

== IN SEARCH OF A KING ==

Understanding 1 Samuel

Small group questions

1 Samuel 8 A King like the nations

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact Bishop Mark.

- 1. What is the passage about?** Read 1 Samuel 8
 - Briefly recap the story outlined here. Initial thoughts? Anything stand out for you?
 - Anything unclear – any questions?
- 2. What does it teach us about God?** – *review and discuss each point*
 - a. Given half a chance, we'll reject God as King
 - b. Given half a chance, we want to be like everyone else
 - c. Sometimes – God gives us what we want!
- 3. How does it point us to Jesus?** – *review and discuss*

Jesus is THE King. How does Jesus as King compare to the king Samuel warned Israel about?
4. Rejection of our Lord as King is sometimes through a sudden and blatant act of disobedience. At other times, it is a lot more subtle and sneaks up on people over time. Bill was a keen member of his local church for several years until his kids were teenagers. Then their music and other school activities seemed to be allowed to take over the family plans. Bill's attendance at church became less and less. His kids now rarely came. He pulled out of his small group. He avoided contact with his old church friends. How should the pastor and his friends respond?
5. We all tend to place a lot of importance on what people think of us, and therefore standing out as Christian is sometimes very hard because we are opening ourselves up to ridicule or rejection. Yet God has so clearly called us to be different – by our gentleness and kindness and patience; through our speech; by our generosity, our integrity, our trustworthiness etc. How can we arrive at that point in our lives, where we are so confident in what we believe, so secure in who we are as God's people that it really doesn't matter if we face ridicule or rejection for standing out as Christians?
6. Why *did* God grant Israel a King?
7. Sometimes – God gives us what we want. Sometimes what we want is just foolish. At other times, it is something blatantly sinful. Why does God do this?
8. Despite Samuel's warnings – which came from the Lord himself – Israel still pressed on in their demand for a king. How can we wake up to those situations where what we want will actually cost us a lot more than anything we might gain? In other words, how can we avoid a situation where it could be said of us: "Well, they got what they wanted, but they lost what they had"?
9. Helen was going out with a non-Christian guy she was crazy about. Against the advice of her family, her home group leader, her pastor and many friends, she planned to marry him. You have been her friend for years and watched her struggle with her singleness as other friends were married off. Her boyfriend is a lovely guy, but has no interest in the Lord Jesus. What would you say to her?
10. Share with the group any implications you see for yourself from this passage and study. What things might you need to Start; Stop; Continue... as a result of what you have learned through this week's sermon and discussion?