

Community Group Study

1 Samuel 8 — If God Is King

Main Idea:

Israel faced a real problem, but their solution revealed a deeper issue: they wanted the security of what everyone else had rather than the uncertainty of trusting God.

1. Read the Passage — 10 minutes

Read 1 Samuel 8:1–22.

As you listen, notice:

- What problem are the elders trying to solve?
- What do they ask Samuel for?
- How does God interpret their request?

2. A Real Problem — 10 minutes

Samuel is old, and his sons are corrupt. Israel's concern is legitimate. But a real problem does not automatically make our preferred solution the right one.

Discuss

1. What legitimate concerns were behind Israel's request for a king?
2. Why can difficult circumstances make us rush toward solutions that feel secure?

3. "Like All the Other Nations" — 15 minutes

Read 1 Samuel 8:5, 19–20.

Israel wanted to be "like all the other nations."

Their request sounded practical. Other nations had kings. Kings offered stability, leadership, and protection. But God saw something deeper: they were placing their trust in what they could see and control.

Discuss

3. Why was becoming “like the other nations” so attractive?
4. Where are we tempted to follow what everyone else is doing rather than asking what God wants?
5. When can good planning or strategy become a substitute for trusting God?
4. Our Desire for Certainty — 15 minutes

Read 1 Samuel 8:6–9.

God says: “They have rejected me as their king.” Their deepest problem was not leadership. It was trust.

Discuss

6. Why is uncertainty so difficult for us?
 7. What good things can become sources of false security—money, leaders, plans, institutions, possessions?
 8. How can we tell the difference between wise planning and trying to control the future?
- A helpful question is: “If this plan does not work out, can I still trust God?”

5. Bringing It Home — 10 minutes

Samuel warns Israel that the king they want will eventually take from them. Yet God allows them to choose. Their decision has consequences, but God does not abandon them.

Discuss

9. What does this passage teach us about God allowing us to make choices even when He has warned us?
10. Where in your life are you most tempted to replace trust in God with the need to control the outcome?

Closing Thought

We lose our way when our desire for certainty becomes stronger than our trust in God.

This week, pray: “God, You are King. Help me do what is mine to do, and trust You with what I cannot control.”

社区小组查经

撒母耳记上第 8 章 —— 如果上帝是王

核心信息：以色列面对的是一个真实的问题，但他们所选择的解决方法却显露出内心更深的问题：他们宁愿寻求别人所拥有的安全感，也不愿在不确定中信靠上帝。

1. 阅读经文 — 10分钟

阅读撒母耳记上 8:1 - 22。

阅读时，请注意：

- 长老们想要解决什么问题？
- 他们向撒母耳提出什么要求？
- 上帝怎样看待他们的要求？

2. 一个真实的问题 — 10分钟

撒母耳年纪老迈，他的儿子却行为败坏。以色列人的担忧并不是没有道理。

但问题是真实的，并不代表我们所选择的解决方法就是正确的。

讨论

1. 以色列人要求立王，背后有哪些合理的担忧？
2. 为什么在困难的处境中，我们容易急着寻找一个让自己觉得更安全的解决方法？

3. 像列国一样” — 15分钟

阅读撒母耳记上 8:5、19 - 20。

以色列人想要“像列国一样”。

他们的要求听起来很实际。别的国家都有王，王似乎能带来稳定、领导和保护。

但上帝看见了更深的问题：他们开始把信心放在自己看得见、能够掌控的东西上。

讨论

3. 为什么“像列国一样”对以色列人有这么大的吸引力？
4. 今天，我们在哪些方面也容易跟着别人走，而没有先问：上帝要我们怎样做？
5. 什么时候，好的计划或策略会变成代替信靠上帝的东西？

4. 我们对确定感的渴望 — 15分钟

阅读撒母耳记上 8:6 - 9。

上帝说：他们不是厌弃你，乃是厌弃我，不要我作他们的王。”

他们最深的问题不是领导制度，而是信靠。

讨论

6. 为什么“不确定”会让我们这么不安？

7. 哪些原本是好的东西，也可能慢慢成为我们虚假的安全感——例如金钱、领袖、计划、制度或财物？

8. 我们怎样分辨自己是在作智慧的计划，还是在试图控制未来？

可以用这个问题来帮助自己反省：如果这个计划最后没有实现，我还能够信靠上帝吗？”

5. 回到我们的生活 — 10分钟

撒母耳警告以色列人，他们所要的王最终会从他们手中不断“取走”。然而，上帝仍容许他们作出自己的选择。

他们的选择会带来后果，但上帝并没有因此离弃他们。

讨论

9. 当上帝已经警告我们，却仍容许我们作选择，这段经文让我们看见上帝怎样的一面？

10. 在你现在的生活中，哪一个方面最容易让你想要控制结果，而不是信靠上帝？

结束思想

当我们将对确定感的渴望，比对上帝的信靠更强时，我们就会迷失方向。

本周可以这样祷告：上帝，你是王。求你帮助我忠心做好我该做的事，也把那些我无法掌控的事交托给你。”