



THE GOSPEL PROJECT PRESCHOOL UNIT 10.1 Israel wants a King

Date: Sunday March 1, 2026 **Teachers:** Janet H (lead), Jason/Taylor D

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

Props: from home: none. **At centre:** make paper crowns before class/activity sheets crown/donkey printable

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

INTRO BIBLE STORY: "Spot the differences" materials: (activity sheet)

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.

THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO

GOSPEL GEMS

God's people wanted a king to lead them.

Saul was the first king of Israel.

God sent Jesus to be our King.

KEY PASSAGE VERSE: "God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a song of praise." Psalm 47:7

PLAY KEY PASSAGE VERSE SONG

Sing to the tune of "God Is So Good":

"Who is our King? Who is our King?

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

God's people wanted a king to lead them, but later God sent Jesus to be our King. JESUS IS OUR KING!

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

Print and cut apart the "Crowns" printable. Mix up the cards and invite preschoolers 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 donkeys" (Donkey printable cut and hidden around the room)

Invite preschoolers to search for the hidden donkeys. Saul and his servant went to Samuel to ask about his father's missing donkeys. Samuel said the donkeys had been found, but he had bigger news for Saul. God chose a king for Israel, and Saul was God's choice. 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“

Invite kids 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.

ACTIVITY: “The Kings Says” materials: (make a construction paper crown before class)

Play a version of “Simon Says.” Select a preschooler to be king. The king will call out various actions for the rest of the group to perform. When the king says, “The king says,” before calling out an action, preschoolers should perform the action. If the king does not say, “The king says,” before calling out an action, preschoolers should not perform the action. After a few rounds, select a new king and play again. You had to do whatever the king told you to do in this game. In today’s Bible story, the Israelites said they wanted a king to lead them. Samuel warned the Israelites that they would have to do whatever the king wanted. Let’s find out what the Israelites said to that.

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