



# ISRAEL'S FIRST KING



## 1 SAMUEL 8-15

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

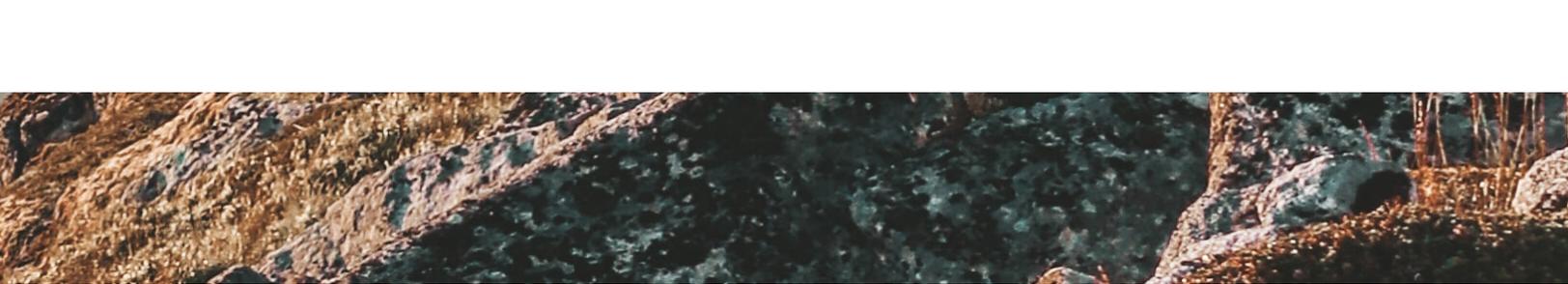
### **Tell the Bible Story**

Samuel was a judge over Israel. At this time, Israel had no king, but the leaders of Israel said, "We want a king like the nations around us!" Samuel wasn't sure how to respond, so he prayed to God. God said, "Give them what they want, but warn them what it will be like to have an earthly king."

A king could make their sons serve in the army, he could make their daughters work for him, or he could take away their fields and servants. But the Israelites didn't care. "Give us a king!" they said.

God brought to Samuel a man named Saul. "You will be king!" Samuel said. Saul was surprised; he was from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel. Samuel anointed Saul, and the Spirit of God was with Saul.

When the time came for Samuel to introduce the Israelites to their new king, no one could find



Saul. God said, “There he is, hidden among the supplies.” The people ran to Saul. “Long live the king!” they said.

The Israelites thought Saul would be a good king, but Saul did not obey God. One day, Saul took an army to fight the Philistines. But the Philistines had more chariots, more horses, and more soldiers. Saul wanted to ask God for help. Maybe if he made an offering to God, they would win the battle.

There was one problem: only the priests, like Samuel, were allowed to give offerings to God. Saul waited, but Samuel did not come. Saul’s soldiers started to leave, so Saul decided to make an offering to God himself.

Then Samuel arrived. “You have disobeyed God,” Samuel said. “You will not be king much longer. God is going to find someone obedient to be king.”

Some time later, the Israelites won a battle against the Amalekites (uh MAL uh kights). God wanted Saul to destroy everything, but Saul only destroyed things he didn’t want.

God told Samuel, “I regret that I made Saul king because he does not obey Me.”

Samuel confronted Saul. “I did obey God!” Saul argued. “I only saved the best animals to sacrifice to the Lord.”

Samuel asked, “Does God care more about obedience or sacrifices? You rejected His instruction, so God has rejected you as king.”

Saul admitted his sin and asked for forgiveness. Samuel said, “God has taken away your kingship today, and He will make someone else king.”

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God’s plan and wanted a king like the nations around them. God gave them a king, but Saul did not obey God. God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus. King Jesus trusted and obeyed God perfectly and died so sinners could be forgiven and accepted.*



## Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 8. Remind kids that the Book of 1 Samuel is the fourth book of Old Testament History. It tells about Israel's history after the time of the judges. Explain that Samuel was the last judge of Israel. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 8:6-7.

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. Why didn't God want His people to have an earthly king?

*Point out that the people had rejected God and wanted to be like the nations around them, but God had chosen His people to be holy. His plan for them was better—to give them a heavenly king to lead them perfectly.*

2. Why do you think people live for things other than Jesus?

*Prompt your kids to discuss how people might live for power, comfort, recognition, or success. Help them consider that until a person knows Jesus, other things might seem better. We can point people to Jesus—our greatest treasure—for true life and joy.*

3. How should believers be different than others around them?

*Remind your kids that God calls His people to be holy like He is holy. The word holy means "set apart." People living with Jesus as King belong to a kingdom that doesn't make sense to the world.*

## SAY:

*God's people wanted a king like the nations around them. God gave them a king, but Saul did not obey God. He gave offerings at Gilgal when only the priests were supposed to give offerings. Then, when Israel defeated the Amalekites, Saul did not destroy everything as God commanded.*

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find 1 Samuel 8–15. Remind your kids to use the table of contents to find where the book starts. Discuss how the large chapter numbers and small verse numbers help us find specific places in our Bibles. You may choose select passages to read or to briefly review the story.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where was Saul when it was time to introduce him as king?

*Hiding among supplies, 1 Sam. 10:22*

2. Why did Saul offer a sacrifice before battle?

*Saul's troops were afraid, and Samuel arrived later than Saul*



*expected him to; 1 Sam. 13:7-9)*

3. What did Samuel say about sacrifices and obedience?

*Obedience is better than sacrifices, 1 Sam. 15:22*

4. Why do you think God allowed Saul to be king if He knew Saul would disobey?

*Guide your kids to talk about God's power to use difficult circumstances for His glory and our good. Discuss what God might have been teaching the people of Israel through Saul's kingship. Point them to Jesus' crucifixion, where we see God use the evil actions of people to bring about good.*

5. What are some ways people reject Jesus as King today?

*Guide your kids to honestly discuss ways people might trust in or be led by things other than Jesus. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit helps us love and obey Jesus.*

6. What are some ways Jesus proves He is the perfect King?

*Guide your kids to think about what Jesus did for us. Remind them that He chose to die even though we were sinners and enemies of God. (Romans 5:6-10) Discuss Jesus' place of honor and glory with God the Father, and point kids to the hope we have for the future, when Jesus will return to reign over everything.*

## SAY:

*God's people wanted a king like the nations around them. God chose Saul to be king, but Saul was not a good king. Jesus is the perfect King. He loves us. He defeated sin and death for us.*