

Unit 10, Session 3 – Israel’s First King

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 8-15 – Use your Kids Adventure Bible or family Bible to read the Bible story.

STORY POINT:

God’s people wanted a king like the nations around them.

KEY PASSAGE

Jeremiah 10:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where was Saul when it was time to introduce him as king? (*hiding among supplies, 1 Sam. 10:22*)
- Why did Saul offer a sacrifice before battle? (*Saul’s troops were afraid, and Samuel arrived later than Saul expected him to; 1 Sam. 13:7-9*)
- What did Samuel say about sacrifices and obedience? (*Obedience is better than sacrifices, 1 Sam. 15:22*)
- Why do you think God allowed Saul to be king if He knew Saul would disobey? *Guide kids to talk about God’s power to use difficult circumstances for His glory and our good. Discuss what God might have been teaching the people of Israel through Saul’s kingship. Point them to Jesus’ crucifixion, where we see God use the evil actions of people to bring about good.*
- What are some ways people reject Jesus as King today? *Guide kids to honestly discuss ways people might trust in or be led by things other than Jesus. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit helps us love and obey Jesus.*
- What are some ways Jesus proves He is the perfect King? *Guide kids to think about what Jesus did for us. Remind them that He chose to die even though we were sinners and enemies of God. (Romans 5:6-10) Discuss Jesus’ place of honor and glory with God the Father, and point kids to the hope we have for the future, when Jesus will return to reign over everything.*
- Why didn’t God want His people to have an earthly king? *Point out that the people had rejected God and wanted to be like the nations around them, but God had chosen His people to be holy. His plan for them was better—to give them a heavenly king to lead them perfectly. (Option: read John 18:36-37.)*
- Why do you think people live for things other than Jesus? *Prompt kids to discuss how people might live for power, comfort, recognition, or success. Help them consider that until a person knows Jesus, other things might seem better. We can point people to Jesus—our greatest treasure—for true life and joy. (Option: read Matt. 13:44.)*
- How should believers be different than others around them? *Remind kids that God calls His people to be holy like He is holy. The word holy means “set apart.” People living with Jesus as King belong to a kingdom that doesn’t make sense to the world. (Option: read Luke 6:27-30.)*

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

"No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power." Jeremiah 10:6

- Volley a balloon between your family members, whoever hits the balloon needs to say the next word until you complete the verse.

In this key passage, God's Word tells us that no one is like Him. That means that no matter how strong, wise, kind, or powerful anyone else might be, God is stronger, wiser, kinder, and more powerful. Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Excuses, Excuses: Read a series of scenarios to your kids. Ask them to come up with an excuse that they think someone might use to get out of doing what is asked.

- Suggested situations:
 - A friend at school wants someone else to share her dessert at lunch.
 - A kid's parents have told him to wash the dishes.
 - A girl's little brother asks her to get him some candy from the top shelf that he cannot reach.
 - A boy's dog rolls over for him to rub her belly.

We often give excuses when we don't want to do something. Today, we learned about a time a king in Israel disobeyed God and tried to give an excuse to avoid getting in trouble. Do you remember what his excuse was?

Good King, Bad King: On a piece of paper make a venn diagram (2 overlapping circles) and ask your kids to provide traits that might be true of some kings. Write down each suggestion on a sticky note, and then allow your kid to decide where it would go. She may stick the note in the appropriate area. Explain that the overlapping area is for traits that might describe both good and bad kings.

Saul was a bad king, but that doesn't mean he had no good traits. Other kings might be good but still have some bad traits. That's the problem with human kings; none are perfect.

If I Were King: Guide kids to stand in a circle. Assign a family member to be the king, and place a crown in their hands. He should say, "If I were king, ..." and then describe something he wants everyone to do. For example, "If I were king, I would make everyone hop on one foot."

The king should perform the action along with everyone else. Then choose another player to become king (transfer the crown) and gives a new rule: "If I were king, I would make everyone spin in a circle." Continue around the circle until everyone has a chance to lead.

After the time of Joshua, God's people were led by judges. The judges were military leaders who helped Israel overthrow their enemies. The nations around Israel were not ruled by judges; they were ruled by kings. After a while, the Israelites decided they wanted to be ruled by a king, too. Do you remember who was chosen to be their king?