

LESSON 54

Israel Demands a King

1 SAMUEL 8–10



BIBLE TRUTH

DESIRING ANYTHING MORE THAN GOD, EVEN IF IT'S A GOOD THING, IS EVIL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 54)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 54

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Only God Can Change a Heart

SUPPLIES: two felt hearts—one gray, one red; flannelgraph

Oil Experience

SUPPLIES: olive oil; small bowl; paper towel or cloth

We Want a King

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson we will see that Israel was not content with a prophet—they wanted a king.

Ask the class if they remember who Samuel is. (He was the little boy whose mother was Hannah and who lived with Eli the priest.) Tell them that in today’s story Samuel is grown up and God is using him as a prophet.

Describe to your class that a prophet is a messenger for God to men. Prophets are only supposed to say what God tells them to say.

Act out just how a prophet would work. Tell the class that you are going to pretend to be God and pick several children out of the class to play the role of prophet.

Whisper one of the following things in one child’s ear and instruct that child to tell the rest of the class very loudly:

- God is good.
- God loves all people.
- God sent Jesus to die on the cross.

Repeat with each child you’ve chosen.

Tell the class that when God used a prophet like Samuel the people were supposed to listen to his words and obey. When they obeyed, they were not obeying man but God.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 54, “Israel Demands a King,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What happened in this story?

(The people of Israel wanted Samuel to give them a king. They wanted to be like the other peoples of the earth.)

What did Samuel warn them would happen if they were ruled by a king?

(He told them the king would force them to work for him and serve him [1 Samuel 8:10–18].)

Did the people listen to Samuel?

(No, the people did not want to hear Samuel; they just wanted to get what they desired [1 Samuel 8:19–21].)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Who picked a man to be king?

(God picked Saul to be king.)

Who did God use to tell Saul the news and anoint him king?

(God spoke to the prophet Samuel and told him whom he should anoint as king.)

What do you think it was like for Saul to hear he was to be king?

(God knew it would be hard for Saul to believe, and so God provided a sign by telling Saul [1 Samuel 10:2–9] all that would happen to him that day. The Lord through the prophet Samuel tells Saul, “The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power ... and you will be changed into a different person” [1 Samuel 10:6 NIV].)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Revelation 19:13–16

Israel requested a king to rule them like the rest of the nations had (1 Samuel 8:5). So, God answered their desires and gave them a man who was large in stature—a great king from the world's perspective. But God had another kind of king in mind, a king after God's own heart. God is not interested in the outward appearance but is interested in the heart. David eventually is selected by God, but ultimately, God would send Jesus to be an eternal king. Jesus would perfectly reflect the heart of God by becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross. In Philippians, God the Father promises that he is going to give Jesus the highest place of all and that every knee will bow before him. Why? Because he is the greatest King! It was always God's desire that his people be ruled, not by an earthly man, but by God as King.

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
Revelation 19:13–16 NIV

We are so blessed to have the greatest King of all, Jesus!

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 54—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What is Samuel doing to Saul?

(He is anointing him with oil.)

Why did Samuel anoint Saul with oil?

(Anointing with oil is the way God marked the person he wanted to become king.)

What was Samuel's job?

(Samuel was a prophet. Prophets spoke God's word to his people. In this story Samuel delivered God's word to the people of Israel and to Saul.)

Only God Can Change a Heart

SUPPLIES:

two felt hearts—one gray, one red
flannelgraph

Read 1 Samuel 10:1–10. Ask the children what happened to Saul in the story. Ask the children if they know how God changes a heart. Then read Ezekiel's description of how the Lord changes hearts: "I will remove the heart of stone ... and give them a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 11:19).

Use the flannel board and the gray and red felt hearts. (The gray heart represents a heart of stone and the red one, a heart of flesh. A heart of flesh is a soft heart that desires to obey and worship God.)

Put up the gray heart and ask the children if they think it is the heart of flesh or the heart of stone. Then ask them why God would compare a sinful heart to a heart of stone. (A stone is cold, sharp, and uncomfortable to lie on. That is a good picture of a sinful heart, which can lead us to say sharp things or reject people or treat them poorly.)

Now put up the red heart. Ask the children how a heart of flesh is different from a heart of stone. Ask them how a person with a heart changed by God would be different in their attitude toward God and others. (A person with a soft heart of flesh desires to obey and worship God and love others because of how God loved them.) Ask the children:

Which heart are we born with?

(the gray heart)

Which heart does God give us when we become a Christian?

(the red heart)

Who changes hearts?

(Only God can change hearts.)

What did God do to open the way to changing our hearts?

(He sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven and given a new heart of flesh.)

Oil Experience

SUPPLIES:

- olive oil
- small bowl
- paper towel or cloth

Pour some of the oil in the bowl and place it on a table in front of the class. Retell the Bible story, but insert this exercise at the point when Samuel anoints Saul. Have the children form a line leading to the table with the oil. Instruct them, one by one, to dip their index finger in the oil to see what it felt like. Then have them wipe off the oil on the towel or cloth and sit down. Once all of the children have touched the oil, explain that your oil is a lot like the oil Samuel would have used to anoint Saul. Then finish the retelling of the story.

We Want a King

Act out 1 Samuel 8:6–21. Have the children play the people of Israel asking repeatedly for a king. Play the part of Samuel who tries to explain why a king would not be such a good idea.

The children can shout in response to Samuel's arguments, "We want a king. We want a king!"

After the drama, ask the children, "Why do you think the people of Israel wanted a king so badly?" Talk about what it could have been like to keep God as their king rather than having a man as king. Reinforce that God is our perfect king.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 54 - ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING

