

# 1/2 GRADES

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



JUNE 19

FIRST SERVICE

## LEADER Bible Study

It can happen to any of us: we look at our circumstances, forecast a coming trial or opportunity, and act accordingly—only to find out that the situation doesn't play out quite like we expected.

This is precisely what happened in 1 Samuel 8–10. The people of Israel, while assessing their circumstances, discerned that Samuel's days were numbered. They recognized that his sons, Joel and Abijah, had turned to dishonesty and against the ways of their father. So, they predicted that they would soon have no one to lead them and that something must be done.

The elders of Israel believed they knew what was best and demanded that Samuel appoint a new king who would judge them "the same as all the other nations" (1 Sam. 8:5).

We can do the same. Even with the best of intentions, we can hastily seek what we believe is best without consideration of the Lord's plans, desires, or wisdom. This may happen in search of a new job, in response to conflict, in making family decisions, or even in determining how to best minister to people in our church or community.

How do we know that our decisions, desires, and actions align with what God wants? Be encouraged to do three things as you seek the Lord's wisdom in these moments of decision: pray, read God's Word, and seek counsel.

When we pray, we humble ourselves before the Almighty God and submit our desires to Him. When we read God's Word, we discover His desires, plans, and will in the most clearly revealed way so that we might walk in them. And when we seek counsel, we open ourselves to the community of believers to be shaped, formed, sharpened, and corrected.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight."

Taking the time to pray, read the Bible, and seek the counsel of brothers and sisters in Christ are ways we choose to submit ourselves to God and not rely on our own understanding.

## ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-10

### THE ROLE OF ISRAEL'S KING

Functions: supreme judge, military leader

Powers: limited power, subject to the law

Authority: given by God as the Lord's anointed

### CHRIST CONNECTION

God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God's plan. They wanted a king like the nations around them. God had a better plan: to eventually send His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King forever.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why does sin separate us from God?  
Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

### KEY PASSAGE

Isaiah 6:5  
"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."



# Busy Hands

## **WELCOME KIDS** // “*DECODE THE MESSAGE*” ACTIVITY PAGE / CHILD, CRAYONS, PENS OR PENCILS

Greet each child as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

Say: **Have you ever had to look for something that was lost? What happened? Did you find something you didn't expect while you looked?**

ACTIVITY PAGE: Invite kids to complete “Decode the Message” on the activity page. Read the directions: **Write the first letter of each picture in the blank to reveal a special message.** After giving the children time to complete the message, review the letters and answer with the kids. Say: **For the next several weeks, we are going to learn that God is holy. What does it mean to be holy?** [Allow kids to respond.] **God is holy because He is perfect and without sin.**

Note: The coloring page is on the opposite side of the page, The kids may color it now or later in the lesson.

## **SESSION STARTER: THE JOB OF A KING** // NONE

Direct kids to stand in a circle. Pick a child to be the first king. Instruct the king to say an action (shake your right foot, nod your head, wave your left hand, spin in a circle, and so forth). Guide the rest of the kids to act out the motion. The child to the king's right becomes the new king. When he says an action, the kids in the circle must perform both the first king's AND the second king's actions. Continue around the circle, and add on the new motions each king says until everyone has had a turn to be king.

Say: **Kings have the power to give commands. Sometimes kings make rules that their people don't want to follow. In today's Bible story, you will learn how the Israelites asked for a human king, even though God warned them about what could go wrong.**

## **INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY** // *COUNTDOWN VIDEO (OPTIONAL), BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER POSTER, TIMELINE, BIBLES*

INTRODUCE THE SESSION: Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins. Say: **Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you are here! Who brought your Bible to church today? Raise your hand!** [Distribute Bibles to any kids who need one.] **The Bible is God's Word. That means you can hear exactly what He wants to say to you when you read your Bible! We are studying the Old Testament. Is the Old Testament in the first part or the second part of the Bible?** [Allow kids to answer.]

Continued on the next page.



# Active Minds

It's in the first part of the Bible, starting with the Book of Genesis and ending with the Book of Malachi. Today's Bible story comes from 1 Samuel, which is about one-third of the way through the Old Testament.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Say: **We are starting a new unit today. Our big picture question for the next several weeks is, Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.** Show the new Big Picture Question and Answer Poster to the children. You may want to have a child read the question and answer. **What do you think it means for God to be holy?** [Allow kids to respond.] **God always does what is right. Sin is doing what is wrong, so it goes against God's character. That means God and sin cannot mix.**

Let's say our big picture question and answer altogether. **Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.**

**REVIEW THE TIMELINE:** Show the new unit timeline. Point to the story for today and mention that this unit is about King Saul. Say: **God chose the Israelites to be His people. He brought them to the land of Canaan and told them it would be their new home. When the Israelites settled in Canaan, they didn't follow all of God's instructions, so they had lots of trouble with their neighbors. Whenever the Israelites turned back to God, He sent a judge to lead them. Let's listen to our Bible story today to hear how Israel asked for a king instead of a judge.**

## **TELL THE BIBLE STORY: ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING** // *BIBLE, COPIES OF THE STORY, QUESTIONS FROM KIDS VIDEO*

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 8–10. Use the following Bible storytelling tip to help you tell the story: Act out the story. Assign kids the roles of God, Samuel, leaders of Israel (one will speak), and Saul. Note: Saul does not have a speaking role, but he needs to stand with others. Each child will have a copy of the story. Guide the kids to act out the various meetings in the story.

### **ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING**

**Samuel was a judge over Israel. When he was old, Samuel chose his sons—Joel and Abijah—to be judges. There was a problem, though. Joel and Abijah were not good judges like their father. Joel and Abijah were unfair and dishonest.**

**The leaders of Israel went to Samuel. "You were a good judge," they said, "but your sons have not followed your example. We don't want them to lead us; we want a king like the nations around us!"**

**Samuel wasn't sure how to respond, so he prayed to God.**

**God said, "Samuel, they are not rejecting you; they are rejecting Me as king. Give them what they want, but make sure you warn them what it will be like to have an earthly king."**

Continued on the next page.



# Active Minds

Samuel explained to the Israelites what rights an earthly king would have. 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. Samuel warned that the people would regret asking for a king, but the Israelites didn't care.

**"Give us a king!"** they said. So God told Samuel to give the people what they wanted. Then Samuel told the leaders of Israel to go back to their cities and wait for a king.

One day, a man named Saul came to Samuel. Saul was tall and handsome. He was looking for his father's missing donkeys. Samuel invited Saul to have dinner with him. He told Saul that his family would be important to everyone in Israel.

Saul didn't understand. He wasn't from a big family; his tribe—the tribe of Benjamin—was the smallest tribe in Israel. Still, Samuel gave Saul the best spot at his dinner table. The next morning, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head.

**"You will be king!"** Samuel said. Samuel gave Saul some instructions and sent him home to wait for the right time to start ruling over the Israelites. The Spirit of God was with Saul.

**Christ Connection:** God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God's plan. They wanted a king like the nations around them. God had a better plan: to eventually send His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King forever.

**QUESTIONS FROM KIDS:** Show the "Unit 10, Session 1" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What should you do if a friend tries to get you to do the wrong thing?
2. How can remembering Jesus help you do what is right?

## KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY // KEY PASSAGE POSTER, KEY PASSAGE SONG: ISAIAH 6:5, OTHER SONGS (OPTIONAL)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 6:5 together.

Say: **God and sin do not mix. In our key passage, Isaiah explained that his sinful nature could not stand in God's presence.** (Sort the Beads on the Extra page would work well with this activity.) Encourage kids to make up motions to go along with the key passage. For example, kids can point to their lips when they say "unclean lips" and to their eyes when they say "my eyes." For "LORD," they can make an "L" with their pointer finger and thumb and draw a line across their torso like they are putting on a seatbelt. Encourage kids to repeat the verse using the motions to help with memorization.

Lead kids to sing "Isaiah 6:5." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY: Say: **God, You are holy. Thank You for having a plan to restore our relationship with You. Please forgive our sins and help us tell others about Your perfect plan in sending Jesus. Amen.**



# Open Hearts

## REVIEW AND BIBLE SKILLS // BIBLES, OLD TESTAMENT KINGDOM MAP

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 8. Explain that the Book of 1 Samuel tells us of the time when Israel switched from being led by judges to being led by a king. Kids can find 1 Samuel after the Book of Judges and before 2 Samuel.

Choose a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 8:19-20 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Israel (F4) on the Old Testament Kingdom Map.

Say: **The Israelites worried more about looking like their neighbors than about following God's plan. Even though trying to be like their neighbors kept them in constant trouble throughout the Book of Judges, the Israelites forgot how God saved them over and over. The Israelites wanted someone 'to go out before [them] and fight [their] battles,' but God already did that. When He saved them from Egypt, He went before the Israelites as a pillar of smoke in the day and of fire in the night. God gave the Israelites instructions for everything they needed, but they ignored God and wanted a human king. However, at just the right time, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King.**

## GROUP DISCUSSION // NONE

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Say: **What qualities do you think make a good king?**

Remind kids that God is the ultimate, perfect King, so He is our standard for a good king. Encourage kids to think about what made Saul stand out (his height and looks) and why he was a surprising choice for a king (his tribe was the smallest in Israel).

Say: **Are you surprised that God told Samuel to give the Israelites a human king? Why or why not?**

Discuss how the Israelites rejected God by asking for a human king. Guide kids to consider God's plan to save humans by sending Jesus as the perfect King to die and rise from the dead to defeat sin. Encourage kids to remember that God sees the bigger plan, so He does not act out of sinful pride, anger, or jealousy like we do.

Say: **Why is it important to follow God instead of trying to look like the people around us?** Lead kids to understand that trying to look like their neighbors caused the Israelites to reject God. Guide kids to consider how rejecting God relates to sin, which separates us from God. Encourage kids by explaining that God sent His Holy Spirit to be with those who accept Him as the one true King in their life, so they will not be alone even if they are rejected by their peers.



# Extra Ideas

## **SORT THE BEADS** // MIX OF COLORED BEADS (6 SMALL BAGGIES PER CLASS) , 2 BOWLS PER TEAM (12)

Form teams of three or four kids. Distribute a baggie of beads to each team. Choose one color to represent God but do not tell the kids why you are asking them to separate that color from the other beads. You may also give each team two bowls for sorting if you prefer. One bowl for the “God” beads and one bowl for all the other beads. When you say “Go!” kids will have one minute to sort the beads by color. Whichever team sorts the most beads before the time is up wins.

If time allows, redistribute the mixed beads and repeat the activity to find a new winner.

Say: **We sorted these beads into different types. God separates Himself from sin. The beads you separated from the other beads represent God. He is holy and cannot mix with sin. Until we trust in Jesus and allow His blood to wash away our sin, we will be separated from God. We will learn more about God’s holiness over the next several weeks.**

## **REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY** // NONE

This is an option for the Bible Review in the lesson. Say: **When the Israelites settled in the land of Canaan, they did not have a king. The Bible says God gave the Israelites instructions on how to set up their cities, work with each other, and worship Him. God was supposed to be the Israelites’ perfect King. However, the Israelites didn’t always obey God. Why do think the Israelites chose not to obey God?** [Pause for kids to respond.] **They often forgot about God and tried to follow the false gods of their neighbors. When the Israelites quit listening to God, He allowed their neighbors to mistreat them so they would turn back to God. When they repented, He sent a judge to lead them. Samuel was the Israelites’ last judge.**

**When Samuel tried to set up his sons as judges, the Israelites refused. Rather than turning to God, they decided to ask for what their neighbors had. What did they ask Samuel to give them?** [Allow responses.] **That’s right! They asked for a human king. Through Samuel, God warned the Israelites that a human king would not give them what they wanted—only God could truly protect the Israelites and make them happy. Again, the Israelites didn’t listen. So, God chose a man named Saul to be king of Israel. Saul didn’t believe he should be chosen; his family was one of the least powerful in Israel. Samuel assured Saul that this was God’s plan, and God sent His Spirit to Saul to guide him when he ruled God’s people.**

**But God had an even better plan, and that plan was to send His Son, Jesus!**