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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to learn what happens once Samuel gets old and is about to die. Samuel had grown up to be a great judge for Israel but the Israelites wanted to try something new. They were looking around at other nations and realized that they all had a king or queen as their leader. Those nations seemed more powerful because their leaders wore cool crowns and fancy robes. So, they decided they wanted that, too. They went to Samuel and demanded to have a king as their leader once Samuel died. Samuel prayed and asked God for wisdom. God told Samuel that he would give the people a king but he warned him of the downfalls. Having a king may look cool, but kings can get selfish and mean when they have all the power. And, here's what the Israelites were forgetting. They already had a king-God! He's the ruler of everything and he had been leading, protecting and providing for the Israelites all along like a good king should. But, the Israelites didn't get that. They wanted a human king. We need to remember this, too. God is our king and he's the best king. He loves us and will take care of us.

Big Idea

God is the real king over everyone everywhere

Key Question

Why is God the best king?

Memory Verse

Psalm 47:2 "For the Lord Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: If you were in charge of a country, what would you do?** (Tip: Maybe schools would serve pizza every day and everyone would go to the beach on Fridays. God is the best king and he's in charge.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because he's the smartest and he loves us!** (Do you want someone to be in charge that doesn't know what they're doing? No! Isn't it better to have a leader who knows everything and has the power to do whatever he needs to do? Yes! God created everything! He knows what's best so he is the only qualified king. And, God is loving and will do what's best for us. He isn't selfish or mean.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why is God the best king? What are some other things that make God so awesome?
4-5th What does a selfish leader do? How has God proven that he isn't selfish?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Revelation 17:14. Who is the Lamb? Who are the chosen ones that will be with him forever?** (Answer: This verse is talking about Jesus as our Lamb and our king. Jesus is God and he came to save us from our sins so that we could have a relationship with him. And, everyone who trusts in Jesus will live in heaven with him some day.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: GOD IS OUR KING CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Crown template (page 5) and 2 strips of construction paper which will be used to fit the crown to their heads.
- Have them color and decorate their crown. Then, have them glue the Big Idea to the front of their crown.
- As they work, read 1 Samuel 8:1-9. Remind the kids that the Israelites didn't understand that they already had a king-God! He is all they needed and he's all we need.
- Then, help the kids staple the construction strips to each end of the crown and then overlap the strips at the back of their heads until the crown fits to their head and staple the strips together.

Supplies needed: Crown template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 per kid), Construction Paper (cut into long strips, 2 per kid), Crayons, Staplers, Glue

OPTION 2: KING OF THE HILL LESSON REVIEW

Instructions:

- Before playing, tape a square on the floor. Choose one kid to be the king and have them put on the crown and stand in the square. Have the rest of the kids line up single file facing the king.
- Have a face off between the king and the first kid in line by asking a question from below. First to raise their hand gets to answer. If king wins, they stay as king. If kid in line wins, they get to become king.

Questions:

1. Who was the leader of the Israelites in the story? (Samuel)
2. T or F: Samuel was a prophet. (F-he was a judge)
3. Is our memory verse from the OT or NT? (OT)
4. What did the Israelites want? (a king)
5. Why did they want a king? (be like other nations)
6. T or F: God was glad they wanted a king. (F)
7. What's the Big Idea today? (see board)
8. What was God's warning about a king? (selfish and mean leader)
9. Who died for our sins? (Jesus)
10. Where can we live with God some day? (Heaven)

Supplies needed: Crown, Tape

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BIBLE STORYLINE

The People Demand a King

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God's people thought they needed a king to be powerful, but they already had the most powerful king of all!

Key Points:

- Samuel was a good _____, but the people wanted a _____.
- The people thought a king on _____ was better than a king in _____.
- God told Samuel to _____ the people about what kings are like.
- God is the _____ over everyone everywhere.

Memory Verse:

Psalm 47:2 For the Lord Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *If you were in charge of a country, what would you do?*
3. *Why did the people ask Samuel for a king to rule over them?*
4. *Who was their real king? Why didn't the Israelites view God as their king?*
5. *Read Revelation 17:14. Who is the Lamb? Who are the chosen ones that will be with him forever?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

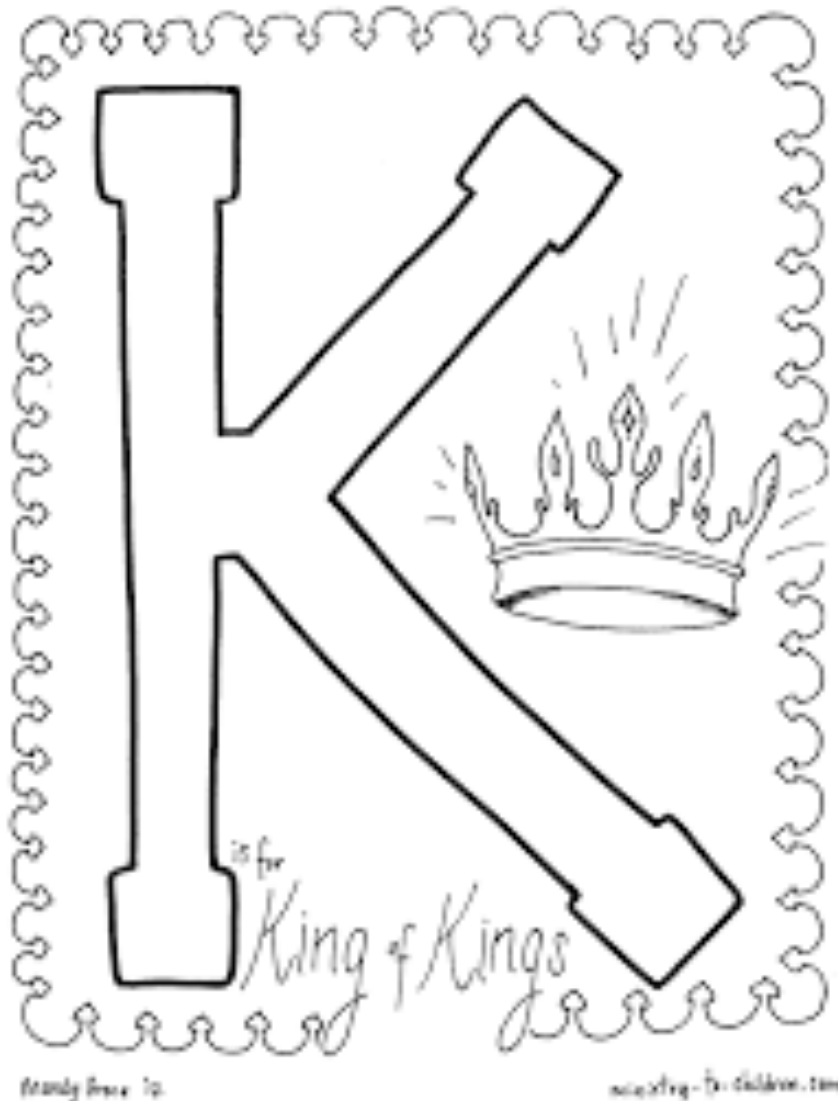
GOD IS THE REAL
KING OVER
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Key Question

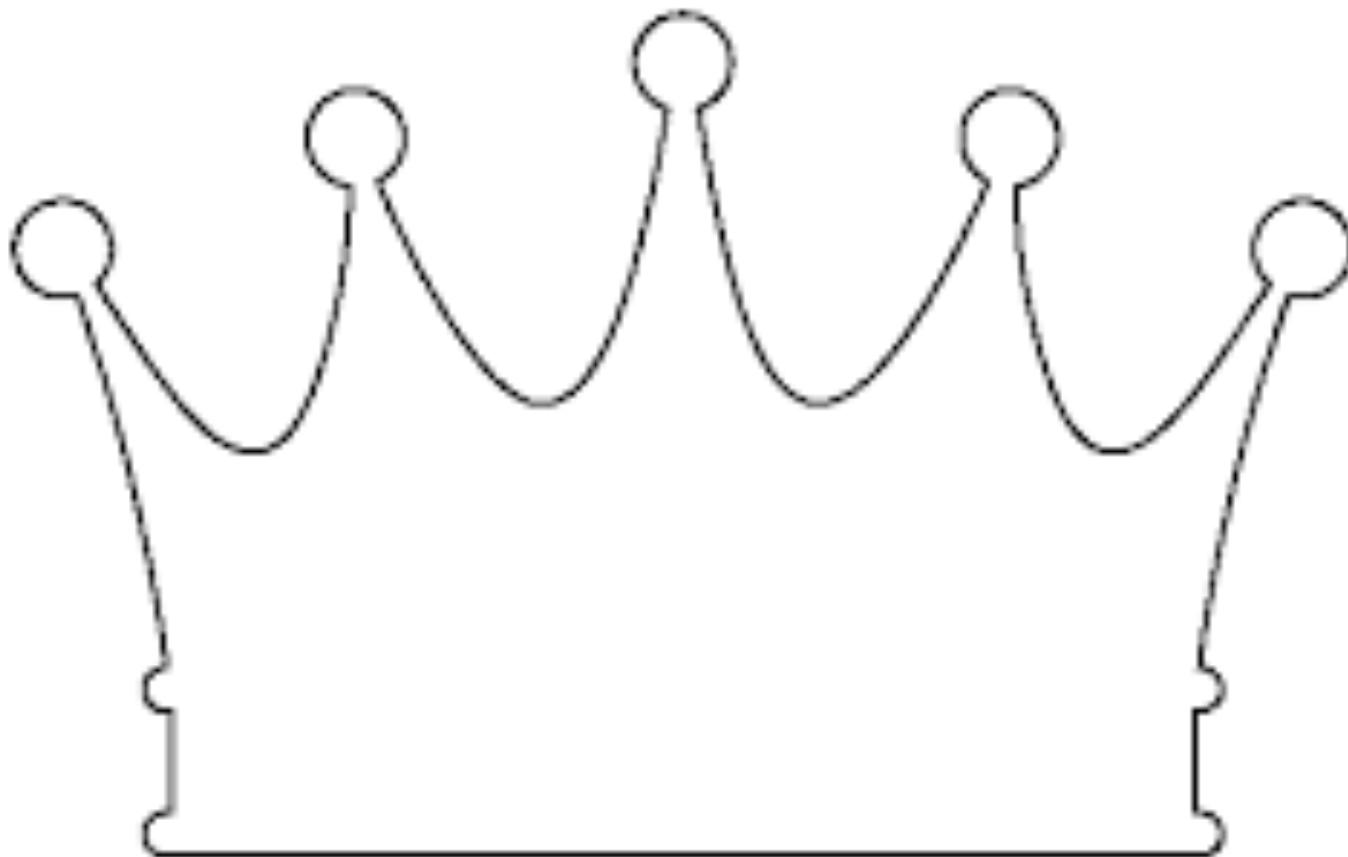
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