

## Spiritual Formations Questions for Small Groups and Families

*"Israel Asks for a King" (1 Samuel 8)*

### ***Be Careful What You Ask For...***

1. What do you think of the idea that holy means almost the same thing as God's peculiar people? In what ways does God call His people to be peculiar?
2. When do you feel as though conforming to the world around you (in its beliefs, values, behaviors, etc.) would be easier and more beneficial than following God?
3. When is it difficult for you to walk by faith? What visible people or things do you tend to seek your security in instead of God?
4. Can you think of a time in which God allowed you to do something that was against His will? What happened as a result of your decision and His permission?
5. Why do you think God gave the people a King?
6. According to Deuteronomy 17, God wasn't opposed to giving Israel a king at some point. How much of our departing from God's will is simply an exercise in impatience? Discuss the quote, "Saying, *now* to God can be just as rebellious as saying *no*."
7. Do you ever restrict God's lordship over part of your life, only to ask Him intercede in another part of your life later? What's been your experience when this happens?
8. According to Samuel, why was a king going to be, in the end, undesirable for Israel? Do you think this is in any way true of idolatry in general? Why or why not?
9. How does Jesus handle power and authority differently from every other king and ruler in the history of the world? What implications does that have for us:...in our personal relationships...at work or school...in our witnessing and sharing our faith...etc.?