

# Israel Demands a King

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Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 8

MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 8:7

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*God alone is King — everything else is a substitute.*

## For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole lesson — they heard it. Your job tonight is to make it stick through review, movement, and prayer.

### KEY TRUTH

God alone is King — everything else is a substitute.

**Same bottom line as Sunday, by design.** Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point. A kid who hears the same sentence twice in three days will remember it.

**Tonight is kinetic.** Sunday was reading and discussion. Wednesday is feet. The whole back half of class is a "Throne Tag" game where every kid has to physically move when a substitute king is called out and stand still when God is named. Don't try to make this quiet.

**What to skip.** Don't re-read the whole chapter. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read 1 Samuel 8:7 — the memory verse. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up ("Israel had God as their King. They told the prophet Samuel they wanted a human king like the other countries had. God said yes — but he warned them they were rejecting him"), then move on.

**Energy management.** Wednesday is shorter than Sunday and built around a kinetic game. Kids will get loud during Throne Tag. That's fine — the game requires it. Bring them back down for the prayer card and closing prayer.

### MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- A chair (set in the middle of the room — the "throne")
- Open floor space — push tables back if you need to
- **King of My Heart** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

## 1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

### SAY

*On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. I want you to say it with me: God alone is King — everything else is a substitute.*

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to use their feet, not just their mouths. But first, a quick review.

## 2. The Story

**Quick Review**

ASK

*On Sunday, what did Israel ask Samuel for?*

Let two or three kids answer. Steer toward: *a king, like all the other nations had.*

ASK

*And in verse 7, who did God say they were really rejecting?*

God himself. *“They have rejected me from being king over them.”*

ASK

*Did God just say no, or did he warn them first?*

*He warned them. He told them everything a king would take from them — their sons, their daughters, their stuff. He told them the cost in advance. They said yes anyway.*

**Re-Read 1 Samuel 8:7**

Have them open to 1 Samuel 8:7. Pick a confident reader and have them read the verse aloud, slowly.

**1 Samuel 8:7**

Write on the board:

1. Whose voice did God tell Samuel to obey? (*The people’s.*)
2. Who did the people reject? (*God — from being king over them.*)
3. Was Samuel the real target? (*No. God was.*)

ASK

*So when we put something else in charge of our hearts — fitting in, what our friends think, what we want — who are we really rejecting?*

*God. Same as Israel. Every substitute we put on the throne is a no to the real King.  
Say the bottom line again, with them: God alone is King — everything else is a substitute.*

## 3. The Work

**Throne Tag**

Set a chair in the middle of the open floor — that’s the throne. Tell the kids:

SAY

*This chair is the throne of your heart. The Bible says God belongs on it — he is the only real King. But other things try to sit there too. We’re going to play a game about which one wins.*

**The rules.** You’ll call out a word. If the word is a *substitute king* — something that tries to push God off the throne — every kid has to move: run, hop, spin, anything, but feet have to move. If the word is **God**, every kid has to freeze instantly, point at the chair, and say *“God alone is King.”*

The catch: you’ll mix the words and call them fast.

**Round 1 — slow.** Call the words with a half-second between each one. Let them get the rhythm.

- Popularity. (*move*)
- Fitting in. (*move*)
- God. (*freeze, point, “God alone is King”*)
- Video games. (*move*)

- What my friends think. (*move*)
- God. (*freeze, point, “God alone is King”*)

**Round 2 — faster.** Same list, mixed up, called quickly.

- Sports. Money. Being first. God. (*freeze*) Phones. Getting attention. God. (*freeze*)

Anyone who moves on “God” is out for the round (light, not mean — they sit out one round and come back in).

**Round 3 — kid-named.** Ask the kids to name the substitutes themselves. Write them on the board as they go — popularity, looks, grades, sports, getting picked first, what people post online, having the newest stuff. Mix in **God** every few words. Run the round on the kids’ own list.

#### NOTE

The point of the game is that *moving feels normal* and *freezing takes effort*. That’s the whole lesson. The substitutes feel automatic. Putting God back on the throne takes intention. Don’t explain it — let the game teach it.

### Bringing It Back

Gather the kids around the chair. Ask:

#### ASK

*Which substitute on that list — on the board — is the hardest one for you to push off the throne?*

Let three or four kids name one. Don’t argue with their answers. Then say:

#### SAY

*Israel had the real King and they traded him in for a fake one. Every time we let one of those words on the board sit on the throne, we’re doing the same trade. The good news is: God doesn’t stop being King when we mess up. He’s still on the throne, waiting. We just have to push the substitute off and let him have it back.*

## 4. The Point

### King of My Heart Prayer Card

Hand out the **King of My Heart** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

*God, this week be King over my \_\_\_\_\_.*

Tell them they can write or draw. They’ll take it home and put it somewhere they’ll see it during the week — by their bed, on the fridge, on a desk.

#### NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: “What’s one part of your life this week where you need to remember God is in charge?” Help them turn it into a sentence.

### Memory Verse and Closing

When they’re done, have everyone come back together and turn to 1 Samuel 8:7:

#### SCRIPTURE

*1 Samuel 8:7*

*And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.”*

Read it together once. Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

**SAY**

*God alone is King — everything else is a substitute.*

Close in prayer:

**PRAY**

*God, you are the only real King. We're sorry for all the times we push you off the throne and let something else sit there. Be King in our hearts this week. When we look at our prayer cards, help us remember that you are the King we need — and everything else is just a substitute. Amen.*