



10

Israel Rejects God as King

Key Theme

- God alone is to be worshipped.

Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 8:5–7, 8:9, 8:18–19, 10:24; 1 John 2:15

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe God's warning to Israel against having a king.
- Identify the first king over Israel.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will practice the memory verse using the *Memory Verse Cards*.



Activity 1: King Saul

page 5

Students will complete the sentences on their class notes as you study the lesson. The students may take the pictures home to color and re-tell the account using the pictures.



Studying God's Word

page 6

God wanted to be the only king over His people in Israel. However, the people wanted to be like all the other nations and have a man-king to rule them. God agreed to honor their request but warned them that these kings would be cruel and demanding of the people. The first king chosen by God was Saul.



Activity 2: Beanbag Review Game

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Students will play a game in teams to earn points and review the lesson material.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Print on cardstock if possible.
- Put complete sets into envelopes or small plastic bags.
- You may want to present this as a team activity.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Cards in envelopes or small plastic bags



KING SAUL

- Print, collate, and staple one set of King Saul Class Notes/Coloring Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student—4 pages. Keep the answer key for your use.

- One set of King Saul Class Notes/Coloring Pictures for each student
- King Saul Class Notes/Coloring Pictures Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



BEANBAG REVIEW GAME

- Print one Beanbag Review Game Instructions and Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Beanbags
- Beanbag Review Game Instructions and Questions
- Board or paper to keep score on



Memory Verse

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson this week, please prepare your heart and mind by reading 1 Samuel 8–10; 2 Samuel 7:1–16; and John 18:33–38.

Samuel's allegiance to God during his leadership in Israel established a time of peace between Israel and the Amorites (1 Samuel 7:13–14). Samuel appointed his sons as judges after him. Unfortunately, they did not follow Samuel's example. They became greedy, taking bribes and perverting justice (1 Samuel 8:3). This was when the elders of Israel gathered to ask Samuel to appoint a king who would rule them like all the other nations (1 Samuel 8:5).

In order to appreciate what the people were asking, it will be helpful to consider the difference between a judge and a king. A judge was called by God for one main purpose—deliverance from enemies. A king, in that culture, was a sovereign over all of the affairs of the tribe or nation. A judge led by persuasion—the people followed him or disregarded him as they thought best. (The book of Judges repeats the phrase “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”) A king ruled by right—the people owed unconditional allegiance to the king. A judge's rule was limited to accomplish a particular purpose of deliverance. A king's rule was unlimited and included succession from generation to generation. The judges, we have seen, were led by God to deliver Israel in a way that would specifically show its dependence on God alone.

The Israelites' desire for a king—a permanent ruler who would be responsible for the well-being of the nation in a comprehensive way and who would therefore have comprehensive authority—revealed their desire to switch their loyalty to a man rather than depending on and obeying God. It was this inclination that God addressed when He said to Samuel, “They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them” (1 Samuel 8:7). Samuel warned the people that the king would tax them and take their children and possessions, but in the face of all the warnings, the people reaffirmed that they wanted an earthly king to lead them and fight their battles; they wanted to be like all the other nations. God declared that He would grant their desire; Samuel was to appoint a king (1 Samuel 8:10–22).

1 Samuel 9 and 10 give the details of Samuel choosing and anointing Israel's first king, Saul. Saul

was looking for his father's lost donkeys (1 Samuel 9:3). When he was ready to give up on finding them, it was suggested that he solicit help from the well-known man of God, the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 9:6). God had revealed this meeting to Samuel the day before Saul came (1 Samuel 9:15–16). God indicated to Samuel that this Saul was to be anointed as the king of Israel. And in God's providence, they met and Samuel anointed Saul according to God's perfect plan and will (1 Samuel 10:1). God's message to Saul through Samuel was that the Spirit of God would come upon him and he would become another man (1 Samuel 10:6). In this way, God transformed Saul and prepared him to be king. The chapter culminates in the public acclamation of Saul as king (1 Samuel 10:24). But there were rebels who despised him (1 Samuel 10:27).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Saul's anointing as Israel's king begs the question: why would God grant this desire of Israel's people for a king, when we know that the desire constituted a rejection of God? Consider that King David succeeded Saul after Saul failed. Now consider the details of God's covenant made to David—that his throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16). That throne would one day be occupied by Jesus Christ who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16). Jesus is not only man, but God. He is the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

The inescapable conclusion is that God turned the sinful desire of Israel to His own purposes. The people rejected God's reign in favor of a man (Saul) to be king. But that rejection of God led to the fulfillment of God's precious plan of redemption through the God-man, Jesus Christ—the final and everlasting King. How often God works in this way! Man's sins are not excused at all, but regardless of man's failures, God works out His perfect will. Joseph was sold cruelly into slavery by his brothers, but that act was meant by God for good, to save the brothers later (Genesis 50:20). Peter and John were beaten for teaching about Jesus, but their faithful, courageous endurance of the suffering was used to bring great boldness to the church (Acts 4:18–31). And most importantly, Jesus, the Christ, was delivered to be tortured and crucified; but that very act, the

worst murder ever committed, was carried out by God's "determined purpose and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:22–23) to be the atoning sacrifice that saves God's people from their sins and brings them God's righteousness (see 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear holy and sovereign Lord, I am in awe of the perfect and just way you have always dealt with

man. So often we sin against you, yet you constantly work your perfect will in the world and call your people to you. Transform my mind that I may not be conformed to this world. And transform the minds and lives of the students in my class that they will long to glorify and honor you by renewing their own minds with your holy Word and the beautiful truth of the gospel. Help them to set aside the temporary things of the world for the eternal things yet to be seen. Bless my students and their families, Lord. Bless this class.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and recite the verse together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided a template on the Resource DVD-ROM you can use to make Memory Verse Cards to be put in order each week. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



King Saul

MATERIALS

- King Saul Class Notes/Coloring Pictures for each student
- King Saul Class Notes/Coloring Pictures Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, collate, and staple the four pages for each student. Students will complete the sentences on the pages as you teach the lesson. If time permits, they can color the pictures. If not, they can take them home and color them.

You have four pages here. You will be completing the blanks on the pages during

our lesson today. Then I want you to take all of these home, color the pictures, and tell someone what we learned by showing them the pictures.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we finish completing all of these pages of our class notes, we will see that God wasn't happy with the people's request for a man-king. God wants to be the most important thing in our life. He wants us to worship Him alone.



Studying God's Word

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

1 Samuel 8:5–7

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

► Write the words on the board so the children will know what to write.

► Re-read the text so the children can answer the questions. Or encourage them to look in their Bibles to find the answers.

READ THE WORD

The time of the judges was a bad time in history for God's people. They continued to sin against God. Remember, Samuel was the last official **judge of Israel**. *Refer to the History of Israel Poster and the Lesson Theme Poster from Lesson 6 illustrating the cycle of disobedience that led to God's punishment.*

God chose Samuel to lead Israel. He was obedient to the Lord, and Israel had peace while he was judging. When Samuel was an old man, he asked his sons to take his place judging Israel. This didn't last long because his sons were greedy and dishonest. The people did not like them. So the people went to Samuel with a new idea.

Listen carefully as I read 1 Samuel 8:5–7. Turn there in your Bibles, and we'll answer some questions. *Help the students who have their Bibles find the text. Read the verses aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

So, what is going on? Let's answer some questions to help us figure it out.

Observe the Text

? **What did the people want?** *1 Samuel 8:5. They wanted a king.*

That's right. They wanted to be like all the other nations. They wanted a king! They were tired of having judges. They came to Samuel and said, "Make us a king to judge us like all the nations." The people wanted a man for a king—not God! Look at Picture #1. How will you complete the sentence? *Man, king. Complete Picture #1 now.*

? **What did Samuel think of this request?** *1 Samuel 8:6. He was displeased.*

The Bible says Samuel was displeased. That means he was not happy. In fact, he was upset that the people wanted a king.

? **What did Samuel do?** *1 Samuel 8:6. He prayed to the Lord.*

? **What did the Lord tell Samuel?** *1 Samuel 8:7. The Lord said to heed the voice of the people.*

? **What does heed mean? Anyone know?** *Allow discussion. It means to listen to what they were asking.*

Samuel prayed to God, and God told him to listen to the people. If they want a king other than God, then give them one. God wanted to be their king, but they wanted a man-king. And so God gave them what they asked for. They rejected God! They no longer wanted the King of the universe, the

Creator God to rule over them. They wanted to be like all the other nations around them. They were asking for a man to be their king.

- ? Look at Picture #2. Samuel is praying. What words will you put in to finish the sentence on Picture #2? *King*. Complete Picture #2 now.

Discover the Truth

The people wanted a man for a king! They didn't want God to be their king. They wanted to be like all the other nations. They rejected God. They were disobeying God. This is not a good thing. It is not good to push God away as the king of your life. We'll see that the people would be judged for rejecting God.



READ THE WORD

Let's move on! I'm going to read what God told Samuel. *Read 1 Samuel 8:9 aloud.*

1 Samuel 8:9

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

God told Samuel to listen to the people, to give them a king. But first God wanted Samuel to warn the people—warn them that the king they wanted would not be nice to them. The people would not be happy with a king.

- ? What did God tell Samuel to do? *Warn them about what would happen.*

Samuel tried to warn the people. He told them that the man-kings would not be kind to the people. The kings would take the people's sons and make them do hard work. They would take the people's daughters and make them cooks and bakers. Their sons and daughters would be slaves and servants for the kings. Samuel also warned that the king would take the people's best crops and food and keep it for himself and his servants. He would also take the best of the people's animals. The people would be slaves to the kings. Samuel told them they wouldn't like living with these kings.

- ? Look at Picture #3. How will you complete the sentence on that picture? *Warn, king*. Complete Picture #3 now.

God warned the people. He knew the people would not be happy. But they just would not listen! Listen as I read this. *Read 1 Samuel 8:18–19.*

1 Samuel 8:18–19

- ? What would the people do after they got this king? *1 Samuel 8:18. The people would cry out to the Lord.*

Yes, the people wouldn't like what was happening to them, and they would beg the Lord for His mercy.

- ? Will the Lord hear them? *1 Samuel 8:18. No.*
- ? What did the people keep saying? Look at Picture #1? *1 Samuel 8:19. We want a man for a king! Not God!*

Discover the Truth

How sad this is. The Israelites were God’s chosen people but they wanted to be like everyone else. Instead of being happy with God as their king, they wanted a man to lead them. This is NOT what God wanted. But the people would NOT listen. God used the prophet Samuel to warn the people. But they just wouldn’t listen. They kept saying, “We want a man for a king. NOT God!”



READ THE WORD

1 Samuel 10: 24

And so God gave them a king! His name was Saul! Everyone turn to 1 Samuel 10:24. Samuel is speaking in this verse. Samuel had gathered the people together. The Lord God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. *Read 1 Samuel 10:24 aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who chose the king? *The Lord.*
- ? The new king’s name was Saul. And what did the people shout when they saw the new king—King Saul? *Long live the king!*
- ? Great! How will you complete the sentence on Picture #4? *King, Saul.*

Discover the Truth

So Saul became the first king of Israel. The reign of kings would last for the next 400 years. The people had turned from God and wanted a man as king to lead them. The people rejected God! That was very bad. But God had a plan. And through this line of kings, Jesus would come into the world as the king of Kings. And He would offer forgiveness for sinners! He would die on the Cross and rise from the dead. Jesus Christ would be the final and everlasting King for everyone who would believe and trust in Him! God was in control all along. And He knew what would happen hundreds of years later. God is sovereign over all the things that happen each minute, each hour, each day, each week, each month, each year . . . and on and on! He is in control of everything! Always!



SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

READ THE WORD

God's people rejected God. They did not want God to be their king. They wanted a man to be their king. God warned them through Samuel. God didn't want His people to be just like everyone else in the world. God wanted His people to be different—to love God and not the world.

Well, guess what. God is STILL warning us about the very same thing. God does not want us to love the world, either. Turn to 1 John 2:15. The book of 1 John is toward the back of your Bible in the New Testament. *Read the verse aloud.*

1 John 2:15

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? This verse isn't too hard to figure out—even for first graders! What does 1 John 2:15 say about the world? *Do not love the world.*
- ? That's right. It says do not love the world. But it says do not love something else. What is that? *Re-read the verse if necessary. The things of the world.*
- ? If we love the world and the things in the world, what do we NOT love? *Again, re-read the verse if necessary. God the Father.*

Discover the Truth

This verse is a warning for us from God. Just like God warned His people about the king. Remember, the people wanted to be like everyone else. And the verse we just read says we shouldn't want to be like everyone else. We shouldn't want to be like the world. We shouldn't love the world or the things in the world more than God. If we do, then we don't love God! God has chosen us as His special people. We should not make choices based on what other people tell us to do or say. We should make choices based on what God has said! God wants us to love Him more than all the people and things in the world.

Page through the class notes/coloring pages as you review. Have the students look at their own pages. So let's start with Picture #1 and do a quick review. 1) The people wanted a king! They wanted a man to be king. They didn't want God to be their king. They wanted to be like the other nations. 2) Samuel prayed. The Lord said listen to the people and give them a king. 3) Samuel warned the people that the kings would make them slaves and be mean to them. They would not like their new king. 4) But the people wanted a king. The Lord chose Saul to be the first king of Israel!





Beanbag Review Game

MATERIALS

- Beanbag Review Game Instructions and Questions
- One beanbag for each team
- Board or paper to keep score on

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the students into two even teams—team Samuel and team Saul. Set beanbags a good distance from the teams. (Playing this game outside or in the hallway may work better.)

Assign students on each team a number beginning at one. Students will line up in their teams, according to their numbers. When you call out “one, two, etc.,” the students with that number will race to grab a beanbag and get back to their team. The student back to the team first will give their team a chance to earn points by answering one of the review questions found on the Beanbag Review Game Instructions and Questions.

The entire team can help answer the question. If the team can't answer the question correctly, you can give the other team the opportunity to answer. Or give the answer and repeat the questions later.

Students should return the beanbags to the start. Continue game with number two. Continue play until all of the questions are read. The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good job reviewing our lesson today. I can tell you had a great time! And you were listening to the lesson! The nation of Israel didn't listen to God's warning. The people would face the consequences of rejecting God and choosing a man to rule over them.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Israelites rejected God through disobedience and traded His perfect kingship for a worldly king who was a man. God warned them that things would not be good for them under the worldly king. Yet the people demanded a king and ignored God. God even warned them that when they cried for help because of the king they wanted so badly, God would not hear them. But the people wouldn't listen, and God agreed to give the people what they wanted. God chose Saul to be the first king of Israel.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We are called to worship God alone. We are called to love God above everything else in our lives. We probably won't ever reject God like the Israelites did and replace Him with a king. But whenever we put anything above God—our family, toys, sports, clothes, TV, games, school, friends—we are doing just what the Israelites did. We are rejecting God for something of the world. Remember 1 John 2:15? We read it earlier—"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." This is very serious. It is not bad to have and enjoy the blessings that God has given us. But please be careful that you don't love those things more than you love God!

The Bible tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). We are to have no other gods before Him. He wants and demands all worship and honor and praise to go to Him alone.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God that He is the only one worthy of our praise.
- Thank God for reigning as sovereign ruler over all things.
- Ask God to change our hearts that we can turn from the world and make Him our only King.

