Samuel

“Israel Wants a King”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The story of Hannah’s faith
* The story of the Ark, the Philistines and Samuel
* The story of Israel’s desire for a king
* The story of the witch of Endor

Series Theme Verse: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” – Hebrews 11:1

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that Israel rejected God as king, but God was still faithful to Israel because God loves God’s creation.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 8:1-22, 10:1-7; 16:1-13

Materials Needed: Bibles, Butcher Paper, Markers, Red Construction Paper, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

* Samuel was getting older and could not lead Israel as a Judge anymore, who did he appoint to take his place? (His sons)
* Were his sons good leaders like Samuel? (No, they did evil)
* With evil leaders replacing Samuel, what did the elders of Israel decide? (They wanted a king, so they could be like the other nations)
* Did Samuel think a king was a good idea? (No)
* What did Samuel do? (He prayed to God for guidance)
* What was God’s response to Samuel? (Israel has not turned away from your leadership, Samuel, but they have rejected me, their God as King)
* Does God grant Israel’s wishes to have a king? (Yes, but God warns them of all the bad things a king will do that God would never do as their king)
* What are some of those things a king would do that God would not do? (Vs 11-17)
* When all this happens, how will Israel respond under the rule of a king? (They will cry out to God, but God will not respond)
* Did the people of Israel decide to stay with God as their King after hearing these things? (No, they still wanted a king, even if he would be harsh and cause them pain)
* Why did they want a king? (To be like other nations)
  + Explain to students how Israel was supposed to be different from other nations and a light to other nations, but now they were slipping in their faith and becoming like the pagan nations
* Did God agree to giving Israel a king? (Yes)

Talking Points: 1 Samuel 10:1-7

* You should summarize 1 Samuel 9 to make the connection for students of how Saul meets Samuel, then pick up with reading 1 Samuel 10:1-7, where Saul is anointed king.
* What did Samuel do to Saul in verse 1? (Poured oil on his head and kissed him)
* Why did he do this? (Samuel’s words to Saul explains that he was anointing Saul the new king of Israel)
* What were some of the things Samuel said would happen to Saul as signs that he was the new king? (verses 2-6)
* When all these signs were completed, what did Samuel say Saul should do? (Do whatever his hands find to do because the Lord is with him...meaning, lead Israel because God will be there to guide you and is guiding your path)
* Explain to students that most of Israel celebrates the new King Saul, but some pushed back and doubted Saul.

Talking Points: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

* Last week we saw that God chose Saul to be king of Israel, but Saul made some bad choices and God decided that Saul would not be king forever. Where did God send Samuel to find the new king? (Bethlehem, to the home of Jesse)
* Was Samuel scared to go to Bethlehem to search for the new king? (Yes, he was afraid King Saul would find out and have Samuel killed)
* What was God’s plan to protect Samuel? (Take a cow and say he is there to sacrifice/worship and then invite Jesse to the sacrifice)
* Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. Samuel saw the first son, Eliab, was tall and handsome, what did Samuel think about Eliab? (That he must be the new king God was choosing)
* Did God choose Eliab? (No)
* Why not? (God said that, unlike humans, God looks at the heart to find those who will serve God, not what they look like)
* Jesse had Samuel meet seven of his sons; did God choose any of those sons to be the next king of Israel? (No)
* When all the sons had met Samuel and God had said they were not the next king, what did Samuel ask Jesse? (Are these all the sons you have?)
* What did Jesse say? (No, I still have the youngest, but he is taking care of the sheep)
* Samuel had Jesse send for the youngest son and that was the son God had chosen to be the next king of Israel. What was the youngest son’s name? (David)

The Story Retold:

* Have students pair up and trace each other on a sheet of butcher paper.
* Put the student’s name at the top of their tracing.
* Have the students write as many physical characteristics on the body as possible (maybe have a yard stick to measure height, eye color, hair color, etc)
* Have the students then cut out a big heart from red construction paper and put in the center of the chest.
* On the heart have them write part of 1 Samuel 16:7, “People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
* Remind students that God looks at their heart, the thoughts and actions behind who they are. God loves them because they are created in the image of God.
* Have them write beside their name “is created in the image of God.”
* Roll the tracings up and rubber band them to be taken home.

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have the students read the verse together.
* Have students make a circle and say the verse one word at a time going around the circle.
* Remind students that David was chosen because he had faith in God.