



But they have rejected Me as King. 1 Samuel 8:7

Bible Study:



Read 1 Samuel 8-10. Clearly, the nation of Israel is rejecting God, and instead seeking after a poor substitute. This is a picture of our natural hearts' sinful rebellion against God. In light of this, consider the profound grace revealed in Romans 5:8, which tells us that God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The gospel in the story:



Empowered by God's Spirit, both Moses and Joshua warned the people of Israel that their hearts, hardened by sin, would cause them to rebel against the God who rescued, and protected them. We see that warning play out as Israel asks for a human king so they could be like other nations. But God has a bigger plan for Israel that would not be thwarted by sin and rebellion. Just like the nation of Israel, all humanity has the problem of sinful, rebellious hearts. Yet God in His infinite love, has provided a path for salvation from our sinful rebellious hearts – Jesus.

Application

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Why does Israel want a human king? A: To be like other nations (also, that they didn't trust Samuel's sons)

Q: What is God's response? A: He tells Samuel to appoint the man of God's choosing.

Q: Who does God choose to be king? A: Saul, a Benjamite

Q: Why is it wrong for Israel to desire a human king?

A: Because they already have the best king – God!

Heart: **Memory verse**

"but they have rejected me as their king." 1 Samuel 8:7

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

Those who have been given new life in Jesus have, through the power of the Holy Spirit new hearts that pursue God, rather than reject Him. So we pursue Him in prayer, reading scripture and by serving others.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

God wants Israel to find their identity in Him, not in a human king. In the same way, God wants our household to be grounded in Him.

Heaven: **How does this help us share our faith?**

People long for a leader who is completely perfect and trustworthy, yet know that can't be found in any human. So that is part of the good news we have to share: that Jesus the perfect leader that people long for in their souls.