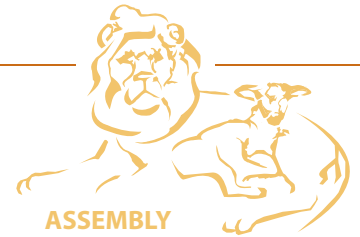


ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I SAMUEL 8-10



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE A HEART

Supplies:

- one heart made out of gray felt
- one heart made out of red felt

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 in Ezekiel 11:17-20.

Use the flannel board. Use the gray and red flannel hearts. Ask the children how a person with a changed heart would be different. Don't just point to outward works but inward change such as loving God and wanting to obey his Word.

WE WANT A KING

Act out 1 Samuel 8:6-21.

Have the children play the people of Israel asking repeatedly for a king. Have one of the teachers play Samuel who is trying 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.

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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.

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

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6-11)

Israel requested a king to rule them like the rest of the nations had (1 Samuel 8:5). So, God answers their desires and gives them a man who is large in stature a great king from the world's perspective. But God has 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)

