

HomeWord

For Parents

Samuel was the last judge and a prophet of God. His allegiance to God established a time of peace. However, shortly after Samuel's 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

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

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



Israel Rejects God as King

Key Theme

- God is our King!

Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 8:4–7, 8:10
- 1 John 2:15



What You HEARD in the Word

- The people of Israel called out for a man-king, rejecting God as their one and only King.

Ask your child these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 What did the Israelites ask for?
- 2 Why did they want a king?
- 3 Who were they rejecting?



1) A king. 2) To be like the other nations. 3) God.

Read the Word with Mom & Dad

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 as 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!

"For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7b

God Is Our King

Color the picture below. The people wanted a man for their king.



God Is Great

(To the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot" with hand motions.)

When we read the Bible, we learn of God—
(I'm a little tea pot short and stout.)
Open hands like a book, point to head, point up.

No one will ever be like Him.
(Here is my handle, here is my spout.)
Shake head, "no," holding hands palm out,
moving them back and forth.

He is oh, so great. So great He is!
(When I get all steamed up, hear me shout!)
Point upward with both hands.

I just have to praise His name!
(Tip me over and pour me out.)
Clap with the rhythm.

LIVE the Word
with Johnny and His Dad



SNEAK PEEK

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