

## 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  
**Perverted:** 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 are 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. Like them, we often don't want to be different from our society or friends, how would your family or friends or your culture feel if you became a Christian?
  - a. Christians are called to live differently because God is different and we want to reflect him (**Leviticus 19:1-2**). What do you think are some ways that Christians are called to live differently from the society?
  - b. Since trusting and following God means also changing the way you live, what are the costs you might expect? Are these Christian way of living attractive to you or an obstacle for you in choosing to follow God?
- 8. Unlike human leaders who keep taking from his people, God is someone who gives and gives for our good.
  - a. **Read Philippians 4:6-7 and Matthew 16:24-26 (next page)**. Discuss what God promises to give those who trusts in his Son Jesus?

- b. Now that you have seen some costs of following Jesus but also some promises that God offers, how has your view about God/Christianity change?

**Talk Notes**

*Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood  
–Philippians 4:6-7*

*Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
"Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world but loses their soul? Or what can anyone trade for their soul? –  
Matthew 16:24-26*



BIBLE STUDIES 2018



Loved  
Replaced  
Forgotten

*Replacing God for the World?*

**1 Samuel 8**