

Session 06

Rejecting the **TRUE KING**

CENTRAL TRUTH | True security is found in submitting to God's lordship.

Little kids will often carry around an item that helps them feel safe or secure, even in unfamiliar situations. Maybe it's a stuffed animal or a soft blanket, which is where we get the term "security blanket." Even as we grow up, we recognize that certain items and people give us feelings of safety, security, and comfort—especially in stressful, painful, or difficult situations. Basically, this is what God's people wanted when they asked God for a king. They wanted to feel safe and secure under the leadership of a strong earthly king. But God was always meant to be their ultimate safety, security, and comfort—their true King. Through their story, we'll see that true security isn't found in any item or any person. It's found in submitting to God's lordship—His rule over our lives.



REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?



1 SAMUEL 8:1-5

¹ When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. ² His firstborn son's name was Joel and his second was Abijah. They were judges in Beer-sheba. ³ However, his sons did not walk in his ways — they turned toward dishonest profit, took

bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and went to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Therefore, appoint a king to judge us the same as all the other nations have.”

1 SAMUEL 8:6-9

⁶ When they said, “Give us a king to judge us,” Samuel considered their demand wrong, so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷ But the LORD told him, “Listen to the people and everything they say to you. They have not rejected you; they have rejected me as their king. ⁸ They are doing the

same thing to you that they have done to me, since the day I brought them out of Egypt until this day, abandoning me and worshiping other gods. ⁹ Listen to them, but solemnly warn them and tell them about the customary rights of the king who will reign over them.”

1 SAMUEL 10:17-24

¹⁷ Samuel summoned the people to the LORD at Mizpah ¹⁸ and said to the Israelites, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the power of the Egyptians and all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ ¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your troubles and afflictions. You said to him, ‘You must set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans.” ²⁰ Samuel had all the tribes of Israel come forward, and the tribe of Benjamin was selected. ²¹ Then he had the tribe of Benjamin

come forward by its clans, and the Matrite clan was selected. Finally, Saul son of Kish was selected. But when they searched for him, they could not find him. ²² They again inquired of the LORD, “Has the man come here yet?” The LORD replied, “There he is, hidden among the supplies.” ²³ They ran and got him from there. When he stood among the people, he stood a head taller than anyone else. ²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the one the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among the entire population.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

READ & RESPOND

This week, we'll read about Israel's request for a king. After several generations of judges, the elders asked Samuel to appoint a king to rule over them. In His sovereignty, the Lord knew that Israel would reject His lordship and desire a king. He even had Moses record laws for the kings of Israel in Deuteronomy, hundreds of years before Saul was ever chosen as the first king. The kings of Israel, however, would still be expected to submit to God's lordship (see vv. 19-20). The Lord knows us better than we know ourselves. He knew Israel would reject Him. He knows when we'll reject Him and choose sin over His holiness. But as we (and Israel) will come to see, we can only find what we truly desire when we submit to Him.

What are the things that the king was not supposed to acquire according to this passage? What do you think the reason is for these standards?

Why might Moses's words have sounded strange to his original audience?

What does this passage tell us about the heart of humanity?

MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Samuel 8:7** on a notecard. Read the passage out loud five times. Next, read it in a whisper five times. Finally, say it in your head with your eyes closed five times.

PRAY

Lord, You know me better than I know myself. When I desire the wrong things, correct my heart. Help me submit to Your leadership over my life.

Day02

1 SAMUEL 8:1-5

READ & RESPOND

While Samuel faithfully walked with the Lord, his sons did not. They were dishonest and corrupt. The elders of Israel asked Samuel to appoint them a king, “the same as all the other nations have.” Israel asked for a king to be like the nations that surrounded them—a huge problem because God called Israel to be different from other nations. They were to be “a holy people,” set apart from every other nation (see Deut. 7:6), but they rejected God’s leadership. It’s easy to want to look like the world, but God has called us to be set apart, to be different from the world (see John 17:16-19; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:9). The set-apart life, under the lordship of Jesus, isn’t always easy, but it is a life of freedom and salvation.

 How does God’s reaction to their demand show He is a jealous King who desires to be our only authority?

 Why do we often choose a “safe” human system over trusting God’s leadership?

 Is there an area where you’re settling for a lesser king instead of trusting God?

MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Samuel 8:7** on a piece of paper or notecard. On the back, write only the first letter of every word. Keep attempting this until you can use only the first letters to say the verse comfortably.

PRAY

Lord, forgive me for chasing what looks “normal” rather than what is holy. You are my true King. Help me trust Your direction today above all other voices.

Day 03

1 SAMUEL 8:6-9

READ & RESPOND

Their request for a king was a dismissal of God's leadership over Israel. Instead of being set apart, they wanted to be like the nations who followed false gods. Does that sound familiar? Many reject Christ because they fear social rejection or persecution—or worse, that they don't need a Savior. For some, the things of the world are more appealing (see Matt. 19:16-23). Just as Israel's rejection of God led to severe consequences, so does the rejection of Christ. Have you chosen Christ or the world? God's way or the godless nation's way?



Is this the first time the Israelites have rejected God's lordship? What's another example that God mentioned in this passage?



Why do you think God let Israel have a king, even though their demand was wrong?



How does this passage convict you in your decisions? When have you rejected God's leadership in your life?

MEMORIZE

Instead of writing out **1 Samuel 8:7** in words, draw the verse using icons or symbols. Translating the passage into images helps you to process the meaning of the words.

PRAY

Lord, forgive me when I reject Your lordship. When I think I want what the world has to offer, reveal to me Your truth. Remind me that Your way and Your leadership are always best.

Day 04

1 SAMUEL 10:17-24

READ & RESPOND

The public king selection with the Lord reminded the Israelites that they rejected Him as their King, even though He is the One who rescued, protected, and provided for them. The tribes are called forward, and ultimately, Saul is chosen from the tribe of Benjamin—known for their warriors. But Saul is absent, missing from his own coronation. Once God revealed Saul's location, he was brought before the people, who shouted, "Long live the king!" Saul's reign would quickly derail into disobedience and ungodliness. It wouldn't take very long into Saul's reign for the lack of wisdom in Israel's choice to shine through. They chose a lesser king over the King of kings. We often unwisely make choices that we think will benefit us, but God's way was better. The Lord often allows it to teach us and draw us back to Him.



Read 1 Samuel 8:19-20 and compare it to today's passage (see vv. 18-19). What were the Israelites asking for, and what did they already have?



How does Saul's physical description play into the people's acceptance of him as king?



Write out a prayer asking God to give you wisdom to make the best choice, to seek Him and His will.

MEMORIZE

Record yourself reading **1 Samuel 8:7** different ways: (1) in a normal voice, (2) in a whisper, (3) as fast as you possibly can. Can you think of other ways? Be sure to listen back to the recordings this week.

PRAY

Father, give me wisdom in my choices. Help me choose Your will and way for me.

Day 05

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

READ & RESPOND

One day, no earthly king or government will rule over us. Jesus Christ will return as the King of kings, and every knee will bow to His authority; every tongue will confess Him as Lord. He will rule His kingdom forever. Those who have rejected Him will spend eternity in hell (see Rev. 20:15), but those who have accepted His rule will spend eternity with Him. Every person must choose to accept or reject Jesus as his or her Lord. It is the most important decision of anyone's life. Have you made your choice? If you have chosen Jesus as your King, live each day in the truth of the gospel, shining the light of Christ into the dark and broken world. If you have not, respond today. Make Jesus the King of your life.

← In a letter written to believers under Roman rule, what would Jesus's kingship mean to them?

↑ Read this passage in its entirety (vv. 5-11). What does it tell us about King Jesus?

↔ How have you responded to the decision of making Jesus your King? Who do you know who needs to hear the gospel message?

MEMORIZE

Rewrite **1 Samuel 8:7** in today's modern language. You could even text-speak it, but be sure to keep the theology accurate! Paraphrasing in everyday language ensures we comprehend what we're memorizing.

PRAY

Jesus, You have my allegiance. You are my King. Help me tell others the good news of Your gospel.