



UNIT 10 | SESSION 1

ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-10

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 6:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God's plan. They wanted a king like the nations around them. God had a better plan: to eventually send His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King forever.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

It can happen to any of us: we look at our circumstances, forecast a coming trial or opportunity, and act accordingly—only to find out that the situation doesn't play out quite like we expected.

This is precisely what happened in 1 Samuel 8–10. The people of Israel, while assessing their circumstances, discerned that Samuel's days were numbered. They recognized that his sons, Joel and Abijah, had turned to dishonesty and against the ways of their father. So, they predicted that they would soon have no one to lead them and that something must be done.

The elders of Israel believed they knew what was best and demanded that Samuel appoint a new king who would judge them “the same as all the other nations” (1 Sam. 8:5).

We can do the same; even with the best of intentions, we can hastily seek what we believe is best without consideration of the Lord's plans, desires, or wisdom. This may happen in search of a new job, in response to conflict, in making family decisions, or even in determining how to best minister to people in our church or community.

How do we know that our decisions, desires, and actions align with what God wants? Be encouraged to do three things

as you seek the Lord's wisdom in these moments of decision: pray, read God's Word, and seek counsel.

When we pray, we humble ourselves before the Almighty God and submit our desires to Him. When we read God's Word, we discover His desires, plans, and will in the most clearly revealed way so that we might walk in them. And when we seek counsel, we open ourselves to the community of believers to be shaped, formed, sharpened, and corrected.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.”

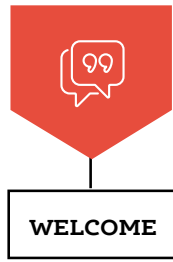
Taking the time to pray, read the Bible, and seek the counsel of brothers and sisters in Christ are ways we choose to submit ourselves to God and not rely on our own understanding.

THE ROLE OF ISRAEL'S KING

Functions: supreme judge, military leader

Powers: limited power, subject to the law

Authority: given by God as the Lord's anointed



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 “Have you ever demanded something? What was it? Why did you want it so bad? Did you get what you wanted?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “The Best Route” on the activity page.

SAY “Sometimes the shortest route isn’t the best route. God’s plan is always best for us, even if it’s not what we wanted it to be. Today’s Bible story is about how the Israelites didn’t trust God’s route for them and demanded an earthly king. Let’s find out about the king God chose for His people.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: TRUST THE GUIDE

Before the session, use tape to mark boundaries of an obstacle course. Place several items like pool noodles, cones, etc. in the middle of the obstacle course. Pick a kid to go through the obstacle course and another kid to be their guide. Explain to the kid going through the obstacle course that he must trust the voice of the other kid to guide him through the obstacle course. Place the blindfold on the first kid and let the guide begin.

SAY “Was crossing the obstacle course easy or hard? The obstacle course looked hard, but you needed to trust your guide to make it through. In our story today, the Israelites didn’t trust God to guide them. Let’s hear more about the story!”

OPTION 2: PERFECT KING



Choose a volunteer and give him 30 seconds to draw a king on a dry erase board. Then, ask the kids to call out characteristics of a perfect king. The volunteer will write these characteristics around the king on the board. Compare kid’s descriptions to the king God wanted for Israel, King Jesus. Allow another volunteer to write King Jesus on the dry erase board and ask kids to describe the characteristics of Jesus.

SAY “While the king you described might be a good king, no earthly king could be perfect. Israel’s desire for a king would never be filled apart from Jesus. We’ll hear more about that in today’s story!”

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





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 8–10. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Israel Demanded a King.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

“ Samuel was a judge over Israel. **When he was old, Samuel chose his sons—Joel and Abijah—to be judges.** There was a problem, though. Joel and Abijah were not good judges like their father. Joel and Abijah were unfair and dishonest.

The leaders of Israel went to Samuel. “You were a good judge,” they said, “but your sons have not followed your example. We don’t want them to lead us; we want a king like the nations around us!”

Samuel wasn’t sure how to respond, so he **prayed to God.**

God said, “Samuel, they are not rejecting you; they are rejecting Me as King. Give them what they want, but make sure you warn them what it will be like to have an earthly king.”

Samuel explained to the Israelites what rights an earthly king would have. A king could make their sons serve in the army, he could make their daughters work for him, or he could take away their fields and servants. **Samuel warned that the people would regret asking for a king, but the Israelites didn’t care.**

“Give us a king!” they said. So God told Samuel to give the people what they wanted. **Then Samuel told the leaders of Israel to go back to their cities and wait for a king.**

One day, a man named Saul came to Samuel. Saul was tall and handsome. He was looking for his father’s missing donkeys. **Samuel invited Saul to have dinner with him.** He told Saul that his family would be important to everyone in Israel.

Saul didn’t understand. He wasn’t from a big family; his tribe—the tribe of Benjamin—was the smallest tribe in Israel. Still, **Samuel gave Saul the best spot at his dinner table. The next morning, Samuel poured oil on Saul’s head.**

“You will be king!” Samuel said. Samuel gave Saul some instructions and sent him home to wait for the right time to start ruling over the Israelites. The Spirit of God was with Saul.

Christ Connection: God intended for a heavenly King to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God’s plan. They wanted a king like the nations around them. God had a better plan: to eventually send His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Call for active listening: Instruct kids to listen for the word *king*. Every time they hear it, they should act like they’re placing a crown on their heads.

Use Bible costumes: Collect some Bible costumes and/or props. Choose kids to play a role in the story and act out their part in the story as you read it.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ““ What an interesting story! God’s people demanded an earthly king like the other nations. God knew that wasn’t best for them but allowed them to have a king. Why did God’s people demand a king? Look at 1 Samuel 8:20. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Sam. 8:20.] God’s people wanted a king to lead them, to go before them, to fight their battles. Isn’t that exactly what God had done for Israel? God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt. God protected Israel from Pharaoh’s army at the Red Sea. God had provided water, manna, and quail for Israel in the wilderness. God had parted the Jordan River. God’s people did not even realize that God was everything they were wanting in an earthly king.

God knew that no earthly king could ever compare to Jesus, the perfect King God planned to send, not just for Israel, but for all people. Because of who Jesus is, and what He did on the cross, no king can compare to Jesus.

Can you explain why no earthly king could compare to Jesus? Look at Philippians 2:5-11. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Phil. 2:5-11.] Verse 10 says, ‘At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow.’ That means that everybody, even earthly kings, will one day bow to King Jesus. Next time we meet, we will learn more about how Saul became king of Israel. ””

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY ““ God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God’s plan. They wanted a king like the nations around them. God had a better plan: to eventually send His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King forever. ””

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 10, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What should you do if a friend tries to get you to do the wrong thing?
2. How can remembering Jesus help you do what is right?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY ““ The Israelites moved into a land where other people were already living. That reminds me of a historical missionary I want to tell you about. Long before America was founded as a country, people lived in the land. These groups and their descendants are the Native Americans. In the 1700s, God called a man named David Brainerd to be a missionary to Native Americans. David decided to learn the language of one of the Native American tribes so that he could tell them about Jesus. ””

Play the missions video.