

WE REJECT GOD'S RULE

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE REJECT GOD'S RULE

Psalm 10:13; 146:3-4; 2 Kings 17:15; Amos 2:4; John 12:48; Romans 1:18-21

BIBLE VERSE: PSALM 2:1-2

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed."

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin we look for false saviors for rescue.
- In our sin we want to rule or be in charge.
- In our sin we reject the true Savior.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 8

God had always taken care of His people. He had done so in mighty and powerful ways, yet they cried out for an earthly king. Samuel explains to them all that the earthly king will do to them, yet they still cry for the king, rejecting the one, true King of all.

STORY: FALL

Everything was perfect in the world until we broke it. When humanity chose to sin, the world that was once perfect became messed up and broken. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Because of sin bad things happen, we experience all types of pain, and death has come into the world. All of creation groans and wishes that the world could be perfect and good like it was before.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Our sin is a rejection of God that separates us from Him



Every child should feel:

- A need to have a right relationship with God



Every child should:

- Trust what God tells us about the depth of our sin and brokenness



Every child should want:

- A restored relationship with God

FAMILY DEVOTION: WE WANT TO RULE

From the beginning in the Garden of Eden, our hearts have desired to rule ourselves. We want to be in charge of our own lives and we reject God's rule.

BIBLE VERSE: PSALMS 2:1-2

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed."

Our hearts reject God as Lord.

- When the Psalmist writes of God's rule, he shows how the rulers of this world are like every man.
- We all reject God in our hearts just like the kings and rulers of this world.
- Our hearts are sinful and we do not seek God by our own will.
- Our sinful hearts seek our own way and we don't want to submit to God's rule in our lives.
- Our hearts turn away from God.

Our hearts reject God's leading in our lives.

- Just like the kings and rulers of this land reject God, we reject Him.
- We reject Him by not trusting Him or believing Him.
- We reject Him by not submitting to His control of our lives.
- We trust ourselves or others instead of trusting God.
- We reject His wise and loving rule of our lives and instead seek others out or believe our deceptive hearts.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 8

Israel Asks For A King

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a paper plate with the center cut out making a ring. Next, give the children a marker or crayon and ask them to draw a picture of themselves on one side of the ring and on the opposite side to write GOD. Next, give them little small slips of paper and string. On the papers they should write ways they've sinned and then use the string to attach these to the top of the ring so that they hang between GOD and the picture of the child. Remind the children that we reject a relationship with God because of our sin.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE LOOK FOR FALSE SAVIORS FOR RESCUE.**Sin causes us to not see our true reality.**

- The Israelites knew that Samuel's sons were not ruling properly.
- They saw that his sons took bribes and twisted the justice system, but the people didn't turn to God.
- Instead of turning to God and trusting Him, they looked for other people to rescue and lead them.
- Our sin can prevent us from seeing our true circumstances.
- We don't turn to God and instead turn to other people or other things to change our circumstances.



Play a game of musical beanbag with the children as they sit in a circle. The child left with the beanbag gets to call out "We want a king!". Talk with the children about how the Israelites cried out for an earthly king even though God was their king.

False saviors never save us.¹

- When we look to false saviors, we are always disappointed.
- We turn away from God and put our eyes on ourselves or other things.
- We move farther away from God when we do this.
- The Israelites looked to other people to rescue them from the bad judges instead of looking to God.
- They rejected God's rule of their lives.

Why did the Israelites ask for an earthly king? (They wanted someone to fight for them and take care of them.)

What do we look to false saviors for? (We look for rescue from them.)

Can false saviors or false gods ever save us? (No, there is no salvation in false saviors.)

1. Acts 4:12: Salvation is found in Jesus only. There is no salvation in false gods or idols.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE WANT TO RULE OR BE IN CHARGE.**Sin makes us think we know what is best.**

- Our sinful hearts distort our understanding.
- Just like the Israelites thought they knew better than God, we think we know better.
- We choose to rule our own lives because our sinful hearts make us believe we know better than God.
- The Israelites thought they knew better than God.
- Even though God explained to them how a king would treat them, they wouldn't listen.
- They chose instead to do what they thought was best.

Our sinful hearts desire to be our own Lord.²

- The Israelites wanted a ruler who did what they wanted.
- They rejected God as their king because they wanted to be in charge.
- We want to rule our own lives.
- We don't want to submit to God's rule and authority.
- Our sin causes us to reject Him as Lord of our lives.
- When we choose to rule ourselves, we are saying we know better than God.



Place a small mirror in a gift bag. Pass the bag to the children as they sit in a circle. As the bag passes, tell the children that inside the bag is something that will show us the person we want to be our ruler. Ask the children to guess what it is. Once every child has guessed, take the mirror out and ask the children to look at themselves in the mirror. Remind them that our sin causes us to desire to be our own ruler.

What does our sin make us think? (Our sin makes us think we know better than God.)

How did the Israelites think they knew better than God? (They still asked for a king even though Samuel explained to them how a king would treat them.)

What do our sinful hearts desire? (They desire to be our own Lord.)

2. Colossians 2:18: We make ourselves an idol when we reject God's rule and desire to rule ourselves.

BIG IDEA: IN OUR SIN WE REJECT THE TRUE SAVIOR.³**Our sinful hearts cause us to reject truth.**

- The Israelites were warned about how a king would rule them.
- They chose an earthly king anyway.
- They rejected the truth that Samuel told them about an earthly king and they rejected the true Savior.
- We reject the truth.
- We don't see our circumstances through God's eyes.
- We think we know better than Him.

Our sinful hearts reject the Savior.

- Jesus is our only true Savior, yet we look for others.
- Just like Samuel told the Israelites how an earthly king would treat them, we know that Jesus is the only true Savior.
- We still reject Him and His lordship because our hearts desire to rule ourselves.
- Our sin causes us to reject the one person who can wash us clean and truly direct our paths.



Divide the children into two groups: a truth group and a lie group. Give each group a large piece of paper and ask them to make a list of truths if they are the truth group and a list of lies if they are the lie group. Once each group is finished and has shared their lists, talk with them about how we reject the truth that God is the only true Savior.

Who did the Israelites really reject when they asked for a king? (They were rejecting the true Savior.)

3. John 12:48: Rejecting the true Savior is rejecting the true God and leads to our own destruction.

HOOKS



KNOW

True Versus False

Place a large piece of paper or poster board on the wall. Write down true statements and false statements on the piece of paper. Divide the children into teams and give the teams a marker. The first person on each team should run to the paper and mark the first statement true or false before running back to the team and handing the marker to the next child. Keep doing this until every child has a chance to mark a statement true or false. Lead the children in a discussion about how to recognize false saviors from the true Savior, Jesus. Jesus is all powerful and can do anything while false saviors cannot.



DO



FEEL

A Kingly Rule

Trace or cut out a template for a ruler on heavy or cardstock paper. Make enough for every child to have one. Write God on one side and Man on the other. Ask the children to write down or draw pictures of different things that God is able to do and different things that man is able to do. When they finish, talk with them about the differences in an earthly king and God as our king.



WANT

- Who is more powerful than God? (No one is more powerful than God.)
- Can an earthly king give us protection? (Yes, but not as much as God can.)
- Can God protect us? (Yes, God promises to protect us.)