

Personal/Group Study Guide - Week of May 4 '08

“A King Like All The Others vs. A King Like No Other”

1 Samuel 8

1. When did your parents let you “learn the hard way” by letting you have or do something they knew was not good for you?
2. Samuel’s sons, like Eli’s, turned out to be corrupt. We don’t know why Samuel’s sons went wrong. It’s impossible to know if Samuel was a bad parent, for his boys were old enough to be on their own. At what point can we as parents blame ourselves for our kids actions and at what point do we forgo taking on such blame and believe that our children’s choices are their responsibility?
3. What reasons does Israel give in their request for a king? What was their real reason? Is rejecting Samuel the same as rejecting God? Why or Why not?
4. If you had heard the warning of verses 11-18 would you have acted as the Israelites did?
5. What is so wrong about Israel’s willful intent to have a king? What were the kings of other nations like then (example: Pharaoh)?
6. When are you inclined to want to do something just to be “like everyone else?” How do you prevent sin from blinding you in your choices?
7. When, recently, have you “wanted” something that was more of a want than a “need”? What was the thing you wanted? What did it cost you? What did you really need?
8. What, or who, is wrestling for kingship in your life today? Who do you desire to be king – someone or something like everyone else? Someone or something you can manipulate to your advantage or accentuates your cause(s)? What does it mean for you (and to you) to have Jesus Christ as your King?