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**A NATION DEPENDS ON GOD – NOT!**

**Setting:** Samuel and God discuss concerns about Israel's choice of rulers. The people want an earthly king like other nations. God gives the people their way. He allows them to have human kings of His choosing to rule them.

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 8-15

**Cast:** God's voice  
Narrator (can be done by "God" if short on people)  
Saul  
Samuel

**Props:** Echo microphone for God's voice, small bottle of "oil"

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**Narrator:** At the time when the Judges ruled Israel, the Israelites continued to be "stiff-necked" people. They complained about the leadership God had provided through the Judges. So they went to Samuel and told him they wanted a human king to lead them. Here's what happened...

**Samuel:** God, I hate to tell You this but the people want a king like the other countries have.

**God:** *(hidden, using echo mike)* Yes I know, Samuel.

**Samuel:** Aren't You angry?! I am!!! I try hard to do a good job of leading them. I tell them what You promise and expect. I tell them what will happen if they follow You and what will happen if they don't. Don't I do a good job?

**God:** You do.

**Samuel:** Then, why don't they like me?!

**God:** Don't take it personally, Samuel. These people are stiff-necked!

**Samuel:** I'm not good at taking rejection.

**God:** They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being their king .

**Samuel:** Doesn't it make You mad? Don't you want to do something? They are so ungrateful! They have forgotten that You got them out of Egypt and gave them this land.

**God:** Samuel, I knew they would ask for a human king. They don't understand how bad it will be for them. They want to be like the other countries. I want you to warn them for Me, but they will still want a human king. So, I will give them their way. But I will be the one to choose the king.

**Samuel:** So who is it, God? Who have You chosen?

**God:** For Israel's first king I've chosen a young man who is strong, rich, tall and very good looking. His name is Saul. You'll find him in the tribe of Benjamin. Right now he's out looking for his father's donkeys. Go now and privately anoint him king. He will deliver My people from the Philistines.

***(Enter Saul)***

**God:** This is the man I told you about. He shall rule over My people.

**Samuel:** Here comes Saul to ask for directions. I'll get to know this king God chose, then I'll anoint him in the morning.

**Saul:** Great Prophet, can you tell me the way home?

**Samuel:** Sure, eat with me tonight and I'll give you directions tomorrow. Oh, by the way, your father's donkeys were found.

**Saul:** ***(scratching his head, aside to the audience)*** How did he know about the donkeys?

**Samuel:** Saul, God has a job for you. He wants you to follow Him and lead Israel as her first king. Are you willing?

**Saul:** I'm only a Benjamite, one of the smallest tribes in Israel. My family is even the smallest in our tribe. How could God want me to be king?

***(Samuel places hands on Saul and pours oil to anoint him)***

**Samuel:** Saul, you have been chosen by God to be the king of Israel. Obey God and you'll be a great king.

**Narrator:** So Saul went back to his family. A short time later Samuel gathered the tribes of Israel to present their king to them. It was all downhill from there...

**God:** Well, Sam, how do you think My guy Saul is doing as king?

**Samuel:** It's not looking good, God. He was so humble when I first met him. But then at his public anointing, he hid! Now he thinks he can do everything himself. He made sacrifices even though he knows he's supposed to let me do that. Between battles one time he decided that his soldiers shouldn't eat anything. What a numskull! Even though you gave him a tough army, they were weak from hunger and almost lost. He even disobeyed direct orders. In the battle with the Amalekites You told him to "utterly destroy" all the people and all they owned. He disobeyed and kept the best stuff. Then he lied about it. I think he is getting greedy!

**God:** I know, Samuel. Saul had the right stuff starting out. If he had followed and depended on Me he would have been a great king. But he went his own selfish ways.

**Samuel:** What are You going to do?

**God:** I'm sad that Saul is disobeying, but My plan will continue. I must replace him as king because he has rejected My leadership. I have chosen a new king.

**Samuel:** Who is it, Lord?

**God:** He's a young shepherd, only 12 years old. He will follow Me and become a man after My own heart. His name is David.

**Samuel:** Where is he? How will I find him?

**God:** Leave here and go outside the city, I will tell you where to find him.

**Samuel:** I'm on my way...

**(Exit Samuel)**