

God's Tough Love

1 Samuel 8

*Does loving someone mean that you always keep them
out of harm's way?*

- I. Sometimes God allows people to face the consequences of their ungodly decisions.
- II. Sometimes we need to let them do the same.

Sometimes the right decision is to let others face the
consequences of their wrong decision.

1. When you were growing up were you more often protected from consequences or expected to face them? In retrospect, are you glad for this approach, or do you wish you had experienced the opposite?
2. Do you tend to direct more nurturing love or tough love to others? Why do you think this is the case?
3. What does “tough love” mean, in context of this biblical passage? What does “tough love” not mean, according to the witness we have of God in the Scriptures? (For example, does tough love mean that we cut off all ties completely to someone?)
4. According to this passage, what was wrong with the people asking for a king? Why did the people say they wanted a king?
5. Read through the warning of what a king would be like (verses 11-18). Which part of this warning seems the worst to you? Given these warnings, why do you think that the people were still willing to pay the price to have a king?
6. List some common things that people turn to today instead of God that people think will give them something good, though in the end they bring enslavement.
7. How do you know when it's time to turn on the “tough love” dial when you've been approaching things from a different direction?
8. Is tough love the only approach one should take when dealing with others? If not, offer examples to the contrary.