

ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

Desiring anything more than God, even if it's a good thing, is evil.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 8

MONDAY

Israel rejected God and demanded another king

Israel rejected God and demanded another king – During the life of Samuel, God routed the Philistines and restored peace to Israel. The aging Samuel appointed his sons as judges, but they were corrupt. Frustrated with the judges' corruption, the people demanded that Samuel give them a king. Instead of asking Samuel to discipline his sons, the people demanded a change.

In response to their demand, Samuel gave them a lengthy warning about how much they stood to lose. After this warning, the true motive of the people was exposed. They wanted a king who would “go out before us and fight our battles”. This request was a blatant rejection of God. God was the one who had gone before the people, despite their rebellion, and destroyed their enemies.

In spite of their sinful motives, God granted their request. The prophet Hosea shared this commentary from God, “I gave you a king in my anger and I took him away in my wrath” (Hosea 13:11).

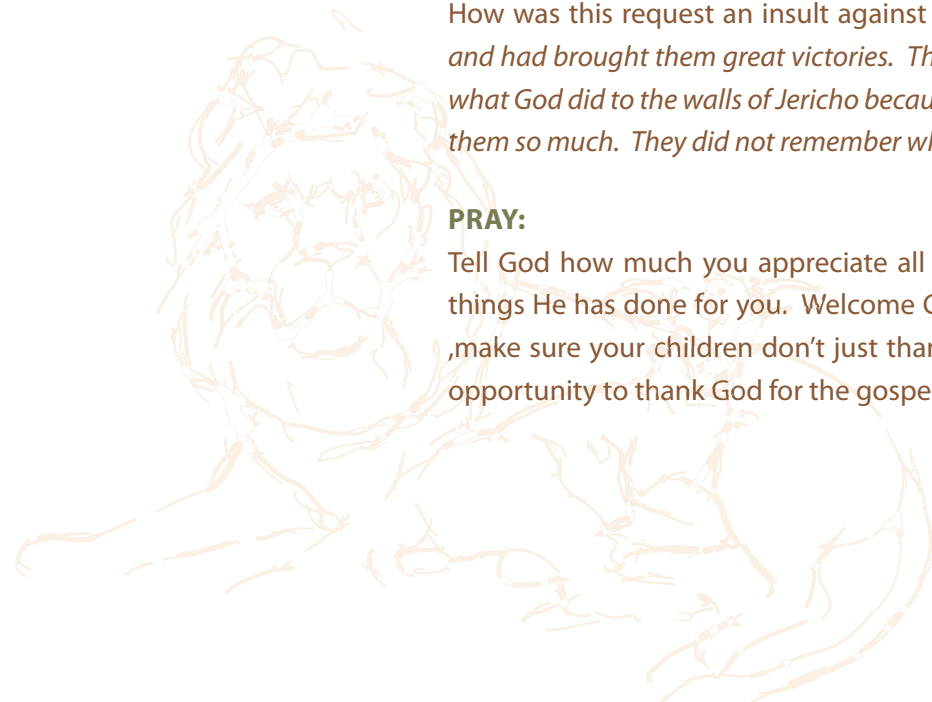
TALK ABOUT IT:

Did Israel want a king for the right reasons? (*No. Israel wanted a king they could see, one who would lead them like the kings of the ungodly nations.*)

How was this request an insult against God? (*God had already led Israel into battle and had brought them great victories. They forgot what God did to the Egyptians and what God did to the walls of Jericho because Israel wanted to be like the nations around them so much. They did not remember what a wonderful King the Lord had been.*)

PRAY:

Tell God how much you appreciate all that He has done. Thank Him for specific things He has done for you. Welcome Christ as your King in your prayers. (Parents, make sure your children don't just thank God for material blessings and miss the opportunity to thank God for the gospel.)





Saul is chosen to be king

Saul is chosen to be king – God gave the Israelites Saul, a man with a very impressive outward appearance. Saul was on a search for lost donkeys. But in reality, God was sending him to Samuel (1 Samuel 9:15-16). God chose a man who looked like a leader on the outside, but who would serve himself and bring suffering to Israel.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did the people like Saul? *(Saul was taller than the other men of Israel who only came up to his shoulders.)*

Can we be tempted like the Israelites were? *(Yes, we sometimes place our trust in what is desirable, strong, or attractive to the world rather than placing our trust in God. Anytime we covet, or desire, that thing too much, we are not content with what God has provided and so we sinfully try to get what we want by ourselves.)*

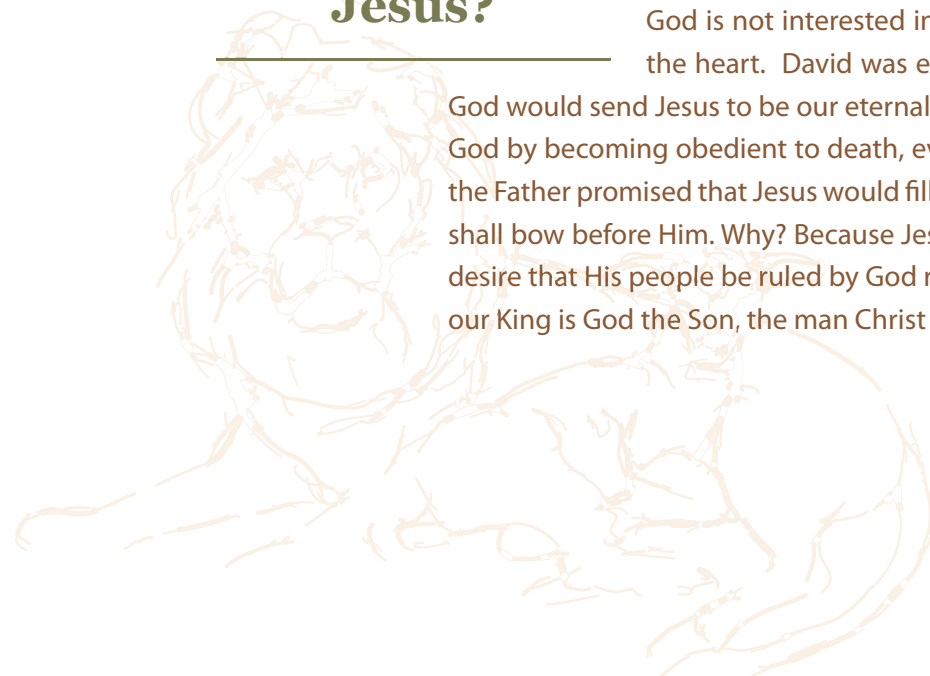
PRAY:

Ask God to help you trust in the Lord and not crave pleasure or security from things that God does not want you to have.



Where is Jesus?

Israel requested a king to rule them like the rest of the nations (1 Samuel 8:5). So God answered their desire and gave them a man who was large in stature. Saul would make a great king from the world's perspective. But God has another kind of king in mind, a king after his own heart. God is not interested in outward appearances, but is interested in the heart. David was eventually selected by God. But, ultimately, God would send Jesus to be our eternal King. Jesus perfectly reflected the heart of God by becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross. In Philippians, God the Father promised that Jesus would fill the highest place of all and that every knee shall bow before Him. Why? Because Jesus is the greatest King! It was always God's desire that His people be ruled by God rather than mere man. How wonderful that our King is God the Son, the man Christ Jesus.



TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is Jesus a better king than Saul or David? *(Jesus is perfect in every way. He is fully loving, just, and merciful. If we place our trust in him we will not be put to shame. We can trust that He will rule us perfectly and is for our good.)*

PRAY:

Invite your children to pray to King Jesus and ask Him to pour out His Spirit so we can follow Him.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 11

THURSDAY

God routed the Ammonites and blessed Saul's kingship in spite of Israel's sin

God routed the Ammonites and blessed Saul's kingship in spite of Israel's sin – As is the case throughout the story of Israel, God had a plan that was bigger than Israel's sin. In spite of Israel's sinful motives, God blessed Saul. God anointed Saul (1 Samuel 10:1), He touched his heart (1 Samuel 10:9), and He poured out His Spirit upon Saul (1 Samuel 11:6). God gave Saul victory over the Ammonites and sent His prophet to commission Saul (1 Samuel 11:14-15). God was making a promised transition. It was not the asking for a king that was sinful, but asking for wrong reasons. God had planned to give a king to Israel. He had announced it to Abraham (Genesis 17: 6, 16). God wanted to give them a king after God's own heart.

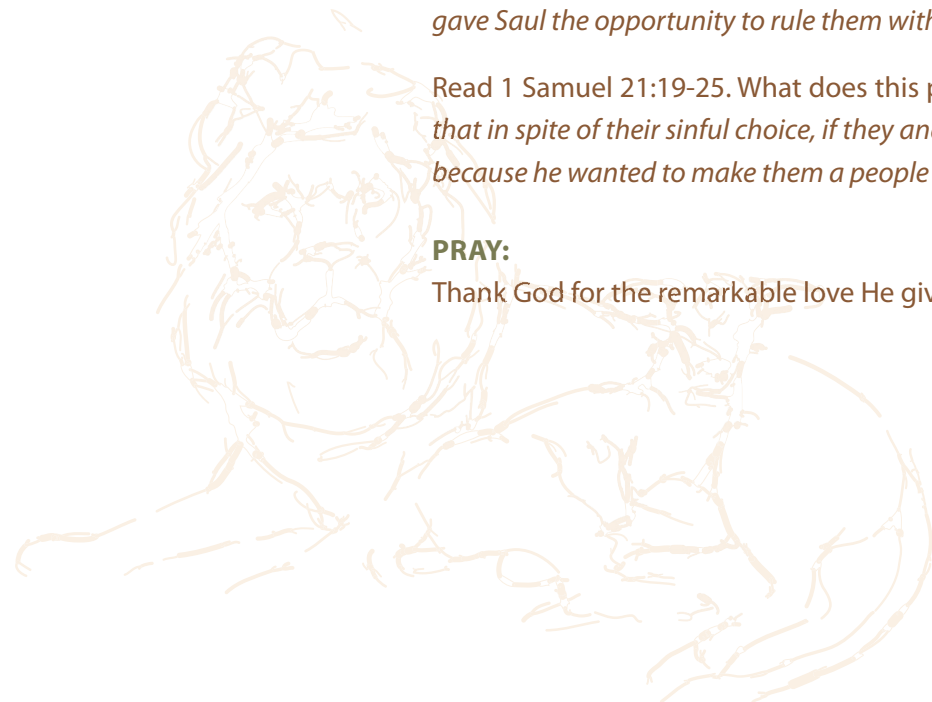
TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God show His mercy to Israel? *(In spite of Israel's sinful request for a king, God gave Saul the opportunity to rule them with righteousness.)*

Read 1 Samuel 21:19-25. What does this passage tell us about God? *(God told Israel that in spite of their sinful choice, if they and their king follow God he would bless them because he wanted to make them a people for Himself.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the remarkable love He gives to us by making us His people.





On the road to Emmaus.

John the Baptist is the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus. Jesus is the messenger of the covenant who comes into the temple. Mark identifies John the Baptist and quotes Malachi 3:1 at the start of his gospel (Mark 1:1-3).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this verse remind us of Jesus? (*John the Baptist was a messenger to proclaim Christ's arrival. Jesus is the messenger of God sent to tell us about the new covenant.*)

Why do you think Mark started his gospel by quoting the Old Testament? (*Mark wanted his hearers to place the same importance upon the words he was writing as they did on the scriptures of the law and prophets. This was not a new story, just a continuation of God's story.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for the way the whole Bible story fits together and how God prepared the way for Jesus by giving hints in the life of Israel and by sending John to announce the Messiah's coming.

