



SAMUEL

Israel Demands a King

1 Samuel 8

Icebreaker

What is one glimpse of grace that you have seen/experienced in the aftermath of the hurricane?

Context

God has defeated the Philistines through a display of his power. Samuel is firmly seen as a leader in Israel and a period of peace is experienced by God's people. Chapter 8 jumps ahead to when Samuel is older and the future is unclear. We get a picture of what happens when God's people look at their circumstances from an earthly perspective and seek worldly answers rather than looking to God and seeking his will for the future.

Discuss

1. Read 1 Samuel 2:22-24 and 1 Samuel 8:1-3. **What do these two passages have in common? Are there any differences between the two passages?**
2. **Considering the struggles Eli and Samuel faced with their children, what are some lessons we need to learn from their experiences as parents? Although having wayward children can be heartbreakin**g, how does the story of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15:11-32 (especially 17-20) offer hope to parents? [Pause the group and ask if there are any wayward children and their parents/grandparents that the group could pray for.]
3. **In light of what happened with Eli's sons, what did the elders get "right" in their discussions in verses 4 & 5?**
4. The key to understanding the whole passage is a phrase that is found in verse 5 and repeated in verse 20. **What is wrong with their request?**
5. According to verse 6, **why did Samuel dislike the peoples' request for a king?** Read Numbers 23:21; Judges 8:23; & Isaiah 33:22. **Who is supposed to be king of Israel?**



Everyday
DISCIPLESHIP

6. Read verse 7. **Are you surprised that God tells Samuel to grant Israel's request for a king?** Read Romans 1:24, 26, & 28. **How is God's response in verse 7 similar to what he does in these verses in Romans? According to these two passages, does God saying "Yes" to a request we make mean that it is a "good" or "right" request to make of the Lord?** [To look at this issue from a different perspective you might consider the question "Can God saying "No" to our prayer request be a good thing? Why or why not?]
7. Verses 7-9 are God's answer to Samuel's prayer concerning the request for a king. **Why are God's instructions to Samuel important reminders to us when it comes to evangelism?**
8. Read verses 10-18, and I want you to look for a phrase that is repeated 6 times (and implied a seventh time) in the passage. **What is the phrase and what is Samuel telling Israel will happen to them?**
9. The thinking behind having a "king judge us like all the nations" is that they would have a leader who would provide social order (internal protection) and national security (external protection). **According to Samuel's warning in verse 17, who will become the oppressor of Israel?**
10. **Have you ever warned someone that a choice they have decided to make is a terrible idea, but they choose not to listen to your warning? What are some reasons why someone would ignore wise advice and choose to do the wrong thing? How did it make you feel knowing they were making a bad decision? How do you think Samuel felt about Israel ignoring his warning?**
11. Read Matthew 19:3-9. **How is this discussion about divorce and God's response through Moses similar to God's response offered through Samuel concerning a king?**
12. Verses 21 & 22 offer a glimpse at the role Samuel plays as a priest (mediator) between God and the people of Israel. **How is parenting similar to Samuel's role with Israel? Read Colossians 1:28-2:3. According to Paul's description, what can we expect when we are spiritual intercessors for others?**

