

Israel Wants a King

1 Samuel 8

Teacher Preparation

Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*: <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-04-asking-for-a-king.pdf>

Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

Read and Discuss

1. Samuel led the children of Israel for a long time. In today's story he was getting old, and nearing death. As you know, the people decided that they didn't want a judge leading them, they wanted a king. Listen while I read part of this story from the Word.
2. Read *1 Samuel 8*.
3. So even though the Lord knew that the Children of Israel were making a bad choice, He let them do it, much as He lets us make bad choices too.
4. When the children of Israel came to Samuel to tell him that they wanted to be like the other countries around them, what did Samuel say? (that he would have to ask the Lord) The Lord knew that by doing this they were rejecting His Divine leadership, but He let them do it anyhow, and picked someone that He could work with. Before the people could say yes or no to having a king, Samuel told them all the downsides to having a king. Do you remember any of these? (He would take their food, their sons would have to fight in his armies, their daughters would be servants, etc.) But the Children of Israel didn't care, they still wanted a king. At this point in the history of the Jewish people, being more like other people was more important to them than doing the right thing.
5. Can you relate to that? How many times already in your life have you decided to (or just wished you could) do things the way your friends are doing things rather than what your parents or teachers have taught you to do?
6. Think about playing with your friends, maybe at recess or at a park. If someone in the group had the idea to do something wrong, or perhaps be mean to someone else, which is easier to do, follow along or stand up against them?
7. When you are a little kid, you are pretty much under the control of your parents. As you get older, more and more you get to make your own decisions. Are you going to do the right thing, or are you going to follow along with your friends whatever they do? Obviously, what you should really try to do is follow the Lord's way, and not the way of the crowd.

Activities and Project

- Give each student a piece of folded paper with people drawn on (or let them draw their own people). Make a sample to show them. They will cut out around the edges—leaving the hands and feet attached!—to make a string of people. On one side they will colour the first in line to be the Lord, and all the people following Him will be coloured in to be happy. On the other side, colour the first person to be a king (perhaps a selfish, greedy king) and the people that follow him are to be sad. Make the point that if we follow the Lord, then we will be happy to eternity. If we follow people who don't care about the Lord, then we may be happy for a moment, but in the long run we will be sad.
- Here's a good video that explains how to make a paper doll chain if you're not sure. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZo68K6vWZ4>

Supplies

- Copy of the Word
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of these pictures illustrating the story from:
 - <http://preparingyou.com/wiki/File:Voicesam.jpg>
 - <https://mybible.com/bibles/nasb/books/1sa/chapters/8>
- Brief slide show illustrating the story: <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/fn-samuel-king/>
- Pre-made sample of a paper doll chain to show to the students (optional)
- Pre-folded pieces of paper to make paper doll chains, one per student (cut a regular piece of copy paper into half lengthwise [4.25 x 11"], and then fold, accordion-style, into four sections).
- Crayons and markers

