

THE ISRAELITES WANTED A KING

1 SAMUEL 8–10



CHRIST CONNECTION: God chose Saul to be king. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins so we can follow God. God is our good and kind King.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Samuel, a special messenger for God, made his two sons judges over God's people.
- But the leaders in Israel said, "We want a king!"
- God chose a big, strong man, named Saul to be king in Israel.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: When Samuel, a special messenger for God, became old, his two sons became judges for God's people. Sadly, they were not good judges. Some of the leaders in Israel said, "We want a king!" God told Samuel, "They don't want Me to be their king. Tell them a human king is not a good idea." Samuel told the people what God said, but the people didn't listen. One day, Samuel met a big, strong man named Saul, looking for his father's missing donkeys. God chose Saul to be king. Then Samuel poured oil on Saul's head to show he would later become the king in Israel.



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 Poster 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 “The More We Get Together”:

“God is a good King, a good King, a good King.
Yes, God is a good King. He loves us so much.
He is faithful and kind. He’s faithful and kind.
Yes, God is a good King. He loves us so much.”

SAY “ Is God a good King? Yes. God is a good King. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins so we can follow God. God is our good and kind King. ”

2 CRAWL TO THE CROWNS

Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders’ laps. Provide toy crowns for the babies to touch to explore. Say each color as the babies locate gems or jewels on the crowns. Then place the crowns just out of the babies’ reach. When a baby successfully reaches a crown, gently place the crown onto the baby’s head as you say the third gospel gem.

SAY “ What do kings wear on their heads? Kings wear crowns! God chose a big, strong man, named Saul to be king in Israel. ”

3 PAT THE BAG



Pour a small amount of cooking oil in plastic ziplock bags. Then add a few drops of food color and two people-shaped foam stickers in each bag. Seal and secure the opening of each bag with duct tape. Allow babies to pat on the bags to move the “people” and the colors around. Count for and show the babies one finger and then two fingers as they touch and move each “person.” Monitor safety to ensure the bags stay sealed. Say the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ How many sons did Samuel have? Yes, two! Samuel, a special messenger for God, made his two sons judges over God’s people. But God chose Saul to be king of Israel. ”

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.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster 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 Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song, "Our God Is So Big" with toddlers. On "Big," make a V with your arms up. On "Strong," make a flexing motion with each arm raised in an L shape. Then on "Mighty," flip your "strong" arms down in a downward shape L. Do the motions with the toddlers as you sing the song. Encourage toddlers to sing softly the first part, then on "Big" to get loud.

SAY "Who did God choose to be the king of Israel? Yes, Saul! God chose a big [motion], strong [motion] man, named Saul to be king in Israel. God is our King. He is so big [motion], so strong [motion], and so mighty [motion]."

3 WRITE A MESSAGE

Write The LORD is over all things. Psalm 103:19 on the construction paper (one per toddler). Allow toddlers to use crayons to color and place stickers on their papers. Roll up the construction papers, and tie precut pieces of yarn around each paper like a scroll. Review the Bible story as toddlers decorate.

SAY "Who was a special messenger from God? Yes! Samuel was a special messenger for God. Samuel told God's people what God said, but the people didn't listen. God chose Saul to be king."

4 CHOOSE BIG AND LITTLE

Provide various sized objects of the same type (such as balls, books, stuffed toys, and so forth). Invite toddlers to place the objects in order from the littlest to the biggest. For an added challenge, direct toddlers to line up shoulder to shoulder from shortest to tallest. Assist as needed. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY "Was Saul a big or a little man? Right! Saul was a big, strong man. God chose Saul to be king. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins. God is our good and kind King."

5 BUILD OIL SENSORY BOTTLES



Provide empty, clean water bottles and small, plastic objects to fit in the bottles. Instruct toddlers to place the objects in each bottle, and fill the bottles with equal parts cooking oil and water. Seal the bottles; reinforce the openings with duct tape. Allow toddlers to shake their bottles as they listen to the Bible story.

SAY "What did Samuel put on Saul's head? Yes, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head to show that he would later become the king in Israel."

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY “FOLLOW THE KING”

Play “Follow the King” (follow-the-leader) with the toddlers. Choose one toddler to be “the king.” Direct the rest of the toddlers to follow the king around the room doing the motions of the king. Motion options include hopping, moving arms up and down, walking fast, and so forth. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “Who did God’s people want to follow? Yes, the people wanted to follow a king. God chose a big, strong man named Saul to be king in Israel. God is our good and kind King.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Baa, Baa Black Sheep”:

“Israel, Israel, do you want a king?
Yes, Samuel; yes, Samuel. Yes, we want a king.
What about God? Isn’t He your King?
We want another king. Find us a king.
Israel, Israel, do you want a king?
Yes, Samuel; yes, Samuel. Yes, we want a king.”

SAY “What did Israel’s leaders say? Some of Israel’s leaders said, ‘We want a king!’ God chose a big, strong man named Saul to be king in Israel.”

3 PLAY OUT BIBLE STORY

Select one toddler to be Samuel, God’s messenger; another to be Saul, the king of Israel; and the rest of the group to be the Israelite leaders and say, “We want a king!” Retell the story, pausing for toddlers to play out the Bible story. Switch roles to provide all toddlers a turn.

SAY “What did the leaders of Israel want? Yes, the leaders in Israel wanted a king. One day, Samuel met a big, strong man named Saul. God chose Saul to be king.”

4 HIDE AND SEEK

Print and cut out the “Donkeys” printable. Hide the images around the room. Allow toddlers to take turns finding the hidden missing donkeys in the room. Instruct the toddlers to say, “___ (Insert toddler’s name.) found a missing donkey!” Ensure each toddler finds one donkey.

SAY “What was Saul looking for when Samuel saw him? Yes, his father’s missing donkeys! Samuel met a big, strong man named Saul. God chose Saul to be king.”

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.