Unit 10, Session 3

Israel's First King

1 Samuel 8–15

Story Point: God's people wanted a king like the nations around them.

Samuel was a judge over Israel. The leaders of Israel said, "We want a king like the nations around us!" Samuel prayed to God. God said, "Give them what they want, but warn them what it will be like to have an earthly king."

God brought to Samuel a man named Saul. "You will be king!" Samuel said. Samuel anointed Saul, and the Spirit of God was with Saul. When the time came for Samuel to introduce the Israelites to their new king, no one could find Saul. God said, "There he is, hidden among the supplies." The people ran to Saul. "Long live the king!" they said.

Saul did not obey God. One day, Saul took an army to fight the Philistines. Saul wanted to ask God for help. Maybe if he made an offering to God, they would win the battle. There was one problem: only the priests, like Samuel, were allowed to give offerings to God. Saul waited, but Samuel did not come. Saul's soldiers started to leave, so Saul made an offering to God himself. Then Samuel arrived. "You have disobeyed God," Samuel said. "You will not be king much longer."

When the Israelites won a battle against the Amalekites, God wanted Saul to destroy everything, but Saul disobeyed. Samuel confronted Saul. Saul admitted his sin and asked for forgiveness. Samuel said, "God has taken away your kingship today, and He will make someone else king."

Christ Connection: God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God's plan and wanted a king like the nations around them. God gave them a king, but Saul did not obey God. God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus. King Jesus trusted and obeyed God perfectly and died so sinners could be forgiven and accepted.

EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Find and circle the words in the word search:

  battle, destroy, help, Israel, judge, king, obey, offerings, Philistines, pray, priests, reject, Samuel, Saul, sin

P	H	I	L	I	S	T	I	N	E	S	F	B	N	R	L	D	G
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E	Q	T	Y	O	R	T	S	E	D	L	B	A	T	T	L	E	R
S	A	U	L	D	K	B	C	F	K	R	E	J	E	C	T	P	A
T	J	C	B	J	U	D	G	E	L	P	Y	D	N	G	W	N	E
S	A	M	U	E	L	R	T	G	M	W	T	L	K	P	D	C	L

- What does this story teach us about God?

- Why did God reject Saul as king?

CHRIST CONNECTION

God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God's plan and wanted a king like the nations around them. God gave them a king, but Saul did not obey God. God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus. King Jesus trusted and obeyed God perfectly and died so sinners could be forgiven and accepted.

APPLY the Story

- Why didn't God want His people to have an earthly king?

- Why do you think people live for things other than Jesus?

- How should believers be different than others around them?

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APPLY the Story

- Find Jeremiah 10:6 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, asking God to help you trust Him and His plan. Ask for wisdom to know when you should be different from the people around you.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

- ❏ John 18:36-37
- ❏ Matthew 13:44
- ❏ Luke 6:27-30
- ❏ Proverbs 21:1
- ❏ 1 John 5:3
- ❏ 1 Samuel 15:22