



Israel's First King

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 8-15

Memory Verse: ⁶No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. **Jeremiah 10:6**

Bottom Line: I trust Jesus and follow Him because He never fails us.

Big Picture Question: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Don't Blow It Minute to Win it

What You Need: 4 paper plates, 16 ping pong balls, Minute to Win It scorecard, pencils

What You Do:

- Lay 2 plates out for each team with 8 ping pong balls for each team.
- Separate kids into 2 teams.
- Each kid gets one minute to blow with their mouth as many balls as they can from one plate to the other.
- Have kids hold their hands behind their backs.
- If the ball goes off the plates, players may use their hands to place it back on the original plate to continue the game.
- Points may be awarded for successfully transferring all of the balls or for each individual ball that is transferred in under one minute.
- The next player gets a turn and the game continues till everyone has had a turn.

What You Say "This summer we are playing a different game each time you come to small group. As we play we should get to know each other's names and see if there is a way we can learn from our Bible story as well. It's time for large group, let's clean up and get ready to see what story we have today."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

CONTEXT

Today's Bible story picks up more than 20 years after the Philistines returned the ark of God to the Israelites. During that time, Israel began to seek God again, and Samuel led them to remove their foreign gods and worship God only.

Samuel had judged Israel throughout his lifetime, but he was getting old. So Samuel made his sons, Joel and Abijah, judges over Israel. But like many sons before them, Joel and Abijah did not follow the example of their father. They disobeyed God and caused problems for Israel. The elders of Israel spoke to Samuel about his sons and demanded a king. All the other nations around them had kings, they pointed out. Samuel knew their desire to imitate the nations around them was sinful, and he prayed to God.

"Give them what they want," God said. "They have not rejected you; they have rejected Me as their King." Samuel explained to the Israelites what rights a king would have over them; he warned them that when they regretted asking for a king—and they would regret it—God would not help them.

The people insisted on having a king, so God chose a man named Saul to be the king. By all appearances, Saul was a good king. He was handsome, taller than most people, and God had blessed him. But Saul failed to obey God. First, Saul sinned by burning offerings in Samuel's absence. Later, when the Israelites defeated the Amalekites, Saul did not follow God's instructions for destroying everything. The Lord regretted making Saul king.



As you teach, guide the kids to understand that Saul was not the king the people needed. All earthly kings are imperfect. But we can see how those kings point us to the perfect King, Jesus, who followed His Father's instructions without fail. Thank God for sending us the King we needed—a King who loved us enough to give His life for our salvation.

TEACHING FOCUS (1 Samuel 8-15)

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."

Sometime 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.*

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God will always be greater and more impressive than anything or anyone in life.
- The people could have followed God only, but they wanted a king.
- This king would fail the people so God sent us King Jesus who never fails us.
- **BL:** I trust Jesus and follow Him because He never fails us.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- Where was Saul when it was time to introduce him as king? (*hiding among supplies, 1 Sam. 10:22*)
- 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*)
- What did Samuel say about sacrifices and obedience? (*Obedience is better than sacrifices, 1 Sam. 15:22*)
- Why do you think God allowed Saul to be king if He knew Saul would disobey? *Guide 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.*



All Star Kids

June 23, 2019
Kinder – 2nd grade

- What are some ways people reject Jesus as King today? *Guide 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.*
- What are some ways Jesus proves He is the perfect King? *Guide 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.*

Activity: Good King, Bad King

What You Need: 2 hula hoops per group, tape, sticky notes, pen/pencil

What You Do:

- Place hula hoops on the ground so they slightly overlap in the middle.
- Tape them down so they do not slide around.
- Designate one hoop as good kings and the other as bad kings
- Invite the kids to raise their hands to provide traits that might be true of some kings.
- Write down each suggestion on a sticky note, and then allow the kid who suggested the trait to decide where it would go. She may stick the note in the appropriate area.
- Explain that the overlapping area is for traits that might describe both good and bad kings.

What You Say Saul was a bad king, but that doesn't mean he had no good traits. Other kings might be good but still have some bad traits. That's the problem with human kings; none are perfect.

God's people wanted a king like the nations around them, but they needed a king very unlike the kings around them. They needed a perfect King. Only Jesus is perfect. He's the perfect King whom God promised to send. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again to defeat death. Jesus will return some day to destroy all evil and fix everything that sin has broken. Then He will rule over all of creation! **BL: I trust Jesus and follow Him because He never fails us.**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse Name Tags (printable -1 set per week)

What You Do:

- Put one name tag on each kid.
- Challenge kids to work together to put themselves in order without speaking.
- Play a second round where they can speak.
- Then allow volunteers to say the verse from memory.
- Praise each kid's effort and encourage all the kids to continue working on the verse over the week.

What You Say " In this memory verse, God's Word tells us that no one is like Him. That means that no matter how strong, wise, kind, or powerful anyone else might be, God is stronger, wiser, kinder, and more powerful. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone."



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Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

“Lord God, we confess we look around at what others have and we want it too. We don’t always trust Your good plans. Like Saul, we are tempted to make excuses for why we sin. WE think our plans are better than Yours. Lord, forgive us. Thank You for providing Jesus, the perfect King. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone. **BL! BL: I trust Jesus and follow Him because He never fails us.**