

LESSON 4

ISRAEL WANTS A KING

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Kingship in Israel

Israel was a different nation from all other nations. The omniscient and omnipotent Lord was its king and ruler. God chose the Israelites to be His own special people. God gave His laws and decrees to Israel only (Ps 147:19-20). But the Israelites failed to cherish their special status.

They rejected God as their king and wanted to establish their own king like the other nations. Samuel warned the elders about the evils of having kings: the kings would exploit, tax, and enslave them. Samuel also warned them that if they and the king refused to obey God, and if they forsook the laws of God to follow the ways of other nations, God would hand them over to their enemies.

Despite the warnings, the Israelites insisted on being ruled by a human king. Just as Samuel had prophesied, the kings led the Israelites to disobey God. After about 500 years, God allowed the Assyrians and Babylonians to conquer and enslave Israel and Judah, respectively.

Casting Lots - Urim and Thummim

The Israelites chose their first king by casting lots. There are many recorded instances where the Hebrews cast lots to determine God's will (Lev 16:8; 1 Chr 24:5; Neh 10:34). The high priest carried two plates or flat stones called "Urim" and "Thummim."

Little is known about the Urim and Thummim. Some scholars believe that the high priest kept them in a pouch attached to his breastpiece. When the priest prayed for God's guidance, the priest would shake the pouch until one of the stones fell out, giving God's answer. If the Urim stone fell out, God's answer was "No." If the Thummim stone fell out, God's answer was "Yes."

Others believe that the Urim and Thummim were small flat objects with a "Yes" side and a "No" side. The priest would let the Urim and Thummim fall out of his pouch. If they both landed on their "Yes" sides, God's answer was "Yes." But if they both landed on their "No" sides, the answer was "No." If one landed on its "Yes" side and the other landed on its "No" side, this meant God had no reply.

The biblical use of casting lots is not from superstition but reflects the conviction that God controls all things. Thus, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord" (Prov 16:33).

The last biblical reference to casting lots was the selection of Matthias to replace Judas (Acts 1:26). After this, the Bible does not record further incidences of casting lots to infer God's will because the Holy Spirit dwelled with the church and guided them.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Samuel 8:1-22; 9; 10:1, 17-25

BIBLE TRUTH

God, who is invisible and omnipresent, is our King.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to have God rule in our hearts.
2. To know that we should not follow the ways of the world.
3. To always put God first.

MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart."

(Deuteronomy 6:5a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us here on this Sabbath day to worship You. Even though we can't see You, we know that You are here with us and that You love us very much. Please help us to follow You always, because You are our King. May Your Spirit guide us as we learn about Israel's first king. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The Israelites wanted to be like the other nations and have a king rule over them. Prophet Samuel told them that God was their king, but they refused to listen and continued to demand for a king. By wanting a human being for king, the Israelites were rejecting God as their king.

Like with Samuel, God has given parents the authority and responsibility to provide for their children's daily needs and instruct them in the way of the Lord. When children

obey their parents, they obey God. When children disobey their parents, they disobey God.

Disobedient children cause pain and sorrow for their parents, just as the disobedient Israelites caused pain and sorrow for God and Samuel. Students need to know that disobedience may also result in their own suffering and pain.

VOCABULARY

bribe: a present given to somebody to make them do something they're not supposed to do

reject: to refuse; to not accept

chariot: a light, two-wheeled vehicle for one person, usually drawn by two horses and driven in a standing position

tribe: a group of families that have the same forefather

BEFORE CLASS

Please have the following prepared for the lesson before class starts.

For the Bible Story:

Prepare 12 strips of paper with the names of the 12 tribes, one tribe per strip. Have each student hold onto one (or more) tribe.

For Spiritual Teaching [1] "Imitating Others":

Prepare an index card with a line down the middle for each student. Write "Yes" on the top of one column and "No" on the other.

For Spiritual Teaching [2] "Forgetting God":

Make copies of the picture cards handout, one for each student. Cut out the pictures so that each student has one set of the following 10 picture cards:

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| • toys/games | • TV | • Bible | • prayer |
| • friends | • a pet | • hobbies | • parents |
| • church | • birthday | | |

REVIEW

Last week's lesson was about Samuel growing up in the house of the Lord. How did Samuel serve God in the temple? (He helped Eli the priest.)

Samuel was a good and faithful helper and he did his best on the jobs given to him. However, Eli had two sons who also served in the house of the Lord. How were they different from Samuel? (They stole from the Lord by taking part of the offering before it was sacrificed; they didn't do their jobs as priests and instead sinned against the Lord.)

What did we learn from last week's lesson? (If we perform our jobs diligently and with all our heart, God will reward us.)

Today, we will learn how the people of Israel asked for a king.

BIBLE STORY

The Israelites Want a King

Samuel had two sons. The oldest was named Joel and the other was named Abijah. As Samuel grew older, he let them settle arguments between the people of Israel. But they were not like their father. Instead, they were dishonest and accepted bribes.

One day, the nation's leaders came to Samuel at Ramah and said, "You are old, and your sons don't follow your good example. We want a king! We want a king! We want a king like all the other nations. Now choose one for us!"

Samuel was very sad to hear the leaders say they wanted a king. What is a king? It is a person who rules and leads a country and its people. Up until now, the Israelites had never had a person as king. Who had been their king all along? The almighty, all-powerful God was their king.

But now, the Israelites had stopped trusting in God and wanted a king that was human like them. They wanted to be like all the other nations around them. Samuel was upset, so he prayed and told God about it.

The Lord answered, "Samuel, do everything the people want you to do. I am really the one they have rejected as their King and ruler, not you. Since the day I rescued My people from Egypt, they have not listened to Me and have turned from Me to worship idols. And now they are doing the same thing to you. If they want a king, I will give them a king, but warn them and let them know how a king will treat them."

Then Samuel told the people what God had said. "A king will make you work for him and add great burdens upon you. He will make your sons join his army. He will make them drive war chariots and run ahead of his chariots and horses. He will make them be officers in charge of a thousand men, and others will be in charge of fifty men. He will take your servants and children to do his work. Your sons will farm his lands and harvest his crops or make weapons. Your daughters will be forced to make perfume or do his cooking and baking.

"The king will take away your best fields, your grain, and your grapes and give them to his friends and officials. He will take your donkeys, sheep, and goats. You will become the king's slaves. And when you cry out to the Lord to rescue you from your chosen king, the Lord will not listen to your prayers."

The People Insist on Having a King

After Samuel warned the people of all these things, do you think the people listened? What do you think the people demanded? [Allow students to answer.] That's right. They said, "No! We want a king! We want a king! We want a king just like all the other nations. We want a king who can judge us and lead us in battle."

Samuel listened to the people and told the Lord exactly what they had said. The Lord replied, "Do what they want and give them a king!"

Samuel Anoints Saul

In the tribe of Benjamin was a mighty man of power named Kish; he had a son named Saul. One day, Saul's father asked him and a servant to find his lost donkeys. They went everywhere but could not find them. Then, Saul's servant said, "In the city there is a man of God. So, let's go there and he can show us where we should go." As they went up to the city, Samuel was walking out towards them. When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "There is the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign My people."

Therefore, Samuel and Saul met and Samuel told him that his donkeys had been found. After that, Samuel invited Saul to stay with him for two days, and Saul at with him that day. The next morning, Samuel knew that the time was right to anoint Samuel. He took a flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him, and said, "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

Saul Proclaimed King

Samuel then called the people together at Mizpah and told them that God had said: "I rescued you from the power of Egypt and from all other nations that had mistreated you. I have rescued you from all the hard and difficult times. Today, you have rejected Me as your God and King and have asked for another king. So I will give you a king."

After gathering all twelve tribes before God, Samuel cast lots to determine the man that God had chosen from the twelve tribes. This man would be Israel's first king.

Samuel called each tribe to come forward one by one. [Teacher pretends to be Samuel and calls each tribe forward. Have each student come forward when his tribe is called.] At the end, God chose the tribe of Benjamin.

Next, Samuel called each of the families of Benjamin forward one by one. God chose the family of Matri.

Finally, Samuel called each member from the family of Matri to come forward one by one until Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But Samuel could not find Saul. No one could find Saul. The people prayed to God, "Lord, is Saul here?" Where do you think Saul was?

God sees and knows everything. He knew where Saul was. The Lord answered the people, "Yes, Saul is here—he is hiding among the equipment."

The people ran over to the equipment and found Saul. When Saul stood up, they found that Saul was a full head and shoulders taller than anyone else, and he was more handsome than any man in Israel. Samuel said, "Look closely at the man the Lord has chosen to be your king! No one else is like him!"

The people then shouted, "Long live the king!"

And so Saul became Israel's first king. After Samuel had explained all the duties of the king, he wrote it all down on a scroll and stored it in the house of the Lord. Then Samuel sent the people home.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Why did the people of Israel ask for a king?** Samuel's sons were not good leaders; the Israelites also wanted to be like all the other nations around them.
2. **Who was Israel's true king?** God.
3. **What were some of the things Samuel warned that a king would do?** The king would make the people work for him: they would have to plow his fields and lands, become perfumers, cooks, bakers, and serve in his army; he would take their land and possessions.
4. **How did God feel when the people asked for a king?** He felt sad, angry, and rejected.
5. **Who did the Israelites reject as their leader?**
 - a. Samuel
 - b. Samuel's sons
 - c. God
6. **Who was made the first king of Israel?**
 - a. Saul
 - b. Paul
 - c. David
7. **How did Saul look?**
 - a. He was short.
 - b. He was a full head and shoulders taller than anyone else but not handsome.
 - c. He was very handsome and a full head and shoulders taller than anyone else.
8. **Where was Saul hiding when they wanted to make him king?**
 - a. In the closet
 - b. Among the equipment
 - c. Up in a tree

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart." (Deuteronomy 6:5a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Do not conform.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

—Romans 12:2 NKJV

Let's look at different translations and see how we can apply this to our lives.

In today's lesson, the Israelites wanted to be like the other nations around them. They wanted to have the same things and do the same things as the other nations. This did not please God. Are there times when we are like the Israelites, wanting to be like others? What can we do according to the teachings in the Bible? Not be conformed but be transformed!

What kind of transformation? Transformation in our mind so that it becomes the mind of Christ. Instead of going along with the patterns of the world, "test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom 12:2 NIV). We need to have a God-like way of looking at things. We need to have a Christian perspective on things and life.

[Give each student a previously prepared "Yes/No" index card.]

Let us find out if we like to follow others. I will ask you some questions. If you answer "yes," place a sticker under "Yes" on your card. If you answer "no," put a sticker under "No" on your card.

1. When you see your friend with a nice, new toy or game, you want your parents to get one for you.
2. When your friend uses a bad word, you use the bad word, too.
3. When your friend gets a prize or an award for doing something well, you want to get an award for doing something well, too.
4. During Christmas time, when you see everybody getting presents, cards, and a Christmas tree, you also want those things.
5. When your friend bullies another friend and says unpleasant things about him/her, you do the same.
6. When your friend at church pays attention in class, prays very hard, and listens to his/her parents all the time, you do the same.
7. It's Halloween time, and your friends are going trick-or-treating. You also want to go because you will get to wear your favorite costume and collect a lot of candy.

Have the students count how many stickers they have under "Yes" and under "No" on their card.

Explain to the students that it is normal to want to copy others. But when is it good to copy others and when is it bad to copy others?

It is good to copy our friends or classmates when they display good behaviors, such as getting good grades, obeying their parents, or learning new skills. But there are also times when you should not copy them. We should not copy our friends' bad behaviors, such as speaking bad words, bullying others, or being disobedient. These are bad behaviors because they hurt other's feelings and do not please God.

There are holidays that our friends and classmates celebrate (e.g., Christmas, Easter, or Halloween) that we Christians cannot because they go against the teachings of the Bible.

2. Never forget God.

Every day, we need to pray, "Dear God, help me never to forget Your goodness to me and Your everlasting love and salvation, no matter how dark the night, I will never turn from You. I want to make decisions that are pleasing to You. Please give me the wisdom and power to ask you to guide me to make good decisions."

The Israelites wanted a king that they could see. They wanted a king like the other nations had, one who could lead them to fight their battles. They had forgotten that God led them into battle and took care of them all along. God led them out of Egypt. He performed the 10 plagues and parted the Red Sea. God provided them with food, water, and clothes. He fought and won their battles. Sadly, the Israelites had forgotten. They had lost their faith and trust in God and wanted a human king to lead them instead. They had rejected God as their king.

The teacher will pass out one set of picture cards containing the following pictures to each student:

- toys/games
- TV
- Bible
- prayer
- friends
- a pet
- hobbies
- parents
- church
- birthday

Allow the students to arrange the pictures in order of importance to them.

Explain to the students that even though we cannot see God, He is the almighty God who created the heavens and the earth. He created us. He provides, protects, and cares for us every day. God should be the king of our hearts. But in our lives, there are things we like more than God. Have the students look at their picture card arrangements. Explain to them that if God is king of their hearts, they would wish to draw near to God. They would put going to church, reading the Bible, and praying at the top of the line. Ask the students what they placed ahead of God. This shows that they placed greater importance in these things than in God. These items are the kings of their hearts.

The Bible says that God is greater and more important than anything else. What God wants us to do is to put Him at the very top. If we put God first and do what He tells us, then God will greatly bless us.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. False; they wanted a physical king like all the other nations.
5. True
6. False; Saul was very handsome and a full head and shoulders taller than everyone else.
7. No; by asking for a king, they had rejected God as their King.
8. Answers may vary.
9. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart." (Deuteronomy 6:5a)
10. "The Lord is King forever and ever." (Psalm 10:16)

ACTIVITIES

1 Copycat

Objective: To teach the students what to imitate and what not to imitate.

[The teacher needs to prepare a CD/tape player and soft instrumental music (hymnal/classical music). Have the students get into a space in the room where they can see the teacher.]

Say to the students: "Today our activity is called Copycat. Does anyone know what 'copycat' means? [Allow students to answer.] Exactly, a copycat is a person who copies another person. In this activity, I'm going to make different shapes with my body, and I would like you to copy me."

The teacher can designate students to be leaders.

Say to the students: "This time, I do not want you to be copycats. When you see my shape, you need to come up with a shape that is different from mine and everyone else's. If you have the same shape as someone else, you will both sit out for the rest of the game."

The teacher can designate students to be leaders for subsequent games.

Discussion: Is being a copycat good or bad? When might copying someone be a good thing? When might copying someone be a bad thing? [Allow students to respond.] There are times when we should copy others, but there are other times when we should not copy others because it displeases God. Israel tried to copy the people of the world, but this did not please God. Just as you made your own special shapes, God made His children special and different from the world. How are we different and special from the people of the world? [Have students respond.] We are different because we have God as our Lord and King. We have God's words and the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us. We should not copy the world; instead, we should imitate and follow the Lord Jesus in whatever He says and whatever He does.

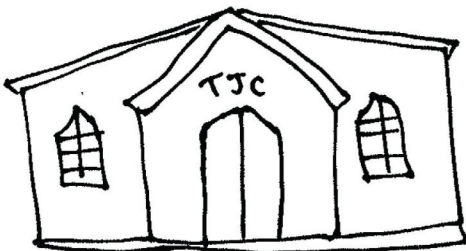
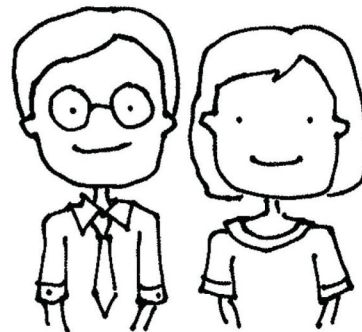
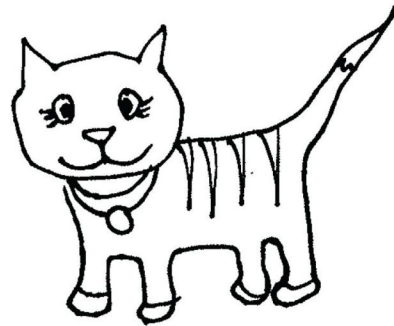
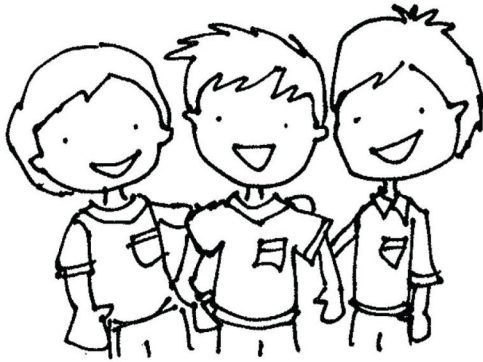
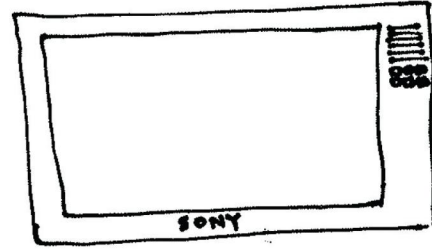
2 Teaching a Song / "To Be Like Jesus"

Optional Activity

Teach your students the song "To Be Like Jesus" (sung to the melody of "This Land is Your Land").

"To Be Like Jesus"

To be like Jesus
 All I ask to be like Him
 All through life's journey
 From birth to glory
 All I ask to be like Him



E1 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 4—Israel Wants a King

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God, who is invisible and omnipresent, is our King.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To learn to have God rule in our hearts.
 2. To know that we should not follow the ways of the world.
 3. To always put God first.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Deuteronomy 6:5a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : Saul came from the tribe of _____.
 - a. Benjamin
 - b. Judah
 - c. Levi
2. _____ : Who did the Israelites reject as their leader?
 - a. Samuel
 - b. Samuel's sons
 - c. God
3. _____ : The first king of Israel was _____.
 - a. David
 - b. Samuel
 - c. Saul

True or False

4. The people of Israel asked for a king because God told them to ask. _____
5. Samuel warned the people that the king would make the people work for him and that he would take away their lands and animals. _____
6. Saul was very handsome and a full head and shoulders smaller than everyone else. _____

Short Answer

7. Do you think it was right for the Israelites to copy the other nations in asking for a king? Explain your answer.

8. By asking for a king, the Israelites had forgotten that God was a great and powerful God. They had forgotten all the wonderful things that God had done for them. What would you do so that God is the King of your heart?

Fill In the Blank

(ever, heart, King, love, Lord, forever)

9. "You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your _____." (Deuteronomy 6:5a)
10. "The _____ is _____ and _____." (Psalm 10:16)