

# THE KINGS

Date: 3.10.23 | Title: God Makes Saul King | Scripture: 1 Samuel 10-12

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### PRESCHOOL:

The Bible is a book about God.  
God tells people to obey Him.  
People can show love for God by obeying Him.

### YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

The Bible is a book about God.  
God is all-powerful and in control of all things.  
People can learn about and recognize God's authority.  
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

### OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.  
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory.  
God commands people to obey Him.  
People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives.



### MEMORY VERSE

"But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them."

1 Samuel 8:6-7

# THE KINGS



## BUSY BIN

As the kids arrive, they will stop by the table to pick up a snack and a drink. They will also get a cardstock copy of a donkey. Each classroom will have grey paint and q-tips so the kids can paint their donkey. Tell the kids that they will have to listen carefully to today's story to figure out why we are painting donkeys.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Give each child a copy of the king coloring sheet and some markers. Tell the kids that while they listen to the story, they will design their king to look the way they think a king should look. Work together to think about the characteristics you think a king should have: strong, leader, wise, rich, etc. How does King Saul measure up? How will having Saul as king compare to having God as the king?

# THE KINGS

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Since the people want a king who can lead them in battle, God selects Saul as the first king, a man who fits their criteria. He is one of the tallest young men in Israel—a head taller than anyone else (1 Samuel 9:2). In 1 Samuel 9:17, the Lord confirms to Samuel that Saul is the man whom he will appoint to reign as king. Samuel and Saul connect over Saul's father's lost donkeys and Samuel makes it clear to Saul in 9:19-27 that he has been given special knowledge so that Saul will have no doubts that what he will hear is truly the word of God.

God helps Saul to get off to a good start, strengthening him through three significant things:

- God gives Saul the Spirit to empower him (1 Samuel 10:6, 10).
- God gives Saul a great initial military victory, which leads to his confirmation as king by all of Israel (1 Samuel 11:1-15).
- God gives Saul the wisdom, advice, and public support of Samuel (1 Samuel 10:24-25; 11:14; 12:12-24).

As they are going to the outskirts of the city, Samuel anoints Saul privately by pouring a flask of oil on his head. Samuel gives Saul a list of people he will soon meet and things that will happen as he travels on. These will be signs that Saul is indeed appointed to reign over the Lord's people and save them from their enemies. In 10:6, Samuel tells Saul, "then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will be turned into another man". God's Spirit will come suddenly on Saul to equip and empower Him to serve the interests of God's people. This is a public demonstration that Saul is now the "prince" and is related to his election as king. This might not be a permanent spiritual renewal or conversion (later the Spirit of the Lord "departs from Saul" (1 Samuel 16:14; 18:12)), but a confirmation that Saul is the one to deliver Israel. When Saul leaves Samuel, God does indeed "give him another heart and all these signs come to pass that day". The fact that Saul is now "another man" with "another heart" is externally evident to all who previously knew him. Samuel tells Saul now, "God is with you...Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do". When Saul returns home and speaks to his family about where he has been, he does not mention the kingship, only that the missing donkeys have been found.

# THE KINGS

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

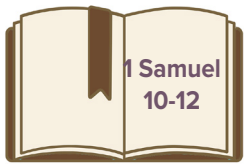
In 10:17-27, Samuel calls the people of Israel together and reminds them of what the Lord did for them in Egypt. He reminds them that they have rejected God and demanded a king. Samuel brought all of the tribes together and Saul was taken by lot (an OT way of making a choice or determining the will of God), but “when they sought him (Saul), he could not be found”. Saul had hidden himself among the baggage. When “they ran and took him from there, he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.” Samuel told the people the Lord had chosen Saul and “there is none like him among all the people. All the people shouted, ‘Long live the king!’”. Next, Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship and wrote them in a book and laid it before the Lord.

In Chapter 11, the Israelites are in contention with the Ammonites. Saul asks, “What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?” When the people tell him the news of the Ammonites, the “Spirit of God again rushes upon Saul and his anger was greatly kindled” against the Ammonites (vs. 6). Saul told the Israelites, “not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel.” (vs. 14) After Saul’s victory, the people are enthusiastic about him as king. “They sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly”. (11:15)

Finally in Chapter 12, Samuel gives a farewell address to Israel testifying about his time as judge. Samuel will no longer be the judge of all Israel and the kingship has begun. His authority as the prophet who gives the word of God to the king and the people of Israel remains powerful (12:18) and Samuel will have one more king to anoint (Chapter 16). Samuel again reminds the people of the way they have been unfaithful to their covenant with Yahweh and how His unfailing love has rescued them every time. Samuel reminds them, “you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us’, when the Lord your God was your king.” (12:12). Samuel instructs the people, “if you will fear the Lord, and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king. Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes.” Samuel commits to praying for and instructing the Israelites in the good and right way. The ending to Samuel’s challenge is, “Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

# THE KINGS

## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

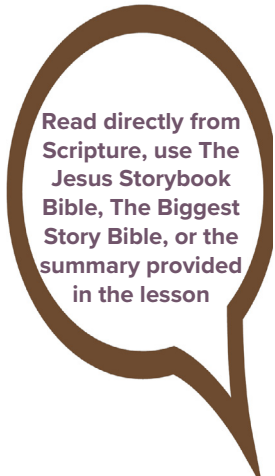


**Tell the story:** Use the Background Info for Leaders to help teach 1 Samuel 10-12. “The Rise and Fall of King Saul” is a partial re-telling in The Biggest Story Bible Storybook and “King Saul” is a partial re-telling in The Tiny Truths Illustrated Bible. These two books provide good illustrations of today’s text. The Message version of the Bible provides a good teaching summary for this text.

**TELL  
THE  
STORY**



**Re-tell the Bible Story:** put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.



**Attributes of God:** Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?



**Share the GOSPEL:** God does not let anyone, including kings, dictate the unfolding of his redemptive plan. God is committed to accomplishing his purposes in his way, and neither sinful human ambition nor a misguided desire to “help God out” can change that. A prophecy in Genesis reveals that it had always been God’s plan that someday, He would reign through a king: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes”. (Genesis 49:10) However, the Israelites pushed the issue and didn’t wait on God’s timing: that’s why they ended up with Saul who was from the tribe of Benjamin not the tribe of Judah instead of a king who was after God’s own heart.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

# THE KINGS

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

# THE KINGS

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.

# THE KINGS

## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

As you ask these questions, have your 2nd-5th grade kids find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our kids to go directly to God's Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture.

1. How did Samuel anoint Saul? What did he tell Saul about his future?
2. What people did Samuel tell Saul he would meet? What kinds of events would happen on his journey home? Did these things happen?
3. What rushed upon Saul? How did this change him? What did people say about the change in Saul?
4. What conversation happened between Saul and his uncle when he returned home? What piece of information did Saul leave out?
5. Where was Saul when his name was chosen by lot as king in front of all the tribes? Why was he there?
6. What attributes did the crowd like when they saw Saul? Why did they think he would be good king?
7. What tribe was Saul from? What tribe did God say his king would be from? (Genesis 49:10)
8. What did Saul do to win over the people in Chapter 11?
9. What are Samuel's messages to the people throughout his farewell address in Chapter 12?



# THE KINGS

## PRAYER PROMPTS

**God, thank you for being the perfect king over us! Help us to trust and follow You alone! We acknowledge that Your ways are higher than our ways and that we need to be patient and realize that you are sovereign over all and we can rely on your timing in all things.**

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

**Help the kids in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible by singing through the Books of the Bible song on our Books of the Bible Spotify playlist. Use the printed copies of the books of the Bible in your classroom to follow along. 3rd-5th graders, practice putting the books of the Bible in order using the popsicle sticks. Have several groups of kids compete against each other or work together to see how fast your class can order them. Have several groups of kids compete against each other or work together to see how fast your class can order them.**

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

**For the month of March through Easter, our church will be collecting money for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering. This offering goes to fund missionaries in North America. Please encourage your group to collect change for the giving funnel in the lobby.**

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

**Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the kids in your group. Use the Memory Verse Idea Handout for some fun ways to work on the verse together.**

# THE KINGS



## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

# THE KINGS



## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?