



JUNE 1, 2025

# THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-10

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God is our good and kind King.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

## MEMORY VERSE

The LORD rules over everything. Psalm 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.

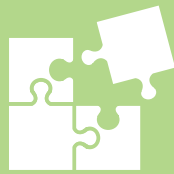
What were the spiritual implications of the Israelites' desire for a king? How does Christ fit into the narrative?

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.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

### ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

The LORD rules over everything,  
everything, everything.  
The LORD rules over everything.  
Psalm 103:19

*(Repeat)*

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “The LORD rules over everything.” God chose Saul to be king over the Israelites, but God is our good and kind King who rules over everything!

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Israel wanted a king to be their leader. They chose Saul to be their king. Samuel poured oil on Saul’s head to show he would be the king. When we sin, we choose our own way instead of God’s way. Jesus came to save us from our sins so we can follow God. God is our good and kind King.

### ACTIVITY #2: WHO IS THE KING?

Write **Saul** on two pieces of construction paper in large letters. Then, write **Jesus** on three pieces of construction paper in large letters.

Arrange the papers on the floor. Ask, “Who is the king?” and invite a child to toss a beanbag onto the papers.

If the beanbag lands on one of the Saul papers, lead children to respond, “Saul was the first king of Israel.” If the beanbag lands on one of the Jesus papers, lead children to respond, “Jesus is our King!”

Continue until everyone has had a chance to toss a beanbag on the papers.



## THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

God's servant, Samuel, was getting old. Samuel gave his two sons the job of being judges in Israel. Sadly, Samuel's sons were not good judges.

The leaders in Israel talked to Samuel. "We want a king," they said.

Samuel talked to God about it. God said, "They don't want Me to be their king. Tell them a human king is not a good idea."

So, Samuel told the people, "A king will take your sons to be in his army. Your daughters will have to work for him. He'll take your best things to keep for himself. It won't be good."

But the people didn't listen. They said, "We want a king!"

One day, Samuel met a big, strong man named Saul. Saul was looking for his father's missing donkeys. God said to Samuel, "Saul should be the king." So, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head to show he would be king someday.

Later, Samuel called God's people together. They looked for Saul, but he was hiding. When they found him, they shouted, "Hooray for the king!"

Saul became the king in Israel.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God's people chose Saul to be king. When we sin, we choose ourselves instead of God. Jesus came to save us from our sins so we can follow God. **God is our good and kind King.**

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Who was the first king of Israel?
4. Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**