



UNIT 10 | SESSION 1

ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-10

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: My eyes have seen the Lord. Isaiah 6:5

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God's people wanted a king to lead them.
- Samuel said Saul would be king.
- God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

God's people told Samuel, "The people around us have a king. We want a king, too!" Samuel prayed to God. God said, "Samuel, they do not want Me as their King. Give the people a king." Samuel told the people that a king would make them work very hard. The people did not care. "Give us a king!" they said. Later, a man named Saul came to Samuel. He was looking for his father's missing donkeys. Saul was tall and handsome. Samuel invited Saul to have dinner with him. The next morning, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head. "You will be king!" Samuel said. Samuel gave Saul some instructions and sent him home.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 8. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” As you sing, use simple hand gestures for “king” [pretend to place a crown on your head] and “world” [make a large circle with your arms].

“God sent Jesus to be King, to be King, to be King.

God sent Jesus to be King over all the world.”

SAY “God’s people wanted a king to lead them. Saul was chosen as king. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the whole world.”

2 MOVE THE CROWN

Inflate a beach ball or inflatable globe. Sit on the floor with babies seated in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Gather a plastic, foam, or heavyweight paper crown. Place the crown on the globe as you say, “Over.” Move the crown under the globe as you say, “Under.” Replace the crown on the globe as you read the Christ connection (“God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world”). Allow babies to explore the globe and crown as you talk about the Bible story.

SAY “A king rules over people. Saul was king over God’s people. Jesus is King over the whole world.”

3 MAKE A SENSORY BAG

Pour ¼ cup of cooking oil in a gallon-size ziplock bag. Place several small foam crown cutouts or gems in the oil. Seal bag and secure with duct tape. Consider double-bagging and reinforcing bag edges to prevent leaks. Allow babies to explore the bags. Explain that kings wear crowns, and Samuel said Saul would be king. Talk about the Bible story as babies play.

SAY “Samuel poured oil on Saul’s head to let him know he would be king one day. Later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 8. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 DECORATE A CROWN

Cut a large crown out of contact paper. Tape the contact paper crown to the wall at toddlers' eye-level, sticky side out. Guide toddlers to tear tissue paper into small pieces and stick the pieces onto the crown. Assist as needed. Allow toddlers to continue as you review the story.

SAY “Kings wear crowns. God’s people wanted a king to lead them. God chose Saul to be their king. Later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world.”

3 PLAY “I SPY”

Print My eyes have seen the Lord. Isaiah 6:5 on several index cards using different colored markers. Place cards around the room. Point to your eyes and say, “I spy with my eyes something that is ____ (name a color or shape in your room).” Call out the colors on the index cards so toddlers can point out the key passage phrase cards around the room.

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘My eyes have seen the Lord.’ A man named Isaiah saw God on His throne in heaven. Jesus is King over the world.”

4 FIND THE CROWN

Print and cut apart “Find the Crown Game Cards” printable. Name the pictures on the cards. Spread cards on the floor. Invite a toddler to find the crown card. Continue choosing cards until the crown is found. For increased difficulty, print and cut apart multiple copies of the cards or turn the cards facedown. Repeat as time allows.

SAY “God’s people wanted a king. Samuel warned the people that this was not a good idea, but they did not want God as their King. God chose Saul as the people’s first earthly king.”

5 MAKE SENSORY BOTTLES



Fill small plastic bottles (one per child) halfway with oil. Allow toddlers to choose large rhinestones or sequins for their bottles. Ensure leaders add the toddler-chosen gems to the bottles. Tighten lids and secure with duct tape. Invite toddlers to shake the bottles.

SAY “Samuel poured oil on Saul’s head and said Saul would be king. God gave His people an earthly king. Later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world.”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: ASSEMBLE PUZZLES

Print several copies of the Bible story picture. Cut each picture in half using different patterns (zigzag, curved, wavy, or straight). Spread pieces on a table. Invite toddlers to match the pieces of each picture. Tell the Bible story when children complete the puzzles.

SAY “God’s people wanted a king. God told a man named Samuel that Saul would be the people’s first king. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell.”

“My eyes have seen the Lord. [Point to your eyes.]

My eyes have seen the Lord. [Point to your eyes.]

God sent Jesus; He is the Lord.

My eyes have seen the Lord.” [Point to your eyes.]

3 MAKE WORLD ART

Display a globe. Point out the water and land. Encourage toddlers to decorate large coffee filters with blue and green washable markers. Lay coffee filters on a layer of paper towels. Use a spray bottle to spray water on the coffee filters. Review the Christ connection (“God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world”) as the children color.

SAY “God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King over the world. Billions of people live in the world, and Jesus is King over all of them.”

4 LEARN THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place strips of paper at Isaiah 6:5 in several Bibles. Assist toddlers in opening the Bibles to the markers and pointing out the verse. Use hand motions to help toddlers learn the key passage phrase: “My eyes” [point to eyes] “have seen” [use hands to make binoculars or goggles to look through] “the Lord” [point to the sky].

SAY “The Bible is God’s Word. A man named Isaiah saw God on His throne in heaven. Jesus is King over the whole world.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.