

We Want A King

Connect Group Guide - 1.25.26

Opening Prayer

Icebreaker

When have you wanted something really badly, only to realize later it wasn't what you actually needed?

Message Overview

This message explores Israel's dangerous request for a king in 1 Samuel 8. Despite having God's presence, His covenant, and His direct leadership, Israel demanded to look like other nations. God warned them of the cost but ultimately gave them what they wanted. The sermon challenges us to examine who or what truly rules our lives today.

Key Scripture

- 1 Samuel 8:5-7, 19-20

Key Takeaways

- **God wants to be our King**, not just our occasional advisor
- **Legacy does not automatically produce loyalty** - faith must be personally embraced
- **Comparison steals contentment** and causes us to devalue God's unique covering over our lives
- **Sin always has a price tag**, but culture hides the receipt
- **God warns before He withdraws** - He's patient and loving even when we're stubborn
- **Jesus is the better King** - He doesn't take, He gives; He doesn't control, He loves

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Story

1. **What did Israel have that no other nation possessed?** (Hint: Three things mentioned - presence, covenant, and God Himself)
2. **Why was Israel's request for a king not just a political moment but a "heart moment"?** What was really going on beneath the surface?

3. **What did God warn would happen if Israel got their king?** (Review verses 11-18)
How did the people respond to this warning?

Personal Reflection

4. **"God has no grandchildren."** What does this statement mean? How does it apply to your own faith journey?
5. **The message stated: "When you compare callings, you forfeit contentment."** When have you compared yourself to others and lost sight of God's unique plan for you?
6. **"Sometimes the judgment of God is giving us permission for what we ask for."** Has there been a time when God let you have your way, and you later realized it wasn't His best?

Going Deeper

7. **Four areas where we might ask for the wrong things:**
 - Asking for security instead of surrender
 - Asking for clarity instead of obedience
 - Asking for comfort instead of calling
 - Asking God to bless our decisions instead of govern them**• Which of these resonates most with you right now? Why?**
8. **"Faith can be uncomfortable."** Discuss times when trusting God felt uncomfortable. How did you handle it? What was the outcome?
 - The contrast between earthly kings and King Jesus:
 - Earthly kings take sons; Jesus gave His life
 - Earthly kings tax; Jesus paid our debt
 - Earthly kings rule by force; Jesus rules by love**• How does reflecting on Jesus as King change your perspective on surrendering control?**

Application

9. **Where in your life have you stepped out from under God's covering?** (Work, relationships, finances, decisions, etc.)
10. **What would it look like practically for you to let Jesus be King in that area this week?**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

11. **Confess** - Acknowledge you've been trying to control this area
12. **Surrender** - Specifically tell God you're giving Him complete authority
13. **Obey** - Take one concrete step of obedience, even if it's uncomfortable
14. **Share** - Tell one trusted person about your commitment for accountability

Leader Notes

- Be prepared for vulnerable sharing - create a safe, non-judgmental space
- Have tissues available - this topic can bring up emotional responses
- Consider breaking into smaller groups of 3-4 for more intimate sharing on questions 10-11
- Follow up individually with anyone who seems particularly convicted or struggling

Prayer Requests & Closing