites wanted their own king just like the other nations. But God was their king. Of course, He was more powerful, richer, and greater than any human king. But He also required the people to be obedient to Him. Even though it would cost them a lot, they were willing to give up much of what they owned if only they had another king instead of God.

Application

Instead of honoring God as king in our lives, we make the things of this world king. We want to do whatever we want and ignore God. But God must be king. If God isn't our King and Savior, we will die without Him and go to hell. Rejecting God as ruler in our lives is foolish, and no one who rejects Him can have eternal life. That is a big price to pay for rejecting God.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Three Signs of Kingship

Materials: three 3x5 index cards and three wooden craft sticks per student, crayons, masking tape

Directions: Pass out the materials to the students. Explain the three signs Samuel gave to prove that God had chosen Saul as the first king of Israel. Instruct the students to draw a picture of these prophecies on each index card. Tape the craft sticks to the index cards to make three signs. Ask the students to hold up the correct sign when they hear the prophecy being fulfilled just as spoken by Samuel during the lesson.

Three Signs of Kingship

1. Saul would meet two men at an exact location; they would tell him that his father's donkeys had been found (1 Sam. 10:2). *Draw two men with donkeys.*
2. Saul would receive two loaves of bread from three men on their way to offer a sacrifice (1 Sam. 10:3–4). *Draw three men and two loaves of bread.*
3. Saul would meet a group of prophets, and the Lord's Spirit would prophesy through him (1 Sam. 10:5–6, 9–13). *Draw Saul speaking to a group of men.*



Steps to Becoming King

Draw a staircase with five steps on the board. Draw a stick person at the bottom of the staircase to represent Saul. Record each step Saul took to become king beside the steps as you go. Erase Saul and draw him on the next step up each time you cover the appropriate section of the lesson. Once Saul reaches the fifth and final step, draw him with a crown on top of his head.

5. Saul was announced as king of Israel (10:24).
4. Samuel gave three signs as proof that Saul was chosen as king (10:2–14).
3. Samuel anointed Saul as king (10:1).
2. God told Samuel that Saul was the one He had chosen to be king (9:17).
1. God led Saul to Samuel's house while looking for lost donkeys (9:15).



Significant Repetitions—"He Will Take!"

Read 1 Samuel 8:10–17 to the students. Direct them to listen for a three-word phrase that is repeated over and over again to show the behavior of the king. After the students discover the phrase "he will take," make a list on the board of the things the king will take and for what purpose.

He will take...

- Your sons (v. 11)
- Your daughters (v. 13)
- The best of your fields, vineyards, and olive groves (v. 14)
- A tenth of your grain (v. 15)
- Your male and female servants (v. 16)
- Your finest young men (v. 16)
- Your donkeys (v. 16)
- A tenth of your sheep (v. 17)

For this purpose...

- To drive chariots, be his horsemen, and run before chariots (v. 11)
- To be perfumers, cooks, and bakers (v. 13)
- To give them to his servants (v. 15)
- To put them to his work (v. 16)
- To put them to his work (v. 16)
- To put them to his work (v. 16)
- You will be his servants (v. 17)

After charting the king's behavior on the board, lead the class in a discussion of whether it was wise for Israel to continue to ask for a king. Use these as examples of the Israelites' stubborn hearts, which led them to want a sinful human king to rule over them rather than our perfect, loving God.



Saul Stands out in a Crowd

Have one teacher sit in the middle of the students during the lesson. When it comes time to describe God choosing Saul in 1 Samuel 9:2, have the students stand up and the teacher stand up in the middle. Wow! He really stands out in a crowd. The point to remember is that God is the one who chose Saul.



God versus a Human King

Make two different kinds of crowns, one elaborately decorated and one made from plain paper with marks and tears on it. Begin the story by wearing the gold crown, and explain to the students that Israel had no human king because God was their king. Review some of the ways God had protected and provided for Israel. As you go through the lesson, explain that Israel rejected God as their king and chose rather to have a human king. Put on the poorly made crown, and explain that even the best human king could not rule as well as God had.



Objects of a King

Make use of objects to teach about some of the functions of a king. As the lesson progresses, a student can be called up to hold one or more of the objects. A crown, robe, scepter, Bible, sword, shield, money, treasure, picture of horses, food, etc., can all be used as you explain God's warning to Israel.

Praise and Worship

Cares Chorus

Change My Heart, Oh God

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

I Love You, Lord

O Worship the King

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"God Is King" Crown

Give each student a crown made of construction paper or bulletin-board borders. Write the words, "God is King!" on the crowns. Have students color and decorate them with sequins or tinfoil. If space allows, also print, "Fear Him, Serve Him, Thank Him," and 1 Samuel 12:24.



Steps to Saul's Becoming King Step-Book

Materials: colored paper (five different colors), stapler, scissors, crayons

Directions: Before class, photocopy each page of the step-book on a different color of paper (Note: the first two pages are doubled up to save paper, which means that one photocopy will serve two students). Each student needs one complete set of pages. During class, pass out the pages, and instruct the students to cut each page out around the outside border. Model how to line up the pages properly so the title shows on the bottom of each page. Instruct students to staple the pages together with three staples across the top. Allow time for students to draw and color pictures on each page to illustrate what is written in the verses. Suggestions for drawings are listed below. Students who are not able to finish in

the allotted time should be encouraged to continue drawing during the week at home. Ask students to bring back their step-books the following week, and plan time to share the step-books in groups at the beginning of class. Review the five steps to Saul's becoming king, using the passage references on each page of the step-book.

Variation: For younger students, select one simple picture to draw on each page of the book. Draw the picture on the board as the students draw it on the correct page.

Drawing Suggestions

Arrived (1 Sam. 9:1–14): Saul looking for lost donkeys; path through mountains and city on a hill; shekel of silver; women drawing water; Samuel going to bless the sacrifice

Appointed (1 Sam. 9:15–27): clock; Saul meeting Samuel at the gate; Saul and Samuel eating at the high place; lost donkeys found; Samuel speaking to Saul on top of a house

Anointed (1 Sam. 10:1): Samuel pouring oil from a flask on Saul's head and kissing him

Affirmed (1 Sam. 10:2–16): three signs of proof that Saul was chosen as king: (1) two men finding lost donkeys, (2) three men: one carrying three goats, one carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine, giving two loaves of bread to Saul, and (3) group of prophets with instruments; Saul prophesying

Announced (1 Sam. 10:17–27): Samuel assembling the tribes of Israel; Saul hiding among the equipment; tall Saul standing amidst shorter people; people shouting, "Long live the king!"



Who Is Your King?

Materials: copies of the "Who Is Your King?" craft pages, glue sticks, brads, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the "Who Is Your King?" base sheet (page 2.15), a boy or girl figure (page 2.19), and an arrow (page 2.17). Instruct the students to color and cut out the boy or girl figure and then glue it to the center of the base sheet. Then they should cut out the arrow and use a brad to attach it to the boy or girl, so that it can point to either "You" or "God." (Younger students may need help positioning the brad correctly.) Instruct the students to move the arrow so that it points to "God."



What the King Takes

Use the "What the King Takes" page to illustrate what God promised that the king would take from Israel. Give each student a copy of the page, and instruct them to draw what the events may have looked like.



"Israel Rejects God as King"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



Journal Page: "God's Perfect Plans"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

“Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory” (Psalm 24:10).



4

Memory Verse Relay

On the top of a whiteboard or chalkboard, write today’s memory verse. Divide the students into two teams and line them up on the other side of the room. Provide them with a marker or chalk. When you say, “Go,” one student from each team should run to the board and write one word from the memory verse. He then returns to the line, hands the marker to the next person, and the whole team must recite the words that have been written by their team. Then, the next person goes to the board, writes the next word, returns to the line where everyone recites the written words, and so on until the entire verse is complete. Provide candy for the quickest team.

Memory Verse Review

Write the words of the memory verse on cards and scramble them. Have the students work in teams to assemble the verse as quickly as they can.

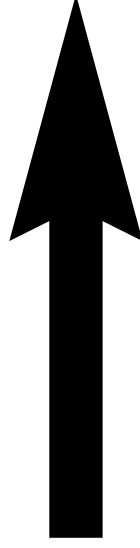
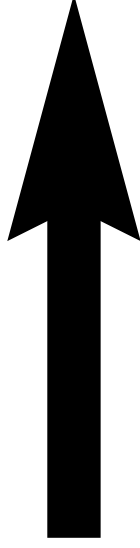
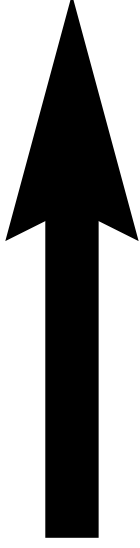
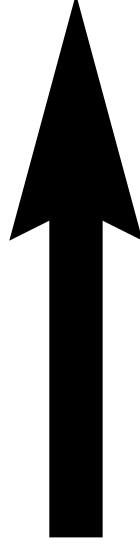
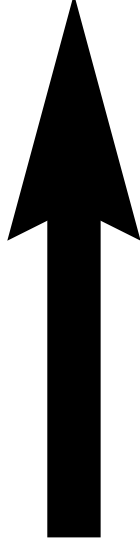
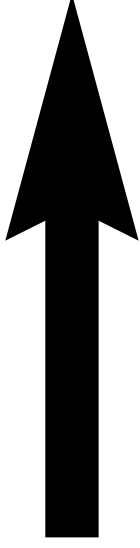
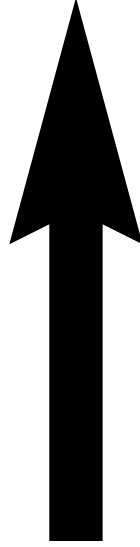
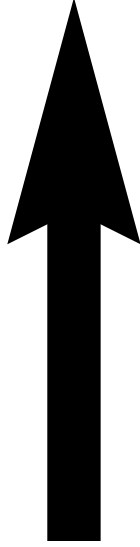
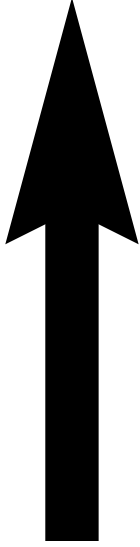
Who Is Your King?

You

Good

**“For God is the King of all the earth”
(Psalm 47:7).**

Who Is Your King?



Who Is Your King?



What the King Takes

1 Samuel 8:11-17



The king takes sons for his army.



The king takes part of the crops for food.



The king takes the best people to work for him.

Israel *Rejects* God *as King*



1 Samuel 8-12

Name _____

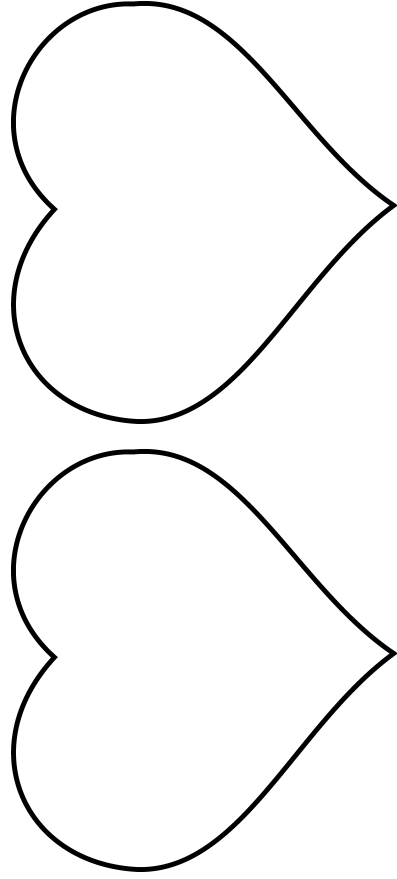
1. True or False: The people trusted God to lead them, judge them, and to fight their battles. _____
2. First Samuel 8:7 tells us that Israel rejected _____ as their king.
3. The Israelites wanted a human king to be like all the other _____, for the king to _____, and to _____ their battles (1 Sam. 8:20).
4. Whom did the Lord choose for Israel's human king? _____
5. Samuel told the people that they had done _____ by asking for a king (1 Sam. 12:17).
6. True or False: The people recognized their sin and repented. _____
7. In 1 Samuel 12:20, Samuel told the people to _____ the _____ with all their _____.

God's Perfect Plans

"But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans" (1 Samuel 10:19).

Has anyone ever given you instructions to follow, maybe for an assignment at school or a chore at home, and you thought that you knew a better way to complete the task? Sometimes people do get better ideas, but it is never that way with God's instructions or God's plans. God's way is always perfect. It is impossible to have a better idea than the Creator of the universe! Still, Israel thought that their plan for a king to guide them was better than God's plan to guide them.

In the first heart below, explain why Israel's request for a king was sinful. In the second heart, explain why God was the only king Israel needed.

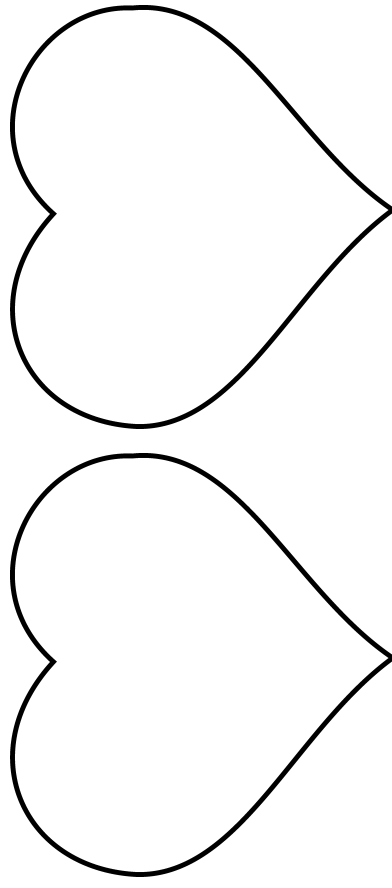


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When you make choices that are not pleasing to Christ, you are saying by your choices that you have a "better idea," and you are refusing God's right to rule over you. Christ wants to rule in your heart. In 1 Peter 3:15, you are told to sanctify Christ in your heart. That is, let Him be exalted as Lord and ruler of your life.

Is Christ ruling in your heart?

How do you know if Christ is ruling in your heart?

When you choose your own way over God's way, it is called sin, but if you are sorry for your sins and confess them, Christ will

I am glad that Christ has forgiven my sins and rules in my heart if I have trusted in Him as my Savior, because

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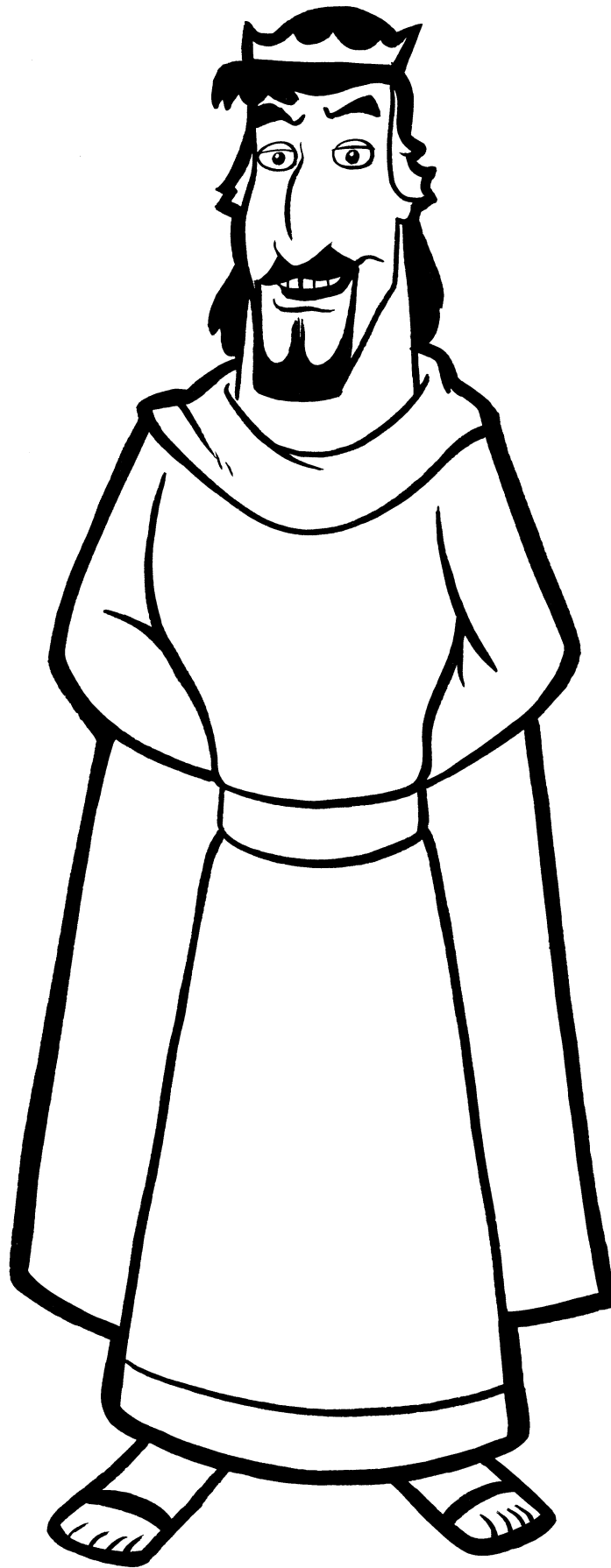
PRAYER

Are you thankful that Christ rules your life with His righteousness? Tell Him. He is good and kind and leads you in His perfect ways. Ask Him to help you obey and be submissive to His will.

PRAYER

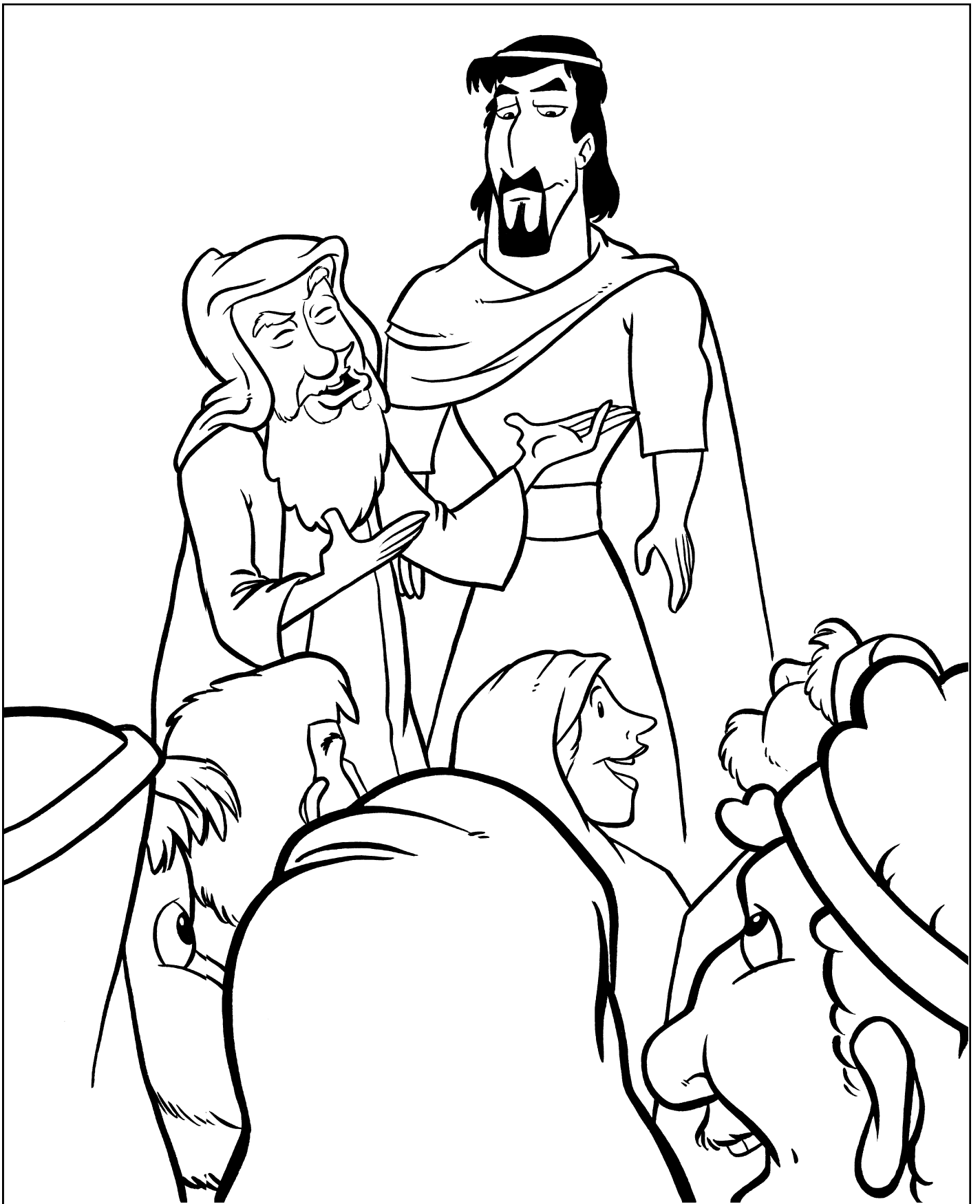
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**“Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said:
‘Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?’”
(1 Samuel 10:1).**



“And Samuel said to all the people, ‘Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?’ So all the people shouted and said, ‘Long live the king!’” (1 Samuel 10:24).

