



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 6

**Lesson Title:** Israel Asks for a King

**Take Home Point:** Follow God instead of following the crowd.

#### Warm-Up:

Three hikers regularly backpacked together. One day they unpacked their lunches. The first one said, "Egg salad! If my wife packs that sandwich once more, I'm jumping off this cliff!" His friend opened his lunch and said, "Ham! If my wife packs that one more time, I'll jump, too!" The third friend opened his lunch. "PB&J! If I get that next time, I'll follow you!" On the very next hike, #1 got egg salad. Sure enough, he jumped right off the cliff. #2 pulled out a ham sandwich, so he jumped, too. #3 found PB&J in his bag and leaped over the edge. At the funeral, the wives were crying together, and the wife of the third man said, "I don't understand; he always packed his own lunch!"

**Read:** 1 Samuel 8-11

#### Observation (What happened?):

Why did the people of Israel want a king?

In 1 Samuel 10:6, what did Samuel say would happen to Saul when the Spirit of the Lord came over him?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the Lord granted Israel's request for a king, even though they were rejecting him?

Based on these verses, describe what Saul might have been thinking and feeling. What caused him to hide in the baggage?

#### Insight:

Is it ever good to follow the crowd? Examples found in the Bible tell us it is generally not. The actions of groups of people almost always degenerated into bad decisions and sin. Read Genesis 11 to see what that crowd did at Babylon. Then go to Exodus 32 to find out what the Israelites did while Moses received God's law. Then turn to the New Testament. In Matthew 27, who cried, "Crucify him!" urged on by a few? In Acts 19, what happened in the city of Ephesus? These are just a few cases in Scripture that illustrate the dangers of a crowd. Peer pressure can be positive; a "mob mentality" is not. Why? Because God deals individually with individuals. He speaks to each one of us as unique beings, uniquely made and gifted by him to do his good works. We won't hear his voice through a crowd; we will hear it as his Spirit speaks directly to us.

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who is your king (i.e., who receives your loyalty, service, and energy)?

In what situations are you tempted to follow the crowd in ways that a Christian should not? How do you discern what is the right way?