

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 . . . . . 15 MIN**  
Tape out a Path  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ masking tape
  - ✓ index cards prepared as directed below
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 20 MIN**  
Applying to Our Lives  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ paper and pencils
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**  
Saul Is Anointed  
**SUPPLIES:**
  - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Give Us a King!

**TOTAL 95 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.

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

*King*

From the beginning, God desired a king for Israel and a kingdom was promised and prophesied (see Genesis 17:6; Exodus 19:6; Numbers 24:17–19). Here though the people wanted a king to fight their wars like the other pagan nations. In contrast, God wanted a king who would lead the people in the ways of God not in idolatry. David would be such a king, and his life would point toward the King of kings, Jesus.

## 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** . . . . . **15 MIN**

**Tape out a Path**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ masking tape
- ✓ index cards prepared as directed below

This exercise is designed to help the children see how God is at work behind the scenes to achieve his purposes. Write out the following on index cards:

1. Your father's donkeys are lost. Follow the tape path and search for them. Stop anytime you reach an X on the line and read the card for your next clue before you continue.
2. You have searched through the hill country of Ephraim now continue to the land of Shalishah.
3. You have not found them in Shalishah so you had better look in Shaalim. Continue your search.
4. You did not find them in Shaalim; you should look in the land of Benjamin. Continue your search.
5. You did not find them in the land of Benjamin; look in the land of Zuph. Continue your search.
6. They were not in the land of Zuph, and your father may become worried about you. You had better go look for the prophet who can tell you where they are. Continue your search.
7. You have just met a young woman who has told you to hurry the prophet is in the city. Go find him there.
8. You have found Samuel. He greets you and tells you he knew you were coming. God sent you!

Tape out a course in your classroom with eight stopping points. At each stopping point mark an X with tape on the tape line and nearby post the corresponding clue card to be read. Divide the class up into teams of five and send them on their way one team at a time. Instruct them to stop at every X and get their next instructions. Appoint a reader in every group and send them off. Wait until the first team has reached the third station before sending the second team. When all the children have completed the course have them sit down.

Read through the account of Saul's journey (1 Samuel 9:1–20). Ask the class the following questions:

- Why did Saul think he was traveling?  
*(Saul thought he was searching for lost donkeys.)*
- What was the true purpose of Saul's journey?  
*(God was sending him to Samuel to be anointed king over Israel.)*
- Read 1 Samuel 9:16. How did God know to tell Samuel that Saul would come even before Saul started looking for his donkeys?  
*(God is all-knowing and he controls all things, directing them to work according to his plan.)*
- Giving Israel a king was a small part of God's bigger plan. What is God's big plan?  
*(God's big plan is to use the introduction of kingship in Israel to bring the ultimate King, Jesus.)*

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

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

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 20 MIN**

Applying to Our Lives

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper and pencils

Read through 1 Samuel 12. Give the children about fifteen minutes to write down the things that apply to us today with the corresponding verse. Have them explain why they chose their answers.

Here are a few examples:

1. "If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD ... it will be well" (1 Samuel 12:14).  
God's voice to us is his written Word. If we obey his Word, it will go well with us.
2. "If you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you" (1 Samuel 12:15).  
If we don't follow God's Word, then we will fall under God's judgment.

3. “Do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart” (1 Samuel 12:20).

Jesus repeated the command to love God with all your heart in Matthew 22:37.

4. “Do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver” (1 Samuel 12:21).

Nothing can save us but Jesus. If we turn to anything else, we will be lost.

5. “The LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself” (1 Samuel 12:22).

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. Jesus and his mission on earth are proof that God will have a people.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Saul Is Anointed**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Samuel anointing Saul with oil.

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

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

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

**Give Us a King!**

Explain to the children that you are going to do a skit to depict the people demanding a king. After each phrase below, the children should shout: “Give us a king!”

Choose a good reader to play the role of Samuel. This child should read the phrases below as though pleading with the people.

- Now that I am old, I have made my sons judges over Israel. (Give us a king.)
- If I appoint a king, he will force your sons into his army. (Give us a king.)
- He will force your sons to work for him. (Give us a king.)
- He will force your daughters to work for him. (Give us a king.)
- He will take away the best of your fields and vineyards. (Give us a king.)
- He will take a tenth of your harvest. (Give us a king.)
- He will take your servants and animals for himself. (Give us a king.)
- Because of your king, the Lord will not answer you. (Give us a king.)

Ask the class whom the people should have wanted as their king. (The answer is God. He was their king; he took care of them. By demanding an earthly king, they were saying that God was not good enough. But God used their desire for a king to set up a kingdom where one day Jesus their heavenly king would be born and live and die on the cross for their sin.)