



THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. Unit 10.1 Israel Wants a King

Date: Sunday March 1, 2026 **Teachers:** Dana H (lead), Nate B (co-lead)

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

Props: from home: none **At centre:** make paper crowns before class /activity sheets, tape

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 Tri- unity 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

GROUP ACTIVITY SHEET: Divide the class into 3 groups

Have the kids work together to race to complete the activity sheets

BIBLE STORY REVIEW (materials: 2 paper crowns make ahead)

Nate

The first player to grab the crown, and put it on his head may give an answer. If he is correct, his team earns one point. If he is incorrect, the other player gets a chance to answer and earn one point. For each review question, invite a new pair of kids to play.

What was the name of Israel's last judge? (Samuel)

Why were Samuel's sons bad leaders? (They were unfair and dishonest, 1 Sam. 8:3)

What did the Israelites tell Samuel they wanted? (a king, 1 Sam. 8:5)

Did the Israelites reject Samuel or did they reject God? (God, 1 Sam. 8:7)

What warning did Samuel give the Israelites? (They would have to do whatever the king said, 1 Sam. 8:11-17)

Did Samuel say the Israelites would enjoy having a king or regret it? (regret it, 1 Sam. 8:18)

Who was the man of God that Saul went to for help? (Samuel, 1 Sam. 9:19)

What did Samuel use to anoint Saul? (oil, 1 Sam. 10:1)

ACTIVITY: "Move if ..." materials: (construction paper, chairs)

Dana

Place chairs or tape sheets of construction paper in a circle on the floor, one less than the number of kids playing the game. Select one kid to stand in the center of the circle while everyone else sits in a chair or stands on a piece of paper. The kid in the center should give the command to move for certain characteristics. For instance, she could say, "Move if you are wearing red." Everyone wearing red must then move to another open space while the kid in the center also tries to reach an open space. Whoever is left without a space moves to the center. Play as many rounds as time allows. We have a lot of things in common, but we have a lot of things that are different about us, too. God chose Saul for a special job that made him different. We will find out soon Saul falls prey to the temptation of most earthly leaders, to use their power to get ahead and for their benefit instead of the benefit of those they lead.

ACTIVITY : “Venn Diagram” materials: (whiteboard)

Nate

Do you guys remember what a Venn diagram is (ask for them to share). In this diagram we are going to see the things about earthly Kings and “laws” and King Jesus and the “ways” of His kingdom. These things might include:

- Do not steal (both)
- Do not murder (both)
- Pay your taxes (earthly king)
- Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (God)
- Deciding on a national anthem (earthly king)
- Love your neighbor as yourself (God)

Great job, everyone. What is similar in each list? What is different? Why are some of God’s rules different from the rules/order of kings or leaders on earth? We know that God shows what his order is because He loves us and knows what’s best for us. God’s ways are best, but we don’t always trust His perfect leadership.

ACTIVITY: “If I were a King” materials: (paper crown from previous activity, tape)

Dana

Ask the children to sit in a circle. Play a version of “Hot Potato” using the crown with kids passing it around the circle while the music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the crown should stand up, put on the crown, and say, “If I were king, I would...” and state one thing they would do as king. Repeat as time allows. It’s fun to think of all the things we might do if we were king or queen. Maybe some of you would make a good King or Queen, but even if you would do things right, all earthly leaders are flawed, they still have intentions and ways of thinking that are tainted by sin. Only King Jesus rules perfectly His rule is one of love, and laying down his life for his Beloved- US!