

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Good leaders have a heart for Jesus.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will know who Saul, David, and Solomon are.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Samuel Anoints David

### **INTRO:**

Today's trivia topic is one we don't have a lot of knowledge about in modern times. Sure, there are still kings in the world today, but most of us probably know more about the Burger King, or the King of Rock and Roll, than any real king!

Kings do not become rulers because they run a good campaign based on traditional family values. Kings become kings because their father was a king. Kings don't have to meet certain criteria to register and run for office because there's no running for office to do. When their father dies, they become king, whether they're qualified or not, whether they want to be king or not.

The problem with kings is that the people live at the whim of a rich, powerful man who doesn't have to answer to anyone. If someone argues with the king, they may just end up in jail! The king's word is law, and if you have a problem with that, the smart thing to do is just keep it to yourself.

In the time after the judges, the people of Israel wanted a king. They wanted to have a ruler like everyone else around them. God warned them through the prophet Samuel that a king could be corrupted and harsh, but the people insisted. So God chose a man named Saul to be king.

Saul started out with good intentions, but he became everything God warned the people about. Saul was concerned only about Saul, not his people, and not God. It made the Lord very sad that the king he had chosen had turned away from him. So God sent Samuel to choose a new king.

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## READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

### MAIN POINT:

King Saul was tall, strong, and handsome. He looked the part of a king, and that was one of the many things people loved about him. But on the inside, Saul had become corrupt. God didn't care that the king was handsome on the outside like David's brothers. God was concerned with what was on the inside.

David was just a boy when Samuel anointed him with oil, telling him that he would be the next king of Israel. Unlike Saul, David was a man after God's own heart. He spent his days in the field watching sheep and writing psalms of praise. David would not be concerned only about himself, but he would seek God with all his heart.

David's son Solomon would succeed him. Solomon was known as the wisest king ever to rule because Solomon asked God to give him great wisdom. People came from all over the world to listen to Solomon teach! Yet not even Solomon with all his wisdom had a heart for the Lord like David. God wants all of us to have a heart that loves God, that wants to do God's will, and will always put God first!

### DRIVE IT HOME:

One day in the not so distant future, one of you is going to be elected class president. One of you is going to become captain of your sports team. Someone here may become a drum major of a marching band, captain of a cheerleading squad, or student director in a play. Many of you will be given the opportunity to be leaders at school, in the community, and even here at church. The question we want you to think today is this: what kind of leader do you want to be?

Saul had the look of a great leader. He was big and strong and handsome, but he was also corrupt. Saul cared about himself more than he did the kingdom, and when he needed advice, he sought answers from the wrong people. If Saul had only turned to God, he might have been a great king. His son Jonathan might have been king after him. But Saul's disobedience was his downfall.

David wasn't a perfect man or a perfect king by any means, but it was his heart that made him so great. He respected the Lord with all his heart. He refused to take short cuts when he had the chance to steal the throne from Saul. And when David made a mistake, he was honest and humble enough to confess his sin and ask forgiveness.

Good leaders seek God. They want the best for the people they lead. They admit when they are wrong, and they always strive to do what is right. When its your time to lead, even before that time comes, ask God to give you wisdom like Solomon and a heart like David. God will make you a great leader, and he will use you to lead others to Jesus.

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## CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Give each of us a heart like David.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*