

SAMUEL

“Saul Becomes Israel’s first King”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- The story of how Eli’s sons and Samuel chose different roads under Eli’s leadership
- The story of how Saul became the first king of Israel
- The story of David serving king Saul
- The story of David and Jonathan’s friendship

Series Theme Verse: “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” –Psalm 119:105

Lesson Objective: For students to understand the story of Saul becoming the first king of Israel.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 8:1-22, 10:1-7

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

- Samuel was getting older and could not lead Israel as a Judge anymore, who did he appoint to take his place? (His sons)
- Were his sons good leaders like Samuel? (No, they did evil)
- With evil leaders replacing Samuel, what did the elders of Israel decide? (They wanted a king, so they could be like the other nations)
- Did Samuel think a king was a good idea? (No)
- What did Samuel do? (He prayed to God for guidance)
- What was God’s response to Samuel? (Israel has not turned away from your leadership, Samuel, but they have rejected me, their God as King)
- Does God grant Israel’s wishes to have a king? (Yes, but God warns them of all the bad things a king will do that God would never do as their king)
- What are some of those things a king would do that God would not do? (Vs 11-17)
- When all this happens, how will Israel respond under the rule of a king? (They will cry out to God, but God will not respond)
- Did the people of Israel decide to stay with God as their King after hearing these things? (No, they still wanted a king, even if he would be harsh and cause them pain)
- Why did they want a king? (To be like other nations)
 - Explain to students how Israel was supposed to be different from other nations and a light to other nations, but now they were slipping in their faith and becoming like the pagan nations

- Did God agree to give Israel a king? (Yes)

Talking Points: 1 Samuel 10:1-7

- You should summarize 1 Samuel 9 to make the connection for students of how Saul meets Samuel, then pick up with reading 1 Samuel 10:1-7, where Saul is anointed king.
- What did Samuel do to Saul in verse 1? (Poured oil on his head and kissed him)
- Why did he do this? (Samuel's words to Saul explains that he was anointing Saul the new king of Israel)
- What were some of the things Samuel said would happen to Saul as signs that he was the new king? (verses 2-6)
- When all these signs were completed, what did Samuel say Saul should do? (Do whatever his hands find to do because the Lord is with him...meaning, lead Israel because God will be there to guide you and is guiding your path)
- Explain to students that most of Israel celebrates the new King Saul, but some pushed back and doubted Saul.

The Story Retold:

- Print out a crown for each student.
- Have them color and cut out their crown.
- Have a couple students explain the elements of their crowns (the jewels, the gold color, etc.)
- Ask students if they could choose anyone to be king, who would it be? Who would they put their crown on? Why did they choose that person?

The Story and Me:

- Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
- Have the students read the verse together.
- Ask the students how the verse speaks to our story today? (Israel should have kept God as their King, they should have followed God's word, not tried to be like other nations)
- Help students understand that God is the one we should look to for leadership and guidance as our King.
- How do we seek God's guidance? (Various answers possible)
- Have students write the Series Theme Verse on the back of the crown they colored earlier.
- Have students stand in a circle and go around the circle saying the verse one word at a time. Eventually cover up the poster to help them memorize the verse.

