



THE GOSPEL PROJECT JR. Unit 10.1 Israel Wants a King

Date: Sunday March 1, 2026 **Teachers:** Susan D (lead), Meg D (co-lead)

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 8–10 **Key Passage:** Psalm 47:7-8

Props: from home: * oil (Susan) **At centre:**

Review Rules:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Speak Kind Words like our God 3 in One

ACROSTIC OF GOD: "J"

Vicky

INTRO BIBLE STORY materials: (oil from home)

Susan

In the Bible they had a very interesting ceremony that might seem strange to us , but was very important to the culture of the time period that the Hebrew Bible was written. What do we usually use olive oil for? (cooking, salad dressing, skin) . In the Bible, oil was a special sign of something (does anyone know?) It was used in an anointing ceremony to anoint a King. When they poured this oil, they didn't spray it or dab it, they soaked the person in oil, so that wherever that person went, everyone would see and smell the oil and know that this person was chosen for something special.

In today's story, Israel anoints their first king. In the N.T when Jesus comes on the scene announcing His kingdom has come, his anointing is a public declaration too. His anointing is at his baptism, and all three persons of the Trinity are there recognizing and affirming his inauguration as King over all the earth. We know that no King in Israel's history comes close to Jesus, in fact some are so very far away. The Kings are meant to represent God's order and authority in the earth, but most kings (being deeply flawed) let the power go to their head and they end up using their power for their benefit and at the people's expense. . Jesus represents God's order and authority in the earth, by laying down his power for the benefit of the people he loves. We are the people He loves! His life given for us is the heart of the gospel and the center of the Biblical story. We are brought back into the kingdom of the Son he loves, because of the sacrificial love of King Jesus! (Col 1:13)

BIBLE STORY VIDEO: Israel wanted a King

DISCUSSION VIDEO

Nate

Whom do you trust the most—themselves or someone else?

Who knows what is best for you? (God) The Israelites rejected God as their king and demanded an earthly king. Who is our King? Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.

JOINT JR/SR KEY PASSAGE VERSE

Dana

Psalm 47:7-8 *"Sing a song of wisdom (microphone) for God is King of all the earth. (crown) God reigns over the nations; (map) God is seated on His holy throne. (chair)."*

(draw the pics in place of the words and the kids have to decode.)

DISMISS JR. KIDS

GOSPEL GEMS

Susan

God's people wanted a king to lead them.

Saul was the first king of Israel.

God sent Jesus to be our King.

SING A SONG: Sing to the tune of "God Is So Good":

Susan

"Who is our King? Who is our King?"

Who is our King? Our King is Je-e-sus."

Say: God's people wanted a king to lead them, but later God sent Jesus to be our King.

ACTIVITY: "Spot the differences" materials: (activity sheet)

Meg

Can you find the things that are different in each picture? God had chosen Saul to be King, but Saul is hiding, he is afraid of what it means to be King of Israel. To complete this activity, you had to look closely to find the differences. God sees things differently than we do. God looks deeper than what our eyes can see.

ACTIVITY: "Sort the crowns" materials: (crown printable, cut apart)

Meg

Print and cut apart the "Crowns" printable. Mix up the cards and invite kids to sort the cards into piles of matching crowns. The Israelites did not trust God. They wanted a king. God told Samuel to give the people a king. God chose a king for Israel. For now, that king would be Saul, but one day, God would send His own Son to be King. Jesus would not just be King over Israel but King over the whole world. King Jesus would come to rule not by a force of power, but by the force of love, laying down his power by giving his life for his people. This gift of grace from King Jesus, is the gift offered to us, by trusting in Jesus to give us new life, and unite us to God..

ACTIVITY: "find the donkey"

Susan

In our story today Saul needed to go find the missing donkeys, when he came back the donkeys had been found and he received big news! He wouldn't be looking for donkeys anymore; he was going to be the King of Israel. Saul wasn't going to be a very good King, the power he had as king, he would use for himself, instead of the good of those he led. Jesus is the true King, the only King, who would lay down his power by giving his life for the people he loved- US! First, hide the donkey and then have kids find it, then kids can take turns hiding the donkey for other friends to find it.

ACTIVITY: "shoulder to shoulder"

Susan

Invite children to stand next to each other in order from shortest to tallest. Adult helpers may also line up shoulder to shoulder. Saul was the first king of Israel. Saul was tall and looked like a king. Later God sent Jesus to earth. JESUS IS OUR KING.

PRAY. King Jesus you are the King of all the earth, you gave your life because of your love for the world. Amen

COLOUR CROWN/FREE PLAY/SNACK