

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON
SEPTEMBER 6, 2020
BUT EVERYONE HAS A KING

Today is the beginning of a new Church School season, and for now we are going to be doing things a bit different than we have in the past. The online lessons will continue for now. I will be consulting with the Pastor and the committee to reopen the church on when we will begin having in-person church school classes.

This week we are starting a new curriculum called Bible-In-Life. We will be exploring God's word together and learning how that applies to our daily lives in 2020. Our first section is about good and bad choices. In our lesson this week we will learn that following the popular way may not be God's way. We are going to play a little game. Here is a board of squares. I want you to write in each square something that you and other kids like you really like, things like music, TV shows, clothes, games, toys or sports. Don't write just the things that you have. Include some things that your friends have that you don't have.

Now, I want you to think about the things that you named that you don't have but would like to have. Why do you think that kids want these things?

If none of your friends had these things, would you still want them?

How many times do you say, "But everybody else has it."? Or maybe you say, "But everyone else is going." Many times the reason we want a particular item or want to do a particular thing is because we want to be like the people around us or because we don't want to be different from everyone else. In our Bible story this week, the people of Israel wanted something so they could be like the nations around them.

The people of Israel were ruled by judges for many years. The prophet Samuel led Israel until he was very old and then he appointed his sons to be judges in Israel. But Samuel's sons were dishonest judges and poor leaders.

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9.

Why did the people want a king? Why did asking for a king displease God? What would you have done if you were in Samuel's place?

Read 1 Samuel 8:11-18 and 1 Samuel 8:20.

What warning did Samuel give the people about having a king?

Why did the Israelites want to be like other nations?

The people would not listen to Samuel. When Samuel told God, God told Samuel to anoint a king. God chose Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin to be Israel's first king. Saul was an impressive looking man. Samuel anointed Saul and then he warned the people about having a king.

Read 1 Samuel 10:17-24.

Why did God remind the people of the exodus from Egypt? Why do you think Saul hid? What was the people's reaction to Saul when they saw him?

Samuel explained to the people the rules for a king to follow. That was so the new king and all the people would understand them. He wrote the rules down and kept the laws in the tabernacle.

Can you think of any other ways Israel tried to be like its neighbors? Think about a time when you did something to be like everyone else. Did that lead to doing things God’s way? Is it always wrong to be like other people?

The people of Israel wanted to be like the nations around them. But the popular way was not God’s way. The people got their way, but it was not God’s way.

In our Bible story we learned that wanting to be like everyone else may go against God’s way.

This is a story about Robby. All of his friends were going to watch “Night of Terror” on TV. Everyone except me, thought Robby. There is no way my parents will let me watch that show. Follow each of the choices that Robby could make and the result of his decision.

↓	↓	↓
Robby could complain about how unfair his parents are.	Robby could watch the show at his friend’s house after school one day.	Robby could invite a friend over to his house to do something else
↓	↓	↓
Robby and his parents start arguing with each other.	Robby’s parents find out that Robby plans to watch the show at his friend’s house.	Robby and his friend have a great time.
↓	↓	↓
What might happen next?	What might happen next?	What might happen next?

How does following God’s way affect your relationship with others?

The Israelites wanted to have a king. That was the popular way to do things. God told them the popular way was not His way. God reminded them that He had led the Israelites through the desert. They had followed a cloud by day. They followed a fiery pillar by night.

You probably don’t have a cloud or a fiery pillar to follow. God will still lead you in other ways. In our Bible story, we learned that the popular way may not be God’s way. It’s usually easy to know and follow the popular way. That’s because we see it all around us. However, at times it can seem even harder to know and follow God’s way. Finish each of these sentences with different ways God helps you follow him. Some helpful words are prayer, obedience, Bible study, service and giving.

My church leader can show God’s way by helping me with _____.

My Church School teacher can show me God’s way by helping me with _____.

My mom or dad can show me God’s way by helping me with _____.

My friend who is a Christian can show me God's way by helping me with _____
_____.

This week I want to follow God's way through _____
_____.

Sometimes it's tough to follow God's way, especially when everyone around us seems not to be. In our memory verse, David asked God to show him his way. **Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4.** This should be our prayer, too, in this week.

Let's close with a prayer. Heavenly Father, help each one of us to know when the popular way goes against your way. Help u to always seek to do things God's way. Keep us safe as we continue in these unusual times. Amen.