

2 **1 Samuel 8-10**

“GIVE US A KING”

1. Pray and read 1 Samuel 8:1-22.
2. What reasons did the elders of Israel give for asking Samuel to appoint a king over them (v.5, 19-20)?
3. Why was Samuel displeased with this request?
4. What does God say and not say in his instructions to Samuel (v.7-9)?
5. Samuel warns the elders of what a king will claim as his rights (v.11-18). Is the same or different with what Moses warned in Deuteronomy 17:14-20?

6. What are some of the key dynamics between a people and their leaders that can lead to such abuses of power?

7. How can we guard against these dynamics?

8. If appointing a king like other nations could bring such grief on Israel, why does God instruct Samuel to 'give them a king' (v.21)?

9. If you imagine for a minute that you were one of the elders, knowing what you know now about God and human leaders, what kind of king would you be asking for and why?

10. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-10:27.

11. Saul was likely from an influential family, who owned slaves and donkeys, who was a man of standing (9:1, literally 'an impressive young man'), tall and handsome. How does the choice of Saul match the qualities of a king that the elders were looking for?

12. Look over 9:3-10:16. What events in this narrative confirm God's choice of Saul as king?

13. Why is God's choice of Saul important for the reader to know?

14. Reflecting back over chapters 8-10:
 - a) what do we learn about God?

 - b) What do we learn about people?

15. What is one insight that could you put into action?

16. Pray for each other.