

**Preschool**  
**Israel's First King**  
**Activities & Crafts**

**Session Title:** Israel's First King

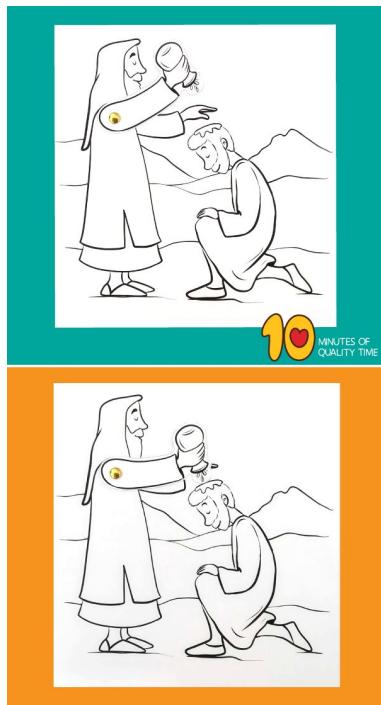
**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 8–15

**Story Point:** God's people wanted a king like the nations around them.

**Key Passage:** Jeremiah 10:6

**Big Picture Question:** Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone

Do a King Solomon printable craft! Get the [link here](#)



**Play a copycat game**

Explain to preschoolers that you will perform actions and they should imitate or copy what you do. Perform one movement at a time that you know all the preschoolers in the room are capable of doing. Movements may include clapping hands, tapping toes, jumping, kicking, and spinning. Consider allowing preschoolers to take turns leading the group to copy their actions.

say • Copying someone else's actions makes for a fun game, but sometimes copying others' actions is not a good idea, especially when they are doing something wrong. In today's Bible story, God's people wanted to copy the nations around them who had kings. God's people decided they wanted a king. This was not a good idea because God was their King. Listen to what happened.

**Examine oil**

Post an allergy alert. Pour several oils into individual bowls on a towel. Invite preschoolers to dip one finger into each bowl. Guide preschoolers to examine the oils by rubbing the oil on their fingers and smelling the oil. Ask them how the oil feels on their skin. Wipe hands when finished.

**Say** • In today's Bible story, Samuel anointed a man named Saul with oil. To anoint someone means to pour oil on him to show he is being set apart for a special purpose. Listen for the special purpose God had for Saul.

### **Guess the king/queen**

Form a circle. Choose a child to stand in the middle of the circle and close her eyes. Silently point to another child in the circle who will be the *king*. Then everyone in the circle will say, "We have a king!" The child in the middle may open her eyes and guess who is the king. After three unsuccessful guesses, reveal the king and play again, choosing a new king and guesser in each round.

**Say** • God's people wanted a king. God planned for a heavenly king to rule over His people, but the Israelites wanted an earthly king like the people around them. God made Saul king, but King Saul did not obey God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be king over everything. King Jesus obeyed God perfectly and died so we can be forgiven.

### **Play "The King Says"**

Play "Simon Says," but instead of *Simon says the king*. Direct preschoolers to do any action you begin with "The king says." Preschoolers should ignore any action that does not begin with "The king says." Gently correct preschoolers' mistakes and allow them to continue to play. Let children take turns being the king. Play as time allows.

**Say** • Samuel warned the Israelites that a king could make them do whatever he wanted, but God's people wanted a king still. Only one king is perfect and will always lead us to do what is right and good. That king is Jesus. King Jesus leads us to obey for God's glory and our good!

### **Fold paper and ask questions**

Provide various sized pieces of decorative paper. Encourage boys and girls to have fun folding paper. Give a child with the freedom to fold paper in any way he chooses.

Print and assemble the "Finger Origami" device. Show the device to a child and identify the four initial images pictured. Invite a child to select one. Spell the selected image, moving the device back and forth with each letter. Show the new choices and ask another child to make a selection. Continue moving the device back and forth each time a new word is chosen. Finally, open the origami and read the inner instructions aloud. Use the Bible to find 1 Samuel or the key passage. Retell parts of the story as a new word is selected.

**Say** • This is the word *hide*. When it was time for the people to meet their new king, Saul was hiding. Look at the word *offering*. Only the priests could make a sacrifice to God, but Saul didn't want to wait so he made the offering himself. God's people wanted a king, but God planned to

be His people's King to rule over them. *Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.*

### **Sort animals**

Set out a variety of toy animals and large bowls or bins. Identify animals as children play. Suggest a child sort the animals in various ways. Gather all the furry animals together or sort by size. Group animals that live in the ocean or on a farm. Point out sheep, goats, and cattle. Mention that these were the animals Saul said he saved to offer to the Lord.

Say • God's people wanted a king, but Saul was not a good king. He disobeyed God. Saul said he saved the Amalekites' best animals to offer to the Lord, but God had said to destroy everything. God cares more that we obey Him rather than offer Him sacrifices. Jesus obeyed God perfectly and offered Himself as a sacrifice so we can be forgiven. Jesus is King over everything!