



IN SEARCH OF THE KING

Community Group Questions

1 Samuel 8
Down with the King

FOCUS

This chapter is intended to help us see the foolishness of sin and what it is that we're really like as sinners, with the goal then of helping us put sin to death as we receive God's grace and humble ourselves before His true King.

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever done something you knew was wrong and would cause you harm in the long run but you chose to do it anyway? Why do you think human beings sometimes make such self-destructive choices?

READ

1 Samuel 8

SOME QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

Review chapter 7. What happened in that chapter?

Where have we seen a similar description of wayward sons in the book of Samuel like we see here in verses 1-3? How do you make sense of this recurring theme?

What do the elders of Israel want and why do they want it?

How does God interpret their demand for a king and what's His response to them?

Looking at verses 10-18, what's the one repeated word that characterizes how this new king will treat the people?

Read Exodus 19:3-6 and Deuteronomy 4:5-8, 32-40. What was to be Israel's relationship with God? What was to be their impact on the nations?

Given that, what does their demand to have a king *like all the nations* mean they are saying about their identity and mission?



CLOSING REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

What do we learn from this passage about the way sin works in our lives?

Has this passage uncomfortably revealed any of your own sinful tendencies?

Read 1 Peter 2:9, then consider the following questions [from Tim Chester]:

- Like the Israelites, we are to be a people whose behavior is governed by God's Word. Are we? How is it tempting not to be?
- Like them, we are to be different, distinct, and holy. Are we? How is tempting not to be?
- Like them, we are supposed to be a light to the nations as those who have been called out of darkness into light. Are we? How is it tempting not to be?

How can knowing your identity as God's chosen people motivate you to live distinctly? (You might find it helpful to reflect on Ephesians 1:3-14.)

What does this passage help you to understand about God?

How does this passage of the Bible exalt Jesus?

How does this passage help you to trust Jesus and love Him more? For example, consider: How is Jesus unlike the kings of the nations (Mark 10:45; John 18:36)?