

king. A clear if subtle substitution. Their help now was not in the strong name of Yahweh but in a new form of government. It is not monarchy but trust in monarchy that is the villain (see Pss 118:8-9; 146:3).” (Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Blain, Glasgow, England, 2014, pp. 85)

- a. In 8:7-9 and 8:21-22, what did God command Samuel to do about the request for a king?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. In his response to Israel in 8:11-18, what does Samuel try to explain? How successful was Samuel in getting his warning through to Israel, as indicated in 1 Samuel 8:19-22?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Can you think of times when God has said ‘No!’ to your prayers and you have discovered afterwards what a good answer that was? Sometimes desires we have that are legitimate in themselves (like the desire of the Israelites for a king) may become harmful and wrong because of other influencing factors. What can help us discern when this is happening to us?

**Let's Pray:**

# Sermon Notes

“The King Thing:

When You Get What You Asked For And Wish You Hadn't”

1 Samuel 8

August 6, 2017

## Introduction

**Conclusion:**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 8-6-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 35-39; Explore the Bible, Adult Leader Guide, Vol. 2, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 45-53; Explore the Bible, Quicksource Leader, Vol. 4, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 21; Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 85, 91.

## Getting Started:

1. What actions do you take to endure crucial times of change?

## Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 8. What reasons did the elders of Israel give for wanting a king (8:1-5)? What deeper reason is demonstrated in 8:20?
  - a. From your experience, what difference does seeking God's guidance make in transitions? How has He helped you in transitions?
  - b. When a transition is forced on you, how do you seek God's guidance? What other methods can we use to find God's directions?
3. Consider how Samuel responded in 8:6 when the people made a request that displeased him.
  - a. From your experience, what difference does seeking God's guidance make in transitions? How has He helped you in transitions?
  - b. When a transition is forced on you, how do you seek God's guidance? What other methods can we use to find God's directions?

- c. What life transitions do you expect to find most challenging in the future?

4. What is the Lord's analysis of the people's request (8:7-8)? Instead of demanding a king (as they do in chapter 8), what request could Israel have made that would have been more pleasing to the Lord?
5. In Deuteronomy 17:14-20, notice the regulations concerning kingship that had long before been given to Israel through Moses, centuries before the events described in 1 Samuel 8. In that passage from Deuteronomy ...
  - a. what were the most important stipulations regarding the selection of a king?
  - b. what does the passage emphasize that a king must *not* do?
  - c. what does it say a king *should* do, and for what reasons?
6. "So the fault (in 1 Sam. 8) was not in the fact of the request but in the motive for the request. It was not the request itself but what was behind the request that tainted it. ... In the current emergency, there was no crying out to Yahweh for deliverance but a demand for a