

Index

- Lesson 1: Book Introduction and the birth of Samuel ch 1
- Lesson 2: The growth of Samuel & The Lord' call to Samuel ch 2&3
- Lesson 3: The Capture And Return Of The Ark ch 4-7
- Lesson 4: Israel demands a king and Saul chosen to be king ch 8-9.
- Lesson 5: Declaring Saul as a king and Saul Defeats the Ammonites ch 10-11
- Lesson 6: Samuel's Farewell speech and Samuel Rebukes Saul ch 12-13
- Lesson 7: Jonathan's Fight, Saul's Oath- Saul Disobeyed God ch 14-15
- Lesson 8: Anointing David as king - David and Goliath ch 16-17
- Lesson 9: Saul's Growing Fear of David - Saul Tries to Kill David ch 18-19
- Lesson 10: Jonathan and David: The Blessing of Friendship- David the fugitive ch 20-21.
- Lesson 11: David Flees from Saul- David Spares Saul's Life ch 22-24
- Lesson 12: Abigail's Wisdom- David Spares Saul's Life Again ch 25-26
- Lesson 13: David Escapes to The Land Of The Philistines- Saul consults a medium-The Philistines reject David ch 27-29
- Lesson 14: The burning of Ziklag- The tragic end of Saul and his sons ch 30-31

Overview: 1 Samuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJOju5Dw0V0&list=RDLVQJOju5Dw0V0&index=1>

FIRST SAMUEL

BEGINNING	Samuel The Last Judge				Saul The First King		ENDING
	BIRTH	GROWTH AND CALL	MINISTRY	CHANGE	REJECTION BY GOD	REBELLION AGAINST GOD	
Samuel's godliness					Impatient		
National hope					Rash		
Motivation					Disobedient		
Purity					"Insane"		
					Jealous		
					Murderous		
						DAVID chosen, trained, tested, protected . . .	
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTERS 2-3	CHAPTERS 4-7	CHAPTERS 8-12	CHAPTERS 13-16	CHAPTERS 17-31	
Attitude of the People	Public trust				Public disillusionment		Saul's apostasy
Theme	Though leaders and nations change, God's purposes always move forward.						
Key Verses	8:6-9; 13:14						
Christ in 1 Samuel	Typified in Samuel, who was a prophet, priest, and judge; also portrayed in the life of David . . . shepherd, king, and born in Bethlehem						
							Depression
							Personal despair
							Suicide

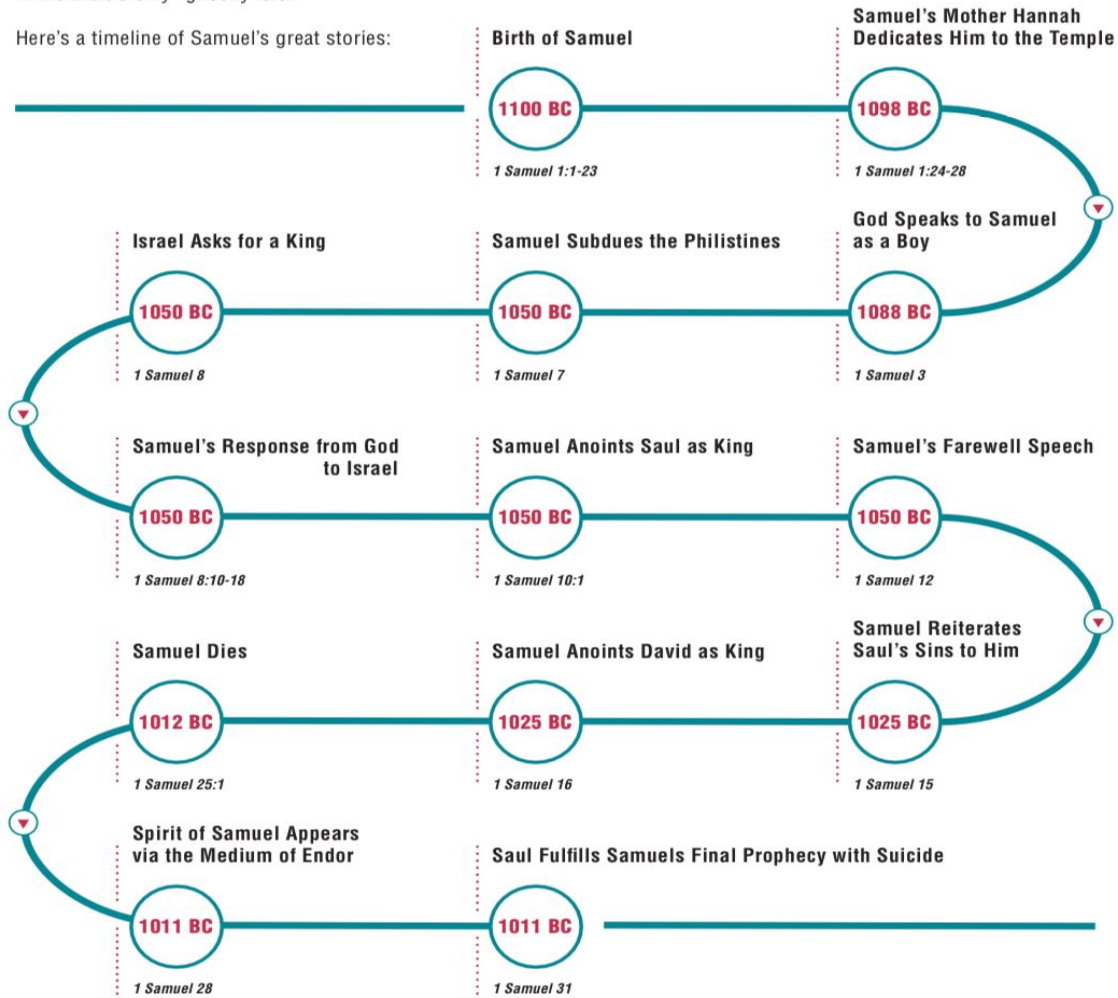
The Book of 1 Samuel

Focus	Samuel		Saul				Saul & David								
Divisions	Samuel's Birth & Call	Samuel's Rebuilding of the Nation	Saul, First King of Israel	Saul, Disobedient & Rejected	David in the Court of Saul	David's Escape & Flight from Saul	David's Encounters With Saul	Saul's Final Downfall & Death							
									1	3	4	8	9	12	13
Topics	Leadership in Transition					A Newly Anointed Leader in Exile									
	From Judges to Kings					From King Saul to King David									
Place	Israel in Canaan														
Time	Approximately 60 Years														
Author	Samuel														

THE LIFE OF SAMUEL

Samuel was a very special prophet as well as the final judge of Israel. As judge, he was present when the Israelites said they wanted a king. He delivered the message from God that it would not end well—a famous passage and one that is certainly still relevant surrounding modern politics. Samuel died shortly before King Saul, and his spirit appears in the Bible's only "ghostly tale."

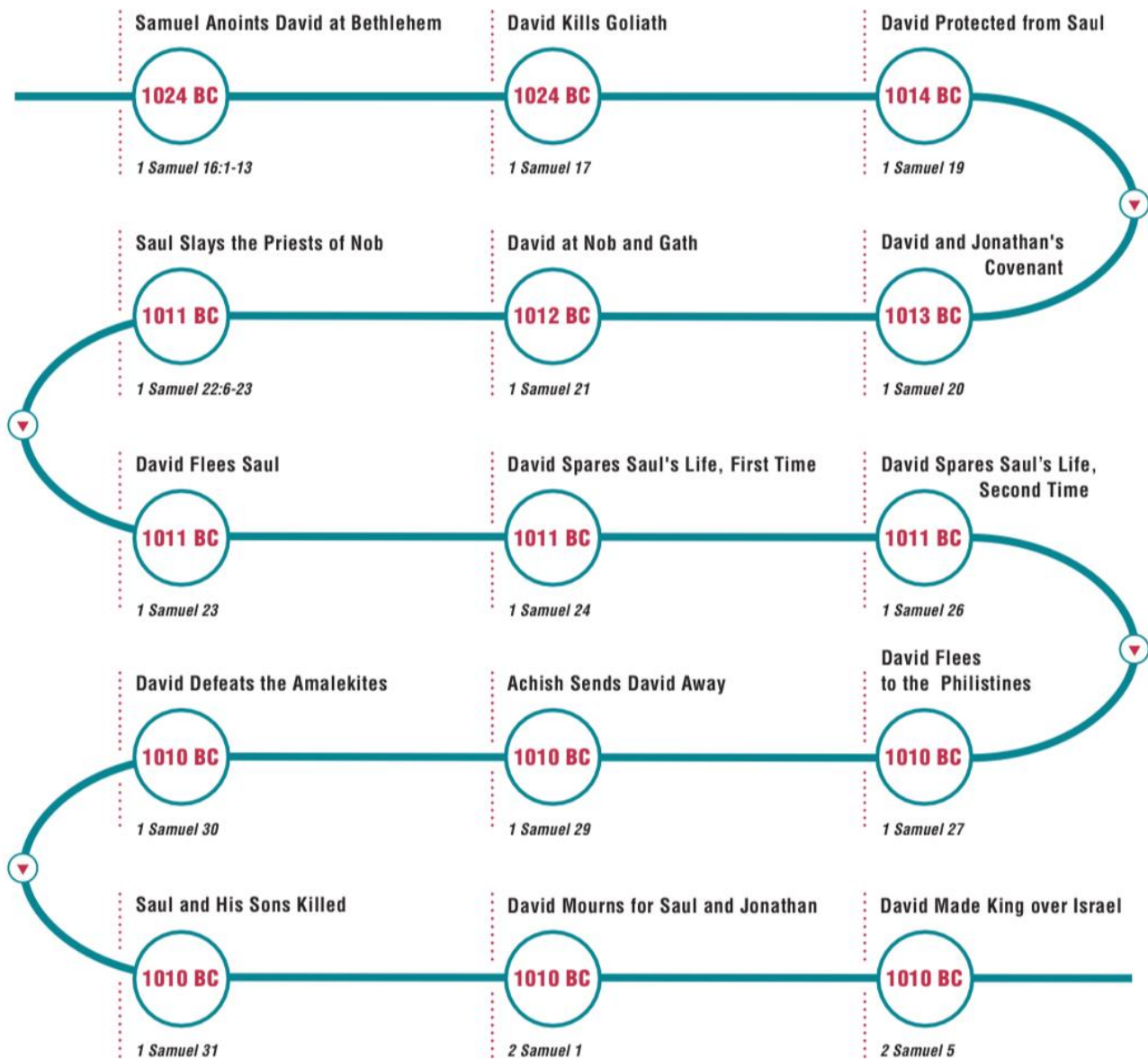
Here's a timeline of Samuel's great stories:



EARLY LIFE OF KING DAVID

King David was the most popular king of Israel, whom the Lord called “a man after my own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22). The Bible contains great details of his chronology. David was secretly anointed by Samuel as king of Israel, while Saul was still reigning. Yet approximately 13 years passed until David actually ascended to the throne, and those times were full of misadventures: running from King Saul, sparing the king’s life twice, and colluding with the Philistines from whom Goliath had come.

This is the life of King David prior to assuming the throne. With no biblical mention of his birth, scholars estimate he was born around 1041 BC in Bethlehem.



THE FIRST SECTION

THE PROPHET SAMUEL (1 SAMUEL 1 TO 7)

Lesson 1: Book Introduction and the birth of Samuel ch 1

Lesson 2: The growth of Samuel & The Lord' call to Samuel ch 2&3

Lesson 3: The Capture And Return Of The Ark ch 4-7

Lesson 1 [Intro- Chapter 1]

Introduction:

WHY DOES SAMUEL 1 & 2 CARRY THE NAME "SAMUEL"?

The two books of Samuel: I and 2, in the Hebrew origin, are one book that carries the name "Samuel"; not only on account of that the prophet 'Samuel' plays the main role in the first part of that book, but also because he was the first to anoint kings for Israel: 'Saul' and 'David'; and because he was the first to introduce such kind of prophetically historical record, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; as well as other main roles that appeared in the two books.

The word 'Samuel' does not mean, as some people think, (asked for from the Lord), based on the phrase: "and called his name 'Samuel,' saying, 'because I have asked for him from the Lord' " (1 Samuel 1: 20); but it means, (The Lord listened); If 'Hannah' said "I have asked for him from the Lord," she actually meant that (the Lord listened to her quest). The phrase "I have asked for him from the Lord" is probably closer to the name 'Saul' than it is to that of 'Samuel'. Still, some believe that the word 'Samuel' means (the name of God) or (His name is God).

This book was divided into two, just for practical reasons. There was a need for using two rolls instead of one to accommodate it. This version considered that book to be among the 'Kingdom Books,' that embraced the four books: (1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 kings, and 2 kings), having included a comprehensive history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

AUTHOR

According to Jewish tradition, delivered to the Church of the New Testament, the author of these two books is the prophet Samuel - the head and pioneer of the school of prophets - until his death after which it was completed by the two prophets: Gad and Nathan.

WHY IS FIRST SAMUEL SO IMPORTANT?

In this critical period of Israel's history, the people of God transformed from a loosely affiliated group of tribes into a unified nation under a form of government headed by a king.

First Samuel focuses on the establishment of that monarchy. The people demanded a king, similar to the kings of the surrounding nations (1 Samuel 8:5). Saul, the first king, though “head and shoulders above the rest” did not have a righteous heart, and his line was destined never to inherit the crown.

God instructed Samuel to anoint David, the youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem, as the next king.

Much of 1 Samuel follows David’s exploits as a young musician, shepherd, and warrior. We witness his underdog victory over Goliath, his deep friendship with Jonathan, and his growing military prowess. He waited patiently for the throne, often pursued and driven into hiding by Saul. The book concludes with Saul’s death, which serves as a natural dividing marker between 1 and 2 Samuel.

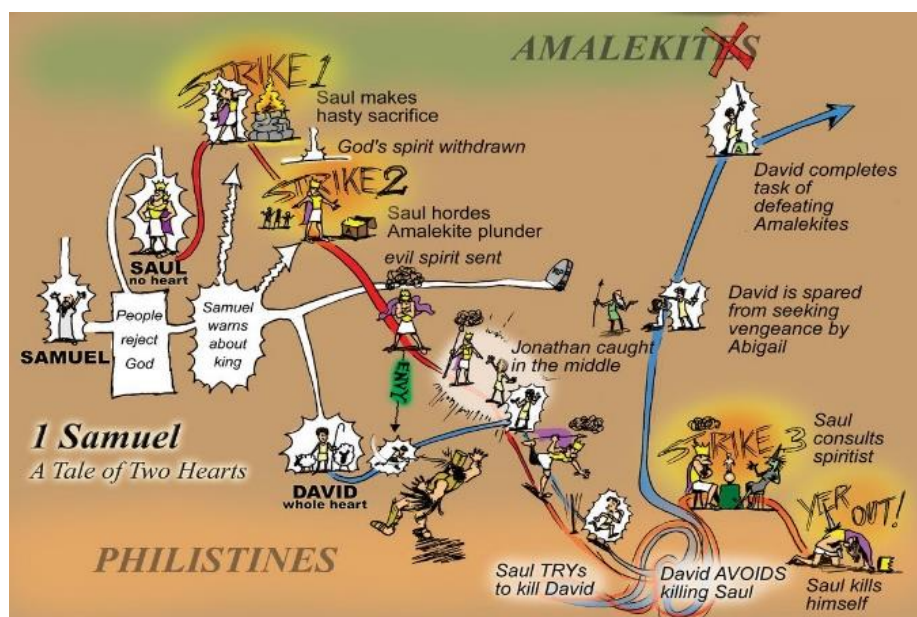
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA IN 1 SAMUEL?

First Samuel chronicles the beginning of Israel’s monarchy, following the lives of the prophet Samuel, the ill-fated King Saul, and God’s ultimate choice of David as king. Several themes feature prominently.

Providence: God repeatedly made everyday events work for His purposes. He used Hannah’s contentious relationship with Peninnah (1 Samuel 1:1–28), led Saul to Samuel during Saul’s search for lost donkeys (9:1–27), and caused David to hear about Goliath while taking food to his brothers (17:1–58). These are but a few examples.

Kingship: As the divine King, God designated a human vice-regent, David, to rule over His people. This history validates David’s house as the legitimate rulers of Israel. It also fulfills Jacob’s promise that the scepter will never depart from Judah, David’s tribe (Genesis 49:10).

Reversal of human fortune: Hannah’s barrenness gave way to children (1 Samuel 1:1–28; 2:21); Samuel became prophet instead of Eli’s sons (2:12; 3:13); Saul rose to prominence though he was from a lowly tribe; and David was anointed king though he was the youngest son (16:1–13). Normal human patterns were reversed by God so that His plan could be furthered, showing His sovereignty over all.



1 Samuel Chapter 1

The Birth of Samuel

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapter 1
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 3-7**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

Praying with Faith & Patience

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Questions and Answers

There are few things more discouraging to a youth's faith in God than to think that everyone else gets everything they pray for when they don't. To show that God's answer is always wise and fits our needs, play this silly "Q and A" game. Write various questions (make more than this) and then write the answers on separate slips of paper such as:

Questions: [or choose other questions to match your youth age]

- 1). What animal says "moo?"
- 2). What color is the grass?
- 3). What fruit is red?
- 4). What color are bananas?
- 5). How many ears do you have?
- 6). How many cats are in your Sunday school room?
- 7). Do you have an alligator in your home?
- 8). What is the answer to $2 + 1$?

Answers:

- 1). Cow
- 2). Green
- 3). Apple or Pomegranate
- 4). Yellow
- 5). Two
- 6). None
- 7). No
- 8). Three

Put all questions and answers on separate pieces of paper; put questions in one jar and answers in another jar. Let one youth pick and read a question and another one pick an answer. The answers in this game will not always fit the questions; in contrast, God's answers always fit exactly. In today's lesson, we will see how God answered the prayer of a godly woman by the name of Hannah. Hannah was in a very difficult situation, and she decided to take her problem to the Lord in prayer.

God took care of Hannah and brought something good out of her trial for others. What is your situation? God will take care of you and your situation and can use your trials to bless others.

Lesson time:

Main Points in the Chapter:

1. The Family of Elkanah (1-7)
2. Hannah's godly vow (8-18)
3. Samuel was born and dedicated (19-28)

Memory Verse:

"For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him." 1 Samuel 1:27

Lesson time:

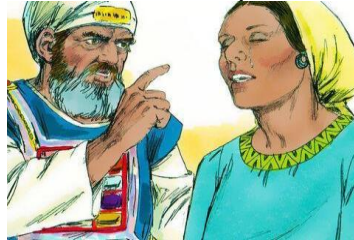
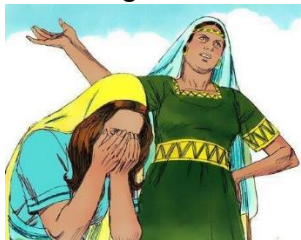
Read 1 Samuel 1:1-7

There was a man named Elkanah who had two wives Hannah and Peninnah.



Every year Elkanah and his family would travel 20 miles northeast of Jerusalem to Shiloh, the place of the house of the Lord, to worship and sacrifice to God. And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Hannah, Peninnah, and Peninnah's sons and daughters. The portion Hannah received was always double, because he loved her even though she had no children. Though Elkanah displayed his kindness in giving Hannah a double portion, Peninnah would mock her and provoke her because she had no children. This hurt Hannah very much, so much so that she wept and would not eat.

As Christians, we represent Jesus. We should never be guilty of mocking or putting a person down because he or she lacks a blessing we have been given. Instead, let us go out our way to comfort and encourage others. God's love will not harm another but seek to protect.



Read 1 Samuel 1:8-18

Hannah was overwhelmed by her situation. She was so saddened because she could not have children that she had difficulty counting the other blessings God had given her. She continually wept and did not eat anything.

She rose and went into the tabernacle of the Lord and cried out to Him there. She poured out her soul to the Lord in prayer and asked God to give her a son. She made a promise to the Lord: If God would grant her request, she would dedicate the child to God, for God's service.

Hannah did what we should all do when we come up against a tough situation; she prayed and poured her heart out to God. God wants us to come to Him in every situation of our lives; perhaps someone is treating you unkindly at school; perhaps you are concerned with family problems or with those who do not know Jesus. God knows your concerns before you even ask. Whatever your burden, take it to the Lord in prayer. Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you." The Lord hears our prayers to Him and answers them according to His perfect will. **God hears our prayers.**

Eli the priest of the tabernacle was there and was watching Hannah pray silently before the Lord. But Eli did not know she was praying. He saw her lips moving but she was not making any noise, so he thought she may have been drunk and began to accuse her. Hannah quickly explained that she was not drunk but sad and that she was pouring her heart out to God. Eli knew that God heard her prayers and would do what was best for her, so he sent her away in peace. Hannah went her way and ate some food, and her face was no longer sad. Hannah had left her request in God's hands!

The Bible says: "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:6,7). And in 1 John 5:15, we read, "*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*"

Hannah did not feel a need to worry or be saddened any longer, for her request was in God's hands; He would do what was best for her, even if that meant not having a son. When we come to the Lord in prayer, we leave our burdens in His hands. We can rest in God's peace knowing that He will do what is best for us even if it means

saying no or not right now. God made us and knew our needs better than anyone else could; He will take care of us. We can rest in that confidence. **God hears our prayers.**

Read 1 Samuel 1:20-25

God heard Hannah's prayer and Hannah conceived a son. In response to God's faithfulness, she named him Samuel, which means "heard of God," for she had asked God for a son, and He "heard" her prayer. God does not always answer our prayers the way we would like them to be answered. Sometimes, the answer is "no." Yet as we pray for His will to be done, just as Jesus taught us (Matthew 6:10), we can take comfort in knowing that God's perfect purpose will be accomplished in our life just as it was in Hannah's life. God works all things together for good in the life of a believer (Romans 8:28).

Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow to the Lord (verse 3); but this time, Hannah would stay home to take care of baby Samuel who was not weaned yet. Hannah would take care of Samuel only until the time was right for Samuel to be given to the Lord for service.

Samuel remained with his mother until he was about three years old.

As we observe Elkanah and Hannah, we note they did not live just for the here and now; they lived for

eternity. They were heavenly minded. They knew that God was actively involved in their life, working out His purposes in them. Let us be “heavenly” minded as were Elkanah and Hannah.

When the time was right, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord, presenting him to Eli to serve God in the tabernacle. Hannah expressed her faith in her faithful God. To follow through with her promise, she surrendered to the service of the Lord that which she had yearned for most [her son]. Just as Hannah was faithful in her commitment to God, God is pleased when we keep our promises.

Hannah’s heart is revealed in obedience to God. Her faith was living and active, and God blessed her for it. The believer, who is abiding in Christ through worship, meditation on His Word, prayer and service to Him, will have their prayers answered (John 15:7). God blesses those who live in obedience, giving them a joyful experience in our relationship with Him.

Hannah reminds Eli that she was the woman who prayed for a child a few years ago and now stands before him with God’s blessing. Here was a living testimony of God’s faithfulness to prayer. Hannah had witnessed God’s mercy and grace upon her life; with joy, she would follow through with her commitment to give back what God had given her. God is pleased when we keep our promises.

Hannah would not forget her son. She would visit him regularly and each year she brought him a linen robe just like Eli’s (2:19). In later years, Samuel lived in Ramah (7:17) to be in the hometown of his parents (1:19-20). Also, God greatly blessed Hannah in giving her five more children (2:21). God is awesome.

Hannah would experience the joy of watching her son serve the Lord as a great prophet of God. Even at an early age, Samuel worshipped God in the temple revealing a heart that loved the Lord. And because of his devotion, the Lord would use him in a mighty way, leading His people by revealing God’s Word and His ways.

Closing:

We are to ‘ask in faith’, to pray ‘the prayer of faith’. We are also to pray ‘according to His will’. God’s ways are higher than our ways. Sometimes God doesn’t always answer our prayers in the way that we want because He sees what is best for us. We can learn from this godly woman. Our critical need is to know that we’ve the approval of God. He alone can satisfy our deepest needs as He knows them better than anyone else & He feels what we feel all the time.



Optional activities:

Multiple choice questions with answers on any chapter in 1 Samuel.

https://biblicalelearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/09_Questions_1Samuel.pdf

MEMORY VERSE:

"For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him." 1 SAMUEL 1:27

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, 'Because I have asked for him from the LORD.'" 1 SAMUEL 1:20
TRUE OR FALSE
2. "Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow." 1 SAMUEL 1:21
TRUE OR FALSE
3. And Hannah went with her husband and brought with her Samuel. 1 SAMUEL 1:22
TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

4. "Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in _____. And the child was young." 1 SAMUEL 1:24
JERUSALEM SHILOH
5. "Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to _____." 1 SAMUEL 1:25
ELKANAH ELI

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

6. "And she said, 'O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, _____ to the LORD.'" 1 SAMUEL 1:26
7. "For this child I _____, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him." 1 SAMUEL 1:27
8. "Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; _____ he shall be lent to the LORD." 1 SAMUEL 1:28

TRUE OR FALSE:

9. "So they worshiped the LORD there." 1 SAMUEL 1:28
TRUE OR FALSE

Points for guided discussion: [here are some suggestions] Prayers and answers

- Ask and you shall receive, however when we ask, we may not receive, why?
- What are we expecting from God [to grant us our request exactly as is? Or to accept our prayers and do what is good for our salvation regardless of if it is the same request we asked for or not?
- Does prayer require resilience? [reference Luke 18 the unjust judge and resilience of the widow]
- How is patience related to prayers? God's timing – God's wisdom – Ask good things – all things are working together for the good of God's people.
- How is faith related to patience in prayers? OR how is faith related to prayers in general?

Lesson 2:1 Samuel Chapter 2 &3

Eli's Evil Sons and Samuel Listens to God

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 2 and 3
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 9-19**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

Listen & Respect

Lesson Opening:

Show the video if you think your class would like cartoon, show it when you get to this part of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqoBIn4LaXc>

Lesson Aim:

Our Service to God must be with a right Heart. It is important that we, who say we know the Lord and serve Him, not misrepresent God. If we treat others poorly, they may decide they do not want anything to do with the Lord. The word "minister" means servant. Whether a priest in Old Testament days, a pastor, a teacher, or a Christian, our lives need to be about serving others in such a way that they will be attracted to God and not pointed away from Him.

Overview:

Remember last lesson when Hannah prayed to get a son, God gave her Samuel who she had promised to give to the Lord.

Elkanah and Hannah brought Samuel to Eli the priest to be raised by him in the ways of the Lord.

When his parents went back home, Eli began Samuel's training. Samuel then "grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men" (vs. 2:26).

Now, although Eli trained Samuel in the ways of the Lord and to be a godly man, he failed in that same area with his own two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. In a time when it was said, "In those days Israel had no king, everyone did as he saw fit" (Judges 21:25), even the priestly sons of Eli were corrupted by the world.

In today's lesson, we will learn about the disobedience of Eli's two sons. They did not care about **their responsibility to serve God and His people**. We will learn a valuable lesson as we consider the consequences of their rebellion. **God is very concerned about how we serve Him and His people**. Our service to God must be with a right heart.

Lesson time

Chapter 2:

Hannah's prayer song has four sections:

- 1) Hannah prays to the Lord for his salvation
- 2) Hannah warned the proud people of the Lord's humbling
- 3) Hannah affirmed the Lord's faithful care for his saints
- 4) Hannah petitioned the Lord to judge the world and to prosper his anointed king

Hannah's prayer speaks of God's victory over the enemy, and the unexpected ways God turns things upside down in order to accomplish His purposes. The prominent idea in Hannah's prayer song is that the Lord is a righteous Judge. He had brought down the proud (Peninnah) and exalted the humble (Hannah).

Memory Verse:

"Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed". 1 Samuel 2:30

Hannah's Prayer of Praise [give a summary for verses 2:1-10]

Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, prayed a prayer of thanksgiving as she rejoiced in the LORD and in His salvation. It was an excellent prayer; she declared God a God of knowledge who weighed the actions of men. She declared God was in control of everything and praised him for answering her prayers and giving her a son.

Read 1 SAMUEL 2:12-17

Eli's sons were called "sons of Belial," or worthless men. Why? They did not know the Lord. Walking with the Lord is truly a choice. Even if our parents train us in the path of the Lord, we still have a choice to either walk with Jesus or away from Him.

Eli's sons turned their back on their father's God. What was the result in their lives? They misused the offerings of the Lord, turning it into a way to satisfy their own lust.

God told his people to bring sacrifices to Him in a certain way: They were to remove the fat from the meat and burn it separately; then, the priests were to receive a portion of the meat for themselves and their families. (This was how God provided for the priests and their families.) However, Eli's sons twisted the beautiful intent of sacrifice. Before the fat portions of the meat sacrifice had been placed in the altar-fire for the Lord, the priest's servant came and demanded that they be given meat from the sacrifice.

They would put a big hook into the meat and take more than they were supposed to. And if anyone complained, they would take it from the people by force.

How little they cared about God and His people whom they had been given responsibility to serve! They broke God's law and robbed His people. Their actions were so bad that people did not want to come and sacrifice to the Lord anymore. They had misrepresented God to the people, destroying the beautiful picture of what God provided for us in Jesus Christ—forgiveness of sins.

This was a terrible thing in the eyes of the Lord. It is important that we, who say we know the Lord and serve Him, not misrepresent God. If we treat others poorly, they may decide they do not want anything to do with the Lord. The word “minister” means servant. Whether a priest in Old Testament days, a pastor, a teacher, or a Christian, our lives need to be about serving others in such a way that they will be attracted to Him and not pointed away from Him. Our service to God must be with a right heart.

Read 1 SAMUEL 2:18-21

In the midst of this sad story comes the mention of Samuel’s devotion to the Lord. He served as a boy before the Lord next to Eli’s evil sons. Samuel values the priestly clothes he wears while Eli’s sons have no regard for it whatsoever. God always has those who are faithful and desire to serve Him with all of their hearts, even in the midst of a rebellious people. Samuel continued to grow in the Lord and was being prepared for a very special service to the Lord.

What is the Lord preparing you for? He is working in your life right now in order to prepare you for His special purpose. Now is the time, while you are still as young as Samuel, to decide to follow Jesus all of the days of your life. Learn everything you can about God and the Bible. Love and respect the things of the Lord and His people. You will find a life of blessing awaits you.

Though Samuel’s mother had given Samuel to the Lord, she still was his mother and came to visit him each year bringing with her the clothes she made for him. Eli blessed his parents for having given up the boy to the Lord. Eli’s blessing of Hannah was fulfilled in that she had five more children! When we give what is most precious to us to the Lord, He always gives back to us more, more than we could ever imagine.

Read 1 SAMUEL 2:22-26

Here we see Eli’s treatment of his sons. He is old now and his children are grown. He rebukes his sons with harsh warnings because of their sins. Unfortunately, they would not listen to him. They just continued to get worse. They began to treat the women who would come to the tabernacle in a sinful way. They had no regard for God’s Word or desire to serve the people in a way that would please the Lord. Our service to God must be with a right heart.

It is also unfortunate that Eli, with the infirmities of his old age, did nothing further to prevent these horrible things from happening. The only action he took was to say to his sons, “Why do you do such things?” He talked to them, but never did anything about removing them from office or making them stop. Could he have been a better father? Do you think if his sons had been disciplined and attended to when they were younger, it could have prevented their rebellion later?

Sadly, Eli’s sons refused to listen to his warning for “the Lord would slay them.” Their hearts were hardened; it was too late for their father’s reproof to make an impression on them.

How important it is for us to listen to our parents and to those in authority over us. Had Eli’s sons only listened to him, even at this time, and changed, God’s judgment would not have had to come upon them.

Samuel’s heart was soft to the Lord. We see Samuel continuing to grow in stature and favor with God and man. Because his heart was soft toward the Lord, he will be blessed and greatly used by God.

May our own hearts remain soft that we may be blessed and usable.

Just mention the summary for 1 Samuel 2:27-36

God prepared to judge the sons of Eli for their wickedness. Before the Lord judged Eli's house, He sent a prophet to warn Eli of the judgment coming upon them.

In order to prick Eli's own conscience, he pointed out to him the grace manifested in the choice of his father's house (the house of Aaron). The Lord then described the terrible way that Eli's sons had abused that privilege. The choice of the family of Aaron was still there, but disgrace would come upon those that hated the Lord.

The prophet went on to explain that the strength of Eli's house would be broken; and all the members of his house would die early deaths. They were not, however, to be removed entirely from service at the altar (verses 31-34). But the Lord would raise up a faithful priest and cause him to walk before His anointed, and from him all that were left of the house of Eli would be obliged to beg for their bread (verses 35-36). The fulfillment of the faithful priest came in Zadok, of the family of Eleazar, also from the line of Aaron. He became the high priest in the beginning of Solomon's reign (several years after this). He was faithful in serving the Lord properly--all of the high priests that followed Zadok came from his line as long as the priesthood continued. The failure, evil, and sin of those who minister, though it will destroy them, cannot destroy the ministry. God's work will never fail because of a lack of hands to carry it on.

What a sad story of two hardened young men who, unable to heed warnings from their father, were destroyed. What a sad story of a father who could not control his sons. However, what an encouraging story of a young man, Samuel, whose heart was soft toward the Lord. He stood as a bright light shining in the darkness.

God has called us to love Him and serve Him with all of our heart. When the Lord calls us to serve Him, we must not serve ourselves. May we never be guilty, as were the sons of Levi, of misrepresenting Him. May our hearts be soft toward the Lord, as Samuel's heart was, and may our lives shine to the glory of God. Our service to God must be with a right heart.

Chapter 3:

Read 1 Samuel 3:1

In verse 1 we are told, "The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli." Samuel is described as a boy. You may think that you are too young to be used by God in His work. Not true! God's calling is not dependent upon someone's age, but upon their willingness to minister (to serve) Him. God has a special purpose for our lives.

We also see that the Word of the Lord had become rare in Israel, and "prophecy was not widespread." While it is true that God had promised His people that He would send prophets to make known His will at all times, the unbelief and disobedience of the people meant that God withdrew from His people in communicating to them. They refused to obey His Word and worshipped idols, so God stopped speaking to them. May our hearts never become so hard that we do not listen to God's Word! What a sad condition for a nation to be living under when they could be so blessed. God so desires to love and bless His people; but He will not allow them to serve other Gods (idols).

Read 1 SAMUEL 3:2-18

Here we have Samuel and Eli in their bedrooms for the night and God begins to speak. To whom does God speak? He does not speak to Eli, but to the boy, Samuel! Imagine God calling us by our names. Would that frighten you? God loves us very much. He knows all of us by name. When we listen for God, we will hear Him, for He is always speaking to us! He may not speak to us in a voice that we hear with our ears, but He will speak through the Bible and His Holy Spirit. Let us pull aside from distractions and have daily quiet time with the Lord that we, too, may hear his voice.

Samuel heard his name being called. At first, Samuel thought that it was Eli who called him, so he went to Eli. Eli told him to go back to bed because he had not called him. This was repeated two more times. When Samuel came to Eli the third time, Eli realized that it was the Lord calling Samuel. If the call was repeated, he instructed, Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." Samuel would refer to himself as God's servant, ready to respond to God's bidding. As Samuel did, may we listen for God to speak and be quick to reply, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." And, since obedience is a very important part of listening, may we then follow through with true servant hood demonstrated by our actions.

Samuel was obedient to Eli's instructions in answering the Lord. God announced to Samuel that he would carry out His judgment against the house of Eli. As we saw in our last lesson, Eli did not discipline his sons for their sins. Because Eli took no action, the sins of his sons became his own sins. In verse 14, God says He would not revoke the sentence for He backed it with an oath; "I have sworn to the house of Eli;" and God will not go back from what He has sworn to do.

Now it seems that Samuel slept until the morning; and when he saw Eli, he was afraid to tell him of the message he received from God. He knew that it was a message of judgment and did not know how Eli might react. Samuel was finally called by Eli and asked about the divine revelation he had received. Samuel told him everything, without holding back anything. Eli bowed in resignation to God's will.

What Samuel told Eli only confirmed what God had already made known to him through a prophet. Eli's reply demonstrates his devotion to God, despite his weakness and indulgences towards his wicked sons. And, though Samuel loved Eli, Samuel had the courage and power to proclaim the Word of the Lord without fear. Obedience is important in serving the Lord.



Closing:

Here are four lessons we can learn from Hannah's story and prayer life:

1. Be Persistent in Prayer
2. Surrender Your All Before God
3. Remember God's Faithfulness
4. Speak Victory Despite Opposition

Samuel showed respect to Eli and to God by listening and obeying. Showing respect for authority isn't always easy. Samuel was given a word from God to tell Eli, and it was not good news, but He respected God and obeyed Him.

Sometimes we are faced with a difficult situation to obey and make the right choice. We obey out of respect for God and those in authority over us.

We also may be quick to tell others how to hear from God, but are we listening to Him ourselves? We are called to pay heed to the Lord, listening to Him through our study of His Word so that we may know His will for our lives. Thus, we should take the time regularly to read and study the Bible. How can we hear God's voice and know His will in our lives?

- (1) **Be available:** when He heard God's voice he immediately answered: "**Here I am**"...even though he initially thought it was Eli. He was ready.
- (2) **Be quick to respond:** he *ran* to Eli when he heard someone calling him. He didn't just lie there. He got up and responded.
- (3) **Listen:** Eli instructed him: "if He calls you, you shall say, '**Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening.**'" Samuel first listened to Eli's instruction. In listening to Eli, Samuel was listening to God and heard the warning he wanted Samuel to deliver.
- (4) **Continually seek as you grow in the Lord:** As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 3:19). He didn't stop seeking the Lord as he matured.
- (5) **Do not let His words fail:** When he received a word from the Lord, first about the fate of Eli and his sons and later about the prophecy regarding Israel, Samuel shared God's word. He didn't keep it to himself; he shared the Word of the Lord with others. He did not let it fail.

Prayer:

Thank you, God, that each one of us can hear from you, that you know each one of us by name, and that you talk to us! We pray that we will continue to grow in your faith, and that our lives will be devoted to serving you in everything we do, just like Samuel!

Dear God, help us to listen and be obedient to You and to those in authority over me. God, help us to respect our parents and teachers by always telling the truth. Amen

Points for guided discussion: [here are some suggestions] Prayers and answers

- Some of you are deacons and some of you are participating in several services at the Church: you may serve in VBS, various events throughout the year; or the middle school ministry groups [food-theater....etc]
- **Ask Deacons** to lay out some of their responsibilities? [here are some answers if they could not answer; use them as teaser to pull some answers from them] : Not only praising God in liturgical services but to be a model for your fellows/ to encourage all to serve God / learn the church hymns that you are deacon in/ organize, love and take turns in doing services, create a spirit of unity and collaboration.
- **Ask Girls and the rest of the young adults** to lay some of the responsibilities while serving in VBS; or Holy week event? Or when they went to a monastery and were assigned work to do? Or what were their responsibilities when they served in cooking and distributing food, helping other ministries; eg: junior elementary/ upper Elementary? Or when they acted out a play during all saint's day to younger kids?
- **Discuss that while doing all of that, we have to show the following: [have the youth give the answers]**
 - - Love to God
 - - Sense of responsibility
 - - Abundance of Love to others
 - - Desire to help others with pure heart
 - - Compassion for others and the church
 - - Right heart

Optional activities:

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. "The boy Samuel _____ to the LORD before Eli." **1 SAMUEL 3:1**
2. "The LORD called _____. And he answered, 'Here I am!' " **1 SAMUEL 3:4**

TRUE OR FALSE:

3. "So he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' And he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' And he went and lay down." **1 SAMUEL 3:5**
TRUE OR FALSE
4. So the LORD did not call Samuel again. **1 SAMUEL 3:6**
TRUE OR FALSE
5. "And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you did call me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy." **1 SAMUEL 3:8**
TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

6. "Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel answered, 'Speak, for Your servant _____.'" **1 SAMUEL 3:9**
7. "Then the LORD said to Samuel; 'Behold I will do something in _____ at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.'" **1 SAMUEL 3:11**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

8. "So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his _____ fall to the ground." **1 SAMUEL 3:19**
TEETH WORDS

TRUE OR FALSE:

9. "And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD." **1 SAMUEL 3:20**
TRUE OR FALSE

Assignments on 1 Samuel 3

Please read 1 Sam. 3 and answer the following questions.

1. Explain what 3:1 says about God's word. (Think: How old was Samuel at this time?)

2. How did God communicate with Samuel, and who did Samuel think it was – 3:2-5? (Think: What does this demonstrate about the methods God used to reveal His will as compared to people today who "feel led by the Holy Spirit"?)

3. How many times did this happen, and what did Eli finally realize – 3:6-8?

4. What did Eli tell Samuel to do the next time this happened – 3:9? (Think: How does God speak to us today? What can we learn from Samuel's response to God?)

5. Summarize God's message. What effect would it have on hearers – 3:11-14?

6. **Application:** Why would God punish Eli, and what lesson can we learn? (Think: Had Eli rebuked his sons – cf. chap. 2? Where had he failed?)

7. List other **passages** about parents' duty to train and discipline their children.

8. What consequence would come on Eli's family?

9. What did Eli want from Samuel the next morning, and how did he respond to the message – 3:15-18? (Think: What can we learn from Eli's attitude?)

10. How is Samuel's relationship to God described as Samuel grew – 3:19-21?

11. **Application:** What can we learn from Samuel's attitude toward God's messages?

Lesson 3: 1 Samuel 4-7

The Capture And Return Of The Ark

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 4-7
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 20-34**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

Trust in God, God is always in control

Lesson overview:

Let the class watch ahead of class if possible: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILY_DUp49-4 (1 Samuel 4-7)

Lesson introduction:

How do you get God to do something for you? Let's pretend that you want God to do something for you, and you pray about it, will God always do what you want?

What if you make a deal with God? What if you say, "God if You do this for me, I'll do something for you?" Do you think God would always do what you want if you make a deal with Him?

Our story today is about how the Israelites wanted to make God do something for them. The Israelite's army was at war with the Philistines. And the Israelites were losing. But then, they had an idea. They thought that if they brought the Ark of the Covenant out to the battlefield, that would make God fight for them so that they could defeat the Philistines.

Memory Verse:

"Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." 1 Samuel 7:8

Lesson Aim:

When we face problems in life, we need to remember that God is the one who fights our battles for us. If we try to do things in our own power and we forget God or use God, simply as a good luck charm, we will fail. Will we trust the Lord today?

ATTENTION GRABBER! Half-Hearted Relay

Gather and bring to class several items to hold up and show to the youth: half of a plastic cup, one shoe, half a pair of sunglasses, half of a dollar, half of a theater ticket, half a phone, a remote control with one battery instead of two. Ask the youth if any of these things will work the right way as they are? (No). What needs to happen in order for them to work right? (You need the rest of the item). Explain that we can't serve the Lord halfway.

Next, have a half-hearted relay. Divide the class into two teams. Set up four containers. On one side of the room, have two containers with equal amounts of water. Not far away, have the two empty containers. Each team member gets 10 seconds to move water from a full container to an empty one. Give one team a Styrofoam cup to transfer the water between containers. Give the other team a Styrofoam cup that has the top half cut off, not allowing it to carry as much water. Then tell the teams that whichever team gets the most water into the empty container, wins. To make things fair, you can switch cups and play a second time.

Ask the youth about the game. (This is a demonstration of what it is like when we serve the Lord in a half-hearted way.) Why couldn't the team with the half-cup fill up the water as fast? How does this illustrate how we are when our commitment to the Lord is "half-hearted?" God wants us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, and strength.

Lesson time

Main Points in Chapters 4-7:

- ❖ Chapter 4: Israel defeated, and the ark of God captured (1-11), Death of Eli (12-18), The birth of Ichabod (Phinehas son) Phinehas is Eli's son (19-22)
- ❖ Chapter 5: The ark and Dagon/God humiliates the idol Dagon (1-5), The LORD afflicts the city of Ashdod with tumors (6-8), The Ark of the Covenant in the Philistine city of Ekron (9-12)
- ❖ Chapter 6: The Philistines decide how to return the ark (1-9), Against all expectations, the cows go to the land of Israel. (10-12), The ark is received with honor and joy at Beth Shemesh. (13-21).
- ❖ Chapter 7: The ark of the covenant returned to Israel (1-2), Samuel preaches repentance to the people of Israel (3-6), The Philistines threaten the Israelites & Samuel leads Israel to victory (7-13), Samuel serves as Israel's judge (14-17)

Read 1 SAMUEL 4:1-11

God had a plan for Israel. They were to be a light, a representative of God to other nations, so that they might learn and know His ways. Yet, Israel had fallen into sin and had become like the nations around them. Instead of pointing the way to the true God, they began to worship the false gods of the other nations and commit the same sins. They had lost their witness of God and ability to make an impact in the lives of others.

For this, God brought judgment on them through a war with the Philistines. By Samuel's time, these warlike people were well established in the southwest part of Canaan and were constantly moving inland against the Israelites.

Instead of turning to God out of a heart of humility and repentance, the leaders of Israel came up

with a plan. They knew how powerful God was, but they did not understand much about having a relationship with Him. They decided that they would “use” God for their purposes. They thought that if they just brought out the Ark of the Covenant, from the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle in which the presence of God dwelt; they would defeat the Philistines on the battlefield, for God’s power would be with them. They had forgotten that God was a living being and did not need gold statues to dwell among them. Israel did not have faith or trust in God. They saw the Ark as nothing more than a good luck charm.

Though God’s Word said that the High Priest could only enter the Holy of Holies (a sacred part of the Tabernacle) once a year, Hophni and Phinehas, Eli’s sons, did not care about God’s Word. Thinking the ark was some sort of “lucky charm” to be used as their source of power while at battle, they unlawfully entered into the Holy of Holies and removed the ark.

The Philistines were frightened by their recollection of stories from the past of how God intervened for Israel when they left Egypt, and rightly so. But Israel had turned away from God and now only held onto a form of godliness. And as a result, the Philistines slaughtered Israel in battle. Hophni and Phinehas were also killed as was prophesied by God to Samuel (1 Samuel 2:34).

It is very easy for us to live on the memories of God’s blessings. Israel wrongly assumed that since God had given them victory in the past, He would do it again, even though they had strayed far from Him.

The Israelites memorized scripture, even the scriptures that talk about loving God with all of their heart, soul, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), yet they walked in disobedience. Spiritual victories come through continually renewing our relationship with God. We should never live in the past; God desires that we live each new day with a renewed passion to serve and obey Him. God wants us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, and strength.

Why Does the Ark of the Covenant Matter?

First, what is the Ark of the Covenant?

It is a sacred gold-plated wooden chest that housed the Ten Commandments [the two tablets of the Law given to Moses by God] it was built in the Sinai Desert after the Israelites left Egypt. It was carried by Levites and served as a constant reminder of God’s presence, playing a key role in the Atonement Day ceremony and Israel’s entrance into the Promised Land. It was housed first in the Tabernacle and later in the Jerusalem Temple’s Holy of Holies, seen only by the high priest on Yom Kippur.

The Bible shows God establishing relationships with humans over and over—in the Garden of Eden, through covenant after covenant, and finally through the tearing of the temple curtain and in the promise of living in heaven with God.

It’s not by accident that the Bible includes so much detail about the ark of the covenant and later about the temple. They are where that promise was fulfilled—where God lived in the middle of his people. But God is not dependent on human leadership, and He is not finished with His people. He moves among the people of Philistia to show His glory and return the ark to the people of Israel. While God uses humans, He does not need us. The biblical narrative of God establishing relationships with people is driven by his initiative in

reaching out to us.

Read 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

At this time, the city of Shiloh was the religious center of Israel and where the tabernacle was permanently set up. Shiloh was the natural place for a messenger to come and deliver the sad news from the battle, and it was there that Eli eagerly awaited some news of the battle.

Having gone out to battle against the Philistines, without sanctifying their life, nor asking God's counsel, The Israelites were defeated. Instead of repenting, and returning to God, they carried the ark of God to the battle with the two corrupt priests 'Hophni' and 'Phinehas,' sons of Eli the high priest. The ark was captured from them, Hophni and Phinehas were killed, thirty-thousand-foot soldiers fell, and the neck of Eli was broken and died on that day.

Since the presence of the ark represented the presence of God in Israel, its capture seemed like God's presence was gone and God Himself and all His glory were now in enemy hands. The pagan nations believed that they could capture their enemies' god and keep it as a conquest. News of the ark's capture sunk the heart of those in Shiloh. Eli knew that God's judgment was coming upon his family because of his and his son's disobedience.

Eli was very concerned about the ark. When he heard the news, he was so overcome with emotion that he fell back on his chair and died. Eli's daughter-in-law suffered the same fate while delivering a son.

What a blessing it is to have a God who is longsuffering, patient, and kind. We know that His loving kindness is far reaching, leading us to repentance when we recognize our sin and call to Him for forgiveness (Romans 2:4). Sometimes, however, people live in a sinful condition with an attitude of pride, only to stretch God's patience with their sin as did Israel. Then God is forced to discipline and correct.



Closing quote for chapter 4:

We may not have an ark of God to remind us that God is with us, but we have something even better. The Bible tells us that Christians have the Holy Spirit with them all the time. The Holy Spirit is always with us to lead and guide us. We also as Christian Orthodox-Copts have the communion [the body and blood of Christ to partake and for God to always dwell in us.

Read 1 SAMUEL 5

The victorious march of the Philistines led to Ashdod where their idol Dagon stood in the temple. Now that the ark of God was captured, they could complete their humiliation of Israel by putting the ark in a position of submission before Dagon their god. Like other heathen nations, capturing your enemies' god was a great victory, especially a God that provided great blessings for such a country as Israel.

But could you imagine waking up the next morning and discovering that your god had just fallen face first into the ground? Dagon had done just that, but the people returned the statue to its place. Isn't it funny that the people had to pick up their god after he fell down? Not a very powerful god, is he? Then again, the next morning Dagon is found on the ground face down before the ark of the Lord, with its head and hands broken down. Embarrassed by this, the Philistines would not walk on the threshold of the temple of Dagon.

Although the Philistines had just witnessed God's power over their idol Dagon, they did not take heed to Him until they were afflicted with a terrible plague of tumors. They had thought that God was defeated because they had beaten Israel and captured the ark. They soon learned that no one defeats God as their so-called victory turned sour, for God began to destroy them with the plague.

Those who did not die were smitten with tumors and the cries of the people went up to heaven. The Philistines finally paid attention to God, fearing for their lives. What a tragedy it is when people do not simply respond to God but must experience personal pain. Unfortunately for the Philistines, their pride was their fall.

God doesn't allow anything false in His presence. The ark of the covenant was to remind the people of the true God and was a physical representation of the presence of God. The temple and statue of Dagon were physical representations of false gods and the sin of idolatry. God cannot be in the presence of sin. The Bible tells us that we are all sinners and there is nothing we can do to make ourselves good enough for God. We are separated from God because of sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for our sin so that we can enter God's presence without fear.





Read 1 SAMUEL 6:1-16

The Philistines knew that the God of Israel was greater than all gods. After seven months, they had endured enough tragedy and called upon the priests and diviners for advice on how to get relief. They decided to give the ark back along with some token gifts, not out of worship, but to remove the plague.

The Philistine priest and diviners came up with a way to see if God was the cause of their troubles. They used two cows who had just had calves, hitched them up to a cart and sent it towards Israel's border carrying the ark. If God was the cause, the ark would head towards Israel. For a cow to leave her calves, she would have to go against her motherly instincts. Only God, who has the power, could cause this to happen. Without turning to the right or the left, they went into Israel's territory, again revealing God's power to the Philistines.

The Israelites at Beth-Shemesh were so overjoyed to see the ark that they offered a sacrifice of the cows to the Lord. The burnt offering represented the renewing of their relationship with God.

The men of Beth-Shemesh had great reason to celebrate--their ark was returned. God's great mercy was revealed, forcing their enemies to return the glory of Israel in the ark. Rededicating their lives to God, they demonstrated their willingness to start over with Him as their leader.

Read 1 SAMUEL 6:19 → 7:6

Unfortunately, though the people rejoiced at the return of the ark, they were careless and violated God's law (Numbers 4:20) by opening it and looking inside. Only Levites could handle the ark; the people of Beth-Shemesh chose to take matters into their own hands. Their deliberate violation of the clear will of God brought judgment and many died.

God did not want the people to disregard His laws and come into His presence lightly. The hearts of the people of Israel were filled with idolatry, and the cycle of disrespect, disobedience, and defeat could start all over again. Overlooking their sin would only lead them into overlooking God.

The Israelites brought the ark to “Kirjath-jearim” rather than to Shiloh because the Philistines had destroyed Shiloh. The house of Abinadab in the hill is, probably, the same as Gibeah. They had an entirely different attitude. The Ark was handled with great respect by just the Levites. This Abinadab was most probably a Levite and his son Eleazar, was sanctified to take care of the Ark. After 20 years of silence from on high, the Israelites truly repented. Putting away the images of the “Baals and the Ashtoreths” signified their turn from idolatrous worship and back “to the Lord”. The 20 years designated the period Israel neglected God and chased after foreign gods. After those 20 years, Israel returned to the Lord.

Samuel, now a grown man, would address the people of Israel encouraging them to return to the Lord with all their heart, challenging the people to prove their loyalty to Him and abandon their idols (7:3-4). This challenge is just what Israel needed.

They will show this by putting away all their pagan idols. This the people do, proposing to serve God alone and to look to Him alone for deliverance from the Philistines. Samuel then gathers all of Israel to Mizpah, not far from his home in Ramah, promising that he will pray to the LORD on behalf of the nation there. The people draw water and pour it out before the LORD. When they confess their sins, Samuel prays for them.

God desires that we fully commit our life in obedience to Him. The Lord alone is worthy of our love and worship. He is worthy of first place in our heart. God wants us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, and strength.



The Philistines threaten the people of Israel and Samuel leads Israel to victory.

The Philistines have not yet learned their lesson from the heavy hand of God. They assume that the nation Israel has gathered at Mizpah for war. The Philistines have been victorious in waging war with the Israelites before, and so they assume they will be successful once again.

The Israelites are frightened when they learn that the Philistines are coming. All they can do is cast themselves upon God and trust in Him. They will have to appeal to Him based on grace, not magic. They cry out to Samuel, beseeching him to pray to the LORD on their behalf, asking Him to deliver them from the approaching Philistines.

Samuel offers a whole burnt offering to the LORD on behalf of the Israelites. He cries out to the LORD, beseeching Him to deliver the Israelites, and God answers his prayer. The Israelites are completely unprepared for this attack, but the LORD seems to bring about a great thunderstorm (or at least the sounds of thunder) which causes great confusion among the Philistine warriors and enables the Israelites to overcome them. From Mizpah, the Israelites pursue the Philistines as far as Beth Car, a city whose location is not known. Samuel then sets up a stone between Mizpah and Shen, calling the stone "Ebenezer," which means, "stone or rock of my help," a commemoration that this battle has been won by the LORD'S help.

Closing:

Intercession through prayer is an important word in the Christian life. It implies that one or more people pleaded to God on behalf of another person's needs.

In today's lesson we saw how God acted when Samuel prayed. God delivered His people. Samuel's example shows us that the prayers of one solitary, godly person can be effective. We dare not undervalue what God will do in response to a faithful servant on his knees. For certain, there is power in prayer, and we must learn to regularly and unselfishly pray for others.

Optional activities:

FILL IN THE BLANKS

soldiers	fighting	took
died	Eli	ark

The Philistines and the Israelites were _____ each other. About 4,000 _____ died. The leaders of Israel sent men to get the _____. The Philistines _____ the ark from the Israelites. Many more soldiers _____. When _____ found out what happened, he died too.

QUESTIONS

1. When the Philistines and Israelites fought, who won?
2. What did the Israelites bring with them into battle?
3. Why do you think the Philistines took the ark of the covenant?
4. Why do you think the Lord allowed the Israelites to loose the battles?

QUESTIONS

1. Who had the ark at the beginning of the story?
2. What happened to the Philistines because they had the ark?
3. What did the Philistines do with the ark?
4. Why do you think the Philistines wanted to give the ark back to the Israelites?

The Ark of the Covenant Crossword

Instructions: Use your Bible to complete the crossword puzzle about the ark of the covenant.



The ark was covered in (2) _____.

The ark contained three items: a jar that contained (8) _____; Aaron's (5) _____; two (4) _____ with the Ten Commandments.

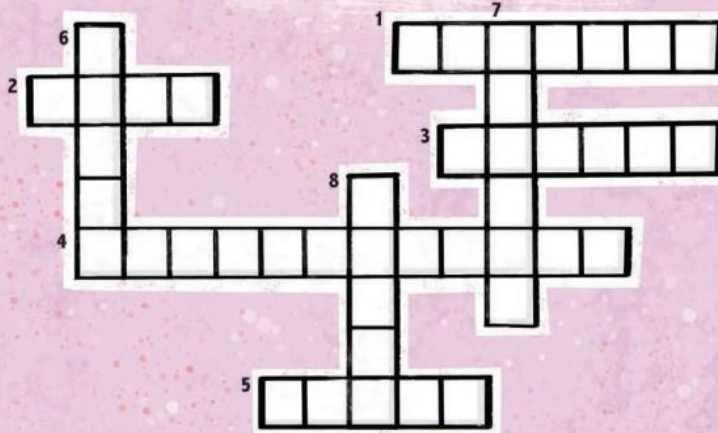
The ark was 45 (7) _____ long 27 (7) _____ wide and 27 (7) _____ high.

The ark was carried by the (1) _____ using two (6) _____.

The ark was made from (3) _____ wood.

Find the answers in these Scriptures.

Exodus 37:1,5
Deuteronomy 10:3;
31:9
Hebrews 9:4



CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1. "Now Israel went out to battle against the (PHILISTINES, EGYPTIANS)." 1 SAMUEL 4:1
2. "And when they joined battle, Israel was (MOCKED, DEFEATED) by the Philistines." 1 SAMUEL 4:2

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

3. The elders of Israel said, "Let us bring the _____ of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies." 1 SAMUEL 4:3
4. "When the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the _____ shook." 1 SAMUEL 4:5

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. "So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, 'God has come into the camp!' And they said, 'Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before.'" 1 SAMUEL 4:7
TRUE OR FALSE
6. So the Philistines gave up and ran for their lives. 1 SAMUEL 4:9-10
TRUE OR FALSE
7. "The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died." 1 SAMUEL 4:11
TRUE OR FALSE
8. "And when the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon." 1 SAMUEL 5:2
TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

9. "When the people of Ashod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its _____ to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again." 1 SAMUEL 5:3
BACK FACE
10. "The hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashod, and He ravaged them and struck them with _____, both Ashod and its territory." 1 SAMUEL 5:6
TUMORS STONES

FILL IN THE BLANK:

11. After the ark brought destruction upon Gath, it was sent to Ekron and the people "sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, 'Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not _____ us or our people.'" 1 SAMUEL 5:11

TRUE OR FALSE:

12. "So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, 'The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you.'" 1 SAMUEL 6:21
TRUE OR FALSE

THE SECOND SECTION

KING SAUL (1 SAMUEL 8 TO 15)

- Lesson 4: Israel demands a king and Saul chosen to be king ch 8-9.
- Lesson 5: Declaring Saul as a king and Saul Defeats the Ammonites ch 10-11
- Lesson 6: Samuel's Farewell speech and Samuel Rebukes Saul ch 12-13
- Lesson 7: Jonathan's Fight, Saul's Oath- Saul Disobeyed God ch 14-15

THE BEGINNING OF THE ROYAL SYSTEM

The people demanded from the prophet Samuel to set a king for them like the other nations. Despite what that request implied of rejection of God's reign and of Samuel, God granted them their heart quest; a king was set for them, who succeeded for a certain time. They wanted to be like other nations; Yet the royal system had various concepts: In Egypt, the Pharaoh was looked at, as a god, who returns to his domain after death. In Assyria and Babylon, a king - a civil as well as a religious head - though seen as a mortal being, was regarded, as beloved to gods. Even if he erred, his word was considered to be a law that had to be obeyed.

As for Israel, a king was considered to be a human being who should govern according to the grace of God, anointed by the high priest, but had no right to priestly work; The divine law was above all, and he had to submit to it and respect it. That is why, when Saul offered a burnt offering, when David took Uriah's woman, and when Ahab murdered Naboth the Jezerite for his vineyard, they were all condemned and punished. King David also acknowledged the right of prophet Nathan to accuse him of trespassing. The prophet Samuel anointed David a king, but he died before the later started his reign. David enjoyed the promise that his seed would eternally inherit the kingdom; and set the foundations on which the good kings were to down root their kingdom.



Lesson 4: 1 Samuel 8 & 9

Israel Rejects God and Requests a King Saul Chosen to be the King

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 8&9
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 36-44**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

God's Way is Best!

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 9:21

21 And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"

Lesson Aim:

We learn that God's servants must be humble. Also, we shouldn't try to copy other people. We should follow God and be what He wants us to be.

Remember:

Last chapter the Israelites defeated the Philistines in battle and Samuel set up a monument to commemorate the event.

Lesson Opening

Optional video: <https://www.y9outube.com/watch?v=4eCQ1r8aE8k>

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Today we will learn that God made Saul the first king of Israel. Does anyone know who was the second king of Israel? David became the second king of Israel.

Does anyone know who the third king of Israel was? The third king of Israel was David's son, Solomon.

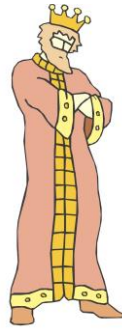
Show them the following pictures.



King Saul



King David



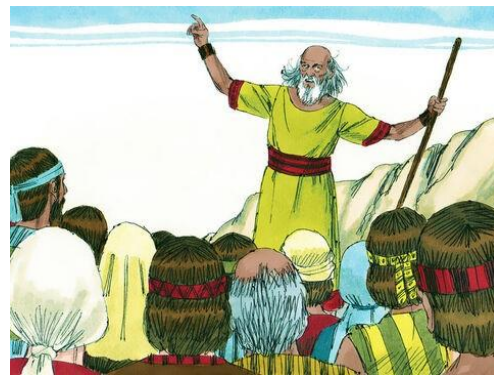
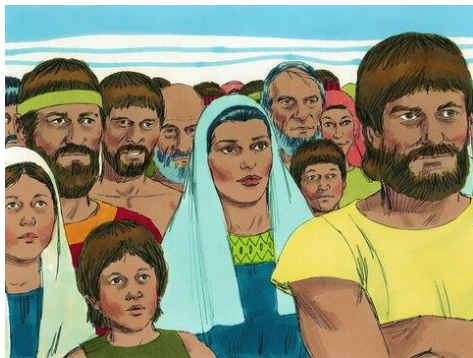
King Solomon

Lesson time

Chapter 8: Read 8:1-9

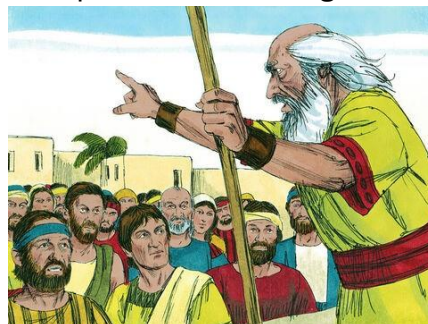
Samuel was old and the Israelites requested a king.

Samuel was old and his sons did not walk in their father’s way, accepted bribes and perverted justice. The Israelites made a request to Samuel :”Give us a king to lead us, such as all the nations have”.



Samuel was displeased but God asked him to give the people a king

Samuel was displeased about this request). Why was it evil for God’s people to request a king? Answer: (They were rejecting God who was their King). God is sovereign. That means He is in control of all things. He was Israel’s perfect King and allowed them to request a human king.



DEMANDING A KING

Some may probably ask: If the people did not demand a king, Would God have set them a kingdom?

- A. We do not find, for the royal system, a true root in the Mosaic law except what came in Deuteronomy 17: 14 - 20. That probably presented a prophecy about setting up a royal system in the promised land; and certain advice to the people, in case they chose a king as is fitting for a member of the holy congregation.
- B. The fault was not in the demand of a king, but it was in hastening the events, and in misunderstanding the royal system. Timewise, God planned to set for them a king, “whose heart is like that of God”; He allowed for ‘Ruth’ to come from the Gentiles, from whose descent, David would come as a prophet and a king. If they had waited a little more, they would have gotten a much better bargain than what they demanded; and they would not have gotten Saul, who, though good looking, caused them great misery. Concerning their concept of the royal system, they wished for a king to lead their army, instead of Prophet Samuel, the man of prayer.

Why did not God rebuke Samuel for his sons’ perversion, as He did with Eli?

That was probably because Eli was a high priest, under whose authority his priest sons committed such horrible sins and iniquities, punishable by killing according to the law. As for Samuel’s two sons, on the other hand, their perversion - taking bribes - could have happened later in their career; They might have started well, then perverted by the lure of money. Besides, those two judged in Beersheba, and not with their father in Ramah; And as the position of judgment was not inheritable, their appointment could have been according to the people’s quest.

GOD HEEDS THE PEOPLE’S VOICE WITH A FOREWARNING:

How great was Samuel’s wisdom; As a man of prayer, he did not get furious, nor rebuked them, but he sought instead the counsel and guidance of God, who comforted him. It is amazing how God told Samuel to heed the voice of the people in all that they say to him; how He holds high the human freedom; and how he responds to the collective demands. Although He reveals the truth to them, forewarning them of the consequences of their vain demand, He does not force them to abide to a certain system, but makes sure they understand the truth with their complete freedom.

Although God responded to their demand, He clarified to them two facts:

- 1) The first fact is that any rejection of His men is a rejection of Him; saying: “For they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me” (1 Samuel 8: 7). And Lord Jesus says to His disciples: “Who hears you hears Me, and who rejects you rejects Me; and who rejects Me, rejects Him who had sent Me” (Luke 10: 16). St. Augustine

- 2) The second fact is that choosing the royal system was actually not for their benefit; He explained to them what to expect, of oppression and persecution on the hands of kings.

Chapter 9: Read 9:3-10

Saul was chosen to be king.

Here we have the genealogy of Saul. He came from the tribe of Benjamin, one of the smallest tribes in all Israel. From a tribe seeming to have little significance, God chose the first King of Israel.

His name, Saul, means “prayed for” and he was said to be young and handsome. He was a tall man and size, and beauty were highly valued in rulers as signs of manly strength. But remember God does not look at the outward appearance as man does; He looks at a person’s heart.

Saul, who was from the tribe of Benjamin, had been sent out by his father to look for some donkeys that had gone away. Saul took one of his father’s servants and went looking for the donkeys. They searched and searched for the donkeys but could not find them. Saul was concerned that it was taking so long to find the donkeys that his father would no longer be worried about his donkeys but would be concerned that something had happened to Saul and his servant. He decided it would be a good idea to go home.

His servant suggested they stop and ask Samuel to help them find the donkeys. Saul hesitated because they had no present to bring to the man of God. The bread was gone from their vessels, but the servant told him he had a quarter of a shekel to give. The loss of the donkeys, a seeming “disaster,” would actually be something that God would use to bring Saul to Samuel. Though Saul had nothing to give to Samuel, God provided a shekel through his servant. God was in control of every circumstance. We can trust God to be in control of every circumstance in our lives. He will lead us and take care of all our needs.

Read 9:15-21

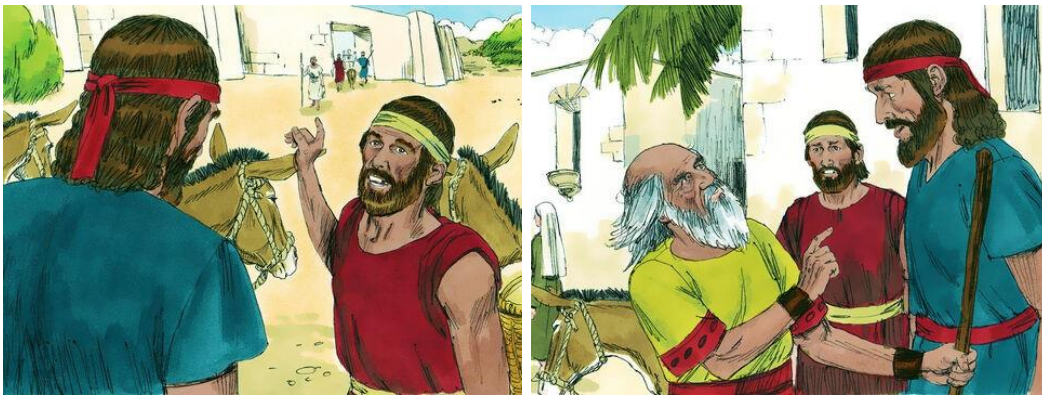
Before Samuel and Saul met, the Lord had told Samuel that the man was coming to him whom he was to anoint as captain over his people. God had heard the cries of his people. We can be assured that when we cry out to the Lord, He hears us. When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him that this was the man He had chosen to be king over Israel. Remember that God did not want to give the Israelites a King (1 Samuel 8), for He was their king; however, the people were insistent. They wanted to be like the rest of the world—the nations around them who had Kings. When they were told what it would be like to have a king (they would be “his servants”), they still wanted a king; the Lord told Samuel that they would have a king.

God is our king and should be obeyed. What a sad state God’s people were in. They did not heed God’s warning. The ways of the world will never bring the satisfaction we are looking for; God alone can fill the void in our lives. Let us examine our own hearts; are we pursuing satisfaction from this world?

When Samuel and Saul met, Samuel assured Saul that the donkeys he was searching for had been found. Thus, Samuel proved to Saul that he truly was a prophet. Then Samuel revealed to Saul what God had spoken. “The desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father’s house.” Saul responded with humility, pointing out that he was a member of the least family of the smallest tribe of Israel.

Read 9:22-27

Samuel took Saul and his servant into his house and gave them a place at the table among those who had been invited. There were about 30 people there, and Samuel ordered the piece of meat, which he had set aside, to be given to Saul. The meal itself was symbolic, for Samuel had carefully saved the shoulder, which is symbolic of government, to be given to Saul. When the sacrificial meal was over, Samuel and Saul went down from the high place into town and Samuel talked with Saul upon the roof. Samuel told Saul to send his servant to go on ahead of them so Samuel could share God’s message alone with Saul.



Takeaway:

The Holy Book narrates the events that ended by Saul’s anointment as a king - events that may seem haphazard or through mere chance, and of no real value. Yet, the divine inspiration reveals to us how God, the Almighty, can use all events, however valueless they may seem, to realize a divine plan for our sake; nothing is ever haphazard!

Here we find Saul set forth to look for the lost donkeys of his father ‘Kish’; and though he did not find them,, he got anointed as a king; We find his servant advise him to meet the ‘seer’ (Samuel), having in his possession one fourth of a shekel of silver; And we find Saul and his servant meet some young women going out to draw water; then with the seer himself...; God actually was behind all of these incidents, though they seemed haphazard, to realize His plan.

I wish we believe that everything that happens in our life - however valueless it may seem – happens according to the ordinance of God, who cares for sparrows, and before whom “the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Matthew 10: 30)

Optional activity:

Discussion questions:

- ❖ Samuel was old and had passing the torch of leadership to his sons, but they were not following God. If you were in Samuel's position, how would you have reacted?
- ❖ The Israelites were not happy with how their leaders were leading and so they asked for a King. What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks of having a King?
- ❖ God also warned the Israelites that a King would take their fields and give them to his own people. How do you think this would make you feel?
- ❖ Despite all of God's warnings, the Israelites still wanted a King. Why do you think they felt this way?
- ❖ God warned the Israelites that a King would take their sons and daughters and put them to work, but they didn't listen. Have you ever not listened to God's warning and regretted it later?
- ❖ Why do you think the Lord chose Saul to be the first king of Israel?

QUESTIONS

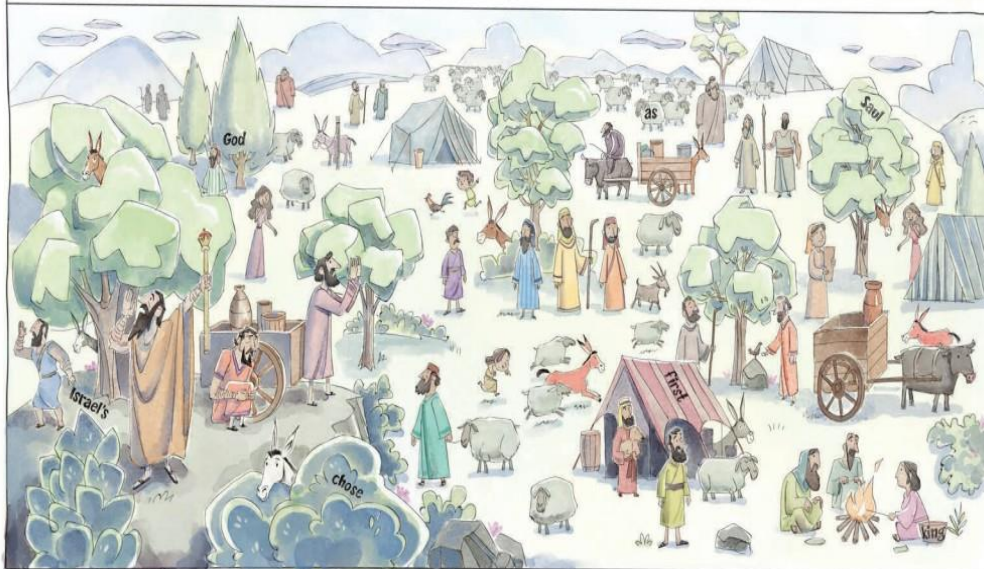
1. Why did the Israelites want a king?
2. What are some things that Samuel said a king would do?
3. Did the people still want a king?
4. Why do you think the Lord told Samuel to give the Israelites a king?

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Saul go to see Samuel?
2. What did Samuel do to Saul?
3. How did Samuel know that Saul was coming?
4. Why do you think Samuel put oil on Saul's head?

Donkey Roundup

Find and circle the 10 donkeys hidden in the picture. Round up 4 brown donkeys, 3 gray donkeys, 2 red donkeys, and 1 white donkey.



God Chose a King

Find the words hidden in the picture. Then arrange them to form the main point of the Bible story.

Lesson 5: 1 Samuel 10 & 11

Declaring Saul as a king Saul Defeats the Ammonites

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 10&11
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 45-51**

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Theme:

Success

Remember:

Last lesson, we learned that the people of Israel asked Samuel for a king to lead them. We learned about Saul, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, who was chosen by God to be the first king of Israel. Saul went on to lead the Israelites in battle against their enemies, the Philistines.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 11:13

13 But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has accomplished salvation in Israel."

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Getting What We Want

Samuel followed through with their decision to get a king.

Do you really want to get what you wish? What did the Israelites want? If we clarify our thoughts and wishes, we can more easily discover our wickedness. Again, they dismissed their need for God to choose an earthly king. They rebelled against their powerful and magnanimous God.

When God granted them their king, they deluded themselves in their success, totally ignorant of the ramifications of rejecting God as King. Yes, they would be like other nations, but did they understand how that would weaken them?

They wanted someone to protect their nation. Glad about God's choice, they said, "Surely there is no one like him among all the people." The people shouted, "Long live the king!" (10:24. We will see later how this decision had a detrimental effect on the kingdom, even with others like David.

God knew what they wanted and gave it to them. He didn't trick them but used their request to expose their foolishness. He gave them what they thought would cure their independent spirit, even though He knew it wasn't best. **When we reject God's best, we end up with the second-rate.**

The things we choose are not always the best, though they look good. How many once successful-sounding governmental, and business leaders became sore points for their groups?



Lesson time

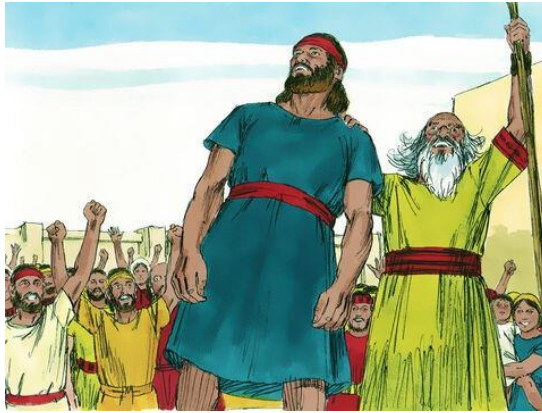
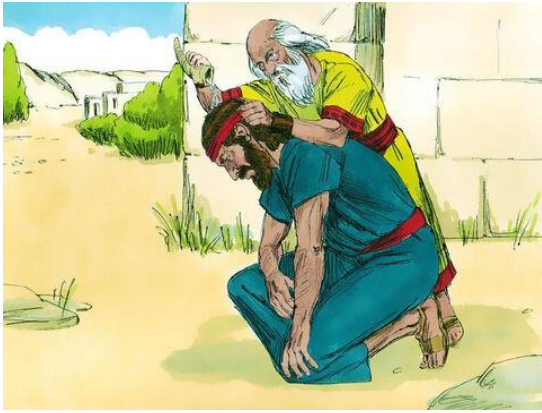
Chapter 10: Read 10:1-8

Samuel then pours oil upon Saul's head, symbolizing that he is anointed with the Spirit of God. (Before this time, there had not been an anointing among the people of God other than the priests and sanctuary.)

When they are alone, Samuel tells Saul of his calling by God to be the king of Israel. God is our king and should be obeyed. To hear that he could lead the nation of Israel, must have seemed amazing to Saul. God confirmed His words to Saul with three signs. **The first sign** was meeting two men who told him that his father's donkeys had been found. **The second sign** was that he would meet three men going to Bethel, one would be carrying three goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine. When they met him, they would give him two loaves of bread. This sign would confirm what Samuel had told Saul about the donkeys and be proof that all that Samuel had spoken about Saul becoming Israel's King was indeed true.

The third sign was to come to the hill of God where the Philistine outpost was, to encounter a group of

prophets; then the Spirit of God would come upon him, and he would prophesy with them. Again, God was faithful—He showed Saul that He would help him in all that he undertook as king.



We can say that Saul - as the first king of Israel – had been instructed by the prophet Samuel, directly after getting anointed, by the following basic principles, to be successful in his reign:

- a- To put to death his care for trivial valueless things (his visit to Rachel's tomb), and not to worry about the lost donkeys.
- b- To go up with his heart, together with the three men to the house of the Lord, to enjoy the sacrifice (the goats), the spiritual food (the loaves of bread), and the life of joy (the skin of wine).
- c- not to surpass his limits, by practicing priestly work, namely offering sacrifices.
- d- To be content with the necessities, he and his men (taking the two loaves), and not to seek luxuries (not taking wine).
- e- To encounter the group of prophets, to share their joy and worship, to receive their counsel, and not to do any work before seeking their prayers for himself.

After presenting these three signs, that embraced the principles of successful life for the kings of Israel, Samuel said to Saul: “Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man”

Read 10:9-16

When Saul left Samuel to return to Gibeah, “God gave him another heart.” Only God can change a person's heart; only God can transform a person. God changed Saul's heart to make him the man God wanted him to be. Would Saul respond to that all his life? Unfortunately, not, as we will see in later lessons.

As we yield our hearts to God, He will transform them. The heart is the center of our thoughts, will, and emotions. As we yield our hearts to God, God will transform our hearts, and the result will be a life lived that pleases God. God is our king and should be obeyed. With this sign, his anointing as king was inwardly sealed. When he prophesied with the prophets, the people were amazed and wondered what had happened to Saul.

An encounter with God should never leave us the same person we were before. When Saul's uncle asked him where he had been, he replied, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere to be

found, we went to Samuel." From Samuel they learned that the donkeys had been found. Saul made no mention of what Samuel had told him regarding the kingship of Israel.

Read 10:17-27

After Samuel, by God's command, had secretly anointed Saul as king, it was now his duty to recognize the man whom God had chosen publicly (with the people present). But before the public installation of Saul, he reminded the people of their sin in rejecting God as their ruler. God is our king and should be obeyed.

Samuel then called the people to Mizpah and instructed the tribes to choose a king by lot. Of course, the lot fell upon Saul, the son of Kish. When the lot fell upon Saul, they sought him; and he could not be found. They "inquired of the Lord" and found Saul was hiding.

We do not know why Saul hid; was it out of a feeling of unworthiness, to evade the huge responsibility, or out of fear because of the people's rejection of God and demanding a king?

When he is finally brought before the people, they cry out, "Let the king live!" Men so often look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. Samuel then told the people the rights of the monarchy, wrote it in a document, and laid it before the Lord.

Saul then went back to his home in Gibeah, along with the crowd of men whose hearts God had touched, to show their readiness to serve him. God is our king and should be obeyed. When a person is suddenly exalted, there are often envious people (verse 27). But Saul did not let it bother him; he held his peace.

Takeaway from chapter 10:

Notice how many specific details Samuel told Saul concerning the things that were soon going to happen to him. And every detail came to pass just as Samuel said it would. That is the difference between God's true prophets and false prophets. The things that God's prophets talk about happen! Sometimes we don't feel qualified for the jobs God has called us to do. We hide (like Saul), we plead for help (like Moses), and we run away (like Jonah). The reality is, we aren't qualified.

If we try to do the jobs God gives us on our own, we will make a mess of things. And there is nothing we can do, in our own strength, to make ourselves qualified.

The best thing we can do when God calls is to say, "Here I am. Send me!" (like Isaiah) and pray for wisdom (like Solomon). Our surrender combined with God's wisdom and strength is the winning combination.

Chapter 11: Read 11:1-5

After Saul was declared king, he went back to his father's house. It would seem that he was not taking the active responsibility of being the king until Nahash, the king of the Ammonites, attacked the tribes on the east of the Jordan. The Ammonites had come into the country and laid siege against the city of Jabesh-Gilead. This town was just east of the Jordan in the tribe of Gad.

They begged the Ammonites to make a covenant with them, allowing them peaceful surrender. Nahash, their king agreed to do this if they would agree to pay a terrible price which is that all the men of Jabesh agree to have their right eye punched out. This would be a reproach upon all of Israel. The people of Jabesh asked for seven days to consider their circumstances. They went to the people of Gibeah to cry about it. Saul did not hear about it until he returned home from the field and found the people crying over the terrible news.

Read 11:6-11

Upon hearing the news, the Spirit of God came upon Saul. Saul responded immediately. He took oxen, cut them into pieces and sent them to all in Israel saying that those that did not follow Saul and Samuel would have their own oxen cut into pieces. Note that Saul's words: "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle..." Saul still recognized Samuel's authority as the prophet of God. Saul had assembled 300,000 men of Israel and 30,000 men of Judah together and sent word that they would help the people of Jabesh.

After receiving the good news of help, they told the Ammonites, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do to us what seems good to you," a lie by which they hoped to surprise the enemy with an attack. The next day, Saul arranged the people in three divisions and victoriously fought the Ammonites. In the early morning, they fell on the Ammonites before the sun was up. By the time the sun was hot, the Ammonites were thoroughly defeated and no two of them could be found together. This great victory made Saul an instant hero. The people all went up to Gilgal and it was there that they made Saul king before the Lord. Saul officially became the first king of Israel, and all the people rejoiced. They offered peace offerings before the Lord at Gilgal.

Read 11:12-15

In light of this great victory the Lord brought through Saul, the people remembered those who were against Saul and wanted to kill them. But Saul refused to punish these men, wanting only to rejoice over the victory God had given. Samuel encouraged the people to go with him to Gilgal to confirm Saul as their king.

Takeaway from chapter 11:

Saul became angry at what Nahash, the enemy, was trying to do to God's people. And he was angry at this insult against the name of God. Saul's Spirit-led anger caused him to raise an army quickly. The Israelites went out, united behind Saul, and defeated the enemy.

Not all anger is bad. There is such a thing as righteous anger, but this anger is directed at sin, not at the sinners. It is an anger over evil things that dishonor God. Make sure your anger is aimed at Satan and sin, not other people made in God's image.

It was never God's intention for Israel to have its own king. God had purposed that through Israel, the whole world would witness what would happen when God was directly in control. Of course, he would have to express His rule on earth by means of human beings in whom He placed His Spirit.

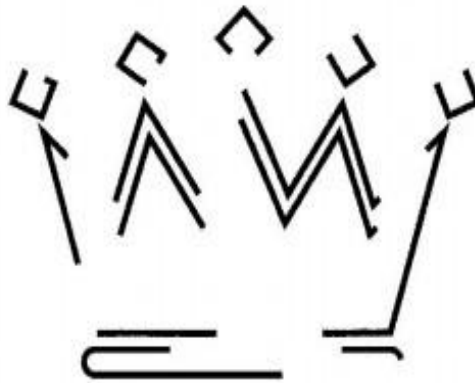
The story of Saul begins well. He is chosen by God as the first king of Israel. When he is tested in his first armed conflict on 1 Sam 11, Saul proves to be an able military leader, marshaling the people over what was then a decentralized and unorganized group of tribes, and winning a decisive victory over their enemies.

Optional activities:

Discussion questions:

- ❖ What do you think was going through Saul's mind when he saw the Ammonite army approaching? (1 Samuel 11:1)
- ❖ Do you think Saul's decision to lead the army was based on personal gain or altruism? (1 Samuel 11:4-5)
- ❖ Do you think Saul's power and influence changed him for the better or worse? (1 Samuel 11:28-29)
- ❖ What do you think would have happened if Saul had not gone to rescue the city of Jabesh? (1 Samuel 11:3)
- ❖ What can we learn from Saul's story about being grateful for what we have? (1 Samuel 11:30-31)
- ❖ What do you think was the turning point for Saul becoming a successful leader? (1 Samuel 11:23)
- ❖ What would you do if you were in Saul's position? Would you have done something different?

The children of Israel wanted a king to lead them. Samuel the prophet had the task of presenting the king to the Israelites. But who was it that actually anointed Saul the first king of Israel?



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 in the box to
 complete the code
 and finish the puzzle.

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Lesson 6: 1 Samuel 12 & 13

Samuel's Farewell speech Samuel Rebukes Saul

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 12 and 13
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 52-58**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

God's grace is good news for us - Forgiveness

Lesson Aim:

We will learn that whenever we are worried or scared, we should pray and ask God to show us what to do.

Remember:

Last lesson, we learned that Saul was anointed as the first king of Israel, then there was a war against the Ammonites and Saul led them to victory, that is how his reign was acknowledged by the people.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 12:23

"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way"

ATTENTION GRABBER!

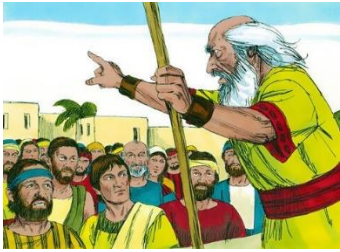
Giving in to fear can hurt us in so many ways as a Christian. When we are afraid to step out in faith, we can cripple God's plans to use us. When we are afraid of what others think, we can hold back on sharing the gospel. When we are afraid of the circumstances around us, we can be tempted to do the wrong thing and go against God's word. That third one was Saul's problem in this chapter and it's a temptation that we all face as well.

Fear is a problem for us as Christians, because we are called to live by faith, and fear is the opposite of faith. So, today in the second part of this lesson, we will talk about fear and what happens when, like Saul, you act foolishly out of fear.

Lesson time

Chapter 12: Read 12:1-12

In this chapter, Samuel speaks to the people in what is almost like a farewell address. He tells the people that he has given them a king, as they had wanted, who would now walk before them. "The people had rejected a proven godly leader for a man who had won only one victory and whose devotion to the Lord was as yet unknown" (Warren Wiersbe). **God is our king and should be obeyed.**



Samuel was disappointed, but he left office knowing that his conscience was clear. Samuel's conduct was one of honor and truth. There could be no injustice found in all his years as their prophet. The people agreed with Samuel: he had not done any type of injustice to them. What Samuel did here was not self-defense, for nobody accused him of anything; but he intended by it to teach the new king a lesson to be meek and compassionate.

To confirm this declaration on the part of the people, he then called God and his anointed (Saul) as witnesses against the people; they accepted these witnesses.

The people admitted that there was no reason for their request for a king and that Samuel's conduct was excellent. Samuel then proves this still further to the people by reminding them of their history. He reminds them of two things: God's consistent faithfulness and their record of failure. He is honest with them, even with Saul there, reminding them that they have sinned in wanting a king. The children of Israel should have realized that the all-powerful God who had delivered them so many times in the past was sufficient for all their needs. God is faithful. He will never fail us.

Read 12:13-19

Samuel told the people that the welfare of the nation would depend on whether they would obey the Lord or rebel against Him. Their obedience would bring blessing and disobedience would bring destruction.

Samuel then reminded them of God's power, for he prayed for rain and thunder to come at an unusual time of year (a season when it scarcely rained). The display of God's awesome power, sending thunder and rain, put a fear (a healthy respect) in the people for Him. They cried to Samuel to "Pray for your servants unto the Lord your God, that we may not die;" acknowledging their sin, in asking for "ourselves a king."

It is a good thing that God does not always give us things we want for "ourselves." He knows that some things may become a problem in our lives. We can trust ourselves to Him, for He is faithful. [God is our king and should be obeyed.](#)

Read 12:20-25

Samuel then reassures the people that the Lord would not forsake His people for His great name's sake, if they would only serve Him with uprightness. Although He reminded them, they had done wrong, he now encouraged them not to turn away from the Lord, but to serve Him with all their heart, and not go after idols, which could never bring them either help or deliverance. [God is our king and should be obeyed.](#)

Those who chose to serve the Lord would be called "His" people. God will not forsake His people; they are heir to all His promises. What a precious thought to be "His." What a special place those people had, and we have, who are called "His" people—a people loved deeply by Him. Samuel then gives the people a wonderful promise of his constant intercession for them. To Samuel, it would be a sin if he stopped praying for the people of Israel. He would pray for them and teach the "the good and the right way."

Samuel never sways from the calling of God upon his life, even if the people had rejected it. And in him teaching them the good and right way, he again reminds them to “only fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart, for consider how great things He has done for you.” We can take that same instruction, to have reverence for the Lord in our hearts, and serve Him in truth with all of our hearts, and to think about all of the wonderful things He has done for us.

But, if we choose to go our own way, the warning Samuel gave the Israelites can apply to us as well: "But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king." Let us remember God’s faithfulness and remain faithful to such an awesome Lord.

“Built within each man is the desire to worship. I’ve got to worship something. And if I choose not to worship God, I will end up worshipping something else. And anything I worship except God is going to leave me empty, because it can’t fill the void that is within me”. Chuck Smith [1927-2013]

Takeaway from chapter 12:

1. What are some of the good things God did for His people? (verses 8, 11) How did God get the people’s attention when they forgot Him? (verse 9)
2. People asked God to save them, God helped them; people forgot God, God allowed problems to come; people repented and asked God to save them; God helped them, etc.)
 - Why does God sometimes let bad things happen to us? God doesn’t want any of His children to suffer. But God loves us so much that He gave us all the power to choose. Unfortunately, some people choose to do evil things that hurt other people. And sometimes bad things happen in nature. But God tells us in His word that “in everything God works for the good of those who love him”. So, we can be certain that whatever bad things happen to us, if we trust God He will make good things come out of those bad circumstances.

Chapter 13:

Israel was so happy to have Saul as their king and Saul reigned for many years without any trouble. But then things started to go wrong. Part of the Israelite army attacked the Philistines. The Philistines decided that they had enough trouble from the Israelites and sent an army to attack. Saul knew that he should wait on Samuel to come and help them, but he was afraid, so he offered up his own sacrifice. As a result, Saul lost his favor with the Lord. Today we will learn not to worry even in scary situations.

Read 13:7-12



1. Conditions in Israel

Chapter 13 opens explaining that Saul had reigned two years over Israel when he first established an army of 3,000 men. There was also an army of 1,000 men who were under the command of his son Jonathan in Gibeah. This was in the tribe of Benjamin. The Philistines remained a threatening force to Israel, and because of this, there were garrisons established in many of the towns. In verse 3, it mentions that Geba was one of those cities in which the Philistines had control.

Jonathan led his army into Geba and smote the garrison of the Philistines. Geba was a Levite City from the tribe of Benjamin which was a distance from Jerusalem. When Jonathan smote the garrison at Geba, those aroused the Philistines against Israel. Saul blew a trumpet to summon the Israelites to come out and meet the Philistines in battle. When Saul wins this battle, the news of victory spreads all through Israel. He then sends out a call to the armies to gather in Gilgal.

The Philistines gathered to fight Israel with 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen. It says that the number of soldiers was virtually innumerable, calling them sand which is on the seashore in the multitude. They moved into Israel and spread themselves along the way to Bethaven in the mountains of Benjamin. They went further where there was a path leading down into the valleys.

Most of the Israelites were scared and distressed. Instead of coming out in battle against the Philistines, many hid out in caves, thickets, rocks and mountains. Some even hid in high places and in pits. Some of those even more fearful fled to another country intending to reside there until the danger is passed. Many crossed the Jordan into the tribe of Gad and stayed in the land of Gilead. Saul stayed in Gilgal with his trembling army, expecting Samuel to come and make a sacrifice before the battle. The people were unwilling to answer the trumpet call and to fight for their country. They did not have confidence that they could drive out the enemy.

II. Saul Intrudes into the Priest's Office

Samuel had promised to come within seven days, but on the seventh day, when he did not come, Saul showed his impatience. His army was beginning to disband, and he felt he must take things into his own hands. Once before Samuel had asked Saul to go to Gilgal and wait, but Saul refused. This time he refuses to wait the full seven days, but he calls for the animals to sacrifice without the priest. This was not allowed. Only the priests could administer the sacrifices. After Saul had offered the burnt offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to meet him.

Remember a similar story, Uzziah, king of Judah, when he intended to practice priestly work, while not a priest, he became leprous, because of his transgression against the Lord; So, would be the punishment of any layman who despises the Lord, who foolishly insults His priests, and extorts that glory for himself.

III. The Divine Rejection of Saul [13:11-15]

When Samuel saw what Saul had done, he rebuked him severely. The people were scattering away from him and the Philistines were gathering at Michmash and threatening him. He was about to be forced into battle with them without having made a sacrifice and calling on the Lord. Samuel told Saul that he had committed a foolish act in not keeping the Lord's commandments.

We have heard it so many times, but it is still true. **God is much more impressed with obedience than sacrifice.** If Saul had done as commended, his kingdom would have been established forever in Israel. Saul was reminded that it was God who sought him out to be the king. He wanted a man after God's own heart.

He also became a bad example in his misunderstanding of worship; as God seeks obedience, rather than sacrifices and burnt offerings; It is said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire.; In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure" (Hebrews 10: 5, 6)

After his conversation with Saul, Samuel left Gilgal and went to Gibeah. Saul numbered the people and found he had 600 men left with him. Saul and Jonathan came together and moved down to Gibeah. The Philistines were still camped at the pass of Michmash which was about 25 miles northeast of Gibeah.

It was during this time that there were no blacksmiths in the tribes of Israel. When Israel needed to sharpen their work tools and their plows, they had to bring them to the Philistines. So, there was no one to make them swords or spears to fight.

Closing:

The success of Saul's early reign was undone by his decision to take matters into his own hands. His intentions were good. He desired the Lord's favor in battle and waited for Samuel to offer the sacrifices necessary to secure it. But becoming impatient, Saul instead offered the sacrifices himself, disobeying the command of God. In the moment, the consequences did not seem fatal. Saul won the battle and continued to reign as king for decades afterwards.

But his fate was sealed; his kingdom was effectively over. As time went on, it became obvious that the Spirit of God that had once come upon him in power had been replaced by a spirit of self-centeredness and self-dependance. But even here, there is hope. "The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart" (1 Sam 13:14)

Takeaway from chapter 13:

Patience is one of the hardest attributes to acquire, and if we don't master it, God will begin to train us to gain it. And how do we gain patience? By tribulation, the Word of God says. Saul should have waited on Samuel. God wants us to go slow and be sure that we are doing things His way. God wants us to pray and then sometimes we need to wait.

Optional activities:

Discussion questions:

- ❖ What do you think was going through Jonathan's mind when he decided to attack the Philistines?
- ❖ Although Saul disobeyed the Lord's command, do you think his heart was in the right place? Why or why not?
- ❖ Why was Saul's actions in verse eight deemed as "disobedience to the word of the Lord" (13:13)?
- ❖ What could Saul have done differently in order to show obedience to the Lord's command?
- ❖ How is Saul's statement in verse nine an example of his lack of faith?

Lesson 7: 1 Samuel 14 & 15

Jonathan's Fight and Saul's Oath Saul Disobeyed God

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 14 and 15
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 59-67**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

God gives me victory

Remember:

Last lesson, we learned that Samuel gave a farewell speech about how he served those people with honesty. Saul disobeyed God when he took the role of a priest and offered a sacrifice before Samuel arrived, then God rejected him from that day on.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 15:22

So, Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

Lesson Aim:

How important it is to trust the Lord for anything. How important it is to listen to the Lord to determine what it is that He wants us to do. God delights in our total obedience.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

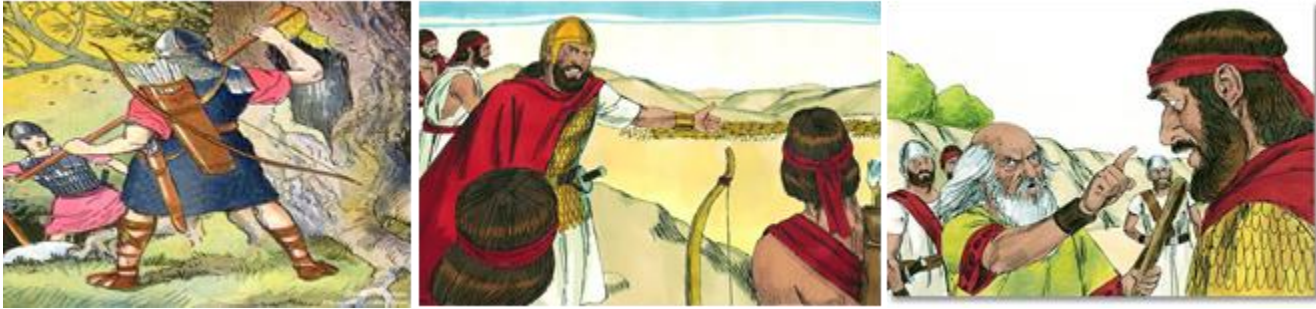
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnR3DkElpTw>

Do you ever have a hard time obeying completely? I mean, maybe your teacher gave you an assignment, but you only finished half of it. If you only do half of your homework does that count as completing it? Nope!

Ask: Or what if your dad asks you to mow the grass but you only mow half the yard. Will your dad believe you when you said, "But I did what you asked!?" No way!

Say: We can't get away with just following directions or obeying halfway. Our 2nd part of the story today is about King Saul, and how he only partially obeyed God, but he learned that partial obedience is really just disobedience!

Lesson time



Chapter 14: *Read 14:4-14*

In today's lesson, we will see the strong faith of Jonathan, King Saul's son, and one of the greatest battle victories in the entire Bible. At the same time, we will see the foolishness of King Saul and his unreliability in ruling as king. What we will learn from Jonathan's faith is that with God anything is possible.

Jonathan's adventure in faith

Jonathan had a strong faith and confidence in God. He knew that God could give victory in battle even with just a few men. So, Jonathan resolved to attack the outpost of the Philistines at the pass of Michmash, with just his armor-bearer and the Lord. *With God anything is possible.* We see here that Jonathan did not tell his father what he was planning to do. Saul may not have approved of Jonathan's bold decision. We then found out where Saul was. He pitched his tent under a tree and had 600 men with him. So, Jonathan sets out on this adventure of faith, just him, his Lord and his armor-bearer.

Now Jonathan speaks to the young armor-bearer, "come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." What a declaration of faith Jonathan has just made. We see that Jonathan had a very real relationship with the Lord. It was as if he had "fire in his bones." He knew that Israel was the chosen nation of God and had in their relationship with God an omnipotent (all powerful) God. He also knew that God would not refuse to help His people in their time of conflict, if they would just trust in Him. *With God anything is possible.*

Jonathan's armor-bearer was ready to follow Jonathan wherever he went. He must have had a trust in the Lord and in Jonathan's leadership ability.

How important it is for us to have support like that in our own lives and to be that kind of support for those around us. Jonathan then tells him that they would look for a sign to see if the Lord would bless his attack. He said if the Philistines said, "Wait till we come," they would not go up to them; but if they said, "Come up to us" it would be a sign that the Philistines were afraid and didn't have the courage to leave their position and attack the Hebrews.

It was not considered that he was tempting God to look for this sign to determine the success of his venture, for he did it for the kingdom of God and not for his own personal gain. He was seeking God's wisdom on whether he should do this or not. When Jonathan and his armor-bearer finally showed themselves to the Philistines, they said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something." That was all Jonathan needed to

hear. The Philistines were making fun of them, even though they didn't seem to have the courage to meet them and fight them.

Jonathan received his desired sign and knew that the Lord had put the Philistines into his hands. Jonathan wasn't just open to God working, he had the confident faith that God would work! He then "climbed up the rock on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him; and the Philistines fell before him, they were smitten down by him, and his armor bearer was slaying behind him." The first blow Jonathan and his armor-bearer struck killed about 20 men. When the Philistines saw this, there was trembling among them. There was no visible cause for fear because there were so many of the Philistines. They were bold and had the advantage over the two Israelites. But despite their strength, they trembled greatly. Then to add to the Philistines' confusion, the earth quaked, perhaps making them wonder if the very ground they stood upon would swallow them up. **With God anything is possible.**

Jonathan's heroism shocked and frightened the Philistines. The spies of Saul at Gibeah saw how the "multitude in the camp of the Philistines melted away and was completely beat."

Saul thought that this must have come about because of something the Israelites did so he commanded the people to find out who had undertaken this bold and independent action. Saul then decides to consult God through the priest Ahijah as to what he should do, whether he should go out with his army against the Philistines or not. But while he was talking with the priest, the commotion in the camp of the Philistines became greater and greater, so much so that he stopped the priest from seeking the Lord for direction. He went out on his own, so easily distracted from seeking God. Here Saul had the responsibility to lead God's people in battle, but he couldn't take the time to seek God. As the confusion grew in the Philistine camp, Saul and the people who were with him came to the battle and saw the confusion. God had caused the enemy to turn on themselves and flee. The Israelites followed hard after them in the battle. **Verse 23 tells us a precious truth of our loving God, "So the Lord saved Israel that day." It is the Lord God who saves us all in every battle we fight if we let Him. God gave them the victory by using Jonathan and his armor-bearer, but without Him, they (and we) could do nothing. With God anything is possible.**

Here we find the men of Israel distressed because they were hungry. Saul had commanded all his men to fast until they had been victorious over the Philistines. Even though the men were hungry, they refused to eat anything, even some honey in the forest because they feared the curse that went along with their vow to fast. Jonathan had not heard his father's oath, so he dipped his staff in the new honey, and put it to his mouth in his pursuit so he would not have to stop. We are told that "his eyes became bright." His lost strength, which showed in his eyes, came back to him from eating the honey. When the people told Jonathan of his father's oath, Jonathan condemned his father's restriction on the people. We all need food for our bodies for all we do every day. And more importantly, we need our spiritual food for all we do every day. God gives us His Word to nourish and refresh us all of the time. We must take the time to read and pray, and it will show in our eyes.

The people continued the battle even though they were weak. But unfortunately, they became so weak that after the victory they took the Philistine animals, slaughtered them and ate them without properly draining the blood. They were so hungry that they killed the animals and just started eating. When Saul was told what had happened, he rebuked them for the sin. But what Saul didn't do was realize that he was the one who had caused them to sin with such a foolish command. He was so alarmed that he built an altar there to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.

Saul was beginning to make some mistakes in his reign as king. He didn't continue to seek the Lord as he

should have. He also gave a very foolish command, out of his pride, to keep the people from eating. This only caused the people to sin. Truly, Saul was to blame for the actions of the people.

Summary for 14:37-46: Now Saul is determined to pursue the Philistines and to pick up all the spoils. This time he decides to ask for direction from the Lord, but he gets no answer. Saul believed that someone had violated the fast and was determined to find out who it was by lot. To find the guilty one, he made the people stand on one side, while he and his son Jonathan went to the other and the lot fell on Jonathan. When Saul asked his son what he had done, Jonathan confessed that he had tasted a little honey and was willing to take the punishment of death as so decreed hastily by his father. Saul would have killed him, but the people interceded saying, “Shall Jonathan die, who has achieved this great salvation in Israel? God forbid! As truly as God lives, not a hair shall fall from his head upon the ground; for he has wrought the victory with God today.” So, the people delivered Jonathan from death. **We must remember that Jonathan did not hear the oath Saul made, so he did not violate it out of rebellion. The sentence of death was not given to Jonathan by God, but by his father.**

Read 14:42-45

Saul had given the restriction without God’s authority and made the people commit to it with a solemn oath. The people had conscientiously obeyed the command, but Jonathan disobeyed it without being aware of it. Saul’s judgment was death; the people intervened, claiming Jonathan innocent because of his being unaware of the king’s command, and proclaiming the victory he gained for Israel with God. Here we see God’s verdict. Saul now sees that it was not Jonathan, but it was himself who had sinned and through his oath caused God to not answer him. With a feeling of guilt Saul gave up any further pursuit of the Philistines. And the Philistines went back to their own land. All the time and energy this situation took stopped the pursuit of the Philistines, losing an opportunity of completing the victory against the enemy.

How often do our enemy want to get us sidetracked with issues that don’t have anything to do with the battle at hand? If Satan can get our mind off the important things and onto silly things, like our own selfish pride, then he can escape as the Philistines did this day.

Saul weakened the army; Jonathan strengthened the army and challenged it to new victories.”

We must seek the Lord always so that we may be a strength to our brothers and sisters and not one to weaken them. We are in a very real battle, but we have a wonderful commander, the Captain of the Armies of the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ. [With God anything is possible.](#)

Takeaway from chapter 14:

Throughout the Old Testament we see many instances of God fighting on behalf of His people as well as numerous reminders that they didn’t get their victories through their own abilities. Now we see that Jonathan was well aware of that truth. He recognized that the LORD could “save by many or by few” (see I Samuel 14:6). Even today, we can see that God still does great and marvelous things through only a handful of His people. Don’t you agree?

Is there anything that can keep God from helping us? (no) God saves us because He loves us. Is there anything that can come between God’s love and us? We can be certain that God is always on our side against Satan and sin. Let’s remember our message: GOD GIVES ME THE VICTORY.

Chapter 15: Read 15:17-23

Saul had a good start as a king but was tripped up by Giant “My-Own-Way” and so made a very bad ending. Instead of being careful to obey all of God’s commands, Saul allowed a feeling of pride to creep into his heart and to crowd out some of the fear of God. He began to think that he was wise enough to decide for himself what was the right thing to do. We could say he is leaning on his own understanding. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

Samuel, the gray-headed old prophet, came to him and said “God wants you to take your army and go out to battle against the Amalekites. Those are the wicked people who fought against Moses and the Israelites when they came out of Egypt, and God has not forgotten the sins of the Amalekites. Because they have continued to do wrong, now God wants you to destroy them all”. Samuel continued, “**You must not save any alive, nor even their oxen and sheep and camels and asses must you not keep for yourselves; for God commands that they all be killed.**”

Saul gathered an army of two hundred and ten thousand men and started for Amalek at once, and he sent a messenger to the Kenites who lived among the Amalekites, telling them to leave the country because God was going to punish their neighbors. The Kenites had been kind to the Israelites when they came from Egypt, and now Saul and his soldiers were kind to them.

When the battle began, Saul’s army fought bravely and destroyed all the Amalekites except the king, Agag, whom Saul took to a safe place. Then after the battle ended Saul and the soldiers looked upon the flocks and herds that belonged to the Amalekites, and they saw many valuable cattle and sheep and playful little lambs. “We will save the best, they said, “ and kill the others.” So, they returned again to the land of Israel, bringing Agag, the king of the Amalekites, and the best of the cattle and sheep and lambs.

God told Samuel what Saul had done, that he had dared to disobey the command given, and Samuel knew that Saul had turned away from serving God. Sorrow filled the heart of the old prophet, and he wept and prayed all night.

When Samuel reached Saul, Saul greeted him but lied about what he had done. Saul even said that he had “obeyed the command” of the Lord. Samuel replied by asking about the sounds of the sheep and cattle that Saul had kept for himself in direct disobedience of God’s command. When Saul realized that Samuel knew, he tried to blame the soldiers for his sins and then claimed the reason they kept only a few of the sheep and cattle was to sacrifice them to God, which was not true. Samuel told Saul to stop lying. God knows everything. He told Saul to listen to what God had told him.

Sometimes we like to try to make excuses for our sin and disobedience. We do not want to admit that we were wrong or that we sinned. We may even try to blame our sin on others or say that we really meant to serve God, but it just is not as it appears. We may also believe that we are being obedient, but not be completely obedient in what the Lord has asked us to do. We need to be careful to do exactly as the Lord commands us. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

Samuel told him that his kingdom would be given to another who would honor and obey God’s Word. Samuel had to finish the job that God had assigned to Saul. The Amalekite king, Agag, deserved the death penalty because of the murders and the evil he had done. Samuel carried out the justice that was deserved by putting Agag to death.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I praise you with all my heart. You are my shield, I take refuge in you all days of my life, and I am safe. Even though the enemy comes like a flood, Lord, you have set a standard over my life, and I always remain victorious. I call to you, Lord, for you are worthy of all praise. Thank you for the victory and power in your Name. Thank you that you hold the keys over death, that Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have a new life with you.

Please help us not learn on our own understanding and sin as Saul did. May we seek to follow what your Word says when we go through trials at school and at home. Amen.

Optional activities:

UNSCRAMBLE THE MESSAGE

did	King	the	Lord
Saul	obey	not	

King _____

_____.

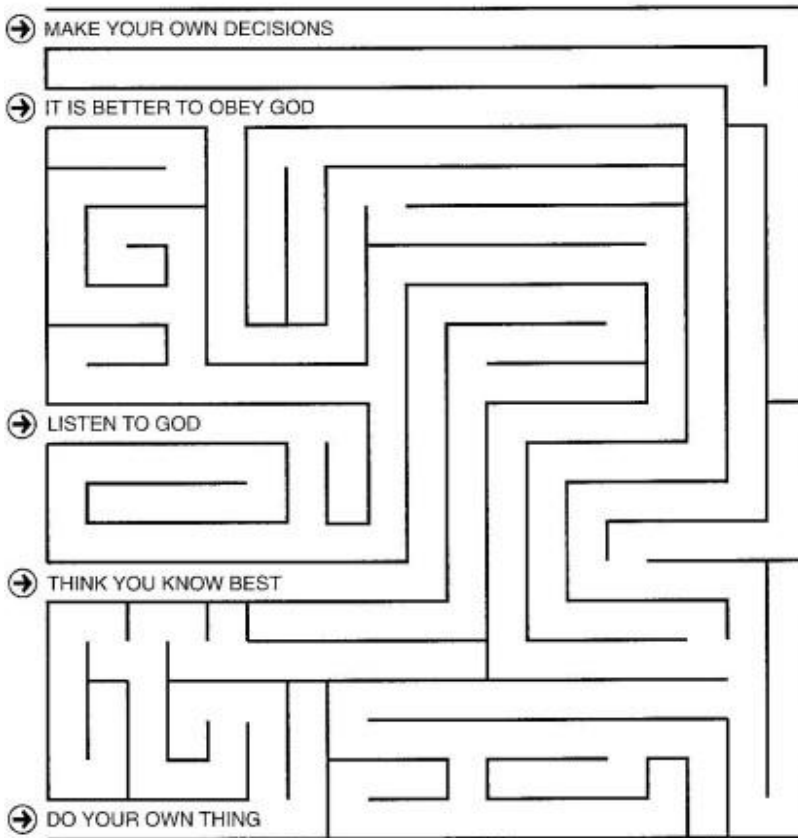
Review Questions

- Whom did Samuel anoint as king over Israel? (Saul)
- How did Saul disobey God? (He offered a sacrifice that only Samuel was supposed to offer.)
- After the battle with the Amalekites whom did Saul allow to live? (King Agag and the best of the livestock)
- Why did God take the kingdom away from Saul? (He disobeyed)
- Who is our one true King? (Jesus)
- What does this story teach us about God? (He takes sin seriously, He loves us too much to let us disobey Him without consequences)
- How might we live differently in light of the truths in this story?

SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

1 Samuel 15:1-29

King Saul was a good king as long as he listened to God and did what God said. But when Saul decided to stop listening to God, he got into big trouble. Samuel, God's prophet, came to Saul and gave him some good advice. You will get out of the maze only by following good advice. See what happens if you follow bad advice.



THE THIRD SECTION

KING DAVID (1 SAMUEL 16 TO 31)

- **Lesson 8: Anointing David as king - David and Goliath ch 16-17**
- **Lesson 9: Saul's Growing Fear of David - Saul Tries to Kill David ch 18-19**
- **Lesson 10: Jonathan and David: The Blessing of Friendship- David the fugitive ch 20-21.**
- **Lesson 11: David Flees from Saul- David Spares Saul's Life ch 22-24**
- **Lesson 12: Abigail's Wisdom- David Spares Saul's Life Again ch 25-26**
- **Lesson 13: David Escapes to The Land Of The Philistines- Saul consults a medium- The Philistines reject David ch 27-29**
- **Lesson 14: The burning of Ziklag- The tragic end of Saul and his sons ch 30-31**

David's life as a king and a prophet occupies a great space in the Holy Bible, more than any other king or prophet. His life had been characterized by continuous growth: faithfulness in his youth, in Saul's palace, and in his own kingdom; and when he happened to fall into sin, he managed to rise by repentance.



Lesson 8: 1 Samuel 16 & 17

Anointing David as king David and Goliath

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 16 & 17.
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 69-80**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

God knows us and sees our hearts

Remember:

Saul was rejected as king because he disobeyed God's command to kill all the Amalekites and their king, Agag. Instead, Saul spared Agag and the best of the Amalekite sheep and cattle.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7

Lesson Aim:

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

How many of us have looked at someone else and formed an opinion about them (good or bad) without really knowing them? Maybe you've seen someone and thought, "They look like a doctor or a musician." But you never really met them or got to know them--you only saw them. Our lesson today is a good example of the way God sees and judges a person. **God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.**

Lesson time

Chapter 16: *Read 16:6-13*

Samuel anoints David as the next King

Samuel was mourning (being sad) over the Lord's rejection of Saul as king over Israel. The Lord spoke to Samuel and said to him, "How long will you mourn for Saul?" God tells Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to the House of Israel, for he has provided a king among the sons of Jesse.

God had rejected Saul as king because he refused to repent; he would not confess his sin and turn back to God, though Samuel, as God's messenger, had warned him. Samuel was grieved at seeing Saul fail. Saul was a leader chosen by God; yet he had hardened his heart against the Lord. God looks at our hearts, not our

outward appearance.

Samuel was afraid. King Saul would be very angry if he heard that Samuel was anointing a new king. What if he got mad at him and tried to kill him.

The Lord told Samuel not to be afraid. He told Samuel to take a special sacrifice to Bethlehem and everyone would just think he was making a normal trip. This sounded like a good idea to Samuel, so he took his sacrifice and travelled to Bethlehem. No one knew that Samuel was going to anoint a new king.

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he told everyone that he would be making a special sacrifice to the Lord. He invited Jesse and his sons to come. Before they came, Jesse and his sons washed and got dressed up. All the sons wanted to look their best. When Samuel saw Jesse's sons, he was very happy. They were fine looking men. Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, was very tall and handsome. Samuel thought that Eliab would be a good king.

But the Lord told Samuel, "This is not the one I want to be king. He is handsome and tall, but the Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." [God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.](#)

So, if Eliab was not to be the king, then which of Jesse's sons would be the next king of Israel? Jesse told his next son to come forward and stand in front of Samuel. His name was Abinadab. Maybe Abinadab would be the next king. No," said Samuel, "the Lord has not chosen Abinadab. "One by one all of Jesse's sons stood before Samuel. The Lord had not chosen any of them to be the new king of Israel. Samuel did not understand. The Lord had told him that one of Jesse's sons would be the new king. "Jesse are these all of your sons?" asked Samuel. Jesse answered, "These are my seven oldest sons. I do have one more son. He is my youngest son, and he is out in the pastures taking care of my sheep. His name is David."

Samuel was surprised. Could God want a young shepherd to be the next king of Israel? Samuel told Jesse to send someone to get David. When David arrived, Samuel saw that he was healthy and handsome. But that was not all. The Lord told Samuel that this was the new king. And the Lord does not look just at the outside of a person. He looks at a person's heart. The Lord knew that David had a good heart. "Arise and anoint him," the Lord said to Samuel. "He is the one." Samuel anointed David. He took the horn full of oil and poured some on David's head. From this day on the Spirit of God came upon David. David loved God for the rest of his life.

Even though David was chosen as the new king, it was not time yet for him to take King Saul's place. David went back to tending his father's sheep. When the right time came for David to reign as the new king, then the Lord would tell him.

Takeaway from chapter 16:

It is interesting to study the people that God chooses.

He rarely chooses the powerful, the beautiful, or the naturally talented ones. He often chooses the weak and the outcast to do amazing things for Him. In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 we read, "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which

are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.” God can even use young boys and girls who have a heart to serve Him and are willing to obey Him. [God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.](#)

[Let us see others as God sees them. We should not make up our minds about other people based on whether they look good on the outside or not. What God esteems as important should be what we esteem as important. God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance. May we examine our own hearts and be found to be as David, boys and girls, men and women, who are after God’s own heart—longing to know God more intimately and to serve Him.](#)

God’s spirit removed from Saul and David becomes harpist for Saul

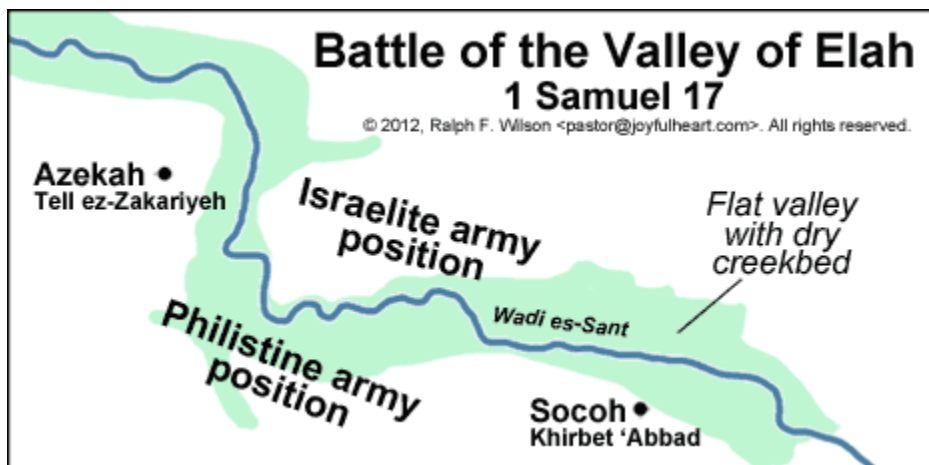
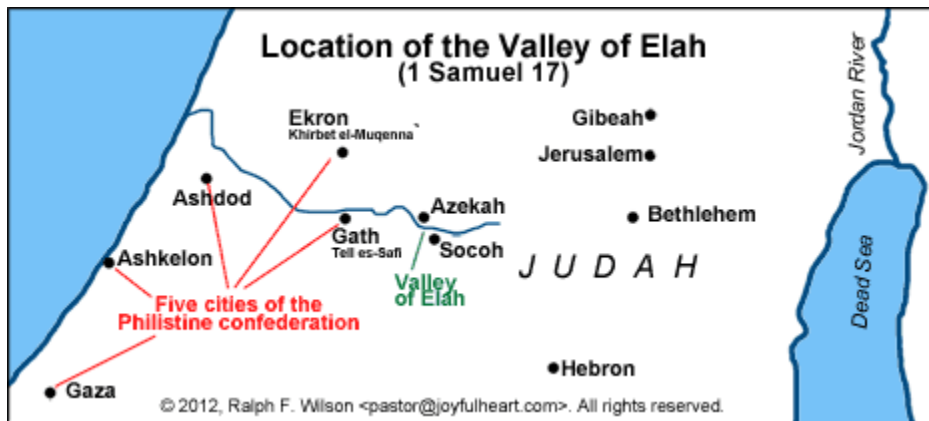
When Samuel anointed David, God’s Spirit departed from Saul and came on David from that day forward: “But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him” (16:14).

It seems that, after David was anointed king, Saul’s mental instability and outrageous behavior worsened. Although the text doesn’t elaborate, it seems God simply removed His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) from Saul.

The story of Saul is one of the sorriest and most ignominious in the Bible. It reveals what disobedience toward God and unchecked sin can do in an individual’s life. Saul entered his kingship with great potential and ended his reign 40 years later with the most grievous personal disasters recorded in biblical history.

Later, David was called to play music for Saul when he felt disturbed, David would play the harp and Saul becomes refreshed the distressing spirit would depart from him.

Chapter 17:



David and Goliath

Sometimes the walls of a room measures 9 feet, did you know that there was someone in the bible who was even taller than that?

The Israelites were at a standstill. They were just holding their ground, too fearful to attack. Meanwhile the Philistines sent out their champion, Goliath. Goliath was a giant and was very scary to the Israelites. He carried a big sword and wore heavy armor. Not one of the soldiers from Israel wanted to go and fight Goliath. Occasionally, an army would avoid the high cost of battle by matching its strongest warrior against the strongest warrior of the enemy, thus avoiding great bloodshed. This was the case in this Israeli/Philistine encounter. Goliath, the Philistine champion, challenged the Israeli army to send out a man to fight for Israel. David, the youngest, had been chosen by God to be the next king of Israel; but at this time, he was running errands for his dad (bringing food to his brothers) and tending sheep at home in Bethlehem. Though still a young man, he also served as a personal musician to Saul.

David, sent to deliver food to his brothers, now witnesses the dilemma of the Israeli army. Goliath makes his appearance and again challenges Israel to send a man to fight against him. David learned that whoever defeated this giant would be richly rewarded.

Read 17:26-30

The mocking words of Goliath, not only towards Israel, but also towards God, set a fire in the heart of David. It was not so much the reward and freedom that was offered by King Saul that caught David's attention, but the boastful words of the giant against God's people. David replied, "Who is the uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

David had a different perspective than that of King Saul and his army. When David looked at Goliath, he saw a mortal man defying almighty God. King Saul was afraid and perplexed. David must have been disappointed as he saw the army of Israel scared and hopeless, but David knew that God fights our battles for us.

Eliab, his brother was jealous of him and kept mocking him, though negative comments were hurled at David, David could not be easily discouraged. He knew the importance of taking action. With God there to fight for him, there was no reason to wait.

People may try to discourage you with negative comments or mockery, but like David you must continue to do what you know is right. By doing what is right, you will be pleasing God, whose opinion matters most.

Read 17:31-40

With boldness and faith, David assured King Saul that he could indeed slay this giant of a man. As a shepherd he slew a lion and a bear--it was the Lord who delivered him. "This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

To King Saul, his consent to send little David out to fight this giant was like sending a lamb to the slaughter. Unfortunately for King Saul, he had no other options; no one would stand up to this monster. Saul thought that maybe a soldier's armor would make the difference--at least David would look like a warrior.

King Saul tried to make a warrior out of a shepherd, but David knew armor would not help. God would use him as he was and in God's care, he would have all the protection he needed. [God fights our battles for us](#). We do not have to rely on gadgets or schemes to accomplish a task that God wants us to do. We need simple faith in a great God who will enable us to carry out His will, no matter how great the challenge.

Read 17:41-52

Goliath is not impressed with David at all. He looked at the ruddy young boy and despised him with great hatred. Goliath felt insulted that the great nation of Israel would send out a young boy to fight against him.

David went quickly out to him with only his shepherd's staff, his sling, and some stones. As the newly appointed shepherd of his people, David went to defend the Lord's threatened and frightened flock. God used David to protect his father's flock; now He would use David to protect His flock. Though David's weapons were no match for a warrior like Goliath, God would make the difference in David's battle. [God fights our battles for us](#). David's strength was his reliance on the Lord (Psalm 9:10).

David boldly announced that God would indeed give Israel victory so that "all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" and "...the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." [God fights our battles for us](#).

Without any hesitation, David slung a stone; the stone embedded into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the ground, on his face. When David used Goliath's sword to cut off his head, the Philistines fled in fear. A young shepherd boy, with only five small stones and a sling, led the way to victory because God was with him.

Takeaway from chapter 17:

Often, we as Christians, face impossible circumstances that seem like giants to us; and we feel overwhelmed. Facing the problem on our own would mean certain defeat. But, as Christians, like David, we can be confident that God is on our side; and because the Lord is on our side, our enemies will be defeated. God will see us through. [God fights our battles for us](#).

Importance of preparation. Even though we rely on the Spirit, we are not so foolish as to make no preparation. As St. Augustine once said, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." Faith and preparation are not mutually exclusive.

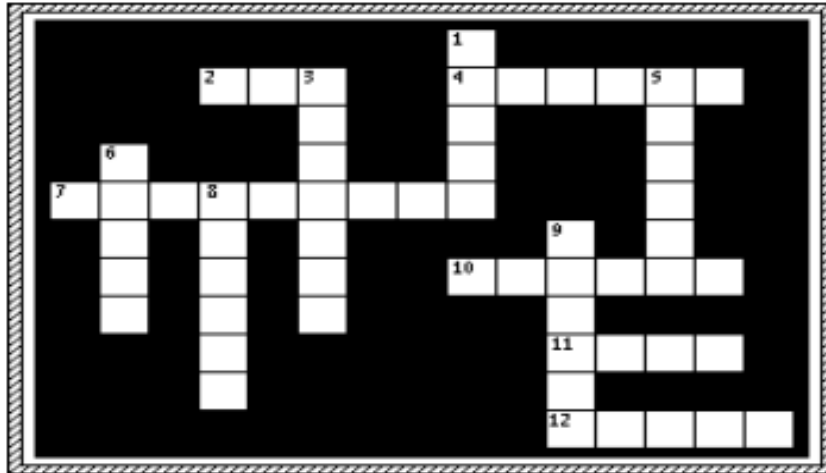
Optional activities:

Discussion questions:

- ❖ What does David's experience with Saul teach us about being persecuted for doing what is right?
- ❖ What is the best way to deal with envy and jealousy?
- ❖ How does David's anointing foreshadow the unique position of Jesus Christ as both King and Priest?
- ❖ How does David show his faithfulness to Saul?
- ❖ Why was Jesse's youngest son not considered for the anointing?
- ❖ Why was the sacrifice offered in Bethlehem publicly, while David was anointed secretly amid his brothers (1 Samuel 16: 13)?
 - a- To spare Samuel getting killed by Saul.
 - b- The time was not yet ripe to declare David a king, as he would not reign except after the death of Saul. Nevertheless, he was given the anointment as a divine grace, to support him to work in preparation for his reign.

79. DAVID & GOLIATH

(1 SAMUEL 17:1-52)



- 8 DOWN "The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a _____ between them." **1 SAMUEL 17:3**
- 3 DOWN "And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named _____, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span." **1 SAMUEL 17:4**
- 5 DOWN "And the Philistine said, 'I defy the armies of _____ this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.'" **1 SAMUEL 17:10**
- 4 ACROSS "When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly _____." **1 SAMUEL 17:11**
- 1 DOWN "Then _____ said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.'" **1 SAMUEL 17:32**
- 6 DOWN "Saul clothed David with his _____, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail." **1 SAMUEL 17:38**
- 9 DOWN "Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth _____ from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag." **1 SAMUEL 17:40**
- 2 ACROSS "The Philistine said to David, 'Am I a _____, that you come to me with sticks?'" **1 SAMUEL 17:43**
- 11 ACROSS David said to the Philistine, "I come to you in the _____ of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." **1 SAMUEL 17:45**
- 10 ACROSS "The LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the _____ is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands." **1 SAMUEL 17:47**
- 12 ACROSS "David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he _____ it and struck the Philistine in his forehead." **1 SAMUEL 17:49**
- 7 ACROSS "So David _____ over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him." **1 SAMUEL 17:50**

Lesson 9: 1 Samuel 18 & 19

Saul's Growing Fear of David Saul Tries to Kill David

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 18 & 19.
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 81-89**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

Jealousy- God is our Defender

Remember:

The Philistines bring out their champion, Goliath, to challenge the Israelites to a duel. When no one steps up to meet him, David, the youngest son of Jesse, asks to fight. He defeats Goliath with a sling and a stone, and the Israelites triumph.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 18:14

"And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him." 1 Samuel 18:14

Lesson Aim:

Pursuing selfish desires is destructive. We should rejoice with those whom God blesses and not be jealous of what they accomplish.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Dealing with Other's success:

I was the executive director of a big company; I took over Breakaway from a former director called Ben. He is truly one of the greatest leaders I have ever heard of. What I didn't realize is when I signed up to be the next director, I was signing up to have callous people inform me of just how much they love Ben. It has taken me a while to realize this, but I now realize that one of the callings God has placed on my life is to accept compliments for Ben. Ben is a close friend of mine. He's truly one of my favorite people in the world. But there are countless times where people have said really great compliments to me about Ben.

So, today I want to talk about dealing with other people's success. Here's the thing. I love that Ben, and I can talk about that and laugh about it, but the reality is there are times in my past where I dealt with serious comparison and jealousy when it came to Ben's success. So, today, as we step into the life of David, we find ourselves in a chapter that is going to instruct us on how to deal with other people's success.

How do you respond to coworkers, neighbors, roommates, friends, siblings, brothers-in-law, or sisters-in-law who, in the eyes of the world, are smarter, funnier, skinnier, prettier, godlier, wealthier, more successful, or are higher capacity? Just think about that. Who is it in your life right now?

Who in your world seems to be crushing life better than you right now? They have perfect physique, the perfect family, the perfect house, they take the perfect vacations, and they're having high grades. How do you deal with those people's success? As we step into the life of David today, we are going to discuss how he dealt with this issue.

Lesson time

Chapter 18

Jonathan's amazing friendship, rarely heard of in history. Jonathan, Saul's son, had been a brave man of valor, greatly admired and beloved by the people (1 Samuel 14: 1- 15). Although he had been the crown prince, he loved David, who got more favor in the sight of the people, as well as of the members of the royal court, more than his own father. His father warned him that David might take away the kingdom from him; yet his love, and friendship, were in his eyes, greater than any kingdom. His friendship with David in the Lord has been in his eyes, more valuable than his obedience to his father outside the Lord! It was said that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his soul" (1 Samuel 18: 1).

Jonathan and David made promises to each other that they would always be friends. Jonathan gave presents to David. He gave him his robe or coat, some clothes, his sword, his bow and his girdle or belt. Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. It is nice to have close friends.

King Saul would not let David go home anymore to Bethlehem but wanted him to stay where he and Jonathan lived. The Bible says that David behaved himself wisely and did everything that King Saul wanted him to do. Saul made David in charge of the soldiers and all the people accepted David, even Saul's servants also accepted David. David was loved by everyone.

One day, David was returning from a great battle with the Philistines in which he had won, and all the women came out of the cities to meet King Saul and were happily dancing and singing and had instruments of music. The women were saying, "King Saul has slain (or killed) his thousands, but David his ten thousand." This made King Saul very angry and jealous of David. He didn't understand why they credited David with killing 10,000 and him only 1,000. From that day on, King Saul was suspicious of David. The Bible says King Saul 'eyed' David.

The next day, King Saul had a bad day. He had an evil spirit come upon him and he was talking in his house. David was playing the harp to soothe King Saul and Saul had a javelin or spear in his hand. Saul threw the javelin at David and did this twice to David! Saul was afraid of David because he knew that the LORD was with David and the spirit of the LORD had left King Saul, but still Saul made David a captain over a thousand men. David behaved very wisely, and the LORD was with him. Saul was jealous and afraid of David when he saw that David was behaving well, but all the people loved David.



Because David had done a good job in the battle of the Philistines, King Saul gave Michal, his daughter, to David as a wife. They chose wives in different ways than we do now. The Bible says that Michal loved David, but King Saul was still watching David because he was afraid of him, and he soon became David's enemy. The people knew that David was a good man because of the way he treated people and behaved himself and everyone said how good he was. This did not make King Saul any happier. Things were more and more tense on King Saul's part.

SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

What did envy do to Saul and David?

A distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, that made him lose his peace and his mind inside the house; while David, filled with peace, he poured it even over Saul himself, as he played his music to refresh him. There was a spear in Saul's hand, as though a scepter of the kingdom; and through envy, he cast it twice toward David to kill him, but God saved David (1 Samuel 18: 11).

Although David had neither the power nor the weapon to oppose Saul, Saul was afraid of him. He felt inferior to David, and his throne shook before that pure young man. **Thus, envy would harm him who envies, and not him who is envied!** It makes him lose what is inside and outside him, of graces, blessings, and capabilities.

How wonderful is the phrase: "All Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them" (1 Samuel 18: 16). People like to see their leader going out and coming in before them, and not confined to his own quarters surrounded by a hallow of worldly glory.

Chapter 19:

David was given King Saul's second daughter, Michal, to be his wife. It seemed to be a good thing at first, but we found that Saul meant it to be a snare which might cause David to become careless and be killed by the Philistines.

Saul's 3rd Attempt to Kill David 19:1-7

From Verse 1, it is clear that Saul did not keep his intentions to kill David a secret. It says he told Jonathan and all his servants. Not only his intentions, but that he wanted them to try and kill him also. David had proven himself a very valuable man to Saul, but his jealousy kept him from trusting him.

Jonathan cared for David, and he goes and tells David what Saul's intentions were. Jonathan was David's friend, and this led him to tell David about the danger that faced him. He told David to hide himself in a

secret place in the field, and he would check with Saul to see what he had planned and come and tell him. Jonathan spoke to his father and told him of all the good things David had done for him. He reminded Saul that David never harmed him but had rather done many good things for him. He had put his life on the line for the nation of Israel when he went out to fight the giant Goliath. This turned into one of Israel's greatest victories. Saul had witnessed this, but now wanted to kill David and shed innocent blood. Verse 6 says that Saul listened to his son, and he promised that "As the Lord Lives, he shall not be slain".

Jonathan goes out and tells the good news to David. It says he brought David back to Saul, and he again was in Saul's presence as in the past.



Read 19:8-18

As had been the case many times before, war broke out with Israel and the Philistines. David led the battle, and this resulted in another great victory for Israel. The acclaim this brought David, bothered Saul, and it says the evil spirit came back upon him. As David played the harp, Saul attempted to smite David to the wall with javelin. God was with the young man as before, and he escaped any harm. Saul sends messengers to David's house to watch for him and slay him the following morning. Michal, David's wife, understood what was happening and told David he must flee before morning.

Michal helped David by sliding him down through a window so that he could escape in the night. She took some idol image and placed it in the bed with a pillow and covered it with a cloth to make it appear David was asleep in bed. When they came to kill David, she told them that he was sick. The messengers went to Saul with the news, and he told them to bring him on the bed so he would slay him. When they came to get him, they found that Michal had deceived him.

How Saul got abased to such an extent; to use every means to kill David though he had been granted the grace of prophecy as mentioned in chapter 10?

Indeed, Saul was granted 'Prophecy' as a divine gift, in order to experience the life of praise and worship, being the Lord's anointed; Yet, as he did not harbor humility and love in his heart, he lost every goodness, opposed David, and even rebelled against God Himself, and broke His commandment.

An evil person can bear the name of Christ and be called Christian; Yet, it is said of him: "He profaned My

holy name” (see Ezekiel 36: 20). But it is not possible to have love and be evil! As love is a special gift.

The Spirit of God Protects David: Read 19:19-24

David flees and goes to Samuel in Ramah. Both him and Samuel went and dwelled in Naioth. This was the place where Samuel conducted a school for young prophets. When Saul learned where they had fled, he sent messengers down to take him.

A Strange thing happened. When the messengers appeared, they saw a group of prophets prophesying with Samuel overseeing them. The spirit of God moved on the messengers, and they began to prophesy also, namely, partook of praise and worship with the prophets... Saul sends a second and third group to try to retrieve David, and each time the same thing happens. They prophesied like the prophets.

Saul is disgusted with the lack of production from the messengers, so he goes himself to Ramah. He inquires as to where Samuel and David are, and he is told they are in Naioth. As Saul neared the men, the spirit of the Lord came over him and he also prophesied.

Saul stripped off his robe and his military armor, and laid down in his white attire, all that day and all that night praising and singing. All those who saw him said: “Is Saul also among the prophets?! “ (1 Samuel 19: 24).

God wanted to confirm that He is the God of the impossible, who is capable of transforming Saul’s heart, filled with hatred, into one enflamed with yearning to worship and praise; stripped of clothes of glory and dignity; Yet He did not force him to it, but left it to his free will; That is why he soon returned to his evil nature.

Question: In our lesson we become witnesses to the free-will test of three men: Saul, Jonathan, and David. What are the choices these three men have that will impact their lives and their relationships with God?

Answer:

1. Saul has the choice of giving in to his jealousy and fear to bring about David's death or to suppress those feelings and to not give in to the sin of killing an innocent man.
2. Jonathan must choose between loyalty to his father and loyalty to his friend. He can either become an accomplice to his father's evil plan to kill David (a plan which is to his advantage and serves his self-interest in succeeding his father as king), or he can protect David and in essence forfeit his future kingship.
3. David has the choice of either protecting himself by assassinating Saul, or he can avoid harming Saul by fleeing to become an outcast.

Takeaway from chapter 19:


When Jesus was here on earth – many people plotted to kill Him. Many people hated Him. The story of Saul and his relationship with David is a “picture” of how the world would treat Jesus. David was God’s anointed King and Saul plotted to kill him. David did not fight back. Jesus did not fight back when people plotted to kill Him and even went to the cross for us. Jesus is our example, but David modeled it for us.

Optional activities:


Discussion questions:

- ❖ How does David escape from Saul's attempt on his life?

- ❖ What effect does David's popularity have on Saul's mental state?
- ❖ How does Saul's relationship with his son Jonathan change over the course of the chapter?
- ❖ What sort of advice does Jonathan give to David regarding Saul's mistreatment?
- ❖ How does David react to Saul's jealousy and mistreatment?
- ❖ Do you think Jonathan was wrong to try and help David?
- ❖ What do you think was Saul's main motivation for wanting to kill David?
- ❖ How would you feel if someone you once trusted turned against you?



David and Jonathan Coded Words



Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

_ _ _ _

19 1 21 12

_ _ _ _ _

6 18 9 5 14 4

_ _ _ _ _

16 1 12 1 3 5

_ _ _ _ _

3 15 22 5 14 1 14 20

_ _ _ _

18 15 2 5

A friend _ _ _ _ _ _ _

 12 15 22 5 19 1 20

_ _ _ _ _

1 12 12 20 9 13 5 19

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

Lesson 10: 1 Samuel 20 & 21

Jonathan and David: The Blessing of Friendship David the fugitive

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 20 & 21.
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 90-96**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

The blessing of friendship

Remember:

1 Samuel 18 tells the story of the friendship between Jonathan and David. The two became close friends and Jonathan even helped David escape from King Saul's wrath. In chapter 19, Saul was jealous of David and tried to kill him with a spear, but his daughter Micah saved him. Later, when David was playing the lyre for Saul, Saul tried to kill him with a javelin, but David escaped

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 20:42

"May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever" 1 Samuel 20:42

Lesson Aim:

A True Friend is always Loyal.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Bring a magnet to class to illustrate.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/EqXCcu2GUSg>

Sometimes people can be like two magnets that will never stick to each other. They aren't meant to be for each other, maybe they don't have anything in common and don't really care about hanging out with each other. But some others do.

You stick with your friends though. You can have friends for a short time, or friendships that last your entire life. There will be many times when we mess up and treat our friends poorly or be treated poorly by them. Even though King Saul had told Jonathan that he wanted David be killed, Jonathan could not believe that the king would do it. Jonathan did not believe David at first.

Sometimes we are like weak magnets when we deal with our friends. When we get into an argument with a friend, or a friend wrongs us in some way, we walk away and neither of us apologizes. This friendship is not strong. What will happen to it? [It will disappear]

Jonathan and David were like strong magnets. Their friendship was tight. Jonathan committed treason to save his innocent friend and let him flee to freedom. He was almost killed by his father because of his friendship with David.

Lesson time

Chapter 20:

Some of you can relate to David as he faces heavy trials in our lesson today. Samuel had anointed David. David had God's Word: he would one day be the king of the children of Israel. Yet, the difficult times ahead would challenge his faith to the very limit.

After David's battle with Goliath, many saw him as a hero; but there was one who began to see him as an enemy. King Saul became jealous of David because the people seemed to love David more than they loved him. Saul began to see David as his enemy, and he set out to destroy him. Saul tried to kill David himself; when that attempt failed, he hired men to murder David in his own bed.

Through all these circumstances, God protected David from death. God had a plan and a purpose for David—he was to be Israel's next king; therefore, no harm could come to him. Yet, on David's part, much faith in God would be required, for it seemed that every circumstance of his life was saying that he would not even live long enough to become the next king of Israel.

Read 20:1-11

David, continuing to run from Saul, left Ramah and found Jonathan, the son of Saul. He asked Jonathan what he had done to cause Saul to want to kill him. Jonathan could not imagine his father would do such a thing to David. David explains that Saul would not confide with Jonathan in his intentions to harm him, since Saul knew Jonathan and David were close friends.

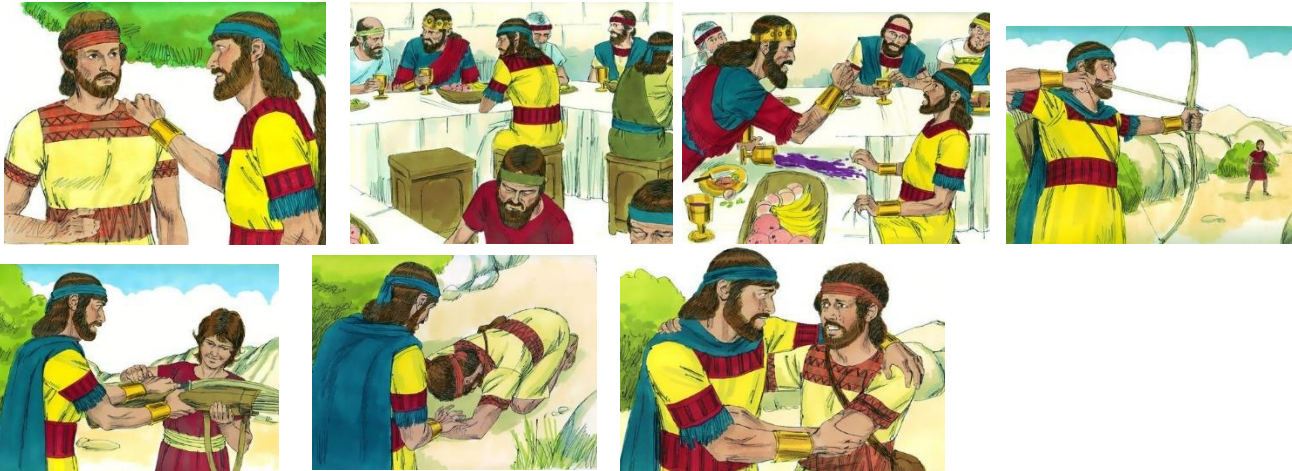
The Bible says that Jonathan loved David "as he loved his own soul" (1 Samuel 20:17). God sometimes works in mysterious ways. God blessed David and Jonathan's friendship. During a very difficult time in David's life, Jonathan proved to be a very faithful friend. [God wants us to be faithful friends.](#)

David asked Jonathan's help as he sought to determine why Saul was so angry with him and if there was any chance of reconciliation between them. David made plans to be absent during the feast of the new moon. If King Saul was upset over David's absence, then David would know that there would be no reconciliation between them. But, if King Saul was pleasant and accepted David's absence, then perhaps reconciliation

was possible. David was confident Jonathan would help him, for they were faithful friends and had entered a “covenant of the Lord” one with another.

Jonathan reassured David that he would help him and that his father would not come between them in their friendship by saying, “Far be it from you; for if I knew certain that evil were determined by my father to come upon you, then would not I tell it to you?” In times of crises, who can measure the worth of a true and faithful friend? God wants us to be faithful friends.

Proverbs 17:17 says, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Also, Proverbs 18:24 says, “A man who has friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” We have a friend who is always with us no matter what we go through—a friend who always loves us. His name is Jesus.



Meditation in psalm 7 that relates to David’s feeling at this time:

Although David was honest with everyone, he encountered several troubles and oppressions, that he expressed in his seventh psalm, saying: “O Lord my God... Save me from all those who persecute me; and deliver me, lest they tear me like a lion, rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. O Lord my God, if I have done this: If I have iniquity in my hands, If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, or have plundered my enemy without cause, Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, and lay my honor in the dust” (Psalm 7: 1- 5).

David speaks in the plural, saying: “Save me from (all those)...,” then proceeds in the singular, saying: “Lest they tear me like (a lion)...”; That is because, although those oppressing and pursuing him are many, it is only one who is behind them- the Devil, according to St. Basil.

Some saintly fathers believe that David’s words to Jonathan, as well as those in the seventh psalm, where he justifies himself, saying: “What have I done, and what is my iniquity?,” and: “If there is iniquity in my hands,” all were symbols of the Lord Christ, who, although he is alone without sin, yet, the devil has tried like a lion to devour him on the cross. But the enemy was destroyed, and Christ was risen, to lift His believers up with Him.

Read 20: 12-23

Jonathan and David reaffirmed their friendship. Jonathan faithfully promised David that he would let him know how his father reacts towards David. If it is good, he would let him know; if it is evil, he would send David away safely.

Note the quality of Jonathan's love for David; though Jonathan knew he was next in line to be the king after Saul, he knew that David was God's choice to be king over Israel. True love as in 1 Corinthians 13 is not jealous, and Jonathan had no jealous feelings toward David.

Jonathan and David had a true friendship. It's a love that puts aside one's own interests for the interests of the other, a selfless love. [God wants us to be faithful friends.](#)

In paraphrase of verse 19, Jonathan tells David, "Now go and after three days come back again. Come into this field and wait alongside the stone. I will come out from my father's house to shoot three arrows, and I will bring a boy with me (so no one suspects me). Though we may not be able to talk to each other, I will shoot the arrows. If they land right by you, it will be safe for you to come back home with me; Saul is going to be kind. If, however, the arrows fly over your head and go beyond you, go your way, for the Lord has sent you away".

What a difficult circumstance for David; for he would either go back to Saul's house and Jonathan's friendship, or he would have to go into exile, alone and away from his beloved friend. Under all the pressure of the situation, David was in a place of waiting.

Say the summary for verses 24 till the end: JONATHAN EXPLORES HIS FATHER'S HEART

On the day of the feast Saul sat at the table, in the place of honor. On the first day, Saul said nothing about David's absence. But on the second day, Saul asked Jonathan where David was. Jonathan answered as he and David had agreed upon. Saul became very angry upon hearing the news and vented his anger on Jonathan. He calls Jonathan a "son of a perverse woman" or son of a perverse and rebellious woman, meaning Jonathan was a perverse and rebellious man.

Saul knew Jonathan loved David and knew that as long as David lived, Jonathan would never become king. Saul wanted David brought to him to be killed. Jonathan replied, "My father, why shall he die? What has he done?" Saul became so angry that he hurled his javelin at Jonathan. In his anger, he nearly took the life of his own son. Jonathan saw that his father had firmly resolved to put David to death. He rose up from the table, angry; and, grieving deeply over David, he ate nothing that day.

What a difficult task Jonathan faced. It was with very sad heart that Jonathan went out with the arrows and a boy to the waiting David. Jonathan knew that his father was determined to kill David. Jonathan may have wondered if this would be the last time he would ever see David.

As David anxiously watched Jonathan come and shoot the arrows, he heard the message and knew that God was sending him away. Alan Redpath comments, "If David dared to linger now, after this word from heaven, he would lose his life, the crown, and everything that God had for him. This man's life was being emptied from vessel to vessel, like wine, to preserve its freshness and keep it from going musty. Every prop upon which he had leaned was taken away from him; now he must stand alone." Though David was leaving behind all earthly comforts, he had the most important thing anyone could ever have, a relationship with God. God would become his all in all.

David and Jonathan had to say goodbye, never knowing if they would ever see each other again. Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, the Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed forever." So, David departed; and Jonathan went into the city.

Takeaway from chapter 20:

It takes great love and trust in the Lord to walk away from all you know and love, including your best friend. But God was faithful to David, as He is to us, in everything. In David's dark hour, God was with him; He would "never leave him or forsake him." (Hebrews 13:5b). David went through many painful trials; yet through these hardships, God was preparing him for the task God had for him—to be the new king of Israel.

We all go through difficult times. At times, we may feel we are all alone--that even God has forgotten about us. At those times, we must remember God's great love for us and His promise to "never leave or forsake" us. Sometimes "arrows" shot into our lives will bring pain and heartache; but we can be confident we will look back and see that His hand was upon our lives, guiding and directing us in the preparation for the work He has called us to do. Though circumstances may change, God's love for you remains deep and constant.

Remembering David and Jonathan's friendship, we say: How sweet love is, and how valuable! There is nothing that can destroy it, not even death! It is our everlasting treasure.

Chapter 21: [Give summary of the events, no need to read]

David Visits the Tabernacle at Nob (21:1)

The first leg of David's flight is to the tabernacle of the Lord at Nob, probably about two miles from his hideout with Samuel. The tabernacle, the center of Yahweh worship, has moved to Nob -- even though the ark is no longer within it. Nob is "the town of the priests" where the Bread of the Presence (showbread) is put before the Lord weekly as prescribed in the Torah. The high priest's ephod is also here containing the Urim and Thummim used to inquire of the Lord.

The high priest may well have been aware of Saul's attempt to capture David at nearby Naioth, so he is afraid when he sees David by himself. If Ahimelech knowingly assists a fugitive, Saul is likely to kill him, so David makes up a story about a sudden secret mission that the king has sent him on in order to protect the priest. Is this deliberate deception?

David Is Given Holy Bread (21:3-6)

David requests food. The only food Ahimelech has to give him is some consecrated showbread, some loaves of the Bread of the Presence, that had been before the Lord in the tabernacle the previous week. It is holy, and normally only eaten by the priests themselves. Ahimelech does his due diligence to protect the holiness of the bread by asking David if his men are ritually clean and David confirms that.

The Sword of Goliath -- and Dark Foreshadowing (21:7-9)

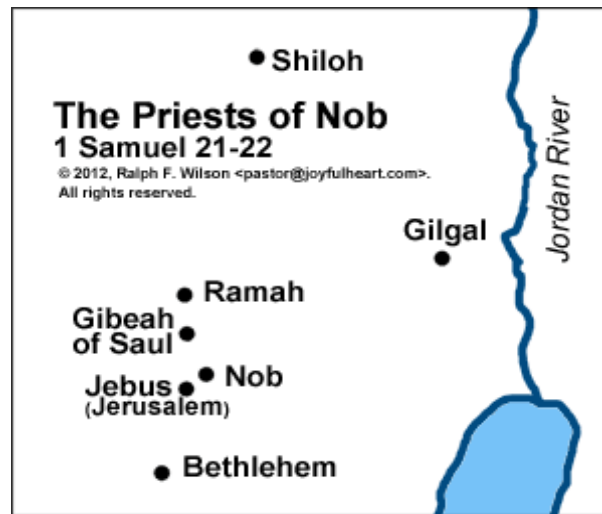
David asks Ahimelech if there are any weapons available. It turns out that the sword of Goliath is "wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod" -- perhaps to preserve it as a token of God's great victory over the Philistines

that day. He gives it to David. But David's presence has not gone undetected. Doeg, one of Saul's servants, is there.

David Feigns Insanity before Achish of Gath (21:10-15)

David doesn't linger at Nob. He flees west to one of the main Philistine cities for protection. It wasn't uncommon for a fugitive to seek refuge with his pursuer's enemy, so David appeals for asylum from Achish, king of Gath. Indeed, Achish grants David asylum. All is well until members of Achish's court begin to recall who David really is -- an arch enemy of the Philistines, the man who in his youth had killed Gath's own champion, Goliath. At this point, David realizes that he is in grave danger! But he is resourceful, and he pretended to be insane in their presence.

David's ruse works! Achish concludes that he must be insane rather than a threat and they are happy to be rid of him -- and David is happy to escape with his life. He travels a few miles east to Adullam.



Prayer:

Lord, you know what we're going through, what we've been through. It seems so very hard! But we are confident that you are the God of the wilderness as well as the God of prosperous times. We can count on you. You will be to us a Refuge, a Fortress, a Shade by day and Shield by night. Thank you, O Lord. Give us strength! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Optional activities:

Discussion questions:

- ❖ What can we learn from the way David and Jonathan loved each other?
- ❖ What did Jonathan's actions reveal about his character?
- ❖ How did David and Jonathan's relationship change once Jonathan became aware of David's anointing?
- ❖ What are some things you would be willing to do for a friend?

- ❖ What does David do when he is recognized by the Philistines?
- ❖ How did David respond when Ahimelech asked him why he was alone? (1 Samuel 21:15)
- ❖ How did David's enemies react when they saw him in the temple? (1 Samuel 21:14)
- ❖ What do you think David was feeling when he had to feign madness in front of Achish?



Lesson 11: 1 Samuel 22-24

David Flees from Saul David Spares Saul's Life

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 22 & 23 & 24.
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 97-109**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

God will direct our path to righteous behavior.

Remember:

David arrives at Nob and asks Ahimelech the priest for bread. Ahimelech gives David the showbread, and when David's men arrive, Ahimelech gives them the sword of Goliath.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 24:12

“Let the LORD judge between me and you, and let the LORD avenge me on you, but my hand shall not be against you”.

Lesson Aim:

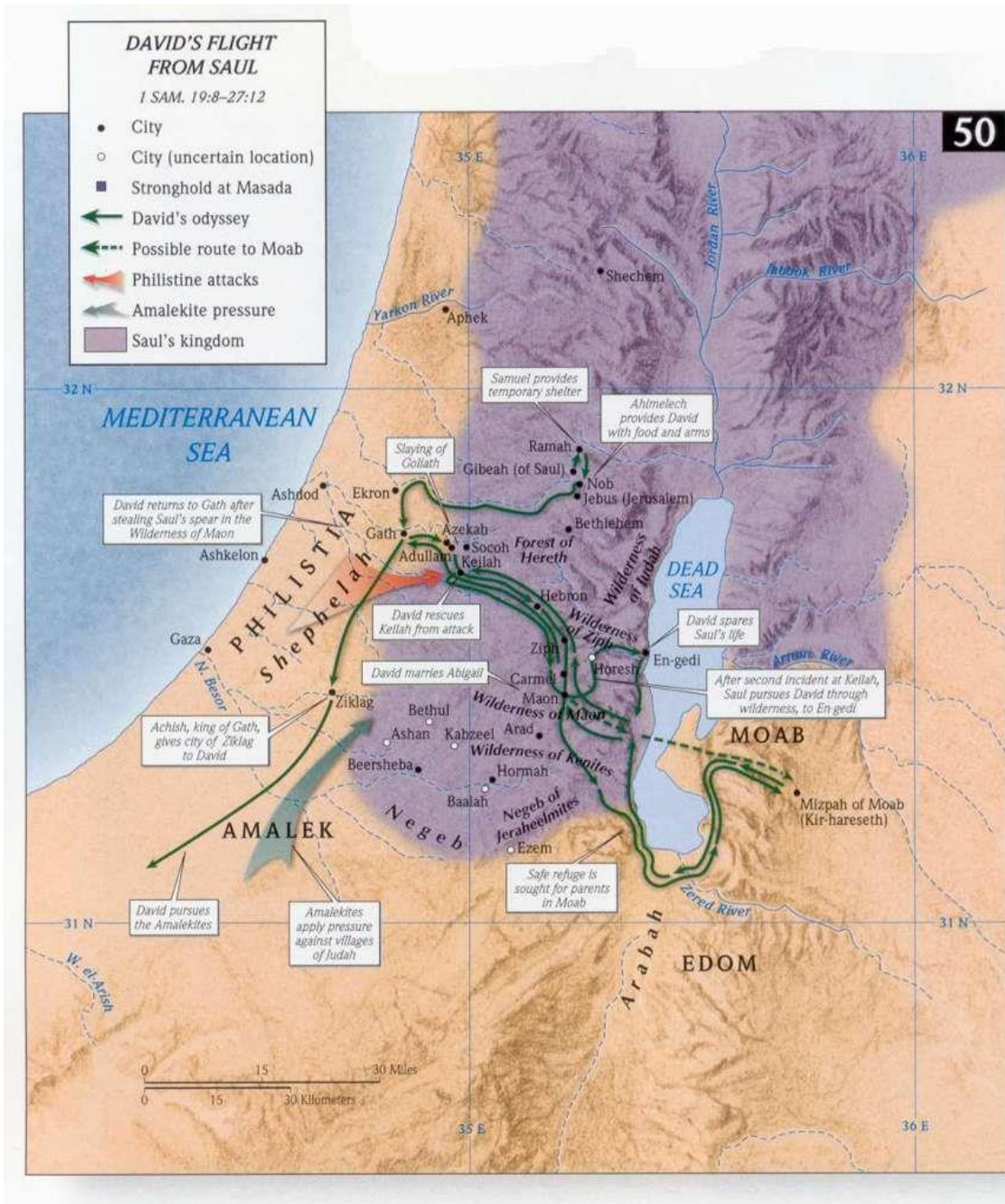
David respected those whom God had put into power, even though he knew he would one day replace Saul. We are not supposed to take revenge on others but allow God to handle their consequences. Learn to be patient and wait for God's timing, just as David waited on God to make him king.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Is It a Sign?

The offer looked good and was exactly what Peter needed. After being laid off, this sole breadwinner of a young family had prayed desperately for a job. “Surely this is God's answer to your prayers,” his friends suggested. Reading about the prospective employer, however, Peter felt uneasy. The company invested in suspicious businesses and had been flagged for corruption. In the end, Peter rejected the offer, though it was painful to do so. “I believe God wants me to do the right thing,” “I just have to trust He will provide for me.”

Peter was reminded of the account of David meeting Saul in a cave. It seemed like he was being given the perfect opportunity to kill the man hunting him down, but David resisted. David was careful to distinguish between his own interpretation of events and God's command to obey His instruction and do the right thing.



Lesson time

Chapter 22 & 23: Give summary of chapter 22 and 23

For this lesson, we have 3 chapters, please give a summary only for ch 22& 23 to show how David managed to escape from Saul then read and give the details of chapter 24.

David Gathers 400 Men at the Cave of Adullam (22:1-4)

Adullam was a Canaanite city, east of Gath, west of Bethlehem. Close by was a hill that was fortified and known for its caves, some of them quite large.

By now, Saul is beginning to threaten anyone related to David -- including his family in Bethlehem. Saul is crazy with rage, and they fear for their lives. So, when they hear that David has found a place to hide, they go to join him. For example, David's brothers and sisters and their children join David at Adullam. Three of David's nephews, the sons of his sister Zeruiah, turn out to be outstanding warriors in their own right -- Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Since David is one of the youngest sons of his father, these nephews may be fairly close to his age.

When David escaped from Saul to the cave of Adullam, he wrote a golden psalm (57), in which he says: "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in you, and in the shadow of your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by" (Psalm 57: 1- 2).

David Flees to the Wilderness of Judah (1 Samuel 22:3-5)

The caves at Adullam are still vulnerable to Saul's army. So, David and his army find another stronghold, perhaps in the wilderness of Judah.

The prophet Gad tells him: "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So, David left and went to the forest of Hereth. God is watching out for David.

Saul Questions the Benjamites' Loyalty (22:6-10)

Though Saul knows where David is, he can't seem to capture him. He is paranoid and accuses his tribesmen, the Benjamites, of conspiracy -- of keeping him in the dark about Jonathan's covenant with David. This accusation prompts Doeg the Edomite to tell Saul -- belatedly -- that he had seen David getting help from the high priest Ahimelech (21:1-9). Although he said the truth, he distorted it by cutting it short, not saying that the priest assumed David was working for the king.

Saul Destroys the Priests of Nob (22:11-19)

Saul now suspects all the priests of conspiring with his enemy David -- even though they didn't know anything about David's flight at the time. He summons Ahimelech, the high priest, who protests his innocence. Saul doesn't believe him and orders his guards to kill all the priests.

They are unwilling "to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD" So Saul orders Doeg the Edomite -- who isn't a true Israelite to kill them. Saul annihilates all the priests and their entire town!

This mass murder severely damages Saul's ability to lead. Now Saul has to make decisions blindly. Since he can no longer inquire of the Lord, he ultimately turns to sorcery, the witch of Endor.

Abiathar the Priest Flees to David (22:20-23)

But one priest escapes the slaughter. When David learns about Saul's slaughter, he is heartsick and feels that it is his fault. He invites the high priest's son, Abiathar, to stay with him for his own safety.

One of David's pious attributes was admitting his fault and putting the blame on himself rather than on others. He could have said that he did not know of the presence of Doeg the Edomite, when he went to Ahimelech.

Inquiring of the Lord regarding Keilah (23:1-12)

Immediately, David needs to inquire of the Lord. Philistine raiders are attacking the walled Judean city of Keilah, just south of the Cave of Adullam, and stealing their crops right at harvest time. The Lord confirms to David that he should attack the Philistines at Keilah, and he does so successfully, saving the town. He realized it was God's plan for him to leave the stronghold in order to save this city and prepare a way for him to reign soon.

David's men stay at Keilah for a time, but David realizes that he is vulnerable there. Saul can lay siege to the city and capture him. So, he inquires of the Lord again and receives the answer that the citizens of Keilah will indeed surrender him to Saul rather than resist Saul's siege. David moves on. Being able to consult the Lord is vital to David's security so that he can remain in God's will.

Jonathan Encourages David at Horesh (23:14-18)

Saul's spies are everywhere, reporting on his every movement. And so, David turns to the Judean desert for his own survival. There David uttered his 54th psalm: "Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your strength. Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth".

Fear has driven David into the desert. Day after day Saul searched for him. To say that David was afraid is not the same as to suggest that he was not courageous. Fear and courage coexist.

God cares about our anxieties! In this case, God sends Jonathan to encourage David. He offered him his love, that is beyond evaluation. He proclaimed to him that his only weapon was the company and promises of God, asking to become next to him, when the time would come for him to reign over Israel.

Saul Nearly Captures David in the Judean Wilderness (23:19-28)

David then moves a few miles south to the desert of Maon. But just as they are about to capture David, a messenger reports to Saul about a Philistine raid. He is forced to break off his pursuit to defend his country against the Philistines. [The Lord's timing is exquisite.](#)

Takeaway from chapter 22&23:

A Prayer for Wisdom

Lord, I pray for wisdom in all that I do. I know that David had to make some tough decisions, and I pray that I would have the same wisdom. Help me to always seek your will in all that I do.

Chapter 24:

David is running from the wrath of King Saul. So fierce was Saul's jealousy that he had tried to kill David. In the midst of his difficult situation, David will find an opportunity to get back at Saul. Will David seize this opportunity? Saul certainly had caused him problems.

Read 24:1-7

Saul returned from his fight against the Philistines. Informed that David had fled to En Gedi, Saul headed out with 3,000 men to find David and his men. While there, Saul found a cave and went into it to rest for a while. It just so happened that it was the same cave that David and his men were hiding in! When David's men heard this, they told David, "This is the day which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'"

Saul's life was now in David's hands. In fact, so close was Saul to David that he "secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe." How easily David could have killed Saul. He could have put an end to his life as a fugitive and become the new King of Israel. David had left home, family, and his dear friend because of Saul's obsession of killing him. The chance to end the bitter fighting had come. Yet David did not kill Saul; he only cut off a corner of his robe.

From the world's perspective, David missed his hour of opportunity and would prolong his suffering. But what was God's perspective of the situation and David's reaction? Because David saw Saul as God's anointed, he felt bad for cutting off the corner of Saul's robe. David had no intention of harming Saul in any way; he would leave the situation in God's hands. If God wanted to punish Saul for his sin, God would do it. Through these situations, God was training David for his kingship, teaching him to be a kind and just king.

Read 24:8-22

After King Saul was a little ways away from the cave, David called out after him, "My lord, the king!" When Saul turned around to look at who was calling him, David bowed himself very close to the ground to show

honor and respect to the king. David told the king that when he heard someone say that David was trying to hurt the king to think back on this day and remember that David had the opportunity to kill the king but chose not to because he was the LORD's anointed. David would and did not hurt the king. David told King Saul to take a look at the edge of Saul's robe in David's hand. David said he could have killed Saul, but only cut off the edge of his robe instead. He told the king that the LORD would judge between him and Saul.

When David finished speaking, King Saul called out, "Is that you, my son David? You are more righteous than I am. I know for sure that you will be the king of Israel. Please give me your promise that when you are the king, you will not destroy my name from my father's house." David promised the king that he would not. Then Saul went home, but David stayed where he was in the rocks.

It was unusual in Old Testament times that the future king would not destroy every remembrance of the past king. That was what King Saul asked David to promise. He wanted him not to kill his family when David took control of the kingdom. David kept his promise as we will see in a future lesson.

Takeaway from chapter 24:

Has there ever been a time in your life when you have had the opportunity to get back at someone who was being mean to you? What did you do? The Bible tells us that vengeance is the Lord's (Romans 12:17-20). That means that the Lord will take care of the people who treat us wrongly. We should not "get back at people who mistreat us." We need to pray for them and allow the Lord to take care of them and us. We should wait on the Lord—not take matters into our own hands.

If David had killed Saul, he would have been acting like the king himself. But he trusted his case to the Lord, who had promised him the throne of Israel. He would wait for God's time. He knew God's promise: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay" (Deut.32:35). In so doing, David showed the Spirit of Christ when He said, "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you".

We praise the person of the prophet David, about whom St. John Chrysostom said: [David lifted himself up above the old law and came close to the apostolic commandments as though he practiced the biblical commandment concerning the love for enemies, even while under the law.

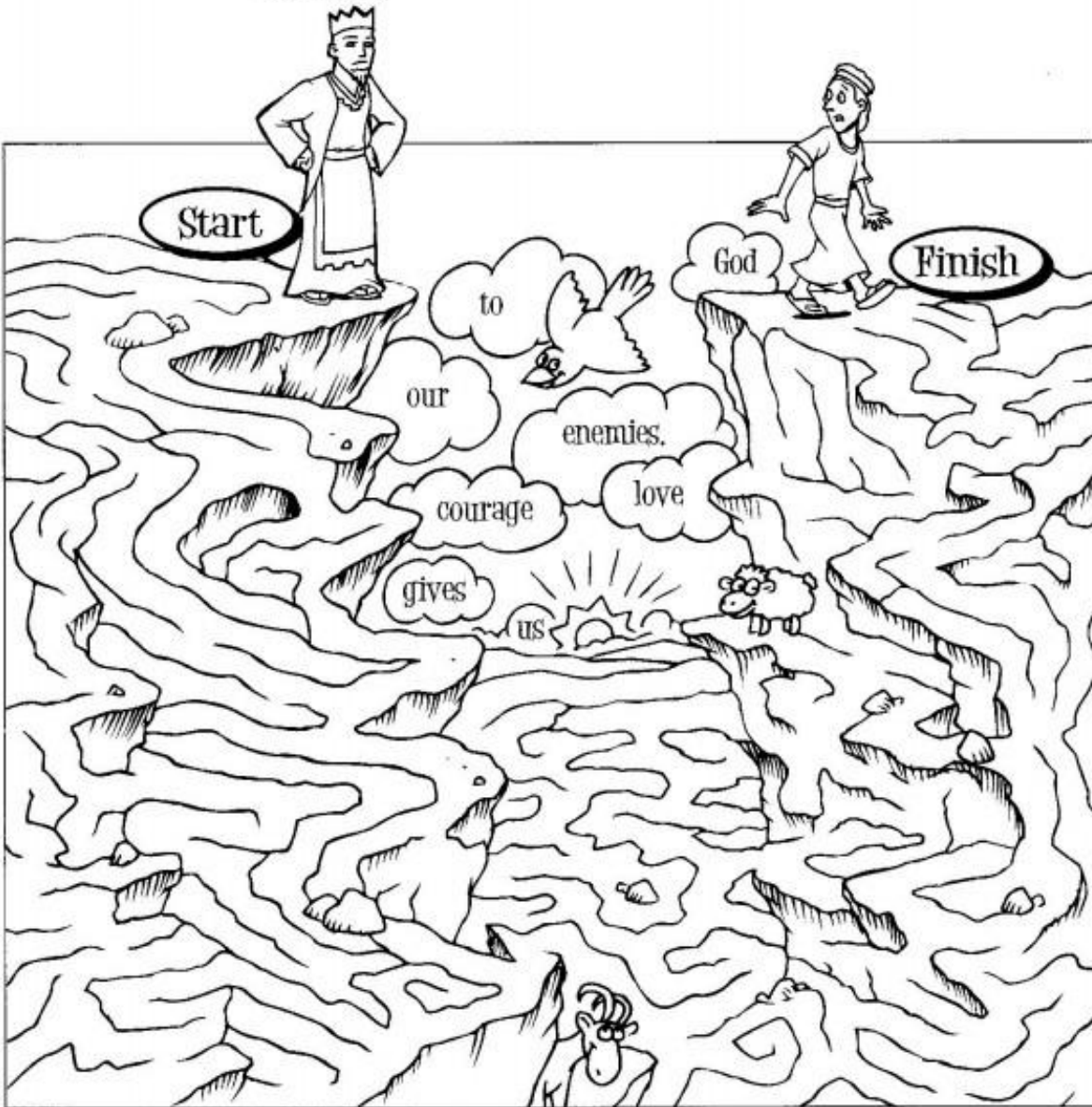
Here's a little chart for you:

- ❖ **Doing evil for evil is bad.**
- ❖ **Doing nothing for evil is better.**
- ❖ **Doing good for evil is best.**

Optional activities:

The Challenge

King Saul was so jealous of David, he wanted to get rid of him. David had to run away, but God protected him. Trace the path David took for his escape.



The Super Challenge

Order the words in the clouds to make a sentence about one of God's gifts to us.

Discussion questions:

- ❖ Why was Saul so persistent in his pursuit of David even though he had many other things he could have been doing?
- ❖ What did God tell David to do in response to the people of Keilah's request for help?
- ❖ Why didn't David want to go into battle against Saul when he had the opportunity? 23:22
- ❖ What would I do if I were betrayed by someone I trusted?
- ❖ What would I do if I were in Keilah's position?
- ❖ What did David's action in 1 Samuel 24:19-20 teach us about God's view of revenge?
- ❖ How would things have been different if David had killed Saul in [1 Samuel 24:6](#)?
- ❖ What does Saul ask David before he leaves?
- ❖ How do Saul's men react when they see David sparing their king's life?
- ❖ What would you have done if you were in David's shoes?



Lesson 12: 1 Samuel 25 & 26

Abigail's Wisdom David Spares Saul's Life Again

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 25 & 26
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 110-120**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

God wants us to get along

Remember:

Last lesson, we talked about David when he hid in a cave from Saul and had the opportunity to kill him, but instead chose to spare Saul's life. David reasoned that since Saul had been anointed by God, it was not David's place to kill him.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 25:33

"Blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand".

Lesson Aim:

Abigail reveals how wisdom and determines action need to partner in order to save good people from disaster. Being wise in itself may not be sufficient in some situations. Without taking immediate action, it is possible to simply stand by and watch destruction that could be avoided.

Lesson opening:

Abigail's example points to the importance of the words chosen when speaking in tense situations. Harsh, loud words may become the catalyst to an unnecessary explosion. They may drive individuals to actions which will be regretted later. In contrast we see how calm, carefully calculated words can lead to a peaceful parting or solution. This lesson's golden text deserves careful attention: "A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

Today's lesson revolves around the attitudes and actions of three persons. One doesn't hesitate to spout inflammatory words without any regard for the potential consequences [Nabal]. Another of the characters hears the words and, in haste, decides to retaliate in a manner with far-reaching implications [David]. Fortunately, standing between them is a woman who immediately grasps the entire setting. Then she races to bring a peaceful end which, in the long run, will bring special benefit to her.

This lesson also provides us with another area for consideration. What should our attitude be when a crisis thrusts itself upon us? It's true we have differing personalities and emotional levels. However, every one of us should strive to be "calm, cool, and collected." This can be accomplished as we keep a tight rein on ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. **"Think twice before speaking once" is wise advice.**

Lesson time

Chapter 25: *Read 25:1-8*

The Death of Samuel and the story of David and Nabal

David and his men survive in the countryside by providing protection to small villages against foreign raiders and thieves. In return for this protection, he is provided with food and supplies as well as a network of informers who protect him from the king and his many efforts at capturing him.

This is the situation as Samuel, the prophet and judge who anointed both Saul and David, dies. David, feeling the loss, heads out into the desert to hide from Saul and plot out his next move. We see David approach this rich businessman for a share of the profits made possible because of the protection afforded his employees as they worked with the animals. This was not extortion, there was no threat here. Without David's protection, this man would have lost men and animals to thieves and raiding parties. David simply came to claim a share of the profits and to celebrate with the others a good and profitable day.

Read 25:9-13

Note the insult in Nabal's response to David's request:

- He doesn't plead poverty or inconvenience.
- He knows who David is (son of Jesse) and his position, but he refuses to acknowledge David's anointing by God.
- He says that David is nothing more than a runaway slave, not the future king of Israel.
- Nabal even dismisses David's efforts to help him and refuses to give him any food or reward.

David's men return and tell David of this insult. David straps on his sword and prepares horsemen to go and destroy Nabal and his entire household. Note here that there is cause for David to be angry, but killing everyone in Nabal's house is not justified. Nabal is a fool, but being a fool is not a capital offense.

In doing this, David's work helping and protecting the people does turn into extortion. In effect, he is saying, "If you don't pay me, I'll kill you."

Read 25:14-25

Nabal's wife finds out what her husband has done and begins the attempt to save him, her household and herself.

David's request was just, and Nabal's response was quite rude and ungrateful. So, Abigail sends a large provision of food (which Nabal should have done) and prepares to go to David to plead their case in person. Note also how "self-righteous" David feels (verse 22).

Abigail greets him with great respect, respect reserved for a king. What a wise woman, and what a sweet speech! She revealed her inner Spirit, characterized by humility; and started to admit her trespass or sin, that she did not commit through her own will, but through being the wife of such a foolish man, who through his misbehavior had done wrong to the whole household. Politely apologized that she did not see the young men sent by David, to give them of the goods that God gave her.

Read 25:26-31

She was also characterized by wisdom, politely drawing David's attention to the following:

- It was fitting for him to disregard a man like Nabal... as David was too exalted and too great to stretch his hand to someone like him.
- That God sent her to keep him from avenging himself as he was a public man of a great soul, who worked for the whole congregation, and not for himself.
- He was entrusted to fighting the Lord's battles; so, it was not fitting for him to preoccupy himself with such worthless things and avenge for himself.
- He would eventually reign over all the people; So, let him act as a king who cared for his people, and not offend them by avenging himself.

Abigail makes her second appeal, this time based on David's future leadership. She points out that when he does ascend to the throne, it shouldn't be with innocent blood on his hands. She also asks him to remember her when all of this comes about.

Read 25:32-35

David acknowledges that she is sent by God. He is amazed, delighted, relieved and merciful. We can say that God allowed Abigail to intercede, in order to keep David from sinning for two reasons:

- a- David the pure in heart,
- b- Through his humility, David did not hesitate to accept the advice of others, as long as it came from a sound spiritual thought.

As much as Abigail was wise in her talk, David had the listening ear.

And so, it is with Nabal as he dies from a heart attack after a drunken party. It wasn't that he was just a fool, it was that he treated God's servant badly.

Hearing about the death of Nabal, David realized that the hand of God was working to strike him who did him wrong without any cause. He sent to ask Abigail to be his wife to which She, promptly, humbly, and without hesitation gave her consent. She arose, bowed her face to the ground, and said: "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my Lord" (1 Samuel 25: 41)

She accepted him as her husband during his time of affliction, to accompany him during that of glory.



Takeaway from chapter 25:

When we look at Abigail in this passage, we see several characteristics that are quite appealing in a woman, aside from her great beauty:

1. She was decisive

Once she knew the problem, she made a decision and set her entire household into action.

2. She was brave

She didn't know what to expect when she met David. He could have just killed her on the road. One woman vs. 400 armed men. Bravery is facing your fear, instead of running away from it.

3. She was wise

Without being dishonest or manipulative, she showed that she could respond to a foolish husband or a young king.

4. She was diplomatic

Her approach and attitude toward David was respectful without being cloy or syrupy. She talked to a king with confidence and even with a little aggressiveness.

5. She was pure

Abigail didn't depend on sex-appeal or beauty to win David over. She remained faithful to her husband, even if he was insufferable.

6. She was insightful

Notice how she put her finger on the real danger. The disaster awaiting was David's potential sin in taking his own revenge. She made him see this, despite his hurt pride and anger.

7. She was honest

She was honest with both David and her husband. She acknowledged her husband's fault and her responsibility to David.

8. She was humble

Her attitude was filled with meekness and submissiveness with both men, David and Nabal.

9. She was patient

Let's face it, she was married to an evil boor of a man. She had no children. She could have cried, she could have left, she could have conspired to have him killed. After all, David was on his way to doing just that. She could have pleaded for her own life (kill him, let me live), but she didn't, she saved her husband and household's lives.

10. She was truly spiritual

Her encouragement to David was an acknowledgment of God's choice of David as king, something her husband could not see.

Chapter 26:

DAVID REFRAINS FROM KILLING SAUL [Just give a short summary]

Now the Ziphites came to Saul, to tell him where David was, and Saul knowing that David is anointed of the Lord to someday be king, tried once more to upset the plan of God by seeking David's life. So, Saul took with him three thousand chosen men of Israel and went down to the wilderness of Ziph.

David, hearing of Saul's arrival, sent out spies. When the spies confirmed that Saul had come, David went near to his camp and asked his men, "Who will go down with me?" Abishai agreed to accompany David, and they proceeded down to the place where Saul was sleeping. "A deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them." David removed Saul's water jug and spear without any man hearing.

David once again showed Saul amazing kindness in sparing his life. Saul was again trying to kill David, and again David finds opportunity to put an end to Saul's life and, thus, an end to his troubles. Once more, David determined to let God be his avenger; he would not have the king's blood on his hands. David stopped Abishai from killing Saul with his own spear.

David then went a good distance away and called Saul's personal guard, Abner. He asked him why he did not protect his king. Saul recognized David's voice and asked if that was, he speaking. David then revealed to the king what he had done that night and how God had delivered him into his hand. Saul, in the light of this kindness, sees the fool he has been. So evident to him was God's protection of his rival that he could only confess his own wickedness and recognize fully and finally that David was to be the shepherd of Israel. This was to be David and Saul's last meeting.

Kindness won in the end without bloodshed. David learned valuable lessons through these difficult times.

He learned how to treat people the way God would treat them. It could not be easy for David to be kind to Saul, for Saul had certainly not shown him kindness; but David hung in there, and the most important battle was won.



Takeaway from chapter 26:

As David, let us represent God's heart to others. One of the chief characteristics of God is kindness, to the just and unjust. It is easy to be kind to those who are kind to us; but, to represent God's heart, we must show kindness to those who are unkind to us. God will deal with those who are unjust to us, if they do not turn from their sins. Remember, as David modeled, we should wait on the Lord—not take matters into our own hands.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to always strive to keep peace in the family, at school, and everywhere. Amen.

Optional activities:

Discussion questions:

- ❖ How can I show kindness and compassion to someone who is difficult to get along with?
- ❖ How can I apply the lesson of being humble and not always trying to be right?
- ❖ How did Nabal's wife, Abigail, try to prevent David from carrying out his plan? (v. 7-9)
- ❖ What can I learn from Abigail's example of wisdom and humility?
- ❖ What does this passage teach me about the danger of anger and vengeance?
- ❖ How can showing mercy benefit the person who shows it?
- ❖ What do you think was going through David's mind when he had the opportunity to kill Saul?
- ❖ What does David's actions in sparing Saul's life tell us about his character?

Lesson13: 1 Samuel 27-29

David Escapes To The Land Of The Philistines Saul consults a medium The Philistines reject David

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 27-29.
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 121-128**

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Theme:

We make mistakes when we are so desperate.

Remember:

In chapter 25, Nabal is a wealthy man who refuses to give any provisions to David and his men, so David takes revenge by sending his men to take whatever they want from Nabal's property. Nabal's wife, Abigail, intervenes and gives David and his men a large amount of food and provisions, which saves Nabal's life.

In chapter 26, David once more spared Saul's life even though he had the opportunity to kill him.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 28:17

For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.

Lesson Aim:

When we have a weakness, we take it and put it between God's hands and never be afraid because God is our shield.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Why do you think God doesn't want anyone to try to be a witch and use magic?

People can't do real magic. When someone does magic, they're either doing a trick to make you think they're doing magic, or the devil and his demons are making something happen to make it look like the person is doing magic. The devil and the demons can do some things, but God doesn't want us to have anything to do with the devil. If we want something to happen, God wants us to ask Him. God can do miracles if He wants

to, so He wants us to pray to Him instead of trying to use magic. But even though it was against God's rules, Saul went to go see a witch anyway.

Lesson time

We all have weaknesses and David was no exception. Fear that King Saul might take his life was one of David's human weaknesses. Brave and determined before Goliath, yet always thinking about King Saul's many attempts on his life, David was afraid. He knew the LORD was on his side, yet he was still concerned.

Chapter 27: Give Summary only:

David flees to King Achish:

David was still concerned about King Saul and the many times that the king had tried to kill him. He began to think seriously of escaping to a foreign land, especially that he became personally committed to two wives: 'Ahinoam' the Gezreelitess and 'Abigail' Nabal's widow (1 Samuel 27: 3); beside his children from them. His 600 men were likewise committed to their own families, that leaving them and hiding in caves became more difficult than before.

He was afraid that the king might end up killing him one day, so he hurriedly escaped to the land of the Philistines and lived with Achish, the king of Gath, in the city of Gath. This was a place where he felt safe since he didn't think King Saul would follow him there. David took everyone with him: his 600 soldiers and their families, even his two wives went with him.

Although the Lord has protected David from every danger so far, his faith is tried once again. His prospects are dark. His own people show only censure and ingratitude. The men of Keilah had turned him over to Saul previously, and the Ziphites told Saul of his hiding places twice. He was being treated as an outlaw.

So, without asking for guidance from the Lord, he decides to take refuge among the Philistines, sworn enemies of his people. Achish, king of Gath welcomes him. Achish apparently sees David and his band as a help to his own military forces. When Saul hears where David has gone, he decides to stop pursuing him.

Achish gave David the city of Ziklag for he and his army to live in and they lived there for one year and four months. From there, David fought with many people who were enemies of the LORD. Achish made David his most important bodyguard, but the problem was that David was on the enemy's side.

David's failure in this case is similar to the flight of the prophet Elijah after his victory on Mt. Carmel in front king Ahab. Both David and Elijah suffer an all-too-human lack of faith and courage. Fortunately, God does not abandon either. David's blunder in fleeing to the Philistines without God's guidance and then covering the truth about his raids with duplicity shows again that there is safety only in following God's will. We will see how this happened in the next chapter.

David started raiding the neighboring pagan people, taking spoils from them, but he had to lie to king Achish telling him that he had been raiding the Jewish cities not the philistines, that is why the king trusted David

more. Again, this was a downfall for David, that he put himself in that position.

Chapter 28: Read the following



1- WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PHILISTINES

Read 28:1-4

This chapter began with the Philistines who came to war with Israel, they came in numbers. King Saul of Israel became greatly intimidated.

Speaking of David, the king of Gath fully expected David to fight alongside the Philistines in this battle, which would put David against his own people, Israel, and David concurred to do so. If he said no, it would have shown who his allegiance was with, and he would have probably been killed.

2- SAUL CONSULTS A MEDIUM Read 28:5-19

Back to Saul.

Saul was so scared, he did what most people do when they are at wits-end; he sought the Lord, but God did not answer him. God didn't answer by dream, prophet, idea, nothing! This was purposely so; God had moved on from Saul.

One of the good deeds done by Saul- most probably following the guidance of the prophet Samuel- was his opposition to works of magic and sorcery and exiling the mediums and spiritists out of the land.

What happened was for Saul a new opportunity among many others given to him by God, to reconsider his situation, to realize the secret of his failure, and to return to God with true repentance... But, on the contrary, he misused that opportunity, as he foolishly started to think to resort to a medium; thus, insulting the Lord, by setting that ignorant woman in the place of God. How strange! The king of Israel requested from his servants to find him a woman who was a medium, to seek her advice.

Saul went to a woman medium, to bring up for him the spirit of Samuel, to seek his counsel, after swearing to her by the Lord, that no punishment shall come upon her for this thing.

Saul sought the counsel of the dead, having lost the living God. Far from us to assume, the soul of any saint or a prophet could be brought up (from its place of comfort in Hades) by the devil. We are aware that "Satan

can transform himself into an angel of light” . St. Hypolete believes that Saul did not see Samuel; But that was a deception.

Most probably, Satan appeared in the likeness of the prophet Samuel, covered with a mantle to make the woman cry out in a loud voice, rebuking Saul; saying: “Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul” (1 Samuel 28: 12). As for him, he went on to complete that evil road; and entered in a dialogue with that spirit, who was pretending to be Samuel. Then, Saul stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down; and was dreadfully afraid... It was a series of collapses and troubles that Saul went through at the end of his life.

The woman medium had compassion on him, because of his complete collapse- her own king- and offered him the best food she had, after urging him to eat, together with his two servants.

Why did the devil tell Saul that God was punishing him for his sins?

The devil’s main goal at that point was to prevent Saul from repenting, he tried to make him lose every hope by telling him that God was punishing him, that he would die, and the kingdom would be taken away. Even though some of what he said was correct, it was all intended to cause Saul to be depressed and never try to ask God for forgiveness. The devil was successful, and Saul never repented till he died in war. If it were the real Samuel appearing at that time, he would tell him that he would find God’s mercy if he repented and fixed his mistakes. The devil does not know the future but as a smart spirit, he can expect what will happen.

Chapter 29: Give Summary only:

As chapter 29 opens, the story backtracks to 28:2. The Philistines are still at their gathering point in Aphek. In verse 2-3 the lords of the Philistines are gathered. They are the rulers of the five Philistine cities. As David and his men march with Achish at the rear of the Philistine armies, the army officers ask, “What about these Hebrews? “

Unlike Achish, the other Philistine commanders did not trust David. They thought he would seek to regain the favor of his lord, Saul. (verse 4) These commanders ask a very interesting question here regarding David regaining Saul's trust. They ask, “would it not be with the heads of the men here?” Basically, they are asking, “will he not kill all of us in order to get back to his own people?”

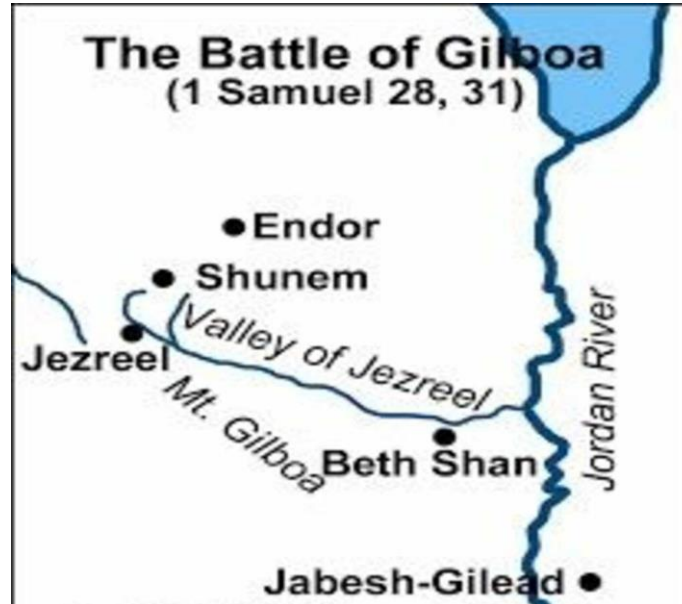
Again, the Lord comes to his rescue through an unexpected development.

Achish answers, “David has been with me for over a year, and I have found no fault in him.” But the commanders demand that Achish send David back. So, with many apologies Achish asks him to return to Ziklag. As David departs the next morning, it must have been with a great sense of relief. The Lord had used the Philistine commanders to get him out of the line of battle!

This is how we see the hand of the Lord working in David’s life. David was living with the enemy of Israel who were positioned to attack Israel. Israel and the Philistines live in constant tension. Even through the commanders of the Philistine army, God had protected David from having to go into battle against his own

people. David fighting in any battle against any of the Israelite forces would have shut him off completely from being king, not to mention would have been a terrible evil. Just think back to chapter 25 when David rightly resists the urge to shed the blood of a fellow Israelite [Nabal].

At the end of this chapter the action splits as we will observe our last two chapters. See verse 11 where David and his men return to the land of the Philistines while the Philistine army heads to Jezreel. Chapter 30 will follow the actions of David while 31 will lead to the capturing and death of Saul.



Takeaway from chapter 29:

As we think about David's life over the last few chapters it is hard for us to see him as "one after God's own heart." We have seen him display a lack of trust in God by fleeing Israel. David had every reason to stay, and trust in God. He was after all anointed by God as king. We also see him making hasty decisions that he later regretted.

In David's later years God will say to him, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye. Do not be like the horse or the Mule." Psalm 32:8-9. A horse is impulsive and rushes into battle, while the mule is stubborn and holds back. Both of which we see David doing in these chapters.

God does not want to deal with us as men deal with animals. He wants to lead us and direct us as a father guides a son. These chapters give us a record of when David was living without this kind of intimate love and guidance. We should always trust in the Lord even when facing hardships. We should always trust his guidance in every situation.

David had his faults, just as we do. Sometimes he wins victories by trusting in God. Other times he is defeated by not trusting Him. The Lord is always merciful to those whose hearts are given to Him. God can even rescue those who are in difficulties through their own mistakes.

Optional activities:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. _____ Samuel died and all Israel (I Sam. 28:3) | a. night |
| 2. _____ Saul had put away (I Sam. 28:3) | b. dreams, Urim
nor prophets |
| 3. _____ Israel gathered at Gilboa against the
(I Sam. 28:4) | c. snare |
| 4. _____ When Saul saw the host of the Philistines,
he was (I Sam. 28:5) | d. lamented |
| 5. _____ When Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord
answered not, neither by (I Sam. 28:6) | e. loud voice |
| 6. _____ Saul told his servants to find a (I Sam. 28:7) | f. punishment |
| 7. _____ His servants said there was such a woman at
(I Sam. 28:7) | g. Endor |
| 8. _____ Saul disguised himself and went to see the
woman by (I Sam. 28:8) | h. afraid |
| 9. _____ The woman believed Saul was laying for her a
(I Sam. 28:9) | i. Philistines |
| 10. _____ Saul swore to her by the Lord that she would
receive no (I Sam. 28:10) | j. familiar spirits, wizards
(mediums, spiritists) |
| 11. _____ Saul asked the woman to bring up for him
(I Sam. 28:11) | k. Samuel |
| 12. _____ When the woman saw Samuel, she cried
with a (I Sam. 28:12) | l. woman with a familiar
spirit (medium) |
| 13. _____ The woman then recognized (I Sam. 28:12) | m. Saul |

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ The woman told Saul she had seen a god (spirit) ascending out of the (I Sam. 28:13) | a. eat |
| 2. _____ When Saul asked what form the spirit had, she said he was an (I Sam. 28:14) | b. Lord |
| 3. _____ When Saul perceived it was Samuel, he (I Sam. 28:14) | c. servants |
| 4. _____ When Samuel asked Saul why he had disturbed him, Saul said he was (I Sam. 28:15) | d. strength |
| 5. _____ Saul said the Philistines make war and God does not (I Sam. 28:15) | e. David |
| 6. _____ Samuel said the Lord had departed from Saul and become his (I Sam. 28:16) | f. old man |
| 7. _____ Samuel said the Lord had rent the kingdom from Saul and given it to (I Sam. 28:17) | g. Amalek |
| 8. _____ Saul had not obeyed the voice of the (I Sam. 28:18) | h. fatted calf and bread |
| 9. _____ The Lord had taken the kingdom from Saul because he had not executed the Lord's wrath upon (I Sam. 28:18) | i. answer |
| 10. _____ Saul and his sons would die the next day, and the Lord would deliver Israel to the (I Sam. 28:19) | j. bowed |
| 11. _____ When Samuel had finished speaking, Saul fell to the earth and had no (I Sam. 28:20) | k. earth |
| 12. _____ The woman persuaded Saul to (I Sam. 28:21-22) | l. Philistines |
| 13. _____ She prepared a (I Sam. 28:24) | m. sore distressed |
| 14. _____ She set food before Saul and his (I Sam. 28:25) | n. enemy |

Discussion questions:

- Why was David afraid to go back to Judah? (27:4)
- Who gave David permission to live among the Philistines?
- Who saved David and his men from the Philistines? (v.14-15)
- Do you think David made the right decision by fleeing to Achish? Why or why not?
- What caused Saul to seek out a medium instead of God? (1 Samuel 28:3-4)
- Why is Saul disguised when he goes to see the medium? (v. 8)
- What did the medium see when she called up Samuel's spirit? (1 Samuel 28:12)
- Do you think that our decisions are truly our own, or are they predetermined by a higher power?
- Do you think that people can actually commune with the dead? Why or why not?
- How did David feel about being sent away by Achish?

Lesson14: 1 Samuel 30 & 31

The burning of Ziklag The tragic end of Saul and his sons

Servant's Preparation:

- Read 1 Samuel Chapters 30 & 31
- Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of 1st Samuel by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty - **Pages 129-134**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13JSH8xWI6iBO-PiBUZe_DyVoVAbQCEPa/view

Theme:

Talk to God when life gets tough.

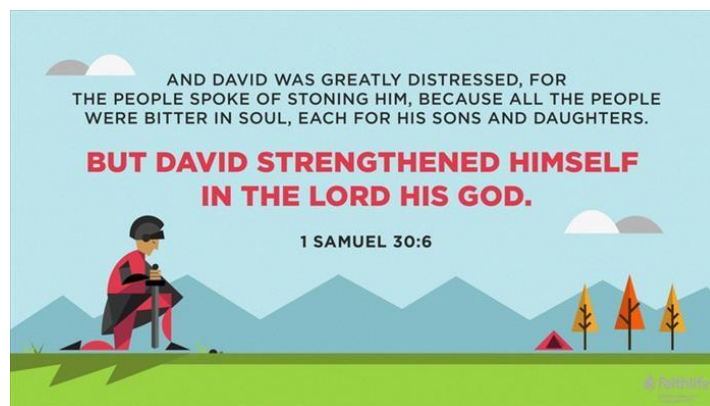
Remember:

Ch 28: King Saul consulted a medium because he was feeling threatened by the Philistines. The medium, however, brought up a devil acting like Samuel, the prophet who had died. The spirit told Saul that he would be defeated in the upcoming battle because he had not followed God's instructions.

Ch 29: The Philistines gather their armies for a final attack against Saul and the Israelites, but David and his men are not allowed to go and fight with them.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 30:6

And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 1 Samuel 30:6



Lesson Aim:

- Our righteous choices can bless not only us but also others around us.
- When we willfully disobey God, we separate ourselves from His strength and guidance.
- When we are faithful, we invite the Lord to direct our lives.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Reaping and Sowing

Bring to class some sunflower seeds and un-popped popcorn. To introduce today's lesson, talk about seeds. For example, "What will happen if I plant these sunflower seeds?" (They grow into sunflower plants.) "Can they grow into any other kind of plant?" (No.) "Why not?" (Because a seed will only produce a plant after its kind). "Can a sunflower seed become a pine tree?" (No.) Do the same thing showing the popcorn seeds. Explain that when a seed is planted, it will always grow into the plant or tree according to its kind.

In Galatians 6:7-8, we read, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." If we sow to our flesh, practice wrongdoing, we will reap the sad consequences of our sins. If we sow to the Spirit, we will reap God's blessings upon our lives, a fulfilling life lived in harmony with God and man.

Today, we will be studying the tragic death of King Saul. Saul harvested what he planted in life, and it was not good. We will reap what we sow.

Lesson time

Chapter 30 recounts David's success when he trusted in the Lord. In contrast, chapter 31 recounts Saul's failure and death because he did not trust the Lord.

Chapter 30:

1- ZIKLAG IS BURNT

David, the soon-to-be king of Israel, faces a test. How will he respond when his and his men's wives and children are kidnapped, and their homes and livestock are raided? David's leadership helps us see the fruit of honesty and action. But more than that, David points us to Jesus, and to His victory for the sake of His church, for the sake of all humanity.

David and all his men marched from Ziklag to help King Achish, a Philistine king, fight a battle. But the other Philistine kings would not let David, and his men help. So, they turned around and marched all the way back to Ziklag. As the city appeared in the distance, the men were horrified to see smoke rising. While they were gone, enemies had burned Ziklag to the ground. Their wives, children, and cattle were all gone! "It's all your fault, David," the man accused. "You should have left soldiers here to take care of our families." David was

upset too. He had lost his family. And the men were blaming him. What should he do?

In their bitterness, David's men even talked about stoning him. But in this crisis David did not forget the Lord. Verse 6 says, "He found strength in the Lord his God."

2- DAVID'S VICTORY Read 30:16-26

David did not go on weeping, nor was he broken by despair, but "strengthened himself in the Lord his God" (1 Samuel 30: 6); saying in his psalms: "I will love You, O Lord, my strength; The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in Whom I will trust;.. (Psalms 18)

David's first thought was to turn to God. God would show him what to do. "Bring the ephod," he told Abiathar the priest. "Shall we go after the Amalekites?" David asked the Lord. "Will we reach them and get our families back?" The ephod had two large gemstones on it. When the priest asked a question of God, one of the stones would glow if the answer was yes. And that is what happened. "Go," the priest said. "You will reach them and get everything back again." So, David and his 600 soldiers set out to find the Amalekites.

But when they reached a very steep hill, they stopped at Brook Besor. Two hundred soldiers were too tired to go any farther. So, David left them there to rest and guard the supplies. The rest marched on. A little farther on, they found an Egyptian lad lying in a field. He was weak from hunger and thirst. David and his men gave him some water and food. "Can you help us find the Amalekites?" David asked. He approved after David swore to him in the name of the Lord, not to kill him nor to deliver him to his master. They used, in the old days, to use a guide in war, then kill him lest he betrays them. The Egyptian brought David and his men down to the Amalekites,

The Amalekites were celebrating their great victory at Ziklag. They were eating and drinking and having a good time. David and his men attacked the Amalekites at sunset. The battle lasted all night and the next day. When it was over, the Amalekites were defeated. Only 400 men escaped on their camels. David's little army took back all the cattle and people that the Amalekites had stolen from Ziklag.

"We won!" the men shouted. "No, God won the battle for us," David reminded them. David and the soldiers collected their people, and the things captured from the Amalekites. They began the long walk back home to Ziklag. As they neared the steep hill, the 200 men came out to meet them. But some of David's weary soldiers were not happy to see how rested their friends looked. "We did all the work!" they complained. "You can have your wives and children, but nothing more. You didn't help us win; so, you don't share in anything else." "Wait!" David said, waving his arms. "Who won this battle? We didn't win; the Lord did. He gave us this victory. He protected us. So, all will share alike." And that's the good news of God's grace. When God wins the battle, He shares the victory and makes us all winner.

How gentle David's heart was! With few men he conquered the mighty Amalekites; yet this conquest did not let him forget to care for those men whom he had made to stay at the Brook Besor because of their weariness; We often get so preoccupied by our conquests, to forget about our brethren: the weak, the needy, and the afflicted; But David was a true spiritual leader, who cared for all.

Chapter 31:

We don't generally like endings, do we? We don't like the end of our vacation. We don't like the end of the ice cream container. We don't like the end of nice weather. Endings are usually at the end of our list of likes. But in this chapter, we want to affirm a very simple fact: the God of the Bible is the God of every ending. There is no ending which God is not over. There is no ending outside of God's purposes.

The Death Of Saul And Jonathan On Mount Gilboa

We have been studying Saul, the first king of Israel. He started off pretty well in his reign and service to the Lord. He desired to do what was right and God's blessing was upon him; but, in time, his heart turned away from the Lord. He began to sin greatly against God and His people. After a while, God rejected him and his family. Saul, his sons, and many others would die in battle.

Our story takes place during a time when there was a war between the Israelites and Philistines. The Philistines were winning, so the Israelites started retreating and ran from the Philistine army. Many of the Israelites were killed on Mount Gilboa.



Read 31:1-6

It was only about 10 years earlier that David had stood up to the giant of the Philistines, Goliath. David had won a mighty victory over the enemy of Israel because he put his trust in the Lord. However, Saul had refused to follow the Lord. No longer did the nation have God's protection over them. The enemy was winning.

As the Israelites ran from the Philistines, many died. Our enemy wants to attack us. We are strong against his attacks when we are following the Lord and putting on His full armor. When we live a life of disobedience, we open ourselves up to attack. Even at this time, if only Saul had turned to the Lord, the battle might have turned out much differently. We will reap what we sow.

The Philistines closed in on Saul and killed his three sons. Then they pursued Saul and wounded him badly.

Since Saul was critically injured and could not escape, he asked his armor-bearer to kill him so that he would not be captured and tortured by the heathen army. His armor-bearer was afraid, so Saul took his own life. Saul's armor-bearer was responsible for taking care of Saul. When Saul died, he took his own life and died with Saul. Saul, his sons, his armor-bearer and his entire army died on the same day.

Unfortunately, we see Saul's sin did not just affect him; it affected his family (his three sons who also died on the battlefield) and the entire nation. Do not be fooled. If we live a life of sin and rebellion towards God, others will be affected. The choices we make, whether good or bad, affect many other people.

Read 31:7-10

When the other Israelites saw that the Israelite army was defeated and Saul and his sons were dead, they fled from their homes and went hiding. The entire nation felt the consequence of Saul's disobedience as Philistines overran many of their cities on this day. Saul's sin affected himself, his family, and the nation that he was called to rule over. A godly leader will be a blessing to any nation, but an ungodly leader will only bring harm to any nation. [We will reap what we sow.](#)

The next day when the Philistine army came to take the valuables from the bodies, they discovered the bodies of Saul and his three sons. They cut off Saul's head and took off his armor. They sent messengers all over their land to proclaim their victory over Saul and his army. They put his armor in their temple of their idols and strung the bodies up on the wall of Beth Shan for all to see to show their victory over the Israelites and their God. Saul's defeat meant victory for the enemy.

How Satan likes to show off if he wins out over a life. How sad it is that the enemies of God and those who served false gods won the battle this day. Again, it did not have to be that way. If only Saul had chosen to live in obedience to the Lord! [We will reap what we sow.](#)

Read 31:11-13

When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard what had happened to Saul, all their brave men traveled all night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons and took them back to Jabesh where they gave them a proper burial. Then, they went without food, mourned for Saul and his sons, and worshipped God for seven days. When Saul first became king so many years ago, he had helped the people of Jabesh Gilead. Saul must have always had a special place in their hearts. This one act of kindness on the part of the people from Jabesh Gilead showed that Saul did plant a few good seeds early in his life and good fruit came. The people cared about giving him a proper burial. The people from Jabesh Gilead can be commended for their service to Saul.

Saul had rejected God and, in turn, God rejected Saul. God had anointed a new king, David—a man “after His own heart,” who desired to follow and worship the Lord.

Takeaway from chapter 31:

We can learn valuable lessons from the life and death of Saul. Daily, we make choices about the seeds we sow. We will plant, and we will harvest. If we sow bad seeds, choosing to walk in sin and disobedience, we

will harvest the sad consequences of our disobedience. God's desire is that we walk in relationship with Him, choosing to obey and serve the Lord. He would have us reap a harvest His blessings. **We will reap what we sow.**

Saul's jealousy of David blinded Saul to what God had already given him. When we compare ourselves with others, we become confused. We want what they have instead of using what God has equipped us with for our own specific mission. We can stray from God and try to get what we want on our own. Life with God has direction and purpose. Life without God is meaningless.

God expects total obedience, not partial obedience with excuses. When God ordered Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites, including their livestock, Saul spared their king and some of the choice animals. Saul then lied to Samuel, saying the livestock would be used for a sacrifice. Saul thought he knew better than God. That is sin, and it always has adverse consequences.

Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for always there. We ask you God to teach us to go to you when we are going through hardship because you are our strength. You help us grow and mature and you are our guide that we trust. Your plan always works out the best and you always win.

Amen.

Optional activities:

Review questions:

What lessons can we learn from the tragic end of this man who had been filled with the Spirit?

I suggest three:

- 1- beware of grieving away the Spirit of the Lord.
- 2- beware of jealousy, which in Saul's case left the borders of his kingdom unprotected while he pursued David.
- 3- and beware of disobeying any known command of God.

Multiple choice questions with answers from chapter 30 or check the link for questions on any other chapter in 1 Samuel. Maybe pick a few from chapter 31 too.

https://biblicalelearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/09_Questions_1Samuel.pdf

1 Samuel 30 [choose the questions that would benefit your youth group]

1. After being told to go home by Achish as he prepared to fight Saul where did David and his men return to (1 Sam 30:1)?

- A. Beth Zur
 - B. Debir
 - C. Lachish
 - D. Ziklag
- D:B:1S:30

2. Who had attacked and burned Ziklag while David and his men were away (1 Sam 30:1)?

- A. The Edomites
- B. The Amalekites
- C. The Geserites
- D. The Jebusites

B:B:1S:30

3. What else did the Amalekites do that burned the city of Ziklag (1 Sam 30:2)?

- A. They killed all the men, women and children
- B. They took all the livestock and camels
- C. They took the women and children captive
- D. They took all the gold and silver

C:B:1S:30

4. What of David's did the Amalekites who attacked Ziklag take captive (1 Sam 30:5)?

- A. Ahinoam and Abigail, his two wives
- B. His wives and his sons Solomon and Absalom
- C. The sword of Goliath
- D. The ark of the covenant

A:B:1S:30

5. After Ziklag was burned what did David's men talk about doing (1 Sam 30:6)?

- A. Stoning David
- B. Pursuing the Philistines
- C. Returning to the cave of Adullam
- D. Rejoining the troops of Saul

A:B:1S:30

6. Whose son was Abiathar David's priest (1 Sam 30:7)?

- A. Abimelech
- B. Phineas
- C. Samuel
- D. Ahimelech

D:I:1S:30

7. What did David request of Abiathar to consult with the Lord about what to do after Ziklag was attacked by the Amalekites (1 Sam 30:7)?

- A. Bringing out the ark of the covenant
- B. Bring the ephod
- C. Bring the Urim
- D. Bring him the scrolls

B:B:1S:30

8. How many men went with David to pursue the Amalekites after Ziklag was attacked (1 Sam 30:9)?

- A. 200

- B. 400
 - C. 600
 - D. 1,000
- C:I:1S:30

9. When David was chasing the Amalekites who had burned Ziklag, who was brought to David (1 Sam 30:11)?

- A. An Edomite
- B. An Amalekite
- C. An Egyptian
- D. A Philistine

C:B:1S:30

10. David's troops gave the Egyptian they found in the field while they were chasing the Amalekites all of the following EXCEPT (1 Sam 30:11f)

- A. Water
- B. Cake of pressed figs
- C. Wine
- D. Two cakes of raisins

C:A:1S:30

11. How long had the Egyptian brought to David when they were chasing the Amalekites not eaten or drunk anything (1 Sam 30:12)?

- A. One day
- B. Two days
- C. Three days
- D. Five days

C:A:1S:30

12. When David asked the Egyptian who he was how did the Egyptian respond (1 Sam 30:13)?

- A. He was a slave of an Amalekite
- B. He was a spy for the king of Egypt
- C. He was a merchant from Egypt
- D. He was an escaped prisoner from Egypt

A:I:1S:30

13. Why did the Egyptians Amalekite master abandon him in the desert (1 Sam 30:13)?

- A. Because they had run out of food
- B. Because he became ill
- C. Because he could not keep up with them
- D. Because the Egyptians were going to attack

B:I:1S:30

14. When David came on the Amalekites what were they doing (1 Sam 30:16)?

- A. Preparing to raid Hebron of Judah
- B. Eating, drinking and reveling because of the plunder

- C. Offering a sacrifice to their gods
- D. Fleeing from David and the Philistines

B:B:1S:30

15. What did David recover from the Amalekites (1 Sam 30:18)?

- A. The ark
- B. The sword of Goliath
- C. His two wives
- D. The crown of Saul

C:B:1S:30

16. What did some of David's men want to do with the 200 men who did not follow beyond the Besore Ravine (1 Sam 30:22)?

- A. Give them only enough water to return to camp
- B. Give them only their wives and children but no plunder
- C. Give them nothing since they did not help
- D. Give them only the plunder from the Philistine camp

B:I:1S:30

17. What did David say about the Amalekite plunder (1 Sam 30:24)?

- A. Those who guarded the supplies should receive the same as those who went to battle
- B. All the plunder should be burned up to the Lord
- C. Those who did not go to battle should receive only their own supplies back
- D. Those who went into battle should receive a double portion

A:B:1S:30

