

Sam I Am
Give us a King
Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture:

1 Samuel 8:1-5 (NLT)

1 As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. 2 Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. 3 But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice. 4 Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. 5 "Look," they told him, "you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have."

1 Samuel 8:6-8 (NLT)

6 Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. 7 "Do everything they say to you," the Lord replied, "for they are rejecting me, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer. 8 Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment."

1 Samuel 8:9-18 (NLT)

9 Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them." 10 So Samuel passed on the Lord's warning to the people who were asking him for a king. 11 "This is how a king will reign over you," Samuel said. "The king will draft your sons and assign them to his chariots and his charioteers, making them run before his chariots. 12 Some will be generals and captains in his army,[a] some will be forced to plow in his fields and harvest his crops, and some will make his weapons and chariot equipment. 13 The king will take your daughters from you and force them to cook and bake and make perfumes for him. 14 He will take away the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own officials. 15 He will take a tenth of your grain and your grape harvest and distribute it among his officers and attendants. 16 He will take your male and female slaves and demand the finest of your cattle[b] and donkeys for his own use. 17 He will demand a tenth of your flocks, and you will be his slaves. 18 When that day comes, you will beg for relief from this king you are demanding, but then the Lord will not help you."

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Can you think of a time when you really wanted something and then were sorry once you got it?

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read 1 Samuel 8:1-5.** Why did the Israelites want a king?
- **Read 1 Samuel 8:6-8.** According to God, why did the Israelites want a king?
- **Read 1 Samuel 8:9-18.** What were some of the dangers of having a king? Discuss Israel's history (Ref: 1 Kings; Solomon and Rehoboam). Did any of these warnings come to fruition?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- We want to be like the nations around us. What does this desire look like in our lives today? What dangers await those who "want to be like the nations around us?"
- The Israelites completely ignored the Lord's warnings. Have you ever ignored God's warnings? How did it turn out? Is there an area of your life right now in which you are ignoring God's warning?
- God gave the Israelites what they wanted. Troy said this was punishment, not a blessing. Read Romans 1:18-24. How can getting what we want be God's punishment?
- Discuss Satan's tendency to bean boozle (bamboozle) us by showing us the pleasure of sin without the pain. Contrast that with the love and courage that God demonstrates by telling us the truth on the front end.
- If you are saved, God set you apart as His when you turned from sin to Christ. Troy cited 1 Peter 2:11, which calls those who belong to Christ "temporary residents and foreigners." What do you think 'being set apart,' being a "temporary resident" or "foreigner" should look like in your everyday life? What does it really look like? (How does it affect your actions, personal relationships, attitudes toward authority, or personal desires?)

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose to seek out and submit to God's will for our lives.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, please help us to be less desirous of the ways of worldly nations, but to seek after your kingship over our lives. And father, thank you for allowing us to know you and your permanence while we are temporary residents here. -Amen

Start **digging**. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "Was it wrong for the Israelites to ask for a king?"

Answer: In 1 Samuel 8:5 the Israelites ask Samuel to appoint a king, saying, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." Was this wrong? The following verses make clear that it was. Samuel was displeased and prayed to the Lord concerning the matter. God answered, "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you" (1 Samuel 8:7–8). God said the Israelites' request was a rejection of Him, that they had forsaken Him and were serving other gods.

Later, Samuel gave a farewell speech that would also address this issue, saying, "I will call on the Lord to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the Lord when you asked for a king" (1 Samuel 12:17). In verse 19 the people responded, "Pray to the Lord your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king."

Interestingly, God had already predicted that the Israelites would one day ask for a king. In Deuteronomy 17:14–15, for example, God said, "When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, 'Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,' be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses."

Other passages also predicted that the Israelites would one day ask for a king. For example, God promised Jacob, "A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants" (Genesis 35:11). Similar references to future kings can be found in Genesis 36:31; 49:10; Numbers 24:7–9; and Deuteronomy 28:36.

Why was asking for a king wrong? The Lord was to be the ruler of Israel. God led the people through Moses and Aaron, and then through priests and judges raised up to govern the people. In Samuel's time, the people began to worry about who the next leader would be, since Samuel's sons did not follow the Lord. Their request for a king was a rejection of God's way of leadership over them.

Another reason it was wrong to ask for a king is that the Israelites did so in order to be like "all the other nations." God had created Israel as a unique people. He was their leader. When the Israelites wanted a king like other nations had, they were rejecting their unique, set-apart position as God's people. The nation whose God was to be the Lord alone was envious of the nations who followed false gods.