

## Worship @ 10 am Sunday Mornings in-person at



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ  
201 N Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
[www.ZionReformed.church](http://www.ZionReformed.church)

or virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>



## Children's Church @ 10:15am Sunday Mornings

While Sunday School is out for summer break until the fall, Children's Church is in session! Participate in Children's Church in-person or virtually by Zoom.

To participate virtually, join us at <https://zoom.us/join> or by calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 865 7471 1577 and Passcode: YouthSS. For more information: Contact Kim Ridenour at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net) or the Church Office at 301.739.7244, or visit <https://zionreformed.church/children>.

## Hearing God's Word:



Today in church we will be exploring together, the story of the Israelites asking God for a King in 1 Samuel 8: 4-20. Other scriptures we will be thinking about at church this week include Psalm 138, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, and Mark 3:20-35.

## 1 Samuel 8:4-10, 17-20

*International Children's Bible®, Copyright 2015 by Tommy Nelson Inc*



<sup>4</sup> So all the elders came together and met Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, "You're old, and your sons don't live as you do. Give us a king to rule over us like all the other nations." <sup>6</sup> When the elders said that, Samuel was not pleased. He prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> The Lord told Samuel, "Listen to whatever the people say to you. They have not rejected you. They have rejected me from being their king. <sup>8</sup> They are doing as they have always done. When I took them out of Egypt, they left me. They served other gods. They are doing the same to you. <sup>9</sup> Now listen to the people. But give them a warning. Tell them what the king who rules over them will do." <sup>10</sup> Samuel answered those who had asked him for a king. He told them all the words of the Lord.

*Read Samuel's complete warning in verses 10-16*

<sup>17</sup> He will take one-tenth of your flocks. And you yourselves will become his slaves. <sup>18</sup> When that time comes, you will cry out because of the king you chose. The Lord will not answer you then." <sup>19</sup> But the people would not listen to Samuel. They said, "No! We want a king to rule over us. <sup>20</sup> Then we will be the same as all the other nations. Our king will judge us. He will go with us and fight our battles."

*Read 1 Samuel, chapters 9 and 10, to find out who was chosen as King.*

## Family Discussion:

*Why did God's people want a King?  
What do you think makes a good leader?*

There were two reasons that the people asked for a King. Firstly, they didn't believe that Samuel's sons would make good leaders. Secondly, they saw that the other nations had Kings in charge of them. They wanted to be like the other nations rather than standing out and being different and living God's way. When they asked for a King, they were rejecting God's plan for how he wanted their lives to be.

### A Question for Children to ask Adults:

*What do you think is the hardest thing about being a leader?*

God knew that no human King would ever be as good a leader as God, but God honored the request. When we look at human leaders and Kings in the Bible none of them are perfect. They all make mistakes or have a flaw in their character.

## A Prayer to Say Together:



Dear God,

Thank You for the story of the Israelites asking You for a King. Thank you that even though we make mistakes You can still use us as leaders in the world.

Help us to listen to You and be guided by You, recognizing you as the monarch of all monarchs!

We pray for those who are leaders in our schools, workplaces, churches, nation, and world. Please be with them in their decisions this week, according to Your will.

Amen.

## Answer Key:

**Israel Asks for a King**

The elders of Israel came to Samuel and said, "Appoint a king to lead us." This displeased Samuel, so he prayed to God. What did God tell him?

Find the hidden words in the picture, then write them in the correct blanks below by matching the shapes.

It is not you they have rejected but they have rejected me as their king.

Samuel warned the Israelites, "You will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the Lord will not answer you in that day." What happened next?

Find and circle the underlined words.

The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

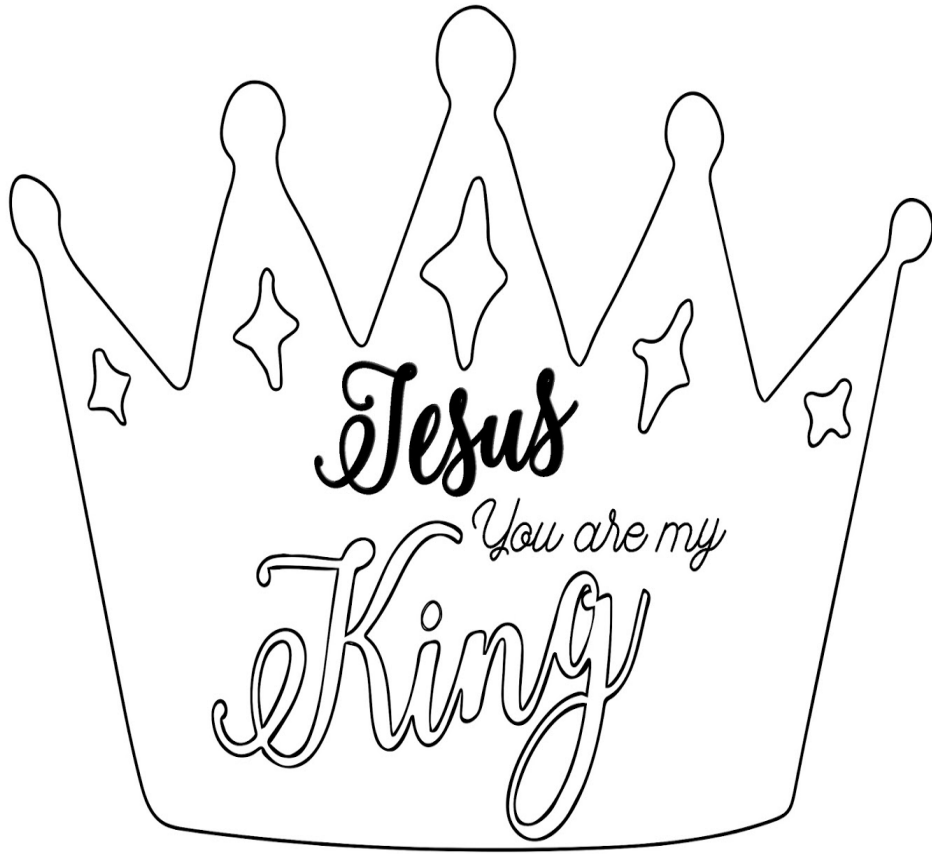
When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord.

The Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

So all the people went to Gilgal and made Saul king in the presence of the Lord."

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# Who is Your King?



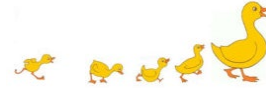
Jesus is Lord of All,  
King of kings,  
and Lord of lords!

Image from <https://mycupoverflows-johnson.blogspot.com>, used with permission.

## Family Activities:

Here are some activities you can do together as a family and discussion ideas to explore God's word together.

### Family Activity 1:



Play a game of **Follow the Leader** taking turns as the leader and having everybody else copy you.

Think about what makes a good leader – can you make sure everybody can keep up and take part?

### Family Activity 2:

Make your own crowns together from cardboard/craft materials you have around the house and in your recycling bin. After creating your crowns, have your very own royal fashion parade!



### Family Activity 3:



God's people wanted a King, they didn't want to be led by Samuel's sons. Play a game of musical crowns, put on some music and for as long as the music is playing dance around passing a crown (or hat) between everyone. When the music stops the person with the crown is the King or Queen for the next round and controls the music.

### Praying the Scriptures:

Lord, let all the kings of the earth praise you  
when they hear the words You speak. (Psalm 138:4)



This verse comes from a Psalm written by David who knew all about what it was like to be a leader and king. David's prayer was that all the kings of the earth would praise God as Lord! Use it as your prayer this week for our leaders.

## Israel Asks for a King

The elders of Israel came to Samuel and said, "Appoint a king to lead us." This displeased Samuel, so he prayed to God. What did God tell him?

Find the hidden words in the picture, then write them in the correct blanks below by matching the shapes.



"It is not \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_  
have \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_  
have \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

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**EYKD20**



Samuel warned the Israelites, "You will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the Lord will not answer you in that day." What happened next?

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The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

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