

Background to 1 Samuel 8

After God brought his Ark back from the hands of the Philistines all by himself, Israel cried out to God for help against the Philistines. They confessed their sin of idolatry (worship of other gods instead of God) and promised to serve and worship God alone. So Samuel asked for God's forgiveness on Israel's behalf. God forgave Israel and fought for them, defeating the Philistines. Samuel continued to be Israel's leader until he was old.

Icebreaker

- a) What are the kings/presidents/prime ministers of our countries like? Do you feel that the government always do things for our benefit?
- b) In our society, what are some popular ideas that the society puts pressure on you to accept? What happens if you decided to disagree with that idea?

Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

Read 1 Samuel 8

1. Who did Samuel pass the leadership to? What were these leaders like? (v.1-3)
2. What did the Israelites request from Samuel? (v.4-5) What were their reasons for this request?
3. By asking for a king, who did the Israelites reject? Who should have been their real king? (v.6-8)
 - a. Why do you think asking for a king means rejecting God? What is the real problem behind their request?
4. What was God's response to the Israelites' request for a king? (v.9)
5. What will the king that will rule over the Israelites do? (v.10-17)
 - a. What is the main verb that is used to describe the king's actions? How many times is it repeated?

Appoint: to assign a job or role
Perverting: corrupted or distorted from its original form/meaning
Forsaking: to abandon; reject; leave
Solemnly: with deep sincerity
Reign: to rule
Vineyard: plantations of grapevines
Vintage: Vineyard; place where the wine is produced.
Grove: group of trees

- b. What things will the king take from his people?
 - c. If you were the Israelites, how do you feel about the king doing these things to you?
- 6. How did the Israelites respond to God's warning? How will they respond to these actions of the king in the future? (v.18-20)
 - a. How did God answer them now? How about in the future? (v.18, 22)
- 7. One of the reasons the Israelites asked for a human king was because they wanted to be like the other nations. What kind of pressures have you faced to act/think/speak like our society instead of being different for God's sake?
 - a. Although it may be hard to live like a Christian (be different) in our society, how does **Leviticus 19:1-2** encourages you to persevere? What other encouragements can you think of (ie. church)?

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them, 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'"—Leviticus 19:1-2
 - b. If you think about the promise that Jesus makes that we will spend eternity with him when he returns. How does this help you to persevere in following God?
- 8. Unlike human leaders who keep taking from his people, God is someone who gives and gives for our good.
 - a. What has God given to you that you are thankful for?
 - b. God's greatest gift to you is his Son Jesus. In giving you Jesus, what else has he given you that you are thankful for?

- c. **Read Psalm 118:8-9** and pray for each other to trust God as the king of our lives

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. —Psalm 118:8-9

Talk Notes



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Loved
Replaced
Forgotten

Replacing God for the World?

1 Samuel 8