

## Story 66: The First King of Israel

The Israelites wanted a man to be their king. They did not want God to be their leader. They wanted to be like other nations who had kings. They told the prophet Samuel to choose a king for them. Samuel was upset, so he prayed to God about it. God was not happy either. He told Samuel to tell the people about all the bad things that would happen if they had a king. Samuel gave this message to the Israelites. They would not listen to Samuel. They demanded that he choose a king. Then God told Samuel to do what the people demanded. He told Samuel to make Saul Israel's first king.

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Read this story in the Bible in I Samuel 8:1-22

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### Words to Know

**prophet** – one who gives God's messages to people

**upset** – annoyed, irritated, angry

**demand** – ask for something with authority; insist you get something you want

### Questions

1. Why did the Israelites want a king?
2. Why didn't they want God to be their leader?
3. What did the Israelites ask Samuel to do?
4. How did Samuel feel about choosing a king? What did he do?
5. What message did God give Samuel for the Israelites?
6. How did the Israelites respond to God's message?
7. What did the Israelites demand that Samuel do?
8. What did God tell Samuel to do?
9. How did Samuel know who should be the first king?

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