



## Israel's First King

**Theme:** Faith—Trusting God's way

### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Working Hard on Bible Facts

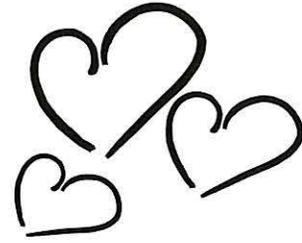
**Memory Verse:** Have Memory Verse strips hidden in different places throughout the room. Have the students find the strips and place them on the floor in front of the pocket chart. Once all the strips are found, have the students place them in the pocket chart correctly. Read the Memory Verse aloud together.

#### Prayer

#### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 1 Samuel 8:4-5, 10:1, 24. Have reading students find and mark 1 Samuel 8:4 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students locate the following places on the map of Israel in the time of David, found on page 71 of this Guide – Benjamin, Mizpah, Gibeah, Ammon, Jabesh-Gilead, Gilgal.
5. Introduce the Lesson Graphics using the "Loving & Working Toolbox".
6. Tell the story using the *Loving Hearts & Working Hands Lesson Graphics* and other props such as three plastic or paper king's crowns to represent "kings like nations around them," plastic or stuffed donkeys (Saul's search), and olive oil for Samuel to anoint Saul.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
  - Men of Israel came to Samuel because they wanted a king so they could be like nations around them.

- God answered Samuel's prayers for guidance with a promise and a warning—a promise to give them a king and a warning that they would be sorry because they would have to obey their king, even when they didn't want to.
  - God chose Saul to be Israel's first king, and Samuel anointed him with oil.
  - God allows us to make choices, even when they are bad choices, but we must accept the consequences.
8. As part of telling the lesson story, read 1 Samuel 8:4-5; 1 Samuel 10:1, 24. At the appropriate times, signal the students to beg, "We want a king." and then shout, "Long live the king!"



## Israel's First King

**Theme:** Faith—Trusting God's way

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Working Hard on Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Hide the Memory Verse strips around the room. Have students find all the strips and, once they are found, have all students help to arrange them correctly in the pocket chart.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

Imagine being in a class in which you have two teachers. One is a great teacher who has been teaching a long time. She is wise, enthusiastic, and cares for her students. Most of her students have gone on to be successful, but this teacher is different in one significant way. The students never see her. They have evidence of what she does and says, but they never see her.

Another teacher is a good teacher, but not great. Sometimes her lessons are interesting but not all the time. She cares for her students but she also looks out for herself. She is in the classroom most everyday and the students can touch her and talk to her.

If you could decide which class to be in, which teacher would you choose? The nation of Israel faced a similar decision. God had been leading Israel a long time. He was a great leader but the people could not see Him. What did Israel do?

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 1 Samuel 8:4-5, 10:1, 24.

#### Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Looking for characteristics of the heart.*

On separate pieces of paper, write characteristics people might have, both outward and inward characteristics — tall, shy, loving, careful, patient, brown hair, freckles, jealous, angry, kind, thoughtful, responsible, dark skin color, lazy, dependable, etc. Have the students separate the characteristics into two groups — outward and inward. Talk about how we are at first drawn to the outward characteristics of a person, and this might be what we look for in a leader. Next,

talk about the inward characteristics, how and why they are more important. Discuss why God looks at the inward characteristics of people. Finally, from among the inward characteristics, have the students choose the five characteristics that are especially needed in a leader.

 2. *Objective: Demonstrate that God knows what is best for His people.*

Tell the students they need to make water for a scene you will make as a class. Have a stack of blue paper in the room, visible to the students, but do not mention it. Only offer the students red paper. They will want blue, but tell them you want them to use red. Once they have made their water, ask the students if they like their finished product. They will probably say it would look better if they could have used blue paper. Now tell the students the scene they will create is from the book of Exodus when God turned water into blood. What do they think of their paper now? Discuss with the students how God always knows what is best for us. Sometimes we can't see that something will be what we need, but God can.

3. *Objective: Demonstrate the kind of king God wanted for His people.*

Read aloud Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Have students complete the worksheet on page 70 of this Guide. Discuss how God wanted Israel to have a king who was not like the kings of other nations. But Israel wanted a king like others. The nation brought trouble on itself by wanting the wrong kind of leader.

4. *Objective: Learning to want for ourselves what God wants for us.*

Use a crown graphic and a crown with the X across it. As you hold up the crown graphic, read aloud from Genesis 17:3-6 and Deuteronomy 17:14-17. You may refer to the time of chaos during the judges' period "when there was no king in Israel" (Judges 18:1, 19:1). Israel was not wrong to anticipate having a king.

As you hold up the crown graphic with an X across it, read 1 Samuel 8:4-5 and 8:19-20. The people of Israel wanted the wrong kind of king and they demanded having him in their own time and way. Show that Saul could have been a good and great king anyway (see 1 Samuel 12:12-16). We must learn to want for ourselves what God wants for us and to trust Him to give it in His own time and way.

**BIG HEART Display:** A crown and a crown with an X across it from Activity 4 above