

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. You are probably beginning to make more decisions on your own. You may be allowed to be away from your family for longer, and to do more on your own—certainly more than when you were little. This means that you are deciding, more and more, who **you** are going to follow. You know your parents are trying to help you to learn to follow in the path that the Lord has set for you, along with your teachers and the ministers. As you get older, you decide who you will pick for your leader—the people who are trying to lead to towards the Heaven and the Lord, or your friends, who may or may not be trying to do what the Lord asks them to do. Or perhaps you will pick something like money or fame or video games to be the most important thing in your life! Can you think of any times when you had to choose one or the other? Discuss. Obviously we are rooting for you to choose the Lord as your leader, and hope that whenever you have to choose, you choose His way, rather than the way of the world.

Activities and Project

- Play the board game with review questions. Students take turns rolling the die and moving forwards, and answering the questions from the various categories as they move around the board.

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 slideshow with simple pictures to illustrate the story: <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/fn-samuel-king/>
- Land of Canaan board game--print out from: <http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/classmat/judgesgameboard.htm>) 1 die, enough place markers for each student (actual plastic game pieces, or coins, or any small items that can be used for a game)
- List of game questions from: <http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/OT/Judges/DemandKing.htm>