



# 3RD - 5TH

10.1  
The Israelites  
Wanted a King



## CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids:

**Have you ever wanted something so much you could not stop thinking about it? Did you get it? If you did, how did it feel to finally have what you wanted?**



## YES OR NO

**Start by 9:20/10:45**

Before this activity, divide the room in half by placing a strip of painter's tape on the floor. Direct kids to line up on the tape. Call out a subject such as "chocolate ice cream" "loud music" or "skateboarding." Invite kids to hop to the right of the line for "yes" or hop to the left of the line for "no." Repeat as time allows with different subjects like food preferences (pizza, hot dogs, broccoli) or activity preferences (fishing, dancing, bike riding).

**During this activity you said 'yes' to some things but 'no' to others. We call this a preference. A preference is when we like or want something over another choice. Today, we will see how the Israelites made a choice: they preferred a king like the other nations over having God as their King. We'll learn how Israel rejected God as King and chose Saul to be their king.**

**START BY**  
**9:30/10:55**

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



**LARGE GROUP**

# SMALL GROUP



## BIBLE REVIEW

Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 8. The book of 1 Samuel, where today's story takes place, is found in the Old Testament section of the Bible and is named after Samuel, Israel's last judge. Read 1 Samuel 8:9 out loud. Then have kids discuss the following questions with someone close by then as a whole group:

- In 1 Samuel 8:9, what warning did Samuel give the people about having a king?
- Why do you think God told Samuel to warn the people instead of just giving them a king right away?
- What were the Israelites really rejecting when they asked for a human king?
- What does this passage teach us about trusting God to lead us?
- Can you think of ways people today might want to follow leaders or things instead of trusting God?

**God warned Israel about having a human king like other nations because He loved them and wanted what was best for them. But the people rejected God as their King, and the same happens when we choose our way instead of God's way, though God still provides forgiveness and life through Jesus Christ.**



## DISCUSSION

**Why did the Israelites choose Saul to be their king?** The Bible tells us the people looked at Saul's outward appearance and thought he would make a good king. God desired for His people to trust Him, even though they couldn't see Him. We can trust in God as King, submitting to His good authority, no matter the circumstance. (Option: Read John 7:24)

**How can comparison and wanting what others have tempt us to reject God's authority?** When we begin comparing our lives to other people and wanting what others have, we can fall into the trap of thinking we know what is best for us or that God is keeping good things from us. God is King over everything and knows what is best for us. We can trust God's Word and remember how God proved His love for us through His Son, Jesus. (Option: Read Psalm 119:68)

**What can we do when we sin and reject God's Word?** God tells us in His Word when we confess our sins, He will forgive us and cleanse us. When we confess our sins to God, we must also turn away from repeating that sin. Instead, we follow God's instructions, trusting He has the best plans for our lives. (Option: Read Isaiah 55:7)



## FATHER'S DAY CARD

Allow kids to choose a card to create. Pass out markers, colored pencils and tape. While kids create, discuss the Bible story using the questions above.

Instruction sheets are provided on how to complete each card.



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.  
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.