

1 Samuel 8

Discuss the following question:

- What are some ways we might be tempted to follow the world instead of the Lord?

Read aloud the following incomplete statement, and as you study 1 Samuel 8 together, consider how you might complete it: **If we choose to follow the world instead of the Lord, then**_____.

Ask someone in your group to read 1 Samuel 8:1–5 aloud. Invite the rest of the group to follow along and look for what the Israelites asked for as Samuel neared the end of his life.

- What did the people want Samuel to do?

Ask someone to read 1 Samuel 8:6–8 aloud. Discuss the following question:

- How was asking for a king a rejection of the Lord as their leader?

The Israelites' desire to have a king "like all the nations" shows that they placed their trust in man rather than in the Lord, who was their true King. Take turns reading aloud from 1 Samuel 8:10–18, and look for what would happen if the Israelites appointed a king to rule over them.

Discuss the following question:

- Which of the consequences of having a king do you think would be most difficult? Why?

Work together to complete the principle above based on what you have learned from 1 Samuel 8:10–18.

- When have you seen someone choose to follow the world instead of the Lord and experience sorrow and regret as a result?

Ask someone to read 1 Samuel 8:19–20 aloud. Invite the rest of the group to follow along and look for the Israelites' response to Samuel's warning.

Discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the people rejected the prophet's warning?
- What are some ways we might make similar mistakes?

Invite group members to share their testimonies concerning the importance of choosing to follow the Lord instead of the world.

