



10

Israel Rejects God as King



Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 8:4–7, 8:10; 1 John 2:15

Lesson Focus

- God is our King!

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will match the Samuel Character Pictures from Lesson 9 by drawing a line connecting them. They can then color the pictures and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God’s Word—Students will hear how the people of Israel called out for a man–king, rejecting God as their one and only King.

Song— Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the Memory Verse Song, “God Is Great,” and the “God Calls You” song. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: God Is My King Crown

Students will color and/or decorate the God Is My King Crown before assembling it.



Activity 2: God Is Our King Tunnel Relay

Students will run through the tunnel, put their crown on, and shout, “God is our King!”



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse using flash cards.



Applying God’s Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

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

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one Character Match-Up Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Play dough if appropriate

- Character Match-Up Sheet
- Crayons
- Play dough



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- Gather materials listed to the right.

- Bible
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bottle of vinegar
- Small cup



GOD IS MY KING CROWN

- Print and cut out the Crown Pattern from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- God Is My King Crown, cut out and trimmed for each student
- Crayons
- Stickers for decorating the crowns
- Stapler or tape



GOD IS OUR KING TUNNEL RELAY

- Use the God Is My King Crowns from Activity 1.
- Bring in a sheet, blanket or other fabric to make a tunnel.

- God Is My King Crowns, already assembled from Activity 1
- Sheet, blanket, or other fabric



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- If you haven't already done so, print and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flash Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- One set of the Memory Verse Flash Cards



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Snacks



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 children arrive . . .

- They will complete and color the Character Match-Up Sheet to review Lesson 9 and/or play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, bottle of vinegar, small cup, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his or her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because . . .
(insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of adoration.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Who made you?** *God.*
- ? **What else did God make?** *All things.*
- ? **Why did God make you and all things?** *For His own glory.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? **Where is God?** *God is everywhere.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Use a sticky note to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.
*Hold up your Bible. God's Word is true and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number (choose a number). You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.**

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

Continue with lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around. Refer to the Lesson 9 Flip Chart Page.
God had made Samuel a judge and a prophet over the people in Israel. God told the people to stop sinning! The people did not love God. And God was going to punish them. Samuel obeyed God. Samuel was the judge of Israel. But the people came to Samuel and told him they didn't

want him to be the judge. They wanted a king! They wanted Samuel to ask God to give them a king. This was not a very good idea! God wanted to be their King—but they wanted a man to be king. The people wanted to be like the other nations around them who had kings. This sounds like more trouble for the people. They really wanted a king, so much that they were going to turn away from God again!

Let's open up God's Word now and see what happened. We're going to read from **1 Samuel**. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is in my Bible. Show the students where the book is. Have the student sit back down.* Remember, this is still in the time when God had sent judges to help the people, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Samuel was the last judge. God called him when he was a boy, and he was a judge and a leader of Israel.

Now listen to what happened next. *Read 1 Samuel 8:4–6. Read enthusiastically, emphasizing the answers to the questions below as you read.*

? Who did the people of Israel come to? *1 Samuel 8:4. Samuel.*

They came to Samuel. They told him he was old!

? What did the people want? *1 Samuel 8:5. A king.*

They wanted a king so they could be like all the other nations around them.

? Did Samuel like this idea? *1 Samuel 8:6. No! He was displeased.*

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

Samuel loved God. He was an old man now. But the people wanted to turn away from God again. They wanted a king. God didn't want the people to have a king. God wanted to be their King. God is our King! Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord answered Samuel. I'm going to read it right now.

Listen. Here is God's answer in the Bible! *Read 1 Samuel 8:7. Again, emphasize the answers so the students can hear the answers for themselves from the Scripture.*

? Who is talking in this verse? *The Lord.*

? Who was the Lord talking to? *Samuel.*

God answered Samuel's prayer. God knew the people were rejecting Him! The people did not want God as their King. They wanted a man to be king. But God is our King!

? Do you know what it means to reject someone? *Allow for answers.*

? Well, think about something you don't like to eat or drink. Tell me some things you really DON'T like to eat! *Allow discussion.*

? What do you do when you see those things you really DON'T like? *Allow discussion.*

1 Samuel 8:4–6

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

1 Samuel 8:7

You might say, “No! I can’t eat that!” You might run away or tightly close your mouth and turn your face away, right? Well, that’s what it means to reject something. You turn away from it and you don’t want it. I brought something with me today from my kitchen called vinegar. It’s something very useful and safe. You can cook with it and even clean with it. I want you to just smell it! *Show bottle of vinegar. Pour some vinegar into a cup. Walk around the circle allowing the students to smell the vinegar.*

? Who would like to DRINK the vinegar? *Allow discussion.*

No! Vinegar is VERY sour and does not taste good. So if someone gave it to you to drink, you would probably reject it. You would probably turn away from it. And that’s what the people did to God! They rejected Him. They turned away from Him. They didn’t want anything to do with Him. They wanted to be like the nations around them. They wanted a king, but God is our true King!

1 Samuel 8:10

God warned them. They would not like a king. God spoke through His prophet Samuel. And we know what God told them! Listen to this! *Hold up your Bible. Turn to and read 1 Samuel 8:10.*

? Who was talking? *Samuel.*

? Who told Samuel what to say? Whose words was he speaking? *The Lord’s.*

Samuel was a prophet for God. Samuel told the people what the Lord had said. And this was God’s warning! God said the king would take the people’s sons and make them become soldiers in his army. The king would also take their daughters so they could cook and bake for him. He would take the best from their crops and gardens—and even take their sheep and donkeys!

? Does that sound like a good idea? *No!*

But, the people said, “We still want a king!” So God told Samuel to give them what they asked for—a king, instead of God. The people were rejecting God. They were turning away from Him. They wanted a man for a king. They didn’t want God to be their king. But, God is our King! He wants to be our King, and He wanted to be their King.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. God told Samuel to give them a king. And in the end it would not be a good thing. God warned the people that they would not like a king. They didn’t care. They wanted to be like all the other nations. They wanted a king. And God chose a man named Saul to be the first king of Israel.

1 John 2:15

The people way back then wanted to be like everyone else. But God didn’t like it. God wants us to love Him and not the things of the world. God

warns us like He warned the people way back then. Listen to the warning God gives us. *Read 1 John 2:15.*

? This verse tells us that we must not love . . . what? *The world.*

We shouldn't love the world more than we love God. That's what the people in Samuel's day did. They loved the world more than they loved God. God says if we love the world more than we love Him, then we don't love Him at all! We have to love God. God wants to be our King!

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Now let's sing our Memory Verse Song. Sing together while clapping and marching around the room.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Good job! Because God is our King, we should worship Him! This song talks about how great God is. He is great. He is our King! Let's sing. Ready? Sing the song, "God is Great," using hand motions. That was great!

Refer to the past Flip Chart Pages. God called Samuel in the night (Lesson 9). God called Joshua (Lesson 1) to lead the people. God called Gideon (Lesson 5) to fight the battle. God called Ruth to follow Him (Lesson 8). One day you may hear God's call. When you do, you will want to listen and obey! Let's sing the song, "God Calls You." Sing the "God Calls You" song together. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and at the back of the Teacher Guide.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse and Song Pages as you sing.



God Is My King Crown

MATERIALS

- God Is My King Crowns, trimmed for each student
- Crayons
- Stickers for decorating the crowns
- Stapler or tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, cut out, and trim the crown patterns. Have children color and/or decorate with stickers the portion of the crown that says "God Is My King." As the children finish, help them to assemble and tape or staple the crowns to fit their heads.

We are going to color and decorate some crowns. These crowns remind us that God is our King! When we are finished we're going to run a tunnel relay!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The people we read about today forgot that God is their King. They turned away from God. They did not love Him. They rejected Him. They wanted a man to be king. But we have to remember that God is our King. We should love Him more than anything else.



God Is Our King Tunnel Relay

MATERIALS

- God Is My King Crowns, already assembled
- Sheet, blanket, or other fabric

INSTRUCTIONS

Make a tunnel using the blanket, sheet, or fabric and tables or chairs. Students will hold their crowns, run through the tunnel, put the crowns on their heads when they get out, and shout, "God is our King! We should love Him more than anything else!"

We are going to run through this tunnel. I want you to carry your crown through the

tunnel. When you get out, I want you to put your crown on your head and shout, "God is our King! We should love Him more than anything else!" Ready? *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The people turned away from God. God warned them, didn't He? He said things would not be good if they made a man their king. I pray that we all remember that only God can be our King. We should love Him more than anything else!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

1 Samuel 16:7b For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flash Cards (one or more sets, depending on size of class)

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students sit around a table or squat down in a circle. Pass out one flashcard to each child in order. As you go around the circle, have each child show his/her card and "pop" up as everyone says the word on his/her card. Once everyone is standing up, go around again and have the children sit down when their word is spoken. Repeat.

We're going to pretend we're popcorn! But you only get to "pop" when it's your turn. I'm going to give each of you a memory

verse card. Sit down and hold onto your card. We're all going to say the words on the cards together. When we come to your card, that's when you get to "pop" up from your seat like this. *Show example of simply standing up quickly. Remember to say the words nice and loud together and "pop" up when it's your turn. Here we go. Everyone sit down and get ready. Play the game. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say the verse on their own.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Lord knew what the people of Israel were thinking in their hearts. They rejected Him so they could be like the people all around them. God can see what's in your heart and my heart, too. We need to be careful to make sure and keep God as the King in our hearts. He wants us to love Him more than anything else in our lives.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review the lesson with the children while enjoying the snack for the day.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God had done so many great things for the people of Israel. But they didn't want to follow Him anymore. They wanted a different king to follow instead of God. They rejected God. They turned away from Him. They did not love Him like they should. But we need to remember that God is our King! We should love Him more than anything else.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The people rejected God. They turned away from Him. They did not love God more than anything else in their lives. They wanted to be just like the other nations. They did not want God to be their King. The Bible says that we should love God with ALL our heart, ALL our soul, and ALL our mind. As you grow up, can you remember that? He is the one you should love more than anything! God is our King. He is the one we should worship and praise.

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



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Thank God for being our King.
- Pray that God will give us hearts that truly love Him and not reject Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

1 SAMUEL 16:7

(To the tune of "Are you sleeping?")

Shout: 1 Samuel 16:7!

For the Lord,

(Are you sleeping?)

For the Lord,

(Are you sleeping?)

Does not see—

(Brother John?)

As man sees!

(Brother John?)

Man looks at the outward—

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The ou-outward appearance.

(Morning bells are ringing.)

But the Lord—

(Ding, ding, dong,)

Looks at the heart!

(Ding, ding, dong,)

Shout: 1 Samuel 16:7!

GOD IS GREAT

(To the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot")

With hand motions.

When we read the Bible, we learn of

God—

(I'm a little tea pot short and stout.)

Open hands like a book, point to head, point up.

No one will ever be like Him.

(Here is my handle, here is my spout.)

Shake head, "no," holding hands palm out, moving them back and forth.

He is oh, so great. So great He is!

(When I get all steamed up, hear me shout!)

Point upward with both hands.

I just have to praise His name!

(Tip me over and pour me out.)

Clap with the rhythm.

GOD CALLS YOU!

(To the tune of "Skip, Skip, Skip to My Lou")

God calls you to obey.

(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou.)

God calls you to obey.

(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou.)

God calls you to obey.

(Skip, skip, skip to my Lou.)

Yes! I'll obey today, Lord!

(Skip to my Lou, my darlin!)

Think of fun ways to sing. For example:

Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction.

Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out!

Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.