



THE THREAD | A PEOPLE RISE. A PEOPLE FALL.

Lesson 3: Saul And The Need For A King

Dear Parents,

Hey there! We just wrapped up another lesson in our teaching students the big-picture story of the Bible through our study called *The Thread: Discovering The Thread of the Gospel Through the Big-Picture Story of the Bible*. I've loved the conversations that have been happening in our group so far. This week was the third of 13 lessons looking at the story of Israel seeking to establish itself as a nation. This lesson was entitled "Saul and the Need for a King." Israel asking for a human king is a perfect example in our own lives of how we can look to the world instead of allowing the Lord to change our thoughts. In Romans, we are commanded to be different and not allow the world to be our primary focus. Still, we see that God knows we need His help. If we turn to Him, He will transform our thoughts. Our God isn't a King that merely wants to dictate His rule; He longs for us to be in a deep relationship with Him.

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, we meet Samuel at the end of his life. You may know him as the boy his mother, Hannah, prayed desperately for and then dedicated to the Lord. He was considered the last judge and the first major prophet of Israel. In this study, we see that Samuel's sons have become judges. At least two of them have not listened to the Word of God or their father, and have become corrupt. Their wickedness and greed played a role in Israel's decision to want to be like other nations and have a king lead them. By telling God they wanted a king to rule them, they were basically saying, "God, Your plan to rule us isn't good enough. We want a king like everyone else." Even though He knew where it led, God gave them what they wanted. We still tend to do this in our hearts to this day. This lesson will help students see how this worked out for Israel. Furthermore, they will see that the source for all of their guidance and wisdom can't be the world... it has to be Christ Himself.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: See that the Israelites abandoned God's Kingship for a human being and discover that the source for all of their guidance and wisdom has to be Christ Himself.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They've Learned: Examine areas in their lives where they are conforming too much to the pattern of the world instead of conforming to Jesus Christ.

Scripture Passages We Studied: 1 Samuel 8:1-9, 1 Samuel 10:17-24; Romans 12:1-2

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- What did you think of the fact that Israel traded God as King for Saul as king?
- Why do you think God let the people have what they wanted, even though it wasn't what He wanted?
- I sometimes can struggle with wanting to do what the world wants. (Tell your teenager some ways it can be hard for you too.) This is how I turn myself over to the Lord. (Tell of some ways you let God have control.) Would you want to share some ways you struggle too? What do you think we could do to hold each other accountable?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I'm praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.