

Lesson C2.1 - God is the True Leader



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: 1 Sam. 8:4-18, 9:15-17

► Bible Characters: Samuel, God, Saul

Samuel was getting old. The people were aware of this, and looked to see what other nations were doing for leadership. Discovering that others had kings, they wanted one too. God did not like this idea, as he had been their true king, but he was willing to let them have what they demanded. So God had Samuel anoint Saul as Israel's first king.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Transition

Israel's path to becoming a united monarchy was not an easy one. Samuel was the first of the prophets to serve as God's advisor to the first king, Saul. David would be the next king, followed by his son, Solomon.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of the **Alphabet Song**.

Welcome everyone today!

Now let's settle down and pray.

Thank you, Lord, that we are here.

Keep us healthy through the year.

Help us listen, learn and grow.

Teach us all that we should know. Amen!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Who do you think has the most power in the world? (Call on volunteers.) Presidents and kings are very powerful and can make a lot of decisions. But there is One who is above even them. Who is it? (God) Yes! **God is the true leader**. Say that with me! **God is the true leader!**

If you were a president or king, who would you go to for advice? (Call on volunteers)

Should a leader look to God for help? (Call on volunteers)

In today's story, people wanted a king. They thought having a king would make them important. But they forgot one thing: **God is the true leader**. Did they get their king, or not? Let's hear the story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Long ago, before Israel had any presidents, prime ministers or kings, a prophet named Samuel was their leader. He led them for many years, and always looked to God when deciding what to do.

Read the caption: God's servant, Samuel, was getting old. The people said to him, "You won't be here forever. We need a king to lead us."

- Which person in the picture is Samuel? [The old man in the light blue outfit.]
- How do you imagine Samuel felt when he was told the people wanted someone else to lead them? [Left out, angry, sad, surprised, etc.]



Picture 2

Tell the children: Samuel was upset at being cast aside like this. He was also upset that the people weren't asking God what to do. Israel had never had a king. Other countries had, but not Israel. God was supposed to be their King and leader!

Read the caption: Samuel prayed to God about this. God said to him, "I had been their leader, but they didn't listen to me. Let them have a king."

- Have you ever prayed to God when you were upset about something? How did you feel afterwards? What happened? [God always listens.]
- What if the thing we ask for is not good? [Sometimes, God lets us learn the hard way!]

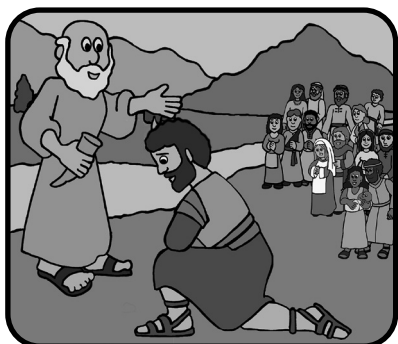


Picture 3

Tell the children: The people asked Samuel to choose the king for them. But before doing that, Samuel wanted them to understand what having a king might mean.

Read the caption: God told Samuel to warn the people that a king may not treat them very well. But they didn't care. They wanted a king anyway.

- Look at the people in the bubble. What do you think is happening there? [A king is yelling at one of his subjects, maybe punishing him for something.]
- Why do you think the people wanted a king even after being warned? [They were envious because other countries had a king, and they wanted to copy them.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: Since the people still demanded a king, Samuel listened to them. He prayed about it and did what God told him to do.

Read the caption: So God led Samuel to a man named Saul. Samuel poured oil on Saul's head to anoint him. Now, the people had their first king.

- What do you think Samuel is holding? [A special horn filled with oil. This was used for anointing leaders, including kings.]
- Do you think this king will treat the people well? [King Saul started out good but when he stopped looking to God, he made many bad decisions.]

Remember today's message: **God is the true leader!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*The Lord's own people Samuel led,
but they preferred a king instead.
But if kings were to run the show,
God warned them all how it would go.*

*"Over you the king will rule;
he may be greedy and be cruel.
"He will take all that you have.
You'll be slaves, and you'll be sad."*

*But the people still insisted,
so Samuel, he did not resist it.
He announced the news to all:
"Your new lord will be King Saul."*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Game: The King's Throne**Materials:**

- Chair, white board, marker

Instructions:

Place a chair in front of the board, facing the class.

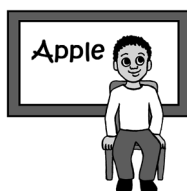
Choose one person to be the king of the group. (Feel free to crown the king with a paper crown!) Have the king sit in a chair, back to the board.

Invite the rest of the class to sit on the floor (or stay in their chairs if that's easier), facing the king.

Write a word — something kids are familiar with and can describe — on the board behind the king. It is important that the king cannot see this word. If you have many young kids in class, you can whisper the word to the group, as long as the king cannot hear it.

When you say, "Go," kids should describe the word without saying it. The king will try to guess the word.

See how many tries it takes for the king to say the correct word. After succeeding at this, choose a volunteer to replace the king for round two. Play like this until you have gone through several words.



h. Song (optional)

Sing this song to the tune, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." You can look on YouTube or Vimeo to hear the tune and also to hear it sung as a round.

To sing as a round: Once kids know the basic song, let them try singing it in a round. Have one side of the room be group A. The other side can be group B. When group A gets to the end of the first line, cue group B to begin singing the song. Both groups will continue singing until they finish the song.

Find, Find, Find a King

Find, find, find a king! *

We want one, we say!

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily

Go! Be on your way!



(* Group B starts the round here)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: Samuel was getting old. The people worried he wouldn't be around much longer. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us,

For teaching and for helping us,

For always watching over us,

We love you too.

Amen!