

**HomeWord**  
For Parents

**S**amuel was the last judge and a prophet of God. His allegiance to God established a time of peace. However, shortly after his rule, the people demanded that a king rule over them like all the other nations.

There was a difference between judge and king. A judge was called by God to a specific purpose—deliverance from enemies. A king in that culture was a sovereign over all of the affairs of the tribe or nation. A judge “ruled” by persuasion—the people followed him or not as they thought best. A king ruled by right—the people owed unconditional allegiance to the king. A judge ruled temporarily. A king’s rule was permanent, usually to the extent of passing from generation to generation. The judges were led by God to deliver Israel in a way that would specifically show their dependence on God alone.

The Israelites’ demand for a king revealed their change of heart and loyalty. They were rejecting God

for a man. Samuel warned the people that the king would burden them. Despite all of Samuel’s warnings, the people insisted that they wanted an earthly king. God granted their desire; Samuel was to appoint a king. Saul became the first king of Israel.

Why would God grant this desire of Israel’s people for a king, when the desire constituted a rejection of God? Remember that King David succeeded Saul after Saul failed. And recall the details of God’s covenant made to David—that his throne would be established forever. The throne of David would one day be occupied by Jesus who is the King of kings. The inescapable conclusion is that God turned the sinful desire of Israel to His own purposes. The people rejected God’s reign for a man to be king. But that rejection of God led to the fulfillment of God’s precious plan of redemption through Jesus Christ—the final and everlasting King.

*Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.*

**OutWord** For Family Discussion

Suppose you are talking with your friends after school, and one of them remarks that the way God works doesn’t make sense. He can’t understand how God could use bad things and disobedience for His glory. **How could you answer?**

*God is in control of everything and totally in charge. Sometimes the way He works doesn’t make sense or isn’t real clear to us. But we do know that God uses the bad things people do to finish the work He wants to do. Like when Jesus was killed by sinful men but it was all a part of God’s plan to save sinners. It is kind of like a jigsaw puzzle. We only have one piece and we don’t know how or where that piece fits in. But God has all the pieces. And He sees how every piece—both the really good things and the really bad things—fit together perfectly so His will can be done.*

**inWord**  
For Family Study

*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*  
Isaiah 40:8

*Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.*



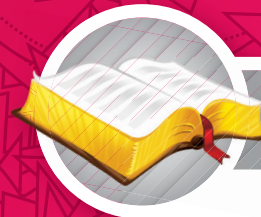
# Israel Rejects God as King

**KEY THEME**

• God alone is to be worshipped.

**KEY PASSAGES**

- 1 Samuel 8:6–7, 8:9–20, 10:19–24
- Romans 12:2
- 1 John 2:15



What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- God warned the Israelites that a king would make them servants and take their best land, crops, and animals. The people still cried out for a king.
- The Lord chose Saul to be the first king over Israel.

Answer these questions from today’s lesson.

- 1 Why did the Israelites want a king?
- 2 God told Samuel, the last judge of Israel, that the people weren’t rejecting him. Who were they rejecting?
- 3 What are some of the things that God warned them that a king would do?



1) To be like the other nations. 2) The Lord. 3) He would make them his servants and slaves. The king would take their land, crops, and animals.



# Read the Word

**Monday** {1 Samuel 9:2}  
What did Saul look like?

**Tuesday** {1 Samuel 10:24}  
What did the people shout and say when Samuel brought Saul to them?

**Wednesday** {1 Samuel 10:1}  
How did Samuel anoint Saul king?

**Thursday** {Romans 12:2}  
How is God's will for us described?

**Friday** {1 Samuel 8:6}  
What did Samuel do when the people demanded a king? What did Samuel think of their request?

**Saturday** {1 Samuel 16:7}  
What do men see when they look at each other? (Your memory verse.)

## Learn the Word

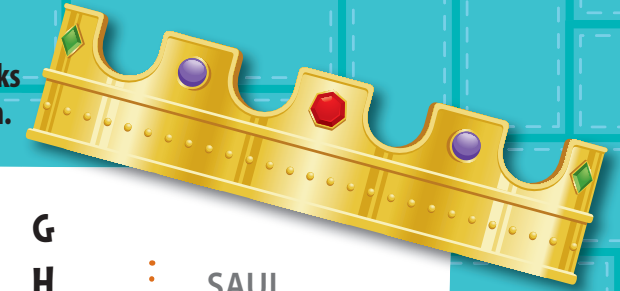
Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks

But the Lord said unto \_\_\_\_\_, "Look not  
on his \_\_\_\_\_ or on the height of his  
\_\_\_\_\_, because I have \_\_\_\_\_  
him. For the Lord seeth not as man seeth  
for man looketh on the \_\_\_\_\_  
appearance, but the Lord looketh on the  
\_\_\_\_\_." 1 Samuel 16:7

ANSWER: God alone is to be worshipped!

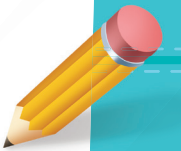
## Israel Wants a King

Find the words from today's lesson. Put letters that are colored in the blanks below in the order they appear to find the important truth from our lesson.



L G Z K O G S A U L D T E G  
R D O A D X A L Z D J R O H  
E N I Q I S M I N G U E E D  
J N U S A M U E L I D U A S  
E W R W P S A P L E K B T I  
C O X E D L Q N A T I O N S  
T R O U B L E S B D N L A R  
O I E A R D K A H V P W Z A  
F R K N A P L V S R L D G E  
O E I V W R X E S E A E H L  
J A N H D Q R D J U D G E I  
R H G S G I U P E Z R S A N  
D P X R E A Y L C D T E R G  
W A R N I N G A T D A X T P

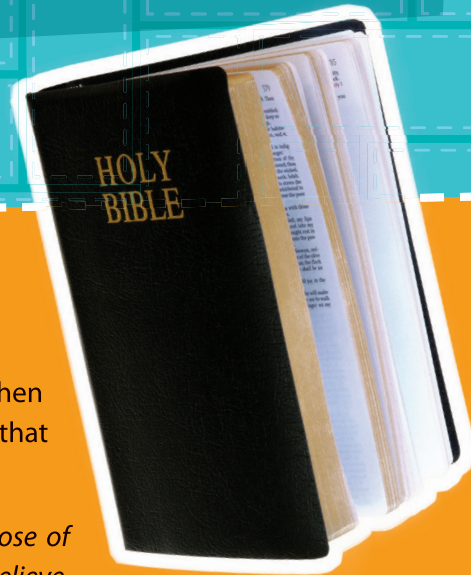
SAUL  
SAMUEL  
JUDGE  
ISRAEL  
WARNING  
REJECT  
HEART  
MAN  
SAVED  
TROUBLES  
DISPLEASED  
KING  
NATIONS



## LIVE the Word

Suppose your friend asks you why she always seems to get into trouble when she mentions the Bible or Jesus in school. She is wondering why it has to be that way. **What would you say to her?**

*Well, the Bible tells us that the world hates Jesus, His Word, and even those of us who love Him. Christians are different from the world because we believe the Bible. A lot of people are afraid of God's Word and His rules. They don't want God to make the rules for them. They don't want to worship God alone. They don't want God to be the King over everything in their life. And because the Bible tells us that this is what God wants from us, they don't want anything to do with the Bible. But, we know the Bible is true. And we know that God wants us to love Him alone—with all our hearts, minds, and soul. He is the only one worthy of all of our worship and praise!*



## WHO AM I?

Put an X in the column of the person the sentence describes.

- I was the last judge of Israel.
- I was the first king of Israel.
- I was angry when the elders of Israel demanded a king.
- I was told by God to forewarn the people about the behavior of a king.
- I was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- The Lord told me who to choose as Israel's king.

SAMUEL SAUL

SAMUEL	SAUL



**SNEAK PEEK**

Will Saul be a good king? Will He obey God or face judgment? Find out next week!

ANSWERS: 1) Samuel 2) Saul 3) Samuel 4) Samuel 5) Saul 6) Samuel