



## Who is Israel's True King? (1 Kings 16:1-7) Truth to Power (Part 4)

### THE BIG IDEA

The stories in 1 & 2 Kings are repetitive, following a familiar pattern. This pattern is purposeful, highlighting the failure of human rulers, and emphasizing that Jesus, as the one true King, is the only king who does not fail, disappoint, or break promises.

### OPENING

- Have you ever lost interest in a TV show because it became repetitive or predictable? How does this relate to your experience with reading certain parts of the Bible?
- What lessons can we learn from Scripture when it is repetitive?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- Pastor Kate mentions that long before Israel had a king, God had set up a system of leadership for the people. This consisted of a team of prophets, priests, and judges with interwoven roles, as seen since the exodus from Egypt (Micah 6:4). Why do you think God might have given the people a team of leaders rather than one single leader?
- Read Judges 4:4-5 (describing the work of a Judge); Deuteronomy 18:17-19 (describing the work of a prophet); Deuteronomy 33:10 (describing the work of a priest) Deuteronomy 17:18-20 & 1 Samuel 8:11-18 (describing the work of a king). How does the leadership of the judges, priests, and prophets differ from that of the kings in Israel?
- In 1 Samuel 8, the people demand a human king to rule over them. Reflecting on 8:1-3 & 8:19-20, what reasons do the people give for wanting a king?
- Read 1 Samuel 8:6-9 & Psalm 146. What was Israel's mistake in asking for a human king?
- What are some modern examples of putting our trust in human leaders instead of God? How can we shift our focus back to trusting God's leadership?



- In your own life, are there areas where you have looked to human solutions rather than seeking God's guidance? How can you look to God as your true leader in those moments?
- What can we learn from the historical context of Israel's desire for a human king? How does this reflect human nature's tendency to seek visible, earthly authority over spiritual, divine guidance?

## **PUTTING IT TO WORK**

- As a group, spend time praying for wisdom to recognize and trust in God's leadership over our lives and communities, rather than relying on human leaders.
- Pray for the strength to live non-anxiously, trusting God with our future.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**