

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE PEOPLE ASK FOR A HUMAN KING (C.2.WINTER.2)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 8 and 12:12-24
Key Verse	1 Samuel 12:24
Key Concept	The Lord is the King of my life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a portion of the Bible story with their team.</li> <li>2. Define in their own words "contentment".</li> <li>3. Put together a book of thanksgiving</li> </ol>

### Life Application

One of the great truths in life is that we never settle for what we have. There is a saying: "The grass always greener on the other side." Isn't this true? God's people fell into this trap when they saw that other nations had a human king to rule them. They forgot what God had done for them and asked the prophet Samuel to appoint a king for them, as well. Although they were aware of the risks and consequences, they asked the Lord to give them king and God heard their request. How do we keep from falling into the trap of not being content with God, or the things God has done for us?

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Review	Calendar	5 minutes
Introduction	See instructions	5 minutes
Activity	Worksheets, pencils	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible	15minutes
Craft	construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons	5 minutes
Conclusion	Schedule	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

# Adventures with GOD!

## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9 two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Review:** If possible ask how they this past week has been for them. Ask about their families or other situations. Ask them to share how it was to work on their application calendar. Ask for a 3-4 volunteers to share their experience, what it was like to seek to obey God. See what everyone has written on his calendar for that week. Collect the sheets and then put them in each individual child's folder, which will be given to them to take home at the end of the quarter.

**Introduction:** "The grass always looks greener on the other side." (Write the sentence on the board or on a sheet for someone to read aloud). Ask what it means? (Let the children answer and give their opinions). It is a human tendency to want what the other person has, right? The

# Adventures with GOD!

people of God were no exception to this temptation. Small group will investigate the situation that the people of God were in.

**Activity:** Divide the class into three groups and have them read the text, answer the questions and tell their side of the story to the class. Make a copy of the activity sheet for each group and give them enough time to work together.

**Bible Exploration:** After they have finished working in their groups, each group should have part of the story to share with the rest of the class. Give them each time to present.

Part # 1: Israel wants King

Part # 2: The Lord's answer

Part # 3: A king is chosen

Together draw some conclusions. It seems that the human tendency is to want something that others have. (Comment on any personal experience of when you wanted to have something someone else had). Whatever you call it - ambition, envy, rivalry – and so on - God calls it " sin. " God's people were not sinning by asking for a king. The problem was that they were not content with God being their king. Being "content" means "showing gratitude for what God and others have done for you." God brought them out of Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. God took care of his people all the time. Do you think that the people of God were pleased by what God had done for them? Maybe they were grateful for what they received, but they wanted more. They rejected the King (God), for a human king. Instead of seeking God and obeying his commandments, they decided to ask for a king to be more like the other people and nations around them.

But why did God allow them to have a king? God created each of us with "free will." What does this mean? God does not force us to do anything we do not want, but at the same time only wants us to love God wholeheartedly by our own choosing.

**Craft:** We can show our thanks to God for what we have and our gratitude for what God has done for us. It is our decision to be content with what God has given us. How would you explain "contentment?" Let's identify why we show gratitude to the Lord. Below are instructions for the craft: The Thanksgiving Book

**Conclusions:** During the week they will have the opportunity to put into practice the value of "contentment." (Hand out the calendar to take home and record what happens during the week). They can record when they were tempted to want what someone else had and how they overcame that temptation.

# Adventures with GOD!

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G: God's Word:** What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R: Relationships:** Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O: Outward Action:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

# Adventures with GOD!

## WORKSHEET 1

**Team #1: Israel wants a king**

**Text: 1 Samuel 8:1-9**

1. Why were the people complaining about Samuel, the prophet's, children? Why weren't they fit to be leaders?
2. Why do you think that Samuel was displeased with the people's request for a king?
3. Who were they really rejecting when they asked for a human king?
4. How did God respond to their request?

# Adventures with GOD!

## WORKSHEET 1

### Team #2 The Lord's Answer

Text: 1 Samuel 8:10-22

1. Write down a list of warnings the king gave to Samuel (8:11-17).

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Samuel warn them about? (8:18).

3. How did the people respond?

4. What was the final word of the Lord regarding their request?

# Adventures with GOD!

## WORKSHEET 1

### TEAM # 3: A king is chosen

Text: 1 Samuel 12:12-24

1. According to Samuel, what was the reason they were really asking for a king?

2. What was the great sign that God gave?

3. How did the people respond?

4. What does Samuel remind the people of in 12:24?

12:1:

12:2:

12:2:

5. What if I do not obey God and reject His commandments? (12:15, 25).

# Adventures with GOD!

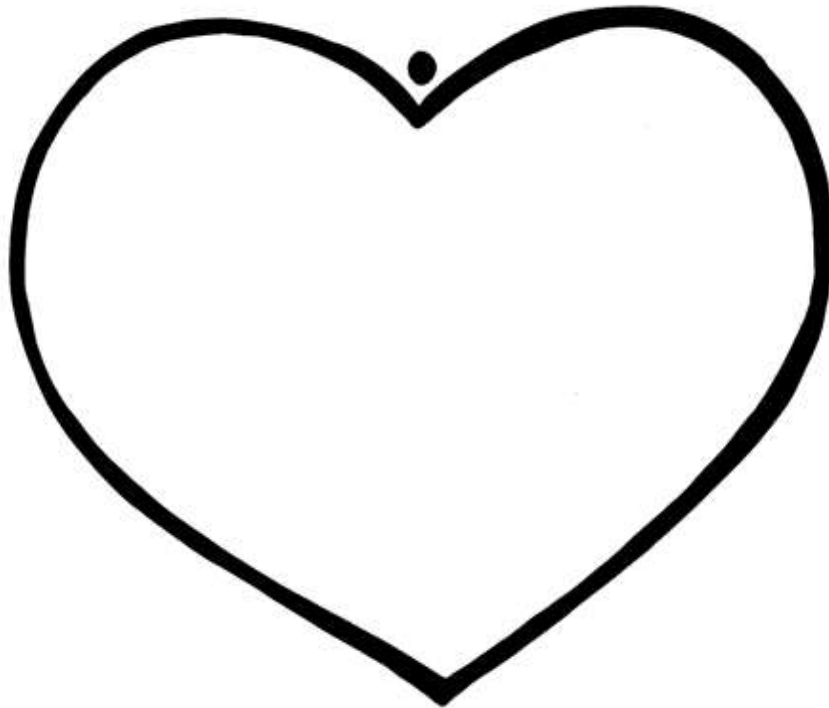
## Craft

### The Book of Thanksgiving

Materials: 4 sheets of construction paper, stapler, ruler, scissors, crayons, markers, glue, stickers, etc.

Preparation:

1. Fold the sheets in half. Staple the folded side in three places.
2. Use your markers (etc.) to decorate the cover of your book of thanksgiving. Add stickers if you want.
3. Title the book "My Book of Thanksgiving."
4. Write or draw things for which you are grateful to God.
5. Compose the lyrics to a new song of thanksgiving for God.
6. Make a list of people for whom you are grateful to God and their positive influence on your life.
7. Create a poem, write a letter or a prayer of gratitude to God.





# Adventures with GOD!

## Illustration

A human king



# Adventures with GOD!

## Worksheet 2

### **SCHEDULE: Looking to God and giving thanks for what you have**

Every night during the week, take time to reflect on the day's events. List the different situations or people that tried to influence you and how you decided to react to them.

**But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. I do not look at the things people look at. Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart.”**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>INFLUENCES</b>	<b>REACTIONS</b>
<b>Sunday</b>		
<b>Monday</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>		
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>		