

LESSON 54

# Israel Demands a King

1 SAMUEL 8–12



**BIBLE TRUTH**

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** . . . . . **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Read 1 Samuel 8 from the Scriptures or read story 54, “Israel Demands a King,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Plant a Mole
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Empty Things Do not Provide  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ three empty half-gallon ice cream containers
  - ✓ two empty cans of whipped cream
  - ✓ an empty bottle of chocolate topping
  - ✓ ice cream scoop
  - ✓ bowls
  - ✓ spoons
  - ✓ optional: a small treat for everyone to assuage disappointment over the “pretend” ice cream treats
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ coloring page 54—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
There Is a Surprise Inside!  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ gift box, beautiful wrapping paper, ribbon
  - ✓ hammer
  - ✓ empty vegetable can
  - ✓ empty wallet
  - ✓ picture of a boy

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

**Israel rejects God and demands a king**—Samuel, called by God as a boy, is now grown up and serving God by ruling the people of Israel. Under Samuel’s rule as a judge and prophet to God’s people, God defeats the Philistines and restores peace to Israel.

As Samuel grows old he appoints his sons as judges, but they are sinful. Unlike Eli, no mention is made of parental failure, simply that his sons are corrupt, taking bribes and perverting justice (1 Samuel 8:3). As a result, the people of Israel demand that Samuel give them a king like the nations around them. Samuel warns the Israelites that having a king will be hard. But the people reply that they want a king who will “go out before us and fight our battles” (1 Samuel 8:20). God’s people do not trust God for God had always promised the Israelites that he would fight for them.

**Saul is chosen to be king**—The Israelites insist on having a king, so God chooses for them a man who is tall, handsome, and wealthy. The people like Saul because of his impressive appearance. He looks like a leader on the outside.

The Israelites want to trust in a king they can see. But during Saul’s reign, they will learn that just because a man looks impressive on the outside, does not mean he will follow God on the inside or lead the people as he should.

**It was always God’s plan for Israel to have a king**—It is a bit surprising that God goes along with Israel giving them a king. God also blesses Saul allowing him to save Israel from the Ammonites. Although the people were wrong in some of the reasons they wanted a king, it had long been in God’s plan to give them a king (see Genesis 17:6, 16). Throughout the history of Israel, God showed them mercy even though they were continually rebelling against him. God had a plan that was bigger than Israel’s sin, and he was determined to carry it out.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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!

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read 1 Samuel 8 from the Scriptures or read story 54, "Israel Demands a King," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Plant a Mole**

Prior to class involve the help of one of your more mature students. Tell them to do the following. Raise their hand and tell you that the class is boring and you think another teacher could do a better job. Wait for the class to react a bit. Correct him by saying that you work hard to prepare the lessons and that another teacher may be worse than you are. Have the student respond by repeating his request that he would like a different teacher. Again, wait a minute for the class to realize the impact and then move on to the questions.

First, explain to the class that the whole exercise was prearranged and that you asked the student to confront you.

Then ask the class the following questions:

**What did you think when {name of child accomplice} confronted me?**

*(I thought they were being disrespectful and was very surprised they would do that.)*

**Did it surprise you even more that they did not change their attitude but made their demand a second time?**

*(Draw out the class a bit on this.)*

**What do you think God thought of Israel's request to replace God as King with a man?**

*(God thought it was an insult against him.)*

**Did this exercise help you to see just how sinful Israel was in asking for another king?**

*(Yes, if it felt so bad to see a student disrespecting a teacher, how much more should we be affected when we read how Israel disrespected God?)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**

**Empty Things Do not Provide**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ three empty half-gallon ice cream containers
- ✓ two empty cans of whipped cream
- ✓ an empty bottle of chocolate topping
- ✓ ice cream scoop
- ✓ bowls
- ✓ spoons
- ✓ optional: a small treat for everyone to assuage disappointment over the “pretend” ice cream treats

In preparation for class, empty the following cans and containers and wash them out: three half gallons of ice cream, two cans of whipped cream, one bottle of chocolate topping.

The object of this lesson is to show the children just how disappointing it is to trust in empty things rather than God (see 1 Samuel 12:21).

Place the ice cream containers and other items in a paper bag out of sight. After the class is seated, ask them if they like ice cream, and tell them you have a special surprise for them today. Pull out the containers and pretend they have some weight. Have one of the teachers start putting out bowls and spoons on the table. Ask the children which flavor they like the best. (Play this up, but never actually say they are getting any ice cream. This is a deception, but do not outright lie.)

Open up the first container and mime taking scoops of ice cream out and putting it in bowls. Mime adding chocolate syrup and whipped cream. (Make sure all the propellant is out of the whipped cream container or it will make a noise for your charade.) Pay no attention to the children’s comments. Continue the exercise, only speed things up. Give each person a bowl and then tell them to enjoy their surprise.

Then ask the class the following questions:

**When you first saw me take out the ice cream containers, what did you think?**  
*(I thought we were going to have ice cream.)*

**When you saw that the containers were empty, how did it make you feel?**  
*(disappointed)*

How is this exercise like our sin?

*(Sin promises us pleasure, but in the end it disappoints us.)*

How is this exercise like Israel asking God for a king so they would be like the other people?

*(God was their King. He delivered them time and again from their enemies. No human king could compare to God. Having a visible man in your midst to call king might make you feel good, but you will be sorely disappointed when he rules over you harshly or makes mistakes in battle and you are conquered. Saul did all these things in the end.)*

**WORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

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

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**

**There is a Surprise Inside!**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ gift box, beautiful wrapping paper, ribbon
- ✓ hammer
- ✓ empty vegetable can
- ✓ empty wallet
- ✓ picture of a boy

Before class, wrap up in the box the hammer, the empty can, the wallet, and the picture. Add a pretty bow.

Show the children the beautifully wrapped gift, and ask them to describe what it looks like. Tell them that your present represents Israel’s new king. Israel wanted to be like all the other nations—so they asked for a king. Samuel warned them that a king would not treat them kindly.

Have the children open the package. Tell them that an earthly king looks good to the people of Israel at first, but once they get a king he will not treat them as God does. As you pull the items out of the box, explain what they represent:

- The hammer signifies that the king would make them work.
- The empty vegetable can signifies that the king would take the harvest.
- The empty wallet signifies that the king would take their money.
- The picture of a boy signifies that the king would enlist the people’s sons into the army.

You can read the list in 1 Samuel 8:10–20 so they can hear Samuel’s warning for themselves.



LESSON 54 - ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING

