

## Lesson 4 - Samuel Part 1

### Discussion Guide

**Main Point** - God rules His people through the king who is a representative of the people and whose actions will bring God's blessing or punishment.

**Intro Question 1:** *What are some Old Testament stories that are really familiar to you? Do you know how any of these stories may point us to Jesus?*

In 1 and 2 Samuel we see some of the most familiar stories of the whole Bible. We can learn so many things from these stories, but one of the most significant things we should learn is how they show us Jesus. Jesus comes to be the perfect King who will reign forever with His people and will be a perfect representative for us.

**Intro Question 2:** *From what we learned about Judges and Ruth, what sort of time period is the beginning of Samuel set in?*

We talked in Judges and Ruth about this being a time where God's people were living in the promised land, but repeatedly turn away from God and live unfaithfully. The people of God repeatedly face punishment and need deliverance by a savior sent by God. Samuel begins in a kingless nation where everyone is doing whatever they think is right in their own eyes.

#### **Building Block 1** - Plot Overview

**Question 1:** *What does the "X" pattern of rising and falling leaders in the book of Samuel teach us about human leaders? How does it help us anticipate the coming of Jesus?*

No matter how impressive a leader may seem, they are all human. There is no human leader in this life that will lead or live perfectly. While some may not have the extreme falls that we see in the lives of these biblical characters, every person in our lives will have failures and shortcomings, and every position of leadership will be replaced. But we know that Jesus will never fail and His kingdom will never come to an end. Let's put our hope in a King who will keep His promises forever, rather than in men who are imperfect reflections of Him.

#### **Building Block 2** - Who is King in Israel?

**Question 2:** *The demand of the Israelites served as a rejection of God. What have you demanded as a need in your life that God might see as a rejection of his sufficiency for your life?*

The Law already anticipated that Israel would have human kings. The request for a king was sinful because of their heart behind the request. They wanted to look like the other nations around them. They wanted a man to put their hope in. There are many ways that we try to imitate the world instead of imitating Jesus. Sometimes we trust in the things of the world so that we don't need to have faith in God. But anything in this world that we put our hope in will fall short of God who made it all.

#### **Building Block 3** - The King is the Representative of the People

**Question 3:** *What did it mean for the Israelite king to be a representative of the people? How does Jesus fill this description in the kingdom of heaven?*

In the book of Samuel, the king's relationship with God proved to be the people's relationship with God. When the king was devoted to the Lord, the nation of Israel thrived. When the king was unfaithful to the Lord, the nation crumbled. In many ways, the king bore the well-being of the nation on his shoulders. Jesus, as our King, becomes our representative before God. Our

relationship with God depends on the perfection of Jesus Christ. Without His perfection, we have no ability to stand before a Holy God. But through Christ, we can live as the people of God.

**Question 4:** *What does it mean that David is a “type” of Christ. How does learning about “types” in the Old Testament help us understand more about Jesus in the New Testament?*

Old Testament “types” are shadows of realities that would come later in Christ. David is a type of Jesus because His kingship sets the stage for the kingship of Jesus. Types are not perfect representations, and David was not a perfect representation of Jesus. But learning about David as a Savior King to the people of Israel helps us understand Jesus as a Savior King to the world.