



JUNE 1, 2025

# THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-10

## CHRIST CONNECTION

The Israelites rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king. When we sin, we also reject God's rule in our lives as our King. Jesus, the King of kings, died for our sin and rose again so we could be forgiven.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

## MEMORY VERSES

Psalms 103:19

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

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

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

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

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

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

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSE

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

**Psalms 103:19, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This is the first week of a new unit, which means we have a new memory verse! On the TVs in your classroom, select and play the motion video to teach kids the hand motions to aid in memorizing this unit's memory verse.

As a class, repeat the motions on the video 2-3 times to get the hang of it.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on June 22!*



# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

When Samuel grew old, he made his sons judges over Israel. Sadly, Samuel's sons did not follow his example. They were bad leaders of God's people.

The elders of Israel went to Samuel and said, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Give us a king to be our ruler, just as all the other nations have."

Samuel prayed to the Lord. God said, "They have not rejected you; they have rejected me as their king. Listen to them, but also warn them about the power a king has over the people he rules."

Samuel went to the people and said, "Here are the things a king will do. He will take your sons to join his army. He will take your daughters to serve in his house. He will take your best fields and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your crops and your flocks. You will cry out for help, but the Lord will not answer you."

The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No! We must have a king over us," they said.

God told Samuel, "Listen to the people, and appoint a king for them."

Now, there was an impressive young man named Saul who was a head taller than everyone else in Israel. One day, his father's donkeys wandered off, and Saul was sent to find them. After looking for several days, Saul's servant recommended they ask Samuel for help.

Before Saul met Samuel, God told Samuel that He would send him a man to rule over His people. God said this man would save His people from the Philistines. When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "This is the man who will be king over my people Israel." Samuel took a flask of oil and anointed Saul as the future king. Saul then returned home and said nothing to his family about it.

Later, Samuel called all the people together. One by one, the tribes, clans, and families of Israel came before Samuel, and Saul was selected as king. They searched for him everywhere and could not find him. Then the Lord said, "There he is, hidden with the supplies."

When the people saw how tall and impressive Saul was, they shouted, "Long live the king!" Samuel appointed Saul as king, and then he sent all the people home.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

The Israelites rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king. When we sin, we also reject God's rule in our lives as our King. **Jesus, the King of kings, died for our sin and rose again so we could be forgiven.**

# K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

Have kids sit in a circle. Give one kid the provided paper crown. Pull up the [Elementary Spotify playlist](#) to play during the activity by scanning the QR code below.

**Scan with your camera to open the playlist!**



Challenge kids to pass the crown around the circle as soon as the music begins. When the music stops, the kid holding the crown should put it on their head, stand up, and give a direction to the other kids. (e.g., “hop on one foot,” “pat your head five times,” etc.).

Continue until everyone has had a chance to wear the crown!

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Kings have the power to tell people what to do. Some kings may use their power for good, while others may use their power for bad. Today we learned how Israel wanted a king like other nations. Israel rejected God and chose Saul to be their king.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



The Bible is so important because it's the Word of God! It's also a big book that's hard to understand sometimes, which is why we want to grow in our Bible skills! By growing in these skills, we can better understand God's Word and learn where to turn to find the truth of who God is and how much He loves us.

## BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

On the TV in your room, open the file labeled “Old or New Testament?”. Tell kids that each slide will have a book of the Bible, and they will have to work together to decide whether the book is from the Old Testament or the New Testament.

You can either divide kids into two teams or have them all work together as a class. Encourage kids to play without using the Bible or any other references.



# 345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games  
with older kids after  
Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

Divide kids into three or four groups and provide each group with a Bible, paper, and a pen.

Have the groups look up and read *1 Samuel 10:17-19*. Lead kids to write down all the good things God had done for His people in these verses. Then, invite groups to share their responses (e.g., God rescued Israel from Egypt, etc.).

Then, have groups look up and read *Isaiah 33:22*. Discuss how Saul would never be a king who could save his people from their sin. Israel had many kings after Saul, but none of them could bring salvation either. Isaiah reminds us who the true King is—God—and how He alone saves His people.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Israel rejected God as king and chose Saul to be their king. Jesus is the true King who saves people from their sins. We can ask God to give us hearts that accept Jesus as our Savior and King.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



The Bible is so important because it's the Word of God! It's a big book that can be hard to understand sometimes, which is why we want to grow in our Bible skills! By growing in these skills, we can better understand God's Word and learn where to turn to find the truth of who God is and how much He loves us.

## BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

Split your group into two teams and tape the provided challenges on the whiteboard (make sure the challenges are in the correct order and a blank paper is covering the first challenge).

On one side of the room, place Bibles, paper, and pens/pencils. On the other side of the room, have the teams line up behind a set starting point.

When you say, "Go," the first person from each team will race to the board and reveal their challenge. Once that person completes the challenge, they'll race back and tag the next person. The next kid in line will then reveal the next challenge and complete it.

The first team to complete their challenges wins!

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. Why did the Israelites choose Saul to be their king instead of God? Why was this bad?
2. How can comparison and wanting what others have tempt us to reject God's authority?
3. Why is God the perfect King?
4. How can Jesus become our King?
5. What can we do when we sin and reject God's Word?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your room. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your group!



## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!