



OLD TESTAMENT: KING SAUL

lesson 24

BIG IDEA

The nation of Israel wants to have a king so they can be like all the other countries. God allows them to have a king, but reminds them that a king will be demanding. God uses Samuel to identify Saul who become's Israel's first king. Saul is cowardly at first.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8

KEY VERSES

I Samuel 8-10

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE SKIT

- Cast: TL wearing baseball cap. Bear wearing bear ears.
- *Experience Mission will provide a baseball cap and bear ears.*

GAME - KING PIN

- A dozen balls (Sponge balls are ideal, and they squeeze down for easy transport. Tennis balls or even bean bags could work.)
- 6 empty soda bottles
- Ropes or chalk for marking off boundaries

CRAFT - KING SAUL'S CROWN

- Bulletin board border in metallic gold or silver
- Stick on jewels
- Extra staples
- Optional: glitter glue or other appropriate decorations for a crown

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

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CAST

TL wearing baseball cap.

Bear wearing bear ears.

SCRIPT

TL and Bear enter stage

Bear Hi TL. How's it going?

TL Hello, Bear. I'm great, how about you?

Bear Oh everything is just fine and dandy, but I've been thinking about something.

TL Really? What's that?

Bear Well, you know those prophets and judges you've been telling me about? Well, I was wondering, why did God need to use them? Why didn't the Israelites had a king or a president or a prime minister, something like that?

TL Bear, that's a very good question. Do you think a king or a president or a prime minister would be a better option than a prophet or a judge?

Bear I think so. I mean, then there would be one ruler that can be found in one special city in one special building, like a palace or a fancy house or something. Wouldn't that be way, way easier than having a prophet or judge wandering around to random places? I bet the Israelites would like to know where to find the guy in charge. And I bet the guy in charge would like to live in comfort. Those prophets and judges had it rough, you know?

TL Bear, you make a good point. And as it turns out, the Israelites felt the same way. They started comparing their nation to all the countries around them and became dissatisfied with Samuel who was their prophet. In fact, when he got old they asked him to choose a king for them

Bear Seriously? What did Samuel do?

TL Well, he wasn't very happy about it. He was concerned that if Israel had a king they would turn away from their true King, God. So he prayed about it and the God gave him a surprising answer. He said, "Listen to the people. They have not turned away from you; they have turned away from me in asking for a king. Let them have a king, but tell them the wrong they are doing, and show them the trouble their king will bring to them."

Bear Trouble? How's that?

TL Well, Samuel had to warn them that a king would take their children to become soldiers, horsemen



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and chariot drivers. And a king would demand tax, like money or the best of the crops and animals. He would be their master and they would be his servants.

Bear Oh, I see, I think....

TL Think of it this way. God didn't need his people to be like other nations. His desire was for them to be quiet, simple people who would love him and obey him. He wanted to be their protector and provider. But the people wanted to be great, to be strong in war, and to have riches and power. The people did not pay attention to Samuel. So God let them have their way.

Bear So they got a king?

TL They sure did. And the way that Samuel identified the man who would be king is very interesting. You see, there was a rich man in a town in Israel and he owned some donkeys who wandered off one day. This man asked his son, Saul to take a servant and go find the donkeys. Saul and his servant searched for many days but they could not find the donkeys. They just about gave up when the servant had an idea, "There is a holy man in this town. Maybe he can help us." They found out that the holy man, Samuel, had just entered the town to offer a sacrifice and hold a feast. They went into the town and met Samuel.

Now, the cool thing is that God had already spoken to Samuel about this young, handsome young man named Saul. "Tomorrow I will send you a man from the tribe of Benjamin. Anoint him as the ruler of Israel. He will rescue my people from the Philistines." When Saul approached Samuel the Lord confirmed, "This is the man who will rule over my people."

Saul, didn't know that the man was the prophet, Samuel and he asked, "Can you tell me where the seer's house is?"

Samuel answered, "I am the seer. Come with me up to the hill. We are going to have an offering and a feast. And don't worry about the donkeys you are looking for. They have already been found." Then Samuel said something that puzzled Saul, "Who is it that the people of Israel want so much? It's you!" That night Saul and his servant stayed at Samuel's house.

The next morning as Saul was about to leave for home, Samuel poured olive oil on his head and kissed him. He said, "Saul, the Lord anoints you as the king of his people Israel." Then he told Saul just what he would find on his journey home, where he would meet certain people, and what he must do. He said, "When you come to Rachel's tomb, two men will meet you and will tell you the donkeys have been found and that your father is looking for you. Then later you will meet three men under an oak tree, they will have three goats, three loaves of bread and a bottle of wine. They will give you two loaves of bread as a present. After this you will meet a group of prophets who will be full of God's Spirit and will be singing with instruments and prophesying. The Lord's Spirit will come upon you as well, you will have a new heart, and will prophesy with them. All these things will happen to prove that God is



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with you. Now, go.”

Bear Jeepers! That’s quite a prediction. Did it all come true?

TL Everything happened exactly the way Samuel described it, the two men looking for him, the tree men under the oak tree, and the prophets with their instruments. There was no doubt that God was with Saul.

Bear Imagine what his parents must have thought when he got home. They must have been pretty excited.

TL Actually, Saul didn’t tell them that Samuel had anointed him to be king over Israel. It was Samuel actually who made the announcement. He called all the people together at a meeting place called Mizpah. He told them that since they wanted a king, God had chosen one for them. Samuel had all the tribes of Israel pass by him, and when the tribe of Benjamin passed by, he chose them. Next he chose one family out of the tribe. Then out of that family he called Saul’s name to show the people that Saul was to be their king. But, Saul was not with his family. Can you guess where he was, Bear?

Bear Hmm. He was probably still at home getting ready for the big announcement. Maybe getting his best clothes on.

TL Nope.

Bear Was he hungry? Did he go off to each lunch?

TL Nope.

Bear Did he get a call on his cell phone? You know how they can ring at the most inopportune times...

TL (Laugh) No, goofy Bear. They didn’t have cell phones back then.

Bear Oh yah.

TL Saul was hiding! Can you believe it?

Bear Hiding! Even after God had made it so clear? Wowsers.

TL Yep. God had to reveal to them where Saul was, “He’s hiding by the supplies.” So the Israelites rang and brought him out. When he stood up they saw that he was good looking and tall.

Samuel announced, “Look at the man the Lord has chosen! There isn’t anyone like him among all the people.” And the people shouted, “God save the king! Long live the king!”



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After this Samuel told them all the laws that the king and the people must obey. He wrote them all down on a scroll and placed it before the Lord in the holy tent. Then he sent everyone home.

Bear Interesting story. Were they happy to have a king now that they actually got one?

TL Well, most of them were. God encouraged the hearts of some men and they followed Saul, but some men stirred up trouble and said, "How can this fellow save us?" They refused to bring Saul gifts or show him respect. Saul noticed this, but he wisely said nothing.

Bear But there's trouble brewing already, and he hasn't even settled into a palace yet!

TL Tomorrow I'll tell you about King Saul's reign.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why did the people want a king?
- Did God want them to have a human king?
- What did God advise Samuel?
- Why did Saul go to Samuel, the holy man or seer?
- What did God tell Samuel about Saul?
- How did Samuel show the Israelites God's choice for their king?
- Where was Saul when his name was called?
- Why do you think he hid?
- What makes a king, president or other ruler a good leader?
- Are you a leader to anyone?
- How can you make sure you are a wise leader?

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: KING SAUL'S CROWN

Kids will make a kingly crown.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Measure the length of border needed to go around each child's plus an inch or two extra.
- Cut.
- Let the kids decorate their crowns with stick on jewels, glitter glue, etc.
- Staple the crown to fit each child.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Bulletin board border in metallic gold or silver
- Stick on jewels
- Extra staples
- Optional: glitter glue or other appropriate decorations for a crown

EXAMPLE





OLD TESTAMENT: KING SAUL

GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: KING PIN

Kids try to knock down the opposing teams pins.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- A dozen balls (Sponge balls are ideal, and they squeeze down for easy transport. Tennis balls or even bean bags could work.)
- 6 empty soda bottles
- Ropes or chalk for marking off boundaries

DIRECTIONS

Arrange everyone into two teams. Line the opposing teams on both sides of the gym. The teams cannot cross the middle line to the opponent's side.

Ground rules: If a person goes out of bounds or crosses the middle court line, that person is automatically out. If a person is hit by a ball, the person is "out" and needs to form a line off the court. If a person catches a ball, then the first person in the "out" line gets to go back into the game. If a person tries to catch a ball and fails, that person is "out". If someone is hit on the head, the thrower is automatically "out". A person can block by holding a ball and deflecting oncoming balls.

The purpose of the game is to knock down the opponent's bowling pins.

There can only be one guard for each bowling pin, who can stand within 2 feet of the bowling pin. When you say "go", each of the teams run to the middle to retrieve a ball.

Once a person has a ball, he or she can throw the ball at an opponent on the other side of the line or try knocking down a pin. If someone is hit or touched by a ball, that person is "out". The people who are "out" need to get off the court and form a line.



The team that knocks down all three of the opponent's bowling pins wins the game.



Saul was anointed by Samuel and became the first king of the Hebrews.

Samuel chooses a king.

1 Samuel 8:1—10:24

