

Lesson 1: Israel Wants a King

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Review the time of Judges and Samuel the last judge.
- 2) Study 1 Samuel 7 & 8 – The Israelites demand a king
- 3) See that God/Jesus is our true King and we need to obey Him.
- 4) Recognize Israel’s disobedience in desiring a king
- 5) Learn practical ways to be content by filling in a chart throughout the week

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- Some students at this age will still have trouble writing/reading so during paper activities help ensure children understand by reading instructions aloud so they can follow along.
- Help students who have difficulty sitting for long periods by sitting beside them to help them stay focused.
- Check on students and if you notice one has difficulty offer to help write part of a sentence or a word for them, or repeat the instructions as needed.

Supplies: Coordinator will ensure these supplies are ready for you in advance. If not discuss with him/her.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Overview of Old Testament Books – one per student (Keep to use again later)
- King Versus God Demands Group Sheet – one per class to share (cut out images before class)
- Israel’s Reasons for Wanting a King Activity Sheets – one set per student
- Showing Contentment Take Home Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Books of the Old Testament Word Search (For those who are done early). Keep word search during quarter so students can continue to work as they have time.
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Round Fruit Pieces (to represent crown) ex: orange slices enough for each student
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

10 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write in the name of each student on the chart and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Introduce yourself to the students, and if unfamiliar with their names, ask children to go around the room sharing their name so you can learn them. Say to students:

This quarter we will study the Old Testament and look at the book of 1 Samuel. 1 Samuel is part of the books of History. (Hand out Overview of the Old Testament Sheet)

Overview of the Old Testament Up to the Time of Kings	
The Law: The first five books of the Bible tell the beginning of the Jewish (Israelite) nation and the beginning of Creation of all mankind.	
Genesis:	This book describes Creation, the first rebellions against God, and God's choosing of Abraham and his family as God's people - the Israelites.
Exodus:	God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them to the wilderness of Sinai. There, He gave Moses the laws to govern the new nation.
Leviticus:	God set up laws for the Israelites. Many of the laws were about being holy and worshipping God.
Numbers:	Because of their rebellion and disobedience, the Israelites had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the promised land.
Deuteronomy:	Just before his death, Moses made three emotional farewell speeches, recalling the history of the Israelites and warning them about disobeying.
Books of History: The next twelve books continue the history of the Israelites. They moved into the land of Canaan and established a kingdom that lasted almost 500 years.	

Read the title and the first section "The Law" then ask students to volunteer to read about one of the books. Then read the title for Books of History and then have students volunteer to read the books that discuss the times of the Judges to Kings. Say: **As a class we have been going through the Old Testament, our focus for the time of the Kings will be in 1 Samuel, but as you can see the kings are mentioned in 1 and 2 Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles so we will be looking at some of those books as well as we study.**

Can anyone remember what we studied about the time of the Judges? We studied the 13 Judges in the book of Judges, the book of Ruth, and now 1 Samuel. Within those books we saw that the Israelites would follow God for a time, then they would turn to other gods and disobey, this resulted in their land being conquered by others. When the Israelites were willing to recognize and repent of their sins, they cried to God who would send a judge from among them to deliver His people. And the cycle continued.

Samuel was the last judge, earlier we studied how Hannah his mother had prayed to God for a son and promised that if God blessed her, she would devote her son to the Lord's service. God answered her prayer and she kept her promise. Samuel was born and when he was weaned, Hannah took him to serve and be raised by Eli the priest and Samuel grew to serve the Lord.

Later, we also read that when Eli's sons were older they disobeyed God. Eli did not stop them from being disobedient so God punished the sons and Eli. When Eli died, Samuel took over as priest and judge.

2) Israel Wants a King and King/God Demands Activity

15-20 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

**Before class cut out images from the King/God Demands Group Activity sheet, have activity sheet chart printed and ready for class to see.



Have you ever heard of the phrase, "The grass always looks greener on the other side"? What does it mean? Let students answer

We have a tendency to want what other people have, right? Maybe we want their toys, their home, their car, their money, or their ability to do well in school or make friends. The people of God were no exception to this temptation. Whether we want something because we're envious, jealous, or overly ambitious, God says we should be content with what we have.

Being "content" means "showing gratitude and being satisfied for what God and others have done for you." We should be content with what God blesses us with and not dream about, waste time on, or try to obtain something just because other's have it. Otherwise we are saying we are not happy with what God provides. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 and Hebrews 13:5 talk about this. If we do want something like wisdom or other godly characteristics, God is more than happy to help us

when we pray to Him. But there is a difference between wanting to serve God more fully and wanting stuff for our own pleasure.

Let's read 1 Samuel 8:1-6, if everyone can turn there now. As they are turning there you can say the books of the Bible out loud leading to 1 Samuel – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel! Help those students who need it.

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-6

Where the Israelites being content? No

How do you know? They wanted a king like the other nations (vs. 6)

Read 1 Samuel 8:7-9

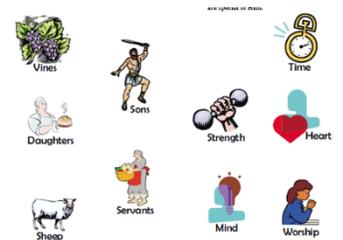
In wanting a king who were the Israelites rejecting? God! They were not content with God being their king. They rejected the King (God), for a human king. Instead of seeking God and obeying his commandments, they decided to ask for a king so they could be more like the other people and nations around them.

But why did God allow them to have a king? God created each of us with "free will."

What does having "free will" mean? To have a choice. God does not force us to do anything we do not want to do. We can show our thanks to God for what we have and our gratitude for what God has done for us. It is our decision to be content with what God has given us. If we refuse, God won't force us, but we will still have to pay the consequences for our choices.

I have a chart I want us all to look at. Show the King/God's Demand Chart. As I read the next few verses, I want us to go around the room, each person taking a turn to get the correct picture (show them the pictures you already cut out) and place it under the correct heading. Was it what the king was going to demand or was it what God was going to demand?

Lay the chart on the table so all the students can see, then point to a student who will start. As you read the verses pause after each item is mentioned to give the student a chance to find the picture and move it under the right heading.



Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22 – have students put the correct images under the King's Demands.

Answers:

King – Vines, Daughters, Sons, Servants, Sheep

Say, God warned the Israelites that the king would have a lot of demands and expect all of their possessions including their children. God has demands for us as well. Listen as I read what Jesus said about this.

Read Luke 10:27 aloud

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Now let's take turns moving the remaining pictures where they belong – under God or under the King? Repeat Luke 10:27 again and pause after each item listed to let students put them where they belong. Remaining pictures go under God.

How are the two demands different? Let students answer

Why is what God demands a good thing? Let students answer

The King just wants your best stuff – things he can use for himself.

God wants everything about you because He loves you and wants a meaningful relationship with you, He doesn't want your "stuff", He wants you, because you are special to Him.

The Israelites did not trust God. They wanted a king, even though God was already their King.

Psalm 47:7 says:

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

The Israelites knew that God was the King and was to be their King, but God says they rejected Him.

God gave the Israelites a king, but He had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to be King over the whole world.

Jesus would be the perfect King. Jesus would bring peace and save people from sin.

Who is our King? Jesus is our King forever.

To review

Whom did the Israelites want to lead them? (a king)

Was wanting a human king a right thing or a wrong thing? (a wrong thing)

What did Samuel say a king would do? (make the people do whatever the king wanted/take their possessions.)

By wanting a king, whom were the Israelites saying they did not want as their leader? (God)

Say: God is King over all the earth. Even though God gave the Israelites a king, God still ruled over the Israelites and their king. God created the world, and He rules over all of it. Any power that any king or ruler has is only what God gives.

3) Activity Sheets

15-20 minutes

Hand out Scripture Search, Word Search and Cross Out Activity Sheets.

Go through the first page together as a class, reading the verse outloud and then drawing a line to the correct reason Israel gave for wanting a king.

For the other activities let students choose which they would like to do (they may have time to do both), read the directions allowed and help as needed.

Crossout Answer: To Have a King of Their Own

When students are done, review the following questions

Text: 1 Samuel 8:1-9

Why were the people complaining about Samuel, the prophet's, children? Why weren't they fit to be leaders?

Why do you think that Samuel was displeased with the people's request for a king? It meant they were rejecting God and Samuel.

How does the Israelites response show a lack of contentment?

Who were they really rejecting when they asked for a human king?

How did God respond to their request?

The Lord's Answer

Text: 1 Samuel 8:10-22

What were some of the things God warned would happen when Israel got the king (8:11-17)?

What did Samuel warn them about specifically in 8:18?

How did the people respond?

What was the final word of the Lord regarding their request?



Memory Verse:
Psalm 47:7 - For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Why Israel Asked for a King
Match the verses on the left with the pictures and reasons on the right for why the Israelites wanted a King.

1 Samuel 8:3,5	Because the Israelites Were Attacked by the Amorites	
1 Samuel 8:5, 20	The Evil Lives of Samuel's Sons	
1 Samuel 8:20	Disce for an always ready leader for Israel's Battles	
1 Samuel 12:12	The Desire to Be Like Other Nations	

Today we saw that Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways, their bad behavior caused problems and was one of the reasons that the Israelites asked for a king. The Israelites were not content. They were not happy with God being their King, this led to God warning them of the consequences of not obeying and not being content. In both cases, we need to remember that it is important to walk in the ways of the Lord and follow Him. When we do, God is happy, we are content, and other's can see that our good lives point to Christ, the true King!

4) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Psalm 47:7** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "For God is the King of all the earth" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", pretend to put a crown on your head as you say "KING", make a circle shape with hands as you all say "EARTH", etc. and then go through verse as a class with gestures.

Psalm 47:7 says:

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Say: **God is King over all the earth. Even though God gave the Israelites a king, God still ruled over the Israelites and their king. God created the world, and He rules over all of it. Any power that any king or ruler has is only what God gives.**

The Israelites did not trust God. They wanted a king. We need to obey our earthly leaders as much as they obey God, but our true Leader and King is Christ Jesus. We need to ALWAYS follow and obey Christ our King.

5) Showing Contentment Take-Home Sheet

10 minutes

During the week they will have the opportunity to put into practice the value of "contentment." (Hand out the calendar to take home and record what happens during the week).

Day	Temptation	How You Showed Contentment
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

Looking to God and giving thanks for what you have...

Every night during the week, take time to reflect on the day's events. List the different situations that were a temptation in regards to being content. Next to that, write down how you decided to react to that situation.

Read the directions and examples out loud. Ask if they have any questions.

6) Optional: Books of the Old Testament Word Search

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet and pencil to any child who is done all the other activities early. Read the books of the Bible listed allowed as they begin. Ensure student write their name at the top of the page.



*Keep word search in the classroom so students can continue working on the sheet anytime they have extra time over the next few weeks.

7) Optional – Snack: Round Fruit Slices (Crown)**5 minutes**

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“Today we saw that Samuel’s sons did not walk in his ways, their bad behavior caused problems and was one of the reasons that the Israelites asked for a king. The Israelites were not content. They were not happy with God being their King, this led to God warning them of the consequences of not obeying and being content. In both cases, we need to remember that it is important to walk in the ways of the Lord and follow Him. When we do, God is happy, we are content, and other’s can see that our good lives point to Christ, the true King! Let’s enjoy our snack (which is round and reminds us of the crown a king would wear) and be content with what God provides!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking.

8) Optional – Songs**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you from song list and/or choose song below:

We will Listen and Obey *(to the tune of Old MacDonald had a Farm)*

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there

Here a Yes, There a Yes, Everywhere a Yes! Yes!

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Our homes, families, food, friends, health, love, the Bible, Jesus, our church family and so much more. You are a giving, loving, caring, God and we love you. God, help us to trust You as You rule over us. No earthly king can compare to the perfect King Jesus whom we have ruling over us. King Jesus rescues us from sin, gives us eternal life through Him, and guides our lives perfectly in a way we can not do on our own. Help us to be content, to trust, and to walk in Your ways always. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!