

ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: I SAMUEL 8-9



The STORY

Read "Israel Asks for a King" from 365 Read-aloud Bedtime Bible Stories (page 100).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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, see 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, see 1 Samuel 8:19-21.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Read "Samuel Anoints Israel's King" from 365 Read-aloud Bedtime Bible Stories (page 102). Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Samuel pouring oil on Saul's head. Engage the children by asking:

- 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 man 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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, read "God Chooses Israel's King" from 365 Read-aloud Bedtime Bible Stories (page 101), engage the children by asking:

- Who picked a man to be king? (God picked Saul to be king.)
- Who did God use to tell Saul and anoint him king? (God spoke to the prophet Samuel and told him who he should anoint for His 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 in detail all that would happen to him that day. See 1 Samuel 10:2-9. 1 Samuel 10:6 says "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will be changed into a different person.")



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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)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.