

## Visions and Voices: Resources for Intergenerational Worship June 10 Pentecost 3 Year B

### Early Word: Intervention



**What this is:** Bible Engagement



**Where it's used:** In any intergenerational gathering, Bible reading; Early Word



**Time:** 7 minutes



**Bible focus/theme:** 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20

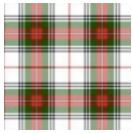


**What's needed:**

- Copy of text on screen or printed, divided into 12 sections with 'tartan' icons (see below) Note that the small numbers on the text are not verse numbers, but are to keep the sections of text in order.
- Large print out or freehand replica poster of Chris Booth's Art image 'Intervention'
- Pieces of 12 different patterned tartan (see samples below) either
  - a) cut in the approximate body shapes of the people in the art image.
  - b) cut in 'bookmark' strips to hand out, enough for one per person in your gathering
- 12 tartan rugs/tablecloths/pieces of fabric
- • 12 protest placards with tartan borders; printed with verses of text, aligning with the text on screen/printed copies. Print from slides here:
- 12 volunteers to model as tribal chiefs
- [alternative resourcing: invite 12 people from your community to bring a tartan](#)



<sup>1</sup>Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.”



<sup>2</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you;



<sup>3</sup>for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you.

Now then, listen to their voice; only--you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”



<sup>4</sup>So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you:



<sup>5</sup>he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties,



<sup>6</sup>and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.



<sup>7</sup>He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers.

He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.



<sup>8</sup>He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work.

He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.

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<sup>9</sup>And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day."



<sup>10</sup>But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."



<sup>11</sup>Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship." So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal.



<sup>12</sup>There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.



*'Intervention'* by Chris Booth. High Resolution images - colour and black and white - available in resource folder.



Our Bible reading today comes from the time way way back in the Old Testament in the time when the people of God were a bunch of tribes in the hills of Israel. A bit like a set of clans that trace their ancestry back to one family. Sometimes they behaved like brothers, and looked out for one another, defended one another, worked together. And sometimes they behaved like brothers, and picked fights with each other, complained about each other, ganged up on each other. Brothers right?

So here in our picture are the chiefs of those tribes of Israel. To remind us that We might think of them all wearing a different pattern of tartan, to show their different clans.

*Option A: Distribute some pieces of tartan patterned paper or cloth cut roughly in the shape of the bodies on the picture. With a small amount of blutak, invite participants with the tartans to come and stick them on the chiefs.*

*Option B: If you have a lively group of willing volunteers, choose 12 people to stand in a group - set them up for a 'clan photo' use tartan picnic rugs or blankets or table cloths.*

*Option C: both of the above!*

Up until this time the tribes all have their own family chief or leader. But in today's reading they mount a protest, they have a rally, they stage an intervention and ask Samuel the prophet to give them a king.

So we are going to read this passage today in tribes or clans. Each person is being given a piece of tartan so they will know which tribe they are in - and which part of the story to read.

And as the tribes in the story are having a protest and demanding a new kind of government, the story is written on protesting placards.

*Distribute the tartan pieces and give the placards to a representative in each tribe.*

*Invite the tribes to gather around their placard.*

*Give everyone a minute or two to practice reading the words on their tribes placard, making sure everyone is included, whether they can read or not. Call the group back to order and begin the reading - each tribe reading their placard in order.*

*After one reading, encourage a second reading through, but with some more political protest spirit!*

## Continue

Well done protesters. What a mighty shift it was for Israel, God's rescued people to decide they wanted a king - with all the warnings of how terrible kings are, how a king would rip them off so many ways, be corrupt and self centred. they still wanted a visible human king to show up and look powerful.

If we read on into the books of Samuel and Kings, we see that the kings of Israel do all turn out to do the things they were warned about.

The same warnings also seem relevant to world leaders today. I guess we shouldn't be so astonished that countries today still choose terrible leaders who misuse their power.

Before we continue to ponder this passage, lets pause and pray for those in positions of power.

**Lord God of all nations and clans and families and communities,  
Forgive us for sticking too proudly to our tribes and traditions.**

**Give us eyes to see those who are small in the world  
and to remember that they have particular purposes in your plans.**

**Save us from leaders who want to be great  
and give your world little leaders  
who will pursue justice and provide care and justice for all.**

**May we not worry about being small or few or forgotten, but trust in  
your wise ways of calling us and finding us and bringing us into your  
plans.**

**Amen.**



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