

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

PART 1: A Story of Rejection DATE: 12-04-2022

#### **START**

We all have our favorite Christmas traditions. Maybe it's caroling with your neighbors, watching certain Christmas movies with your family, or a unique tradition that you started. Whatever it is, we wait patiently all year long until we can live out our traditions.

- What is one of your favorite Christmas traditions?
- How have your traditions shaped how you spend the holidays?

### **READ**

1 Samuel 8:7 (NIV)

"And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

#### **THINK**

Israel's demand for a king to be like the other nations boils down to wanting control. Following God can oftentimes be uncomfortable because it challenges our pride and selfishness. Following something or someone else leads to a level of control other than letting God have all control.

- What have you followed in place of God?
- How does the desire of being like everyone else lead us to not following God?

Even in our stubbornness God continues to pursue us. He gives us what we need and not what we want. Several hundred years after Israel demands a king, God himself takes on flesh and dwells with humanity. In doing so, God begins to usher His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven and takes on the mantle as king.

- When we talk of God's kingdom we say it is here, but not yet. Where do you see manifestations of God's kingdom currently?
- How does living as citizens of God's kingdom point others to Jesus?

#### **PRAY**

"God, take away the temptation of following something or someone other than you in my life. Continually remind me that you are the only king worth following."

## **ACT**

This week, look for manifestations of God's kingdom on earth, and lean into how God would have you live in His kingdom.

Christmas | Next Step | Top 3

