



DEAF PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

1 Samuel

Eric Geiger, General Editor

SHARING THE GOSPEL

The word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel.



1. God rules. The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. (See Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; and Colossians 1:16-17.)

2. We sinned. Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (See Romans 3:23.) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death. (See Romans 6:23.)

3. God provided. God sent His Son Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (See John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9.)

4. Jesus gives. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever. (See Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; and 1 Peter 3:18.)

5. We respond. We can respond to Jesus. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to receive the gift Jesus offers.

Admit to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey. (See Romans 3:23.) Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, and turn away from your sin. (See Acts 3:19 and 1 John 1:9.) Repenting doesn’t just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works, and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and accept God’s gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you, and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (See Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; and Ephesians 2:8-9.)

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge of your life. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and can look forward to being with God forever. (See Romans 10:9-10,13.)

CONTENTS

» FEATURES

Bible Reading Plan	3
Accepting Christ	4
Introduction to 1 Samuel	6
Word List	114
Leader Guide	117
Prayer Journal	144



» SESSIONS

	Title.....	Page
Session 1:	Answered! (1 Samuel 1:10-18,26-28)	8
Session 2:	Called (1 Samuel 3:1-10,17-21)	16
Session 3:	Worthy! (1 Samuel 5:1-6; 6:11-16)	24
Session 4:	King? (1 Samuel 8:4-9,19-22)	32
Session 5:	Feared (1 Samuel 12:12-22)	40
Session 6:	Judged (1 Samuel 15:7-15,22-23)	48
Session 7:	Anointed! (1 Samuel 16:4-13)	56
Session 8:	Delivered (1 Samuel 17:32-37,42-50)	64
Session 9:	Faithful (1 Samuel 18:1-5, 20:35-42)	72
Session 10:	Blinded (1 Samuel 22:6-17)	80
Session 11:	Protected (1 Samuel 25:14-17,32-38)	88
Session 12:	Respect (1 Samuel 26:7-12,21-25)	96
Session 13:	Victory (1 Samuel 30:6-8,18-25)	104



» GENERAL EDITOR



In 1 Samuel we will see the story of God's people. As we do, we see the greatness of our God over His people. He is worthy. He is holy. He is the God above all gods, the King above all kings.

Many times, life takes its toll on us and we are prone to take our eyes off God and His great sufficiency for us. Because of this, your discussions and emphasis on God's greatness and the victories that He wins His people will be a great reminder and encouragement for those you are serving. As you study the text in its context and seek to obey it in your context, I know the Lord will encourage you and challenge you. Our God is still great, is still caring for His people, and is still the King above all kings.

In Christ,

Eric Geiger

Eric received his doctorate in leadership and church ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kaye, have two daughters: Eden and Evie.

» MEET THE WRITER



Jim Booth is retired and serves as the team leader for the Deaf ministry at Pinelake Baptist Church and a contract consultant for Deaf ministries at the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

He has served as pastor to Deaf churches in Oregon, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He also was the director of the Office on Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the state of Mississippi and the counselor for students with disabilities for Hinds Community College in Jackson, Mississippi. He and his wife, Edith, have two daughters.

Explore
the Bible®

DEAF PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 4

Send questions/comments to
Explore the Bible: DEAF
Nashville, TN 37234
By email to
explorethebible@ifeway.com

This study was originally published as EXPLORE THE BIBLE: DEAF PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE (ISSN 2167-8820; Item 005075111) by Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, TN 37234, Copyright © 2016 Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

Scripture taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover photo and pages 8, 40, 48, 64, 88, 96, 113, 117

©istockphoto.com

Photos on pages cover page 2, 1, 24, 32, 56, 72, 80

©Lightstock.com

Photo on page 16 ©Shutterstock.com

Photo on page 104 ©Gettyimages.com

BIBLE READING PLAN

JUNE

- ☐ 1. 1 Samuel 1:1-7
- ☐ 2. 1 Samuel 1:8-18
- ☐ 3. 1 Samuel 1:19-28
- ☐ 4. 1 Samuel 2:1-11
- ☐ 5. 1 Samuel 2:12-17
- ☐ 6. 1 Samuel 2:18-26
- ☐ 7. 1 Samuel 2:27-36
- ☐ 8. 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- ☐ 9. 1 Samuel 3:11-21
- ☐ 10. 1 Samuel 4:1-11
- ☐ 11. 1 Samuel 4:12-22
- ☐ 12. 1 Samuel 5:1-5
- ☐ 13. 1 Samuel 5:6-12
- ☐ 14. 1 Samuel 6:1-9
- ☐ 15. 1 Samuel 6:10-21
- ☐ 16. 1 Samuel 7:1-8
- ☐ 17. 1 Samuel 7:9-17
- ☐ 18. 1 Samuel 8:1-9
- ☐ 19. 1 Samuel 8:10-22
- ☐ 20. 1 Samuel 9:1-10
- ☐ 21. 1 Samuel 9:11-20
- ☐ 22. 1 Samuel 9:21-27
- ☐ 23. 1 Samuel 10:1-9
- ☐ 24. 1 Samuel 10:10-16
- ☐ 25. 1 Samuel 10:17-27
- ☐ 26. 1 Samuel 11:1-15
- ☐ 27. 1 Samuel 12:1-12
- ☐ 28. 1 Samuel 12:13-19
- ☐ 29. 1 Samuel 12:20-25
- ☐ 30. 1 Samuel 13:1-9

JULY

- ☐ 1. 1 Samuel 13:10-15
- ☐ 2. 1 Samuel 13:16-22
- ☐ 3. 1 Samuel 14:1-14
- ☐ 4. 1 Samuel 14:15-23
- ☐ 5. 1 Samuel 14:24-36
- ☐ 6. 1 Samuel 14:37-46
- ☐ 7. 1 Samuel 14:47-52
- ☐ 8. 1 Samuel 15:1-9
- ☐ 9. 1 Samuel 15:10-19
- ☐ 10. 1 Samuel 15:20-25
- ☐ 11. 1 Samuel 15:26-35
- ☐ 12. 1 Samuel 16:1-7
- ☐ 13. 1 Samuel 16:8-13
- ☐ 14. 1 Samuel 16:14-23
- ☐ 15. 1 Samuel 17:1-11
- ☐ 16. 1 Samuel 17:12-24
- ☐ 17. 1 Samuel 17:25-32
- ☐ 18. 1 Samuel 17:33-40
- ☐ 19. 1 Samuel 17:41-47
- ☐ 20. 1 Samuel 17:48-58
- ☐ 21. 1 Samuel 18:1-9
- ☐ 22. 1 Samuel 18:10-19
- ☐ 23. 1 Samuel 18:20-30
- ☐ 24. 1 Samuel 19:1-10
- ☐ 25. 1 Samuel 19:11-24
- ☐ 26. 1 Samuel 20:1-9
- ☐ 27. 1 Samuel 20:10-17
- ☐ 28. 1 Samuel 20:18-26
- ☐ 29. 1 Samuel 20:27-34
- ☐ 30. 1 Samuel 20:35-42
- ☐ 31. 1 Samuel 21:1-9

AUGUST

- ☐ 1. 1 Samuel 21:10-15
- ☐ 2. 1 Samuel 22:1-10
- ☐ 3. 1 Samuel 22:11-17
- ☐ 4. 1 Samuel 22:18-23
- ☐ 5. 1 Samuel 23:1-8
- ☐ 6. 1 Samuel 23:9-18
- ☐ 7. 1 Samuel 23:19-29
- ☐ 8. 1 Samuel 24:1-7
- ☐ 9. 1 Samuel 24:8-15
- ☐ 10. 1 Samuel 24:16-22
- ☐ 11. 1 Samuel 25:1-11
- ☐ 12. 1 Samuel 25:12-22
- ☐ 13. 1 Samuel 25:23-28
- ☐ 14. 1 Samuel 25:29-35
- ☐ 15. 1 Samuel 25:36-44
- ☐ 16. 1 Samuel 26:1-8
- ☐ 17. 1 Samuel 26:9-16
- ☐ 18. 1 Samuel 26:17-25
- ☐ 19. 1 Samuel 27:1-7
- ☐ 20. 1 Samuel 27:8-12
- ☐ 21. 1 Samuel 28:1-6
- ☐ 22. 1 Samuel 28:7-19
- ☐ 23. 1 Samuel 28:20-25
- ☐ 24. 1 Samuel 29:1-5
- ☐ 25. 1 Samuel 29:6-11
- ☐ 26. 1 Samuel 30:1-10
- ☐ 27. 1 Samuel 30:11-17
- ☐ 28. 1 Samuel 30:18-22
- ☐ 29. 1 Samuel 30:23-31
- ☐ 30. 1 Samuel 31:1-6
- ☐ 31. 1 Samuel 31:7-13



ACCEPTING CHRIST



Joyce Smith Testimony

My mother and father were deaf. I was a little hearing girl, growing up in the 1940s, in Easley, South Carolina, on Arial Mill Village. My parents worked in a textile mill. Early in our lives, my sister, brother, and I learned American Sign Language. So everywhere we went, we signed. People would watch us sign with our parents and were amazed that we could communicate with our hands.

My father and mother did not have a car. We traveled on a city bus or to nearby cities on the Greyhound bus. They regularly attended church with the Deaf at First Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina. Each Sunday, hearing and deaf kids would play in the back of the room, while a Deaf man taught the Bible lesson. Afterwards, we ate at a restaurant for fellowship. That is all I knew about church. Everyday Mother would sign to me, “Jesus loves you. Jesus knows you. Jesus watches you, no matter where you go.” This assurance helped me not to be afraid.

When I was ten years old, a neighbor friend wrote a note to my mother and asked if I could go to the hearing church with her family. Mom signed to me, “Do you want to go to the hearing church?” I jumped up and down and signed, “YES! YES!” Oh, I was so happy. Now I could go to church with my hearing friends. My mother made an endearing sacrifice.

In 1950, the church had a revival. I was eleven years old. I remember seeing men kneeling in prayer in front of houses on our street each Saturday. I would hear them praying when I walked down the hallway to my class on Sunday. My sister and I decided to go to the revival.

I heard the preacher say, “Jesus Christ is God’s Son and lived on the earth thirty-three years to show us what God is like. He died on a cross for our sin. God, the Father, raised Him from the dead. Today, He lives in heaven and wants all people to believe in Him and someday go to heaven and live with Him forever.”

The Preacher said, “If we do not admit to Jesus that we are a sinner and turn away from sin and believe Jesus Christ is God’s Son and ask for and receive God’s forgiveness, then we will not have eternal life in heaven with God when we die.”

┌

The Preacher said, "Pray to God with your words, **'Dear Jesus, I know you love me. I am a sinner. I want to turn away from sin. I believe you will forgive me of my sin. I will place my faith in you as my Savior and Lord. I will read your Word in the Holy Bible. I will go to church to learn more about you with others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.'**"

I prayed that prayer and asked Jesus to come into my heart. More than one hundred people were saved. Ninety-seven people were baptized. My favorite Bible verse became John 3:16.

God called me to be a missionary when I was twelve years old in Girls Auxiliary, a missions organization in our church. I married my high school sweetheart. We have three children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We served fifty-one years as Missionaries to the Deaf in South Carolina, North Carolina, and New Mexico. For many years, my mother and father served in ministry with us. Today, we live in our hometown to be near our family.

If you have never given your life to God, today is the day. Pray the prayer in bold print. If you prayed that prayer, tell your Bible teacher or pastor. Welcome to God's family!

INTRODUCTION TO 1 SAMUEL

Israel had no national government when the story began in the Book of 1 Samuel. When they came out of slavery in Egypt, Moses was their leader but God was their King. When Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead His people. After Joshua died, God chose judges to lead the nation of Israel. The Book of Judges tells how the judges helped the nation work together for about four hundred years. The judges led the nation during wars with other nations. Judges were common men and women who obeyed God. God led them to make wise decisions.

The Book of 1 Samuel tells the story of how Samuel led the people until they decided they wanted a king like the other nations around them. Their first king was King Saul.

»» Who wrote the Book of 1 Samuel?

In the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. First and Second Samuel were one book named Samuel. When the Old Testament was translated into Greek, the translators divided Samuel into two books. They named the books 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.

The Bible does not tell us who wrote 1 and 2 Samuel. Men who wrote about Jewish history, other than the Bible, said Samuel wrote them. Some Bible teachers believe a son of the prophet Nathan wrote them using Samuel's notes because Samuel died before the end of events in the Book of 2 Samuel.

»» When was 1 Samuel written?

The events in 1 Samuel happened between 1100 – 1000 B.C. The book was written sometime after 930 B.C.

»» Why was the Book of 1 Samuel written?

Other nations near Israel had kings. When a nation had a king, the people felt good about their nation. Why? Because kings had an army to protect the nation. Also a king had a fine house and beautiful horses and carriages. The people were proud when the king was dressed in his royal clothes and rode his beautiful horse.

The people of Israel thought life would be better with a king. They would also feel good having a king because Israel would not be different. Israel would be like their neighbors. The people of Israel complained to Samuel and

┌
demanded that God give them a king. The people of Israel did not want God to be their king. They wanted a man to be their king.

The first king of Israel was named Saul. When he was chosen to be king he was a good king, but soon he became like the **pagan** kings. He thought only about what he wanted. He rejected God.

First Samuel begins with the story of King David's reign after Saul's death. That story is continued through 2 Samuel. David was Israel's king for a very long time. God blessed David's reign as king of Israel. During David's reign as king, God blessed Israel. Israel became a very strong nation.



Session 1

ANSWERED!

1 SAMUEL 1:10-18, 26-28

God answers prayer when people humbly seek Him.

FIRST THOUGHTS

Children were important to Jewish families. In Old Testament times, a man who had many sons felt blessed. Wives who had no children often thought God was punishing them. Was God punishing Hannah? The Bible does not say God punished Hannah. Hannah wanted a child. She believed God could help her. She asked God to give her a child. She trusted God, and she made a promise to God.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Hannah did not have any children. This made her very sad because every woman wanted children. Why did she not have children? There are many reasons why a woman may not have children. Today there are many ways doctors can help couples who want children. We do not know why Hannah had no children. We will learn that God truly loved Hannah. God also loves us. He will help us as he helped Hannah.

Hannah was married to Elkanah. They were from the Jewish **tribe** of Levi. Elkanah had another wife, named Peninnah. Peninnah had sons and daughters. She teased Hannah because Hannah had no children.

Elkanah was a religious man. Each year the family made a trip to Shiloh to worship at the **tabernacle**. On these trips, Peninnah's mean words hurt Hannah and made her cry.

Elkanah wanted to comfort Hannah, but sometimes his words did not help. He would ask, "Why are you crying?" Elkanah should have seen Peninnah teasing Hannah. He should have known why Hannah was crying.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 1:10-18,26-28)

1. Hannah Prayed (1 Samuel 1:10-11)

VERSE 10.

¹⁰ *Hannah was very sad. She cried much and prayed to the Lord.*

In verses 1-10, we learn how Elkanah's family ate their meal together. When they finished, Hannah went to the tabernacle. Eli, the priest, was sitting in a chair near the door. He watched Hannah as she cried and prayed. Her lips were moving because she prayed quietly. Men often spoke loudly in public. Women were quiet in public. Hannah obeyed the customs of her world. She prayed quietly. She believed God could help her. She came to talk with God.

VERSE 11.

¹¹ *She made a promise, saying, "LORD All-Powerful, see how sad I am. Remember me and don't forget me. If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life, and no one will ever cut his hair with a razor."*

Hannah's special promise was to give her son back to God for all his life. This was difficult for her to do. It meant she would give up her son. When he was a young boy he would go and live at the tabernacle. She would see him only when she came to the city of Shiloh to worship at the tabernacle. Her promise was called a **Nazirite vow**. This was a promise to God that she would dedicate her son to God. He would serve God all his life. Read more about the Nazirite vow in Numbers 6:1-21.

Hannah wanted a son. She knew God was not angry with her. Her prayer showed she trusted God. Maybe other people thought she had sinned. Maybe other people thought God was punishing her. Hannah had a deep trust in God. She asked God to give her a son. Then she would give him back to God. She would only keep him for a few years. When he could feed himself, Hannah brought him to Shiloh to Eli, the priest.

BIBLE SKILL: *What Is the Importance of Shiloh?*

In verse 21, we read how Elkanah went with his whole family to the city of Shiloh every year. The tabernacle was in Shiloh. Shiloh had a long history of important events for the people of Israel.

Shiloh was the central city when the Israelites went into the promised land (Joshua 18:8-9).

When Israel was traveling from Egypt to the promised land, God told them to make a tent (tabernacle). It became the place where they worshiped God. When Israel entered the promised land, Shiloh was a city with walls. Israel set up the tabernacle at Shiloh (Joshua 18:1). The people came to Shiloh to worship God. God's presence was in the tabernacle at Shiloh.

Prayer is our connection with God. We pray because of our faith in God. God answers us because of His grace. Hannah prayed because she had faith in God's love and His power. Sometimes God gives us what we ask, no matter if our faith is not strong. When our faith in Him is strong, God can trust us more. Hannah's faith was strong. She knew God loved her. She knew God could give her a son. She was willing to give her son back to God.

Would you be willing to give your child to God? YES NO.

If your teenage daughter wanted to go on a mission trip to another nation, would you trust God and let her go? YES NO.

Write a few words why you would answer that way.

Suppose your adult child wanted to serve God in a dangerous nation? What advice would you give to your child?

2. Eli Encouraged Hannah (1 Samuel 1:12-18)

VERSES 12-14.

¹² *While Hannah kept praying, Eli watched her mouth.*

¹³ *She was praying in her heart so her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk*

¹⁴ *And said to her, "Stop getting drunk! Throw away your wine!"*

While she prayed, Hannah thought about the Lord. She spoke to God from her heart. She wanted God to help her with her problem.

Eli was an older man. He had served the Lord as a priest in the **tabernacle** for many years. Eli watched her lips. Eli thought he knew what was wrong with Hannah. He did not know what was in her heart. He guessed she was drunk. He scolded her and told her to stop being drunk.

VERSES 15-16.

¹⁵ *Hannah answered, "No, sir, I have not drunk any wine or beer. I am a deeply troubled woman, and I was telling the Lord about all my problems.*

¹⁶ *"Don't think I am an evil woman. I have been praying because I have many troubles and am very sad."*

Hannah was shocked that Eli thought she was drunk. Often when we worship God, some people do not understand us. Spiritual struggles can be filled with a lot of emotion. Sometimes, we may cry. Sometimes, we speak quietly to the Lord. Hannah did not want others to know her struggle. Her promise to the Lord was private. She did not talk loud. She spoke quietly without sound. The Lord knew her heart.

Hannah explained that she was not drunk. She had a deep problem and only God could help her. She wanted to explain her problem to God.

VERSES 17-18.

¹⁷ *Eli answered, "Go! I wish you well. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of Him."*

¹⁸ *Hannah said, "May I always please you." When she left and ate something, she was not sad anymore.*

Eli made a mistake. He thought he knew Hannah's problem. He did not understand Hannah's need. But Eli ended his ministry to Hannah in a good way. He gave her a blessing, "I wish you well, and may the God of Israel give you what you asked of Him."

The Scripture makes a simple statement about Hannah. It says when Hannah left, she was not sad anymore.

Have you been like Eli and assumed you knew what someone meant? (*Assumed* means “you didn’t know the facts.”) Then later, you learned you had guessed wrong. YES NO.

Why do you think Eli thought he knew what was wrong with Hannah?

3. Hannah Presented Samuel to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:26-28)

Read verses 19-25 to understand the rest of this story.

VERSES 26-28.

²⁶ *She (Hannah) said to Eli, “As surely as you live, sir, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord.*

²⁷ *I prayed for this child, and the Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me.*

²⁸ *Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life.” And he worshiped the Lord there.*

In verse 19, Hannah returned home after her prayer. God heard her prayer. God answered her and gave Hannah a son.

KEY DOCTRINE: *God Answers Prayer*

The Bible tells us that God always answers our prayers. God told Jeremiah to pray and God would answer him. God would tell him “important secrets you have never heard before” (Jeremiah 33:3).

We must also remember that God is good and faithful. Sometimes He tells us, “Not now.” Sometimes He says, “No.” And sometimes He says, “Yes.” But no matter how He answers, we know we can trust Him.

Names are important in Hebrew culture. Hannah named her son Samuel. The first part of the name means to hear. The last two letters, *El*, is a Hebrew word for God’s name. Samuel’s name means God heard.

The next year Hannah did not go to Shiloh with the family. Samuel was a baby. She explained to her husband that she should stay home. Hannah cared for Samuel while he was a young child.

When Samuel was about three years old (verse 24 says he was “old enough to eat solid food”), Hannah went back to the **tabernacle** in the city of Shiloh. She carried Samuel and a large offering to God. She reminded Eli that she was the woman he saw praying. Now, Eli knew why she prayed. She gave Samuel to Eli the priest.

Have you ever asked God to solve a problem for you? YES NO.

How did God answer your prayer?

IN MY CONTEXT

Why was Hannah sad?

Did Hannah fight with Peninnah? YES NO.

Hannah was sad that she did not have a son, but decided not to fight with Peninnah. She told God about her frustrations and trusted Him to help her. She asked God to give her a son and promised to dedicate him to serve God.

Did God answer Hannah's prayer? YES NO.

Did Hannah keep her promise to God? YES NO.

Hannah kept her promise. When her son was born she gave him back to God to serve at the tabernacle.

**Do you sometimes want to get even with someone who hurts you?
YES NO.**

Find Romans 12:19 and copy the first part of the verse here:

Do you know someone who people tease or bully? YES NO.

What does Romans 12:19 say God will do?

Place an “x” beside these ways you can help someone who has been hurt.

___ I can encourage them.

___ I can pray with them.

___ I can help them to trust God to help them.

___ I can be their friend.

God wants to take care of our problems. Why? Because our Heavenly Father loves us. We should trust God no matter what the problem. We can encourage others to trust, too.

Study the memory verse to learn how Hannah praised God.

MEMORY VERSE

Hannah prayed: “The Lord has filled my heart with joy; I feel very strong in the Lord. I can laugh at my enemies; I am glad because you have helped me!” —1 Samuel 2:1



Session 2

CALLED

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10,17-21

God delivers His message through His faithful followers.

FIRST THOUGHTS

God calls men and women to serve Him in different ways. A Deaf pastor once told me he “heard” God speak with a voice, saying, “Go, and preach the gospel.” Most pastors and missionaries say they had a “strong feeling” of God calling them to serve.

Sometimes God calls us to be a career missionary. Sometimes He calls us to be a Sunday School teacher, an interpreter, or a pastor. This lesson teaches us how God called Samuel.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Samuel’s mother prayed and asked God to give her a son. She promised to give her son to serve God all his life. When Samuel was born she cared for him. Hannah nursed him and began to teach him. Samuel learned to walk and talk and feed himself. When Samuel was a few years old, she brought him to Eli the priest. We do not know how old Samuel was when he came to live at

the **tabernacle**. Most Bible teachers think he was three. Others think he was ten or eleven. From that time he served God.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 3:1-10,17-21)

1. God's Voice (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

VERSE 1.

¹ *The boy Samuel served the Lord under Eli. In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often; there were very few visions.*

Samuel was a young boy when he began to serve at the tabernacle. He learned how to serve God. The people of Israel had not obeyed God for many years. After Joshua died, the Bible named only three prophets in Israel until Samuel. When there were no prophets, God did not speak to Israel.

VERSES 2-5.

² *Eli's eyes were so weak he was almost blind. One night he was lying in bed.*

³ *Samuel was also in bed in the Lord's house, where the Ark of the Agreement was. God's lamp was still burning.*

⁴ *Then the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel answered, "I am here!"*

⁵ *He ran to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.*

Samuel had never heard God speak and thought it was Eli. But it was not Eli who called his name.

VERSES 6-8.

⁶ *The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel again went to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." Again Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."*

⁷ *Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the Lord had not spoken directly to him yet.*

⁸ *The Lord called Samuel for the third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me." Then Eli realized the Lord was calling the boy.*

This is a sad story because Eli was the priest. He should have understood immediately that God was calling Samuel. Why was Eli slow to realize it was God? In last week's lesson, when Eli saw Hannah praying (1:13), he thought she was drunk. We could say it was because he was old. But old people hear God and know his voice. Eli had become spiritually weak. His sons served at the tabernacle. His sons were doing sinful things to the people. Eli did not correct his sons.

God was going to punish Eli and his family because they stopped listening to Him.

BIBLE SKILL: *The Ark of the Agreement*

After the people of Israel came out of slavery in Egypt, God gave Moses instructions for the tabernacle and a special box. The box was called the ark of the Lord, or the ark of the covenant, or the ark of the agreement (Exodus 25:10-22). It was 45 inches long, 27 inches wide and 27 inches high. It was covered with gold and had an angel on top at each end. The stone tablets with the Ten Commandments and some manna were put into the ark.

The ark of the agreement was kept in the holy of holies in the tabernacle. It represented the presence of God because God sat on the top (1 Samuel 4:4). If you want to know more about the ark of the agreement, read Exodus 25:10-22.

VERSES 9-10.

⁹ *So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If He calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant and I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in bed.*

¹⁰ *The Lord came and stood there and called as He had before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant and I am listening."*

Eli was not faithful to God. But Eli taught Samuel how to answer God. Samuel had never heard God speak. He did not know God's voice. After God called Samuel that night, Samuel knew God's voice. Each time God spoke, Samuel listened to God's message. Samuel served God until he was old. When God called, Samuel always told the Lord, "I am listening."

KEY DOCTRINE: *God Calls People to Serve Him*

God called Samuel with a voice that Samuel heard. Most people do not hear a voice. Most people "feel" God speaking in their heart and mind. God called Isaiah with a vision (Isaiah 6:1-8).

When God called my wife and me, we both felt God's call at the same time. We both felt God's call, but it does not matter how God calls. He calls us to do a work for Him. He may call you to be a pastor or a missionary. He may call you to be a Sunday School teacher. He may call you for a big job or a small one. We must listen for God's call. And then we must answer, "Yes!"

God speaks to us most of the time through the Bible. Sometimes God may speak in other ways. We must be sure what we hear agrees with the Bible. Also, we must develop our spiritual listening skills. How? By reading the Bible each day. When we read the Bible, we learn about God. God will speak through what we read in the Bible.

The stories in the Bible are interesting, but God did not give us the Bible to **entertain** us. God speaks to us through the Bible stories. When we read stories about how God protected David, then we understand God will protect us, too.

Read the verses in your lesson each week. Ask God to speak to you. Ask him to let you understand His Word. Follow Samuel's example and listen for God's voice. Then open your heart to know God.

Sin in your life can prevent you from hearing God's voice.

Do you ask God to convict you about your sin? YES NO.

We need to **confess** our sin and ask God to forgive us. When our hearts are clean from sin, we will be closer to God. We will be ready to hear God speak to us.

Does God speak to you often? YES NO.

In verse 9, what did Eli tell Samuel to say when God called him? "I am _____."

2. God's Message (1 Samuel 3:17-18)

Read verses 11-16 to understand the rest of this story.

VERSES 17-18.

¹⁷ *Eli asked, "What did the LORD say to you? Don't hide it from me. May God punish you terribly if you hide from me anything He said to you."*

¹⁸ *So Samuel told Eli everything and did not hide anything from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD. Let Him do what He thinks is best."*

God gave this prophecy to Samuel and not to Eli. Why? Eli was not spiritually ready to listen to God. Eli asked Samuel to tell him the prophecy. Eli wanted to know, but he was also teaching Samuel. A prophet's responsibility was to tell God's people what God said. The people had no Bible to read. When God gave a prophecy, He wanted the prophet to share the message with the people.

Did Eli think the prophecy was about himself? Maybe. God had already warned Eli about his sons' sin (1 Samuel 2:22-25). God told Eli to make his sons stop their sin. Eli did nothing to punish or make his sons change. His sons continued to minister at the **tabernacle** and take advantage of the people.

Why do you think Eli wanted to know what God said?

3. A Prophet (1 Samuel 3:19-21)

VERSES 19-21.

¹⁹ *The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up; He did not let any of Samuel's messages fail to come true.*

²⁰ *Then all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew Samuel was a true prophet of the Lord.*

²¹ *And the Lord continued to show himself at Shiloh, and He showed himself to Samuel through His word.*

Samuel was faithful to the Lord and God blessed Samuel. All of Samuel's prophecies came true. This does not mean he could say anything he wanted to say. It means that he listened to God. He spoke only the prophecies that God told him to say.

A true prophet of God is a person who gives true prophecies. All of Samuel's prophecies were true. The people knew Samuel was a real prophet of God.

In verse 20, the words *from Dan to Beersheba* mean all the nation of Israel. *Dan* was the farthest city north and *Beersheba* was the farthest city south in Israel. Find these two cities on an Old Testament map. Today, we

might say “from New York to Hawaii.” That would mean all of our nation. Everyone in the nation of Israel believed Samuel was a true prophet of God.

Remember, 1 Samuel 3:1 said, “There were very few visions.” Now, in verse 21, we learn, “And the Lord continued to show himself at Shiloh. He showed himself to Samuel through His Word.” This means God was pleased with Samuel. God knew Samuel was a faithful prophet.

Look back over the Bible verses for this lesson. What words in these verses describe Samuel as a true prophet of God? Write the words here:

IN MY CONTEXT

How do you think Hannah felt when she brought her son, Samuel, to the tabernacle?

Do you think she was happy to leave her child with Eli? YES NO.

Of course, Hannah felt sad because her son would not grow up in her home. She could not talk with him each day like she did later with her other children. She asked God to give her a son. She made a promise to give him back to God. But, with her sadness, she had joy because Samuel was God's prophet. Parents whose children serve in distant cities or other nations experience that sadness and joy.

Do you think Hannah kept up with Samuel as he grew up in the tabernacle, and later as he led the people of Israel? YES NO.

How do you think she did this?

Write a few words to show how you think Hannah felt when she heard Samuel was leading Israel.

It is important to teach our children about God. We should dedicate our children to God while they are young. If God calls our children to serve Him, we should thank God.

If your child felt God call him or her to be a missionary, would you encourage your child to be obey God's call? YES NO.

If your child wanted to serve in a nation that was dangerous for Christians, would you worry or would you trust God to take care of your child?

Study our Memory Verse. What does that verse mean to you? Write your answer here.

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up; He did not let any of Samuel's messages fail to come true." —1 Samuel 3:19



Session 3

WORTHY!

Only God is **worthy** of our worship and praise.

1 SAMUEL 5:1-6; 6:11-16

FIRST THOUGHTS

As Christians, we are God's children. Children obey their parents. Why? Because children love and **respect** their parents. Parents also know what is best. It is the same with our Heavenly Father. God is holy. That means He always does what is right.

God knows the future. Do we know what will happen tomorrow? No. God knows what will happen anywhere in the world. He knows what will happen in your life. We trust God because He is holy. We obey Him because He knows what is best for us. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:14). God will guide us to do what is right.

God is **worthy** of our obedience, our trust, and our praise.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

In chapter 4, Israel was at war with the **Philistines**. The Philistines lived in **Canaan** (the promised land) long before the people of Israel came from

Egypt. They were the enemies of Israel during much of the time after the Israelites moved into the promised land.

The Philistines defeated Israel in a battle. Israel believed God was present with them because they took the ark of the agreement with them. They believed that God always went with the ark of the agreement. They took it to the battle because they believed God would help them defeat the Philistines. Eli's two sons took it to the battle, but Israel was defeated. Israel's army ran and the ark of the agreement was captured by the Philistines. Eli's two sons were killed.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 5:1-6; 6:11-16)

1. God Is Holy (1 Samuel 5:1-5)

VERSES 1-2.

¹*After the Philistines had captured the Ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.*

²*They carried it into Dagon's temple and put it next to Dagon.*

Dagon was the god of the Philistines. He was an **idol**. The ark of God (also called the ark of the **covenant** or the ark of the agreement) was put in the temple of Dagon. The Philistines believed the ark of the agreement was Israel's idol. They placed it in front of the idol of Dagon. The Philistines believed their god had defeated Israel's God. When they put the ark of the agreement in the temple of Dagon, they believed God was serving Dagon.

The ark of the agreement was not an idol. An idol is anything that takes the place of God. An idol can be a statue or an object. Idols can also be a person or an idea. If I depend on anything more than God, that thing becomes my idol. If I believe my lucky rabbit's foot keeps me safe, then that rabbit's foot is my idol. The Bible tells us that God is jealous. He wants our love. He wants us to come to Him when we need something. For a Christian, there is no luck. We trust only in God to take care of us.

VERSES 3-5.

³*When the people of Ashdod rose early the next morning, they found that Dagon had fallen on his face on the ground before the Ark of the LORD. So they put Dagon back in his place.*

⁴*The next morning when they rose, they again found Dagon fallen on the ground before the Ark of the LORD. His head and hands had broken off and were lying in the doorway. Only his body was still in one piece.*

⁵ *So, even today, Dagon's priests and others who enter his temple at Ashdod refuse to step on the doorsill.*

God is always more powerful than false idols. The **Philistines** thought Israel lost the battle because God was weak. They had never seen a god like Israel's God. **Dagon** was the Philistine's god. The Philistines' god was an **idol**. The Philistine people had to take care of Dagon. He had no power. The Philistines thought God was like Dagon. They believed the ark of the agreement was an idol of Israel.

The next morning the Philistines were shocked! Dagon was lying on his face before the ark of the agreement like he was bowing before it. They were puzzled. The second morning it was worse. Dagon fell again and His head and hands were broken off.

What caused Dagon to fall on his face?

Dagon fell down before the ark of the agreement. What does that mean?

2. God's Judgment (1 Samuel 5:6)

VERSE 6.

⁶ *The Lord was hard on the people of Ashdod and their neighbors. He caused them to suffer and gave them growths on their skin.*

The God of Israel did not need men to fight for Him. Instead, God fought for His people. God did not depend on Israel to get the ark of the agreement back from the Philistines. He sent plagues on the Philistines so they would return it to Israel. God punished them like He did the Egyptians (Exodus 8-11). The Philistines were stubborn. For seven months the people suffered because of the growths (tumors) on their skin.

KEY DOCTRINE: *The Holiness of God*

God alone is holy (Revelation 15:4). Every other power must bow before Him. Throughout the Bible we read about God's holiness. Moses said there is no one like God (Exodus 15:11). The psalms frequently speak of God's holiness, as in Psalm 99:9. Isaiah heard the angels singing, "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3).

Today, most people do not understand about God's holiness. They make jokes and use signs that do not respect God's holy nature. In 1 Samuel 6:19-20, some of the men at Beth Shemesh looked into the ark of the agreement. God killed the men. Why? It was kept in the Holy Place in the tabernacle. Only the priests could look at it. When the priests carried it to another place, they covered it so no one was able to see it.

God is holy. He decides what is right. Our responsibility is to obey His instructions.

These verses show us what a wonderful God we have. The **Philistines** had to take care of their god. But God takes care of His children.

When you have a problem, do you ask God to help you? YES NO.

Why did God punish the people of Ashdod?

3. God's Instructions (1 Samuel 6:11-12)

Read 1 Samuel 6:1-10. These are the instructions from God. The Philistine priests and magicians told the people to make golden models of the tumors and the rats. All the golden models would be sent to Israel. It was a gift to the God of Israel. The Philistines knew God was punishing them.

VERSES 11-12.

¹¹ *They put the Ark of the Lord and the box with the gold rats and models of growths on the cart.*

¹² *Then the cows went straight toward Beth Shemesh. They stayed on the road, mooing all the way, and did not turn right or left. The Philistine kings followed the cows as far as the border of Beth Shemesh.*

The Philistines waited seven months to return the ark of the agreement. They knew about the plagues God sent on Egypt. They did not want their people to suffer, but they didn't know what to do. The people who lived in Ashdod were suffering. They demanded the priests tell them how to stop the suffering.

God made tumors grow on their skin. The tumors were painful. There was a problem with rats, too. The Philistines believed God sent the rats.

The **Philistines** wanted to be sure the ark of the agreement went back to Israel. They hitched two cows to the wagon. The cows had new baby calves. They kept the calves in a pen. A mother cow with a new calf will not leave her baby. If the cows went toward Israel, it meant God was leading them. If the cows went toward their calves, it meant God was not leading them. This was how they tested their belief about the ark of the agreement. These verses tell us the cows went straight toward Israel “mooing all the way.” The Philistine kings followed the cows to the borders of Israel. They wanted to be sure the ark of the agreement was returned to Israel.

Think about how God blesses you. Write five things you have because you believe in God:

4. Worship (1 Samuel 6:13-16)

VERSES 13-14.

¹³ *Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley. When they looked up and saw the Ark of the Lord, they were very happy.*

¹⁴ *The cart came to the field belonging to Joshua of Beth Shemesh and stopped near a large rock. The people of Beth Shemesh chopped up the wood of the cart. Then they sacrificed the cows as burnt offerings to the Lord.*

It was early summer and the time for wheat harvest. The farmers were in their fields harvesting wheat. Why did the ark of the agreement come to Beth Shemesh? Was it luck? No. God planned what He did. Beth Shemesh was the home of Aaron’s descendants. Aaron was the first high priest of Israel. This place was also the home of the family that took care of the ark of the agreement. They knew it had been captured and they were happy to see it returned.

VERSES 15-16.

¹⁵ *The Levites took down the Ark of the Lord and the box that had the gold models, and they put both on the large rock. That day the people of Beth Shemesh offered whole burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the Lord.*

¹⁶ *After the five Philistine kings saw this, they went back to Ekron the same day.*

What a wonderful day for that man named Joshua. (This is not the same man that wrote the Book of Joshua in the Bible.) God brought the ark of the agreement back to Israel. Joshua put it on a large rock in his field. Then they worshiped God and made a sacrifice to God. Their sadness was changed to joy. The ark of the agreement was now in the right place.

BIBLE SKILL: *Worship God*

The people worshiped God when the ark of the agreement was returned. The Philistines were afraid of God, but the Israelites feared God. This kind of fear means to honor God's holiness. That doesn't mean we are afraid. It means we respect God. The Philistines did not respect God. They thought their god was stronger. God made the Philistines' false god fall down. God sent tumors that grew on the people. Then the Philistines became afraid of God.

When we pray we tell God how good and wonderful He is. We sing praise to Him because we remember God's goodness. When we worship, we show our respect and love to God.

The five Philistine kings followed the ark back to Israel. They saw the power of God. They had proof that God was a powerful God.

Think about a time when God did something wonderful in your life. Take time to remember what God did for you. Did it make you trust God more? YES NO.

Write a short prayer thanking God for His wonderful blessings in your life.

IN MY CONTEXT

Put these statements in the correct order from the verses in today's lesson.

- ___ For seven months, the Philistines suffered tumors growing on their skin.
- ___ The people begged their false priests to stop the suffering. The false priests could not help.
- ___ The Philistines captured the ark of the agreement and believed their god had defeated Israel's God.
- ___ The Philistines learned Dagon had no power. Dagon could not protect them.
- ___ The Philistines decided to give up and return the ark to Israel.
- ___ The Philistines joyfully placed the ark of the agreement by their god, Dagon.
- ___ The Philistines thought they had defeated Israel.

(Answers: 4 5 1 6 7 3 4)

┌
God is a powerful and living God. TRUE FALSE.

God demands respect from believers and from people who do not believe. TRUE FALSE.

Our Memory Verse comes just a few verses after the verses in today's lesson.

Study this verse and the question, "Who can stand before the Lord?" King David asked a similar question.

Find Psalm 24:3-4. Who does David say can stand in God's holy temple? Only people with _____ hands and _____ hearts. These verses mean someone who is forgiven and made pure by God.

Do you know how a person can have clean hands and a pure heart? Write what you think will give you a pure heart.

If you do not know, ask your teacher or your pastor.

MEMORY VERSE

They said, "Who can stand before the Lord, this holy God? Where can the Ark go from here?" —1 Samuel 6:20



Session 4

KING?

Only God is **worthy** of being the ruler of His people and of His creation.

1 SAMUEL 8:4-9,19-22

FIRST THOUGHTS

When you were young, do you remember how you asked your parents to do something? Sometimes, your parents said, “No.” Then you said, “But everyone is doing it.”

In our Bible verses today, Israel wanted to be the same as the other nations. When they asked for a king, they sinned against God. God was their King. They were saying, “We don’t want you to lead us. We want a man like all the other nations.” From the time they left Egypt, God ruled them through their leaders—Moses, Joshua, the judges, and now Samuel. Now the people were rejecting God as their King.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Samuel was a child when he began serving God in the **tabernacle**. The people watched Samuel grow into a faithful servant of God. Samuel always

told the people what God said. Now, Israel wanted a king like the other nations. Samuel thought the people rejected him.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 8:4-9,19-22)

1. The People Want a King (1 Samuel 8:4-5)

VERSES 4-5.

⁴ *So all the elders came together and met Samuel at Ramah.*

⁵ *They said to him, "You're old, and your sons don't live as you do. Give us a king to rule over us like all the other nations."*

Samuel was now an old man. He was faithful to God and Israel for many years. But God was not finished with him.

The leaders of Israel met Samuel at the city of Ramah. It was the town where Samuel was born. Samuel lived there. He judged Israel at Ramah. The elders asked Samuel to choose a king for Israel.

In verses 1-3, Samuel appointed his two sons to become judges. His sons were not honest. They took money to give wrong judgments. The leaders demanded that Samuel appoint a king over the nation.

Why did they want a king? They said Samuel was old. Perhaps they thought one of Samuel's sons would take his place when he died. They said they wanted a king "to rule over them." They wanted a king "to judge them." They wanted a political king. They wanted to be like the other nations.

Their reasons seem good. But their words show they did not trust God. Samuel was God's leader, but God was in charge. At the right time, God would choose the next leader. Samuel would not make that decision. The people should have trusted God to do what is right. The leaders thought a king would be good. The people would be proud when they saw their king. God is a spirit. They could not see God. They could not point to God and say, "Look at our king. Look at how strong and handsome he is." They wanted to have pride in their king. They wanted to be like other nations.

The leaders did not understand about God's rule over Israel. God ruled them as a nation. But God ruled through human leaders.

Israel sinned when they asked for a king instead of God to rule them. They did not trust God. They did not understand what God had done for them. They did not know a powerful and holy God was the best king. They wanted a political king.

Think about Israel in these verses. Christians are not a nation, but we are God's people. How is our relationship with God like Israel's?

2. The People Reject God (1 Samuel 8:6-9)

VERSE 6.

⁶*When the elders said that, Samuel was not pleased. He prayed to the Lord.*

Samuel was the spiritual leader of Israel. All his life he trusted God. He did what God told him to do. It was the way he lived from the time he went to the **tabernacle** as a young boy. Now, the leaders of Israel demanded a king. Samuel was disappointed because the leaders asked for a king. Samuel did what he always did. He kneeled and prayed. He asked the Lord what he should do. Samuel knew that God would tell him how to answer the leaders of Israel.

VERSES 7-8.

⁷*And the Lord told Samuel, "Listen to whatever the people say to you. They have not rejected you. They have rejected me from being their king.*

⁸*"They are doing as they have always done. When I took them out of Egypt, they left me and served other gods. They are doing the same to you."*

Samuel was disappointed with God's reply. Maybe he expected God to punish Israel. Samuel thought the leaders rejected him. But this was what Israel did often. They looked at the success of other nations and wanted to be like them.

KEY DOCTRINE: *God's Will*

When we talk about God's will we mean what God decides He will do. When we use the word *will* in this way, it does not mean future. Some Deaf Christians sign this as God's plan, or God's want. One part of God's will never changes. For example, God the Father has decided when the world will end. That will never change, but sometimes God's will may change. We call that His permissive will. In our lesson today, God let the people do something against His plan.

A good discussion of this is in Psalm 81:10-16. In verse 12, God said, "I let them go their stubborn way." In verse 13, God said twice, "I wish." Then God said what He would do if His people obeyed. Because He let them choose, and they chose to reject Him, they did not get these blessings.

God told Samuel the leaders rejected Him, not Samuel.

VERSE 9.

⁹ *"Now listen to the people, but warn them what the king who rules over them will do."*

God was willing to give them a king. Sometimes, we continue to ask God for something. When we continue to beg God, He lets us have what we want. Why would God do that? When I was six or seven years old, I loved sweetened condensed milk. Do you know what that is? It comes in a can. It is very sweet. I begged my mother to get a can of sweetened condensed milk for me. Finally she bought me a can. She told me to eat only two spoonsful a day. I quickly began to use five or six spoonsful. One day, I drank the rest of the can. What happened? I was a very sick boy! My mother knew I did not need the milk, but she became tired of my begging. She taught me a lesson. What we want is not always the same as what we need. Sometimes God gives us what we ask for so He can teach us a lesson.

Israel did not need a king. God was their king. They had Samuel and other prophets to tell them God's message. God let Israel learn their lesson. God told Samuel to tell them what the king would require from them.

The people thought a king would solve their problems. He would have an army to protect the nation. They thought life would be much better. The king would take care of them. They thought they would only need to work their farms and take care of their families. They thought life would be much better.

Later, the people complained. They asked God to help them. But God would not listen or answer them.

Read verses 10-19. Write five things the king will take from the people.

3. The People Rebel (1 Samuel 8:19-22)

VERSES 19-20.

¹⁹ *But the people would not listen to Samuel. They said, “No! We want a king to rule over us.*

²⁰ *Then we will be the same as all the other nations. Our king will judge for us. He will go with us and fight our battles.”*

Why would Israel demand a king? When their ancestors left Egypt, God led them. He saved them from death many times. We studied last week about how God saved the ark of the agreement from the **Philistines**. But the people of Israel demanded a king as if God never did anything for them.

Did the people of Israel have a good reason for wanting a king? They said, “Our king will judge us.” Did they think the king would be a better judge than God? Did they think they could deceive the king? Maybe they could give the king money and then he would judge in the way they wanted.

BIBLE SKILL: *Godly Living*

God wants Christians to be different from non-believers. Most people have TVs, computers, cell phones, etc. How are we different from other people? We are different because we use these things differently from non-believers. We let God lead us each day. We develop a close relationship with God. How? We do that when we take time each day to study the Bible and pray about problems and decisions. We ask God to show us how to use the things we have in ways that honor Him. We also spend time praising God. When we do this we will have a closer relationship with our Lord and we will live a godly life. Read Psalm 1 for the contrast between a godly life and a worldly life.

VERSES 21-22.

²¹ *After Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated their words to the Lord.*

²² *The Lord answered, “You must listen to them. Give them a king.” Then Samuel told the people of Israel, “Go back to your towns.”*

These verses show an important teaching in the Bible. God always wants His people to do what is right. He will tell them what is right. God wants His people to obey the Bible. Sometimes God punishes His people to make them do what He commanded. But if they refuse to obey, God sometimes lets them have what they want. Why? God knows He must let them learn by experience. When they do what they want, they will fail. Then they will learn that God's way is always best.

God told Samuel, "Give them a king."

Are you willing to obey what God tells you to do? Think about this past year. Do you remember a time when you felt God leading you to do something? Write a few words about that experience.

IN MY CONTEXT

Read Hebrews 11:1-32 and use a sheet of paper to copy the list of names of people who obeyed God. These men and women trusted God. Put a check mark beside a name if you know something about that person. Put a plus sign (+) beside the names you want to read more about. Use a concordance to find the verses that help you learn about them.

In today's lesson, the people rejected God's leadership when they asked for a king. They wanted to be like the other nations.

Are we any different from the people in today's lesson? YES NO.

Do we often want to be like everyone else? YES NO.

**Do we want to look like movie stars and live like non-believers?
YES NO.**

Last week, did you ask for something that you know or think is not in His will? YES NO.

Write a prayer asking God to forgive you for not trusting Him as the king in your life.

Or, do you live differently from people you know are not Christians?
YES NO.

Write how your life is different because you are a believer.

Write a prayer thanking God for leading you.

How can your class help each other, and others, follow God more closely?
Discuss this with your class members.

MEMORY VERSE

And the Lord told Samuel, "Listen to whatever the people say to you. They have not rejected you. They have rejected me from being their king." —1 Samuel 8:7



Session 5

FEARED

God's character and power demand **reverent fear**.

1 SAMUEL 12:12-22

FIRST THOUGHTS

The nation of Israel is God's people. We are God's people, also. Sometimes, God did not punish Israel when they sinned. God forgave them. At other times, God punished them. It is the same with us. Sometimes, we suffer because of our sins. Sometimes, God removes the punishment and we do not suffer. God is a gracious and forgiving God. When we obey God, we show we trust Him.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Israel asked for a king. God heard them and told Samuel to appoint Saul as their first king. Samuel reminded them how the king and the people must continue to obey God. The king must not do whatever he wanted. He was under God's **authority**. If the king wanted God's blessing, he must obey God. Then, he could rule the nation well. Israel had a special relationship with God. No other nation had that relationship. Israel was God's chosen people. The king must become God's chosen leader. He must follow God's instructions.

The king became a partner with God to lead the nation to obey God.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 12:12-22)

1. God's Covenant Continues (1 Samuel 12:12-15)

VERSE 12.

¹² *But when you saw Nahash king of the Ammonites coming against you, You said, 'No! We want a king to rule over us!'—even though the Lord your God was your king.*

Samuel reminded the people God was still their king. For a thousand years, God ruled them. God led them in war. He protected them from dangers. Now, when the king of the Ammonites threatened war, Israel asked for a human king. They wanted to be like the other nations. They wanted a king to fight their wars for them.

The people of Israel sinned when the leaders asked for a king. They rejected God as their king. Did they think a man was a better leader than God? Israel's request showed they lost their **respect** for God. God was old fashioned. The people of Israel wanted to be like the other nations. But Israel would never be like the other nations. Why? Because their king would be led by God. If the king did not obey God, he would be punished. The nation would suffer because of the king's **disobedience**.

VERSE 13.

¹³ *Now here is the king you chose, the one you asked for. The Lord has put him over you.*

When God's people decide they want something, God often will give them what they want. He does not give it because it is good. He gives it because the people are stubborn. He does that to teach them. They will learn it was wrong to want it. Israel asked for a king. It was a sinful request. They did not need a king. God was their king. But God let them have their human king.

Israel had their king, but God was still in control. Samuel was God's prophet, and he still spoke for God.

VERSE 14.

¹⁴ *You must honor the Lord and serve Him. You must obey His word and not turn against His commands. Both you and the king ruling over you must follow the Lord your God. If you do, it will be well with you.*

The people of Israel had their king, but their relationship with God did not change. The people wanted to be under a king. That meant they did not want

God to rule them anymore. Samuel told the people they must obey the king. Then he reminded them the king and the people must obey God.

God made a **covenant** with Israel. A covenant means an agreement. God is the heavenly Father of Israel. The people of Israel are the children of God. That relationship with God has not changed.

KEY DOCTRINE: *God's Covenant with Israel*

In Genesis 12:1-3, God made a covenant with Abraham. A covenant is an agreement. What was Abraham's covenant with God? God agreed to be Abraham's God and Abraham agreed that he and his family would be God's people. That covenant was repeated several times. The people failed to keep their part of the covenant, but God never failed them.

When you and I accept Jesus as our Savior, we make the same covenant. We ask God to forgive our sin and we agree to obey and follow God. Because of our faith in Jesus, we are saved. We are God's people.

VERSE 15.

¹⁵ *But if you don't obey the Lord, and if you turn against His commands, He will be against you. He will do to you what He did to your ancestors.*

Samuel reminded the people, "Saul is the king you wanted, but if you do not obey God, He will truly punish you."

God reminded the people of Israel they must obey the covenant (agreement) with God. If they obeyed God, their life would be good. If they did not obey God, they would be punished. God is holy and righteous. He always does what is right. Israel must also do what is right.

America is not God's chosen people like Israel. But God has clearly blessed America. Do you think verse 15 is a warning for America today? YES NO.

Why do you believe that?

2. God Gives a Sign (1 Samuel 12:16-18)

VERSE 16.

¹⁶ *“Now stand still and see the great thing the Lord will do before your eyes.”*

The people of Israel sinned when they asked for a king. They wanted a king because they trusted in a man to lead them more than they trusted God. God led Israel from slavery in Egypt and gave them the promised land. When they moved into the promised land, they lived in cities other people built in the past. They lived in houses they did not buy, and they farmed vineyards God gave them. Now they lived in the land God gave them and demanded a king. It was an insult to God. God blessed them, but now He would show Israel His power.

VERSES 17-18.

¹⁷ *It is now the time of the wheat harvest. I will pray for the Lord to send thunder and rain. Then you will know what an evil thing you did against the Lord when you asked for a king.”*

¹⁸ *Then Samuel prayed to the Lord, and that same day the Lord sent thunder and rain. So the people were very afraid of the Lord and Samuel.*

Storms can be very frightening. I remember when a tornado came a few miles from our house. Our trees twisted and waved about and I wondered if they would be uprooted. We saw trash cans and other things flying in the air on our street. Later, we found boards and other things from buildings that were destroyed. Some of those buildings were several miles from our house.

In Israel, it was the time of the wheat harvest. During this time of the year it is usually dry and they have very little rain. When Samuel prayed, a thunderstorm suddenly began. The people were frightened. They knew the rain and lightning came because Samuel prayed. The storm was not normal and that scared the people. The storm could damage the wheat and the harvest would be less.

BIBLE SKILL: *God's Prophets*

Prophets were important to Israel. Often we think of prophets predicting the future. An example is Isaiah. He told about Jesus' birth and death (Isaiah 7:14; 53:12). Daniel also prophesied about the end of the world (Daniel 12:1-11).

But prophets mostly spoke God's Word when there was sin in Israel. Nathan told King David he had sinned (2 Samuel 12:1-13). Samuel spoke to King Saul when he did not obey God (1 Samuel 15:22).

A prophet was a preacher who told God's instructions to the king and to the people.

Today's prophets are our preachers and pastors. They read God's Word and pray for God to lead them. Their sermons are God's prophecies to us.

We often talk about fearing God. Most times fearing God means to **respect** Him. When we have sinned, we must respect God and ask His forgiveness. When His punishment comes, we need to bless him and learn from God's punishment.

Samuel said the storm was because the people asked for a king. It was a warning to the people and punishment for their sin. It also reminded the people that Samuel was truly God's prophet. Samuel spoke for God.

Israel sinned because they did not respect God. They wanted a king to rule instead of God. Can you think of ways we fail to respect God? List some ways we do not respect God—as a nation, as a church, and as individuals.

3. God's Mercy and Grace (1 Samuel 12:19-22)

VERSE 19.

¹⁹ *They said to Samuel, "Pray to the Lord your God for us, your servants! Don't let us die! We've added to all our sins the evil of asking for a king."*

The people knew they sinned. They wanted to replace God with a king. They thought everything would be better with a king. Now the people confessed their sin to God. **Confess** means "to accept responsibility for their sin." They agreed with God about their sin. They begged Samuel to "pray to the Lord your God for us."

VERSES 20-22.

²⁰ *Samuel answered, "Don't be afraid. It's true that you did wrong, but don't turn away from the Lord. Serve the Lord with all your heart.*

²¹ *Idols are of no use, so don't worship them. They can't help you or save you. They are useless!*

²² *For His own sake, the Lord won't leave His people. Instead, He was pleased to make you His own people.*

In these verses we see how the people of Israel sinned again and again. First, they did not listen to God's prophets. Second, they rebelled against God. Then, God punished them. Finally, they confessed their sin and begged God to forgive them. When their punishment was finished, God always blessed them. David said, "Thank the Lord because He is good. His love continues forever" (Psalm 106:1). God's mercy is His strong love for His people.

When we sin, God will punish us. We are His children. He is a good Father and He loves us. God is sad when He must punish us, but He never stops loving us.

Read Samuel's advice to Israel in verses 20-21. Would you agree this is good advice for us today? YES NO.

We do not bow to idols and worship them. But sometimes we let things or activities take our time from God. That is the same as worshiping an idol. Think of some things or activities that can take you away from worshiping God?

If you can't think of anything, ask God to show you.

IN MY CONTEXT

In our lesson today, God showed His power through the storm and the people respected God and Samuel. This lesson teaches us that God is the perfect leader for His people. When we turn away from God, if we come back to God with reverent **respect** of God, He will accept us. God's mercy and grace will forgive our sin. He will make us like new and will give us a place to serve Him. We only have to ask Him with faith.

Samuel told Israel that God does not throw His people away. That is good news for us, too. God wants us to admit our sin. He desires that we give up our sin and follow Him. Our relationship with God is forever.

Do you often confess your sin to God? YES NO.

If we do not confess our sin, we begin to think we do not sin. Make a commitment to confess your sin and ask God to forgive you every day.

From this lesson and previous lessons, explain what the following terms mean to you:

God's will:

God's permissive will:

God's mercy:

God's grace:

┌
God's compassion:

To repent:

How is "I'm sorry" different from "I repent"?

MEMORY VERSE

Samuel answered, "Don't be afraid. It's true that you did wrong, but don't turn away from the Lord. Serve the Lord with all your heart."

—1 Samuel 12:20



Session 6

JUDGED

God will judge people when they **reject** His instruction.

1 SAMUEL 15:7-15,22-23

FIRST THOUGHTS

Are we required to obey God's Word? In this week's lesson we will see how God required His people to obey what He said. God judged them when they disobeyed Him. For us, that means we need to obey the Bible. God speaks to us through the Bible. He also speaks to us through our pastors and teachers. We must **respect** God's Word and obey Him.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

God led the people of Israel from the time of Abraham until the time of this lesson. He ruled through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, the judges, and then Samuel. In our lesson last week, the people of Israel demanded a king to rule them. Saul led Israel to defeat the **Philistines**. Then he went to fight against the **Amalekites**. God told Saul to kill all the Amalekites and their animals and destroy all their riches.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 15:7-15,22-23)

1. Saul Disobeyed God (1 Samuel 15:7-9)

VERSES 7-8.

⁷Then Saul defeated the Amalekites. He fought them all the way from Havilah to Shur, at the border of Egypt.

⁸He took King Agag of the Amalekites alive, but he killed all of Agag's army with the sword.

One of Saul's early battles was against the **Amalekites**. God told Saul to kill all the Amalekites and all their animals. God told Saul to destroy everything and everyone that belonged to the Amalekites. God told Saul to be sure no person or animal survived.

Remember when Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land, God gave Joshua specific instructions about which cities to destroy. When they destroyed a city, they were not supposed to take anything from the city. Why did God command this? All these cities were **pagan** cities. The people who lived there worshiped idols and false gods. God did not want Israel tempted to accept those false gods.

VERSE 9.

⁹Saul and the army let Agag live, along with the best sheep, fat cattle, and lambs. They let every good animal live, they did not want to destroy them. But when they found an animal that was weak or useless, they killed it.

God told Saul to kill all the army. He must kill the king and all the Amalekite people. He must kill all the animals. That was a clear command. But Saul decided to let king Agag continue to live. Saul decided to kill the sick and weak animals but keep the healthy animals. Saul decided what he wanted do, not what God told him to do. He did not obey God.

Why was it important for King Saul to obey God? Circle the number you think is the best answer.

1. Because Saul was not wise enough to know what to do.
2. Because God has all authority over the king of Israel.
3. Because King Saul did not need all the animals.

Write a few words to tell why you chose your answer.

2. Samuel Criticized Saul (1 Samuel 15:10-15)

VERSES 10-11.

¹⁰ *Then the Lord spoke His word to Samuel:*

¹¹ *"I am sorry I made Saul king, because he has stopped following me and has not obeyed my commands." Samuel was upset, and he cried out to the Lord all night long.*

Samuel tried to tell the people they did not need a king. Now, Saul showed he was not a good king. The news about Saul upset Samuel so much that he prayed all night.

BIBLE SKILL: *How to Know What God Wants*

Saul knew what God wanted him to do. Sometimes we are not that sure what God is trying to tell us to do. The answer is in the Bible. That means we must know what the Bible tells us.

Is it hard for you to find verses in the Bible? Many Deaf people have to use the list of Bible books in the front of their Bible. We need to memorize the list so when someone asks us to find a Bible verse, we know where to start looking for it.

First, plan to learn the books of the New Testament. There are only twenty-seven books. Then learn the books of the Old Testament. You may not always remember exactly how to spell the name of a book, but you will know where to start looking for it in your Bible.

Samuel went to see Saul. Saul thought no one knew he disobeyed God's command. He hid the cattle and sheep. Samuel told Saul God knew about his sin.

We need to be willing to talk with our brothers and sisters when they have sinned. Like Samuel, we must not delay. We need to talk with people and try to bring them back to God. We need to be gentle. Our goal is to help them **repent** of their sin. We must not be critical. We must want to pull them back into fellowship with Christ and the church.

VERSE 12.

¹² *Early the next morning, Samuel got up and went to meet Saul. But the people told Samuel, "Saul has gone to Carmel. He has put up a monument in his own honor. Now he has gone down to Gilgal."*

Samuel went to Saul's home, but Saul was not there. Saul was in another town, making a monument to honor himself. Saul had so much pride, he believed he had done right. He was acting like other kings. He did not obey God. Now, he honored himself for what God did.

VERSE 13.

¹³ *When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said, "May the Lord bless you! I have obeyed the Lord's commands."*

Saul knew that God talked to Samuel. God told Samuel hidden things. So, why did Saul lie to Samuel? Saul believed he was a great king, and he believed he could do whatever he wanted to do.

VERSE 14.

¹⁴ *But Samuel said, "Then why do I hear cattle mooing and sheep bleating?"*

Saul tried to hide the sheep and cattle. He thought no one knew about them, but God told Samuel.

The Bible tells us God always knows about our sin (Psalm 69:5). Often other people learn about our sin, too. Saul believed no one knew how he disobeyed God. God told Samuel. Now Samuel told Saul what God told him.

VERSE 15.

¹⁵ *Saul answered, "The soldiers took them from the Amalekites. They saved the best sheep and cattle to offer as sacrifices to the LORD your God. But we destroyed all the other animals."*

Saul was not honest. First, he did not obey God. He did not kill the animals. Second, he built a monument to honor himself. Third, he blamed his soldiers for not killing the animals. Saul was the king. The soldiers obeyed the king. King Saul could order the soldiers to kill the animals or to save the animals. The soldiers must obey their king. Saul's sin was his responsibility. It was not the responsibility of his soldiers.

Saul also said he kept the animals for a sacrifice to God. Obedience is more important than sacrifice. Saul sinned because he did not obey. God requires us to obey Him. Doing good things won't satisfy God if we disobey Him.

We all sin, but do you want to obey God's Word? YES NO.

Ask God now to show you the sin in your life. Ask Him to show you when you disobey. Decide that when God convicts you for disobeying Him, you will ask God to forgive you.

3. God Rejected Saul (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

VERSE 22.

²² *But Samuel answered, "What pleases the Lord more: burnt offerings and sacrifices or obedience to His voice? It is better to obey God than to offer a sacrifice. It is better to listen to God than to offer the fat of sheep."*

Saul tried to justify keeping the animals. In verse 15, he said he saved the best sheep for a sacrifice to God. Samuel reminded Saul it is better to obey than to sin and then try to offer a sacrifice. Anyone can offer a sacrifice to God. Only men and women who truly **respect** God will obey Him.

KEY DOCTRINE: *Obedience to God*

Which is better: to obey God or attend church on Sunday? That is a trick question. Why? Because God told us to go to church. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. In our lesson today, Saul did good when he defeated the Amalekites. But he sinned because he kept the sheep and animals and let Agag live. Why was keeping the animals sin? It was a sin because God told Saul to kill the animals.

It is always better to obey God. Why? Because God always tells us what is most important. We show our love and worship when we obey God.

VERSE 23.

²³ *"Disobedience is as bad as the sin of sorcery. Pride is as bad as the sin of worshiping idols. You have rejected the Lord's command. Now He rejects you as king."*

Sorcery means "trying to control the world with magic words and charms." A person using sorcery believes he can change what happens. For example, by using magic words or a charm, he believes he can defeat his enemy. Or he can become successful and rich. We have read how God caused Israel's enemies to lose battles. Is that magic? No. The Bible teaches that God made Israel successful and wealthy. The person that uses sorcery is trying to be like God. But he does not believe in God. He does not trust God. Instead, he joins with Satan to use sorcery. That is why God said sorcery is bad. It is also why disobedience is as bad as sorcery. When we disobey God, we think our ideas are better than God's ideas.

┌

Disobedience and pride are very bad sins for God's people. When we disobey God, we try to take God's place as ruler. We decide that we know better than God. We say, "God told me to do this, but I think God is wrong." It sounds silly to say that, but that is what we do. Then, if we think our decision was successful, we are filled with pride.

That was Saul's problem. He thought he had a good idea. They were good animals. Why kill them? That is our problem, too. We think we know what is best. God is the only one who knows what will happen tomorrow, next week, or next year. God has a purpose for us and His plans are always perfect.

Read verse 23 again and complete these sentences:

Disobedience is as bad as the sin of _____.

Pride is as bad as the sin of _____.

IN MY CONTEXT

Read our Memory Verse below.

What did Samuel tell Saul? "It is better to _____ God than to offer a _____."

Do you obey God? YES NO.

Write a few words to give an example of how you have obeyed God in the past.

Maybe someone signs to you, "I don't have to go to church every Sunday to be a good Christian." Do you think that is true or false? What we do is not as important as what we think. You can go to church every Sunday but your heart and mind can still be filled with sinful thoughts. Our thoughts lead us to decide what we will do. If you think about godly things and Bible verses, you will become more like Christ. We need to read our Bible every day. That puts God's Word in our mind. It also reminds us God is important.

Make a check beside each item on the list below that describes how we can know what God wants us to do:

_____ **Read the Bible**

_____ **Seek advice from a friend**

_____ **Flip a coin**

_____ **Hear God's word preached**

_____ **Pray**

_____ **Listen in Sunday School**

Is God happy with what you think about all day? YES NO.

Do you ask God to clean your mind from evil and sinful thoughts? YES NO.

Will you decide to surrender your mind to Christ every day? YES NO.

MEMORY VERSE

It is better to obey God than to offer a sacrifice. It is better to listen to God than to offer the fat of sheep.” —1 Samuel 5:22



Session 7

ANOINTED!

God wants people to follow Him with all their heart.

1 SAMUEL 16:4-13

FIRST THOUGHTS

The Bible is the story of how God wants a right relationship with His people. God created Adam because He wanted a relationship with people. Genesis 2 tells the story about how and why God created Adam.

God wanted people to love Him and follow Him. Today, He still wants people to love Him and have a right relationship with Him.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. Saul rejected God. Then God said He would choose a new king. God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to Jesse's family. He would choose one of Jesse's sons as the new king.

Bethlehem was a small town, but it is named often in the Bible. David's family lived in Bethlehem. His grandparents were Boaz and Ruth. Boaz was a wealthy farmer who lived in Bethlehem (Ruth 2:1-10). Later, it was often

identified as the city of David. We know Bethlehem as the town where Jesus was born.

After David was anointed, Saul continued to be the king. David waited until God was ready for him to rule. Even though God chose David as king, David would not kill King Saul. David trusted God to lead him. He trusted God to protect him.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 16:4-13)

1. Samuel Anointed David as King (1 Samuel 16:4-5)

VERSE 4.

⁴Samuel did what the Lord told him to do. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of Bethlehem shook with fear. They met him and asked, “Are you coming in peace?”

God sent Samuel to **anoint** a new king. God rejected Saul, but Saul was still king and had power over the nation. When Samuel arrived at Bethlehem, the city leaders met him. They wanted to know if Samuel’s visit was peaceful. Was he coming for worship or to challenge Saul?

Samuel was a judge in Israel. His work required him to travel all over Israel. Bethlehem was a small town, but it was an important town in Israel. Saul probably watched what Samuel did. Why? Saul wanted to keep his place as king. Saul knew God would use Samuel to anoint a new king. The city leaders knew that, too. If Saul learned Samuel anointed a new king, they would have problems with Saul. They did not want the king angry with them.

BIBLE SKILL: *Following God’s Leadership*

“Samuel did what the Lord told him to do.” This is the definition of a person who follows God’s leadership. Every leader in the Bible followed God in faith. Hebrews 11:4-32 lists several people from the Bible who followed God in faith. Do you know the story about many of these people? Use a concordance to find more about some of these people.

Write three names from the list and how they followed God’s leadership.

How can we know God is guiding us? We often struggle with that question. The Bible is God's Word. It will guide us. We should pray and read the Bible daily. Bible stories are not to entertain us. They are to guide us. You need to pray, but you need to read your Bible, too.

VERSE 5.

⁵ *Samuel answered, "Yes, I come in peace. I have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. Set yourselves apart to the LORD and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he set Jesse and his sons apart to the LORD, and he invited them to come to the sacrifice.*

Other translations use the word **consecrate** for the words set apart. This means to make holy. Jesse's sons separated themselves from things that made them not holy, as explained in Leviticus 11:44-45. Then they bathed and put on clean clothes to show they were holy. Before Moses received the Ten Commandments, the people of Israel consecrated themselves (Exodus 19:10-11).

Samuel did not go to Bethlehem to judge the people for their sin. He came to **anoint** a new king, but Samuel did not tell them why he came. He told the leaders he came in peace. He told the leaders to make themselves holy for the Lord. The Hebrew words meant to clean their lives of sin. They must **confess** any sin they had done. They must wash themselves in the way the Jewish Law said. Finally, they must put on clean clothes and do nothing that would make them religiously unclean.

Samuel also told Jesse's family to dedicate themselves. He did not tell them he came to anoint a king from Jesse's family.

List some things we can do to "set ourselves apart" to worship God:

2. God's Requirements (1 Samuel 16:6-10)

VERSE 6.

⁶ *When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab, and he thought, "Surely the Lord has appointed this person standing here before him."*

Eliab was Jesse's oldest son. When Samuel saw Eliab, he thought this was the one God wanted. Eliab was tall and handsome. Read 1 Samuel 9:2 again to see what the Bible said about Saul. It said he was tall and handsome. Samuel

also said David was tall and handsome. God quickly reminded Samuel that looks are important to men, but God is interested in a person's heart.

God wants to know if our hearts are ready to obey Him. Is your heart ready to obey God? YES NO.

VERSE 7.

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart."

It was not important for the new king to be tall and handsome. Saul was tall and handsome but he did not obey God.

God reminded Samuel that He does not look at the outside of a person. God is interested in the heart of a leader. How a person acts and thinks is more important. Is he kind and gentle or does he want everyone to praise him? Does he trust and obey God? That shows his heart is right.

These qualities are what God looked for in the new king. It is also what God wants in our church leaders today. People that want to become a leader in your Deaf ministry must be committed to God. They must want to obey God in their personal life. Their church life and personal life must be right with God.

VERSES 8-10.

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and told him to pass by Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this man either."

⁹ Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "No, the Lord has not chosen this one."

¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass by Samuel. But Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

Jesse began with his oldest son. He brought him to Samuel, but God did not choose the oldest son. Then Jesse brought the next son, and finally brought all his sons, one at a time to Samuel. God did not choose any of the sons.

Is it important for class members to be led by the Holy Spirit? YES NO.

Do you read your Bible and pray every day? YES NO.

If you answered no, how can the Holy Spirit lead you?

3. God Chose David (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

VERSE 11.

¹¹ Then he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse answered, “I still have the youngest son. He is out taking care of the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him. We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”

Samuel was puzzled because God did not choose any of Jesse’s sons. Did Jesse have any other sons? When he asked Jesse, he learned the youngest son was taking care of the sheep.

God often chooses people who are busy serving. David was the youngest, but we see that he was working. His older brothers were all at the dinner. Samuel knew that David might be the one God had chosen. He told Jesse they would wait while someone went to get David.

VERSES 12-13.

¹² So Jesse sent and had his youngest son brought in. He was a fine boy, tanned, and handsome. The Lord said to Samuel, “Go, appoint him, because he is the one.”

¹³ So Samuel took the container of olive oil and poured it on Jesse’s youngest son to appoint him in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Lord’s Spirit worked in David. Samuel then went back to Ramah.

When David arrived, Samuel saw that he was a handsome young boy. He was healthy and tanned because he worked outside taking care of the sheep. God spoke to Samuel and told him to **anoint** David as the new king of Israel.

As Samuel poured the anointing oil on David’s head, the Holy Spirit filled David. That means the Holy Spirit took control of him. The Spirit gave him the power to make wise decisions and to become the king. This did not mean the Holy Spirit controlled David without David’s permission. The Holy Spirit came on King Saul in the same way, but Saul did not always obey God. The Holy Spirit has great power, but He does not force us to do His will. David surrendered to let the Holy Spirit have control of his life.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came to men and women when God chose them for some special work. Two good examples are the kings of Israel and the prophets. God led and directed them by His Holy Spirit.

In the New Testament, just before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples He was going away. He said He would send a Helper, the Holy Spirit, to be with them. On the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit came and filled all the believers. From that day on, when people accept Christ into their hearts, they become saved and the Holy Spirit enters their life. He never leaves us. He guides us and convicts us of sin in our lives.

KEY DOCTRINE: *The Holy Spirit*

The words, Holy Spirit, are found only twice in the Old Testament. In Psalm 51:11, David asked God not to take the Holy Spirit from him. Isaiah said when the people turned from God they made His Holy Spirit very sad (Isaiah 63:10-11). But there are many references in the Old Testament to God's Spirit. The Bible uses the picture words of wind or breath to describe God's Spirit. It was this wind that separated the sea so Moses could lead the Israelites out of Egypt. This spirit was at the creation, moving over the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2). Some of the prophets said God's Spirit moved them to preach and to write (2 Samuel 23:2). God poured His Spirit on the people (Joel 2:28, Isaiah 44:3). The Spirit of God creates a new heart in those who repent and turn back to God (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

In John 14:16-17, Jesus told the disciples He was going away. The disciples were sad. Jesus was with them for three years. When they had a question, they could ask Him. Now He was leaving. Jesus promised He would send a Helper. Who was the Helper? He was the Holy Spirit. He would not come and leave, but He would live in the believers. Today the Holy Spirit lives in every Christian.

When you accepted Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit came into your life. He guides you and reminds you when you sin. Do you often ask the Holy Spirit to guide you? YES NO.

Can you remember a time when you felt God guiding you through a problem? YES NO.

Write a few words about what happened. _____

IN MY CONTEXT

In our lesson today, we read how God chose the leaders for Israel. God decided who would be king. He told the prophet to **anoint** that person. Sometimes we don't like the leader of our nation or our state. We may not like the leader of our city. As God chose Israel's kings, He chooses our leaders today. Paul wrote that God chooses rulers for this world. He also chooses leaders in our churches.

Find Romans 13:1 and copy it here so you can remember it.

Circle the numbers of the sentences that tell us what to do when a leader of our government does not obey God:

1. Pray for the leader.
2. Ask God to show us what to do.
3. Use Facebook to criticize and make fun of that leader.
4. Ask God to help us vote for people who do obey Him.

┌
Suppose God has chosen you as a leader. What are some things you must do? Circle the right sentences:

1. Ask God to give you wisdom to lead.
2. Pray every day and ask God to help you lead.
3. Ask God to show you what He wants you to do.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Do you pray for your church leaders? YES NO.

Do you pray for your government leaders? YES NO.

When you believe a church leader has done wrong, what do you do?

MEMORY VERSE

“God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.” —1 Samuel 16:7



Session 8

DELIVERED

God uses faithful servants to deliver His people.

1 SAMUEL 17:32-37,42-50

FIRST THOUGHTS

God decides what is best for His people. That was true in the Old Testament, and it is true for us today. We call it God's sovereignty. **Sovereignty** means "God has the right to rule over us." It also means God's power is greater than any other power. We must trust God's decisions. Sometimes we do not understand God's decisions. When we do not understand His plan, we say, "That's God's will." We mean it was God's decision. Maybe we do not understand, but we accept God's decision.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Israel was at war with the Philistines again! The Philistines had a giant named Goliath. Goliath was more than nine feet tall. One day, Goliath came out in front of the Philistine soldiers. He challenged Israel's army to choose someone to fight him. If Goliath won, then Israel would surrender. But if Israel's soldier won, then the Philistines would surrender. King Saul offered his daughter in marriage to the soldier who would fight Goliath. That soldier's

family would not be required to pay taxes. But no one volunteered to fight Goliath.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 17:32-37,42-50)

1. David: Faith in God (1 Samuel 17:32-37)

Read 1 Samuel 16:14–17:31 to understand the complete story.

VERSE 32.

³² *David said to Saul, “Don’t let anyone be discouraged. I, your servant, will go and fight this Philistine!”*

David stepped out on faith to fight Goliath. It made him sad that Israel’s army was frightened by Goliath. The army ran away from Goliath. No one was willing to fight him. David accepted the challenge. He was willing to fight Goliath. He believed God’s power would help him defeat Goliath.

VERSE 33.

³³ *Saul answered, “You can’t go out against this Philistine and fight him. You’re only a boy. Goliath has been a warrior since he was a young man.”*

When someone steps out on faith, his or her family often will discourage him or her. An interpreter and her family felt led to move to another nation. They sold everything to work in an orphanage in Central America. Friends and family worried about them. Some were surprised about their decision. Some tried to make them change their mind.

In our lesson this week, David’s family tried to make him stop. His oldest brother was angry with him when he asked about Goliath (verses 28-30). The king did not encourage David. He said David was only a boy. David knew he could trust God to help him. God had been with him when he was a shepherd. He trusted God. David knew God led Israel to the promised land. All through Israel’s history God led them.

VERSES 34-37.

³⁴ *But David said to Saul, “I, your servant, have been keeping my father’s sheep. When a lion or bear came and took a sheep from the flock,*

³⁵ *I would chase it. I would attack it and save the sheep from its mouth. When it attacked me, I caught it by its fur and hit it and killed it.*

³⁶ *I, your servant, have killed both a lion and a bear! This uncircumcised Philistine will be like them, because he has spoken against the armies of the living God.* ³⁷ *The LORD*

who saved me from a lion and a bear will save me from this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

David had personal experience with God. When he was a shepherd, he was alone with the sheep. Sometimes a bear or lion attacked the sheep. He was the only one to protect the sheep. He had to fight to save his sheep. What did a shepherd do? His weapons were his staff, his sling, and maybe a knife. He had to fight the animal with these and his hands.

David knew it was God who helped him kill the bear and the lion. He was still young, but David learned to trust God. He knew God would help him. He believed God would help him kill Goliath. Why? Because Goliath had made fun of God’s people, Israel. He had made fun of God.

BIBLE SKILL: *Trusting God*

Trusting God does not mean you don’t have problems. Everyone has problems in life. What should Christians do when they have a problem? The first thing a mature Christian does is pray. Then the Christian trusts in God’s sovereignty. Why? Because God loves us. Also, God has all power to solve any problem. He knows what will happen, and he will take care of us.

Many times we need to talk with mature Christians for their advice and for them to pray with us. That is not lack of faith. That is seeking God’s will. God uses the Bible, prayer, and Christian leaders to help us understand His will.

When a young person feels God’s call to serve, there will always be someone who thinks the young person is too young to serve. God calls young people and older people.

Have you ever told God you are willing to serve in your church and Deaf ministry? YES NO.

Make a list of what you can do to prepare yourself to serve God. If you don’t know what to do, ask your teacher or pastor.

2. Goliath: False Faith in Himself (1 Samuel 17:42-44)

VERSE 42.

⁴² *Goliath looked at David. He saw that David was only a boy, tanned and handsome. He looked down on David with disgust.*

Imagine that you were watching the fight between David and Goliath. Goliath was more than nine feet tall. He had his shield and his sword. All the soldiers of Israel were frightened. None were willing to fight him. Goliath had killed many other big men. He believed he could easily kill this young teenager. Imagine watching Goliath. He marched proudly back and forth in front of Israel's army. Like an athlete on television, he held up his muscled arms. He did not fear this young boy.

VERSES 43-44.

⁴³ *He said, "Do you think I am a dog that you come at me with a stick?" He used his gods' names to curse David.*

⁴⁴ *He said to David, "Come here. I'll feed your body to the birds of the air and the wild animals!"*

Israel had insulted Goliath. How? They sent a young boy to fight him. He wanted one of the soldiers to fight him. In Goliath's mind, David was not worth fighting.

When I was a boy, when something was easy, we said, "It is as easy as falling off a log." Is it easy to fall off a log? Sure, it is. You don't need any training. Anybody can do it. Defeating David would be "as easy as falling off a log."

In our world today, we often see people insult God. If you saw someone insulting God, how could you respond? Ask your class members to help you think of some things to say to that person. Write your ideas here:

3. God's Victory (1 Samuel 17:45-50)

VERSE 45.

⁴⁵ *But David said to him, "You come to me using a sword, a large spear, and a small spear. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of heaven's armies. He is the God of the armies of Israel. You have spoken out against Him."*

Was David afraid? He was only a young boy and Goliath was a huge soldier. David did not brag on himself. He bragged about God. He did not try to seem like he was tough. He trusted God's power. God often saved Israel from their enemies. When David was anointed as the next king, God's Spirit filled him.

David was offended by Goliath's speech. Goliath cursed God's chosen people. Goliath mocked God's power. Goliath believed his gods were more powerful than Israel's God. David did not need a sword. He had the God of the universe protecting him and Israel.

KEY DOCTRINE: *God Is Sovereign*

Sovereign means God has the authority to rule over the world. He created everything in the world. He created people. God is all powerful and knows everything.

First John 4:16 says, "God is love." Our God has complete power and His love is complete. Because God created everything, He can rule over it. Because God loves us and is fair, He will make right decisions.

VERSES 46-47.

⁴⁶ *Today, the LORD will give you to me. I'll cut off your head. Today, I'll feed the bodies of the Philistine soldiers to the birds of the air and the wild animals. Then all the world will know there is a God in Israel!*

⁴⁷ *Everyone gathered here will know the LORD does not need swords or spears to save people. The battle belongs to Him. And He will help us defeat all of you."*

David told Goliath and Israel what he would do. But notice the first sentence. "Today the Lord will give you to me." David knew the victory was not his. It was God's victory. God would use him to teach the **Philistines** and Israel that it is God who is powerful. David said God had already won.

VERSES 48-49.

⁴⁸ *As Goliath came near to attack him, David ran quickly to meet him.*

⁴⁹ *He took a stone from his pouch. He put it into his sling, and slung it. The stone hit the Philistine on his forehead and sank into it. Goliath fell face down on the ground.*

We see again that David knew God would win His battle with Goliath. David did not trust in his skill. He trusted God. David knew God was the God of Israel. He knew God promised to fight for Israel. He did not need a sword. David did not need armor to save him. His shepherd's sling was enough when God was fighting for Israel.

VERSE 50.

⁵⁰ *So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. He did not even have a sword in his hand.*

Goliath was covered with metal to protect him from swords and spears. The only place Goliath was not protected was his forehead. Was David skilled enough to hit Goliath's forehead with one rock? David was very skilled with his sling. He had used it to keep animals away from his sheep. But it wasn't David's skill that guided the rock. God guided the rock to Goliath's forehead.

A young Deaf lady had a stroke. She was placed on life support in the hospital. No one knew what would happen when she woke up. Maybe she would not wake up. Maybe she would wake up but could not do anything. Forty-eight hours later, she woke up. Many of her friends were praying for her. She slowly began to sign. Her signs were small, but she continues to improve. We can trust God to help us with anything when we ask according to His plan.

IN MY CONTEXT

How do you respond to problems in your life? Do you worry and imagine something terrible may happen? Think about the last problem you struggled with. What was the first thing you did to solve the problem? Choose which you did first or write what you did:

- 1. Asked a friend to help.**
- 2. Announced your problem on Facebook.**
- 3. Talked with your pastor or Sunday School teacher.**
- 4. Prayed about what God wanted you to do.**
- 5. _____**

Our lesson today teaches us that God calls people to serve Him. Sometimes people oppose God. What can you do to stand against them?

Like David, the job may seem too big for us. David showed us we can trust God to help us. When we trust God, He will give us victory. When we trust God and stand against wrong, people will know God is real. It will encourage others to trust God.

Will you make a promise today to trust God and stand against people who oppose God? YES NO.

Have you had an experience when you saw someone make fun of God, the Bible, or the church? YES NO.

Did you take a stand against it? Write what you said or did to stand against it.

If you didn't say anything against it. Write why you did not, or what you should have done or said.

MEMORY VERSE

"Today the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll kill you and cut off your head. Today I'll feed the bodies of the Philistine soldiers to the birds of the air and the wild animals. Then all the world will know there is a God in Israel!" —1 Samuel 17:46



Session 9

FAITHFUL

A faithful friend is a gift from God and can give lifelong encouragement.

1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 20:35-42

FIRST THOUGHTS

Imagine how you would feel if you did not have any Christian friends. It would be a very lonely life. Suppose you had a problem and you had no Christian friends to help you or to pray with you.

Faithful friends are a blessing from God. As believers, we need to have Christian friends to encourage us. We need friends who will tell us when we are doing wrong.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

When David volunteered to fight Goliath, King Saul praised David. He worried because David was young. Goliath was a grown man. David trusted God to give him victory. Then, after David killed Goliath, the people began to praise David. They sang a song about David and Saul. They sang, "Saul has killed thousands but David has killed tens of thousands." The people gave more honor to David than they did to Saul. Saul became jealous. He hated

David. He wanted to kill him. But God chose David as the next king of Israel. God protected David and used King Saul's anger to make David more mature. When Saul tried to kill him, David's trust in God became stronger.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 20:35-42)

1. True Friends (1 Samuel 18:1-5)

VERSE 1.

¹*When David finished talking with Saul, Jonathan felt very close to David. He loved David as much as he loved himself.*

When David defeated Goliath, he brought Goliath's head to Saul. This often happened when a soldier killed a famous enemy. He brought the head to his commander or his city. Then King Saul asked David to stay with him. David and Jonathan became close friends.

Jonathan was already an experienced commander in the army. Jonathan was one of Saul's best commanders. Their friendship was an **honorable** relationship of two men. Both were soldiers and enjoyed being friends.

VERSES 2-4.

²*Saul kept David with him from that day on and did not let him go home to his father's house.*

³*Jonathan made an agreement with David, because he loved David as much as himself.*

⁴*He took off his coat and gave it to David, along with his armor, including his sword, bow, and belt.*

David was important to Saul. Saul took David to his palace, and David served Saul for about seven years. David's first service was playing music for the king. He was skilled at playing the harp. He was also a poet. His music soothed the king.

Jonathan and David made an agreement. Jonathan gave David his royal robe to show this was a **serious** agreement. They agreed to be **loyal** to each other. Jonathan was the son of the king. That meant he would become king when his father died. But God had already chosen David. Jonathan probably knew that. He knew he would never be the king. Still, their friendship was strong.

VERSE 5.

⁵ *Saul sent David to fight in different battles, and David was very successful. Then Saul put David over the soldiers, which pleased Saul's officers and all the other people.*

David was a good leader of men, too. The soldiers respected him. They liked and trusted him. Saul made David a commander. He led an army into battle. Both David and Jonathan were leaders in the army. Their friendship is an example for us. They show us what a godly friendship is like.

King Saul had a problem. He knew David was a good leader. When David led his soldiers, they won battles. The army respected David as a commander. David won battles because God was leading him. God gave David success in everything he did because David obeyed Him.

When David volunteered to fight Goliath, Saul was happy. No one in the army was willing to fight Goliath. When David killed Goliath, Saul loved David. Then people began to praise David more than Saul. Saul became depressed. He worried that David might become king.

The people loved David. David had a friendly personality. There are some people that everyone seems to like. They are positive and do not complain a lot. They trust God no matter what problems come. That describes David. He knew God was leading him. That does not mean David was perfect. He sinned, but he quickly confessed his sin and asked God to forgive him.

Saul wanted to kill David, but he couldn't. Why? Because David was his best commander. He was a skilled leader and soldier. Saul did not want to lose his best leader. Also, God blessed David. God told David when he should leave to escape from Saul.

In verse 3, Jonathan and David made an agreement. What do you think this agreement was?

Read the last sentence in verse 5. Why do you think Saul's officers and the people were pleased?

2. Tested Friends (1 Samuel 20:35-40)

BIBLE SKILL: *The New Moon Festival*

In the first part of chapter 20, David and Jonathan talked about going to the New Moon festival. In verses 35-40, Jonathan helped David know if it was safe for David to go to this festival. Jonathan needed to warn David if King Saul wanted to kill David.

The New Moon Festival (Numbers 28:11-15) is called *Rosh Chodesh* in the Hebrew language. It is still a religious celebration today. Rosh Chodesh happened each month when the new moon appeared in the sky. In the Old and New Testament, the Jewish calendar had twenty-nine days in each month. A few days were added to the calendar every few years. Rosh Chodesh was celebrated on the Sabbath, our Saturday, before the new moon. The purpose of Rosh Chodesh was to celebrate the new moon and the new month. The festival lasted two days.

VERSE 35.

³⁵ *The next morning Jonathan went out to the field to meet David as they had agreed. He had a young boy with him.*

Jonathan liked David very much. Jonathan and David made an agreement to help each other. Jonathan would let David know if King Saul was angry with David. Now Jonathan came out to meet with David. He let David know what King Saul was planning.

VERSES 36-37.

³⁶ *Jonathan said to the boy, "Run and find the arrows I shoot." When he ran, Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him.*

³⁷ *The boy ran to the place where Jonathan's arrow fell, but Jonathan called, "The arrow is beyond you!"*

When Jonathan said, "The arrow is beyond you," it meant that King Saul wanted to kill David. It was not safe for David to come to the festival. Why was it not safe? Jonathan said to King Saul, "Why should David die?" King Saul cursed Jonathan. He said Jonathan was not **worthy** to be the king's son. Saul's words told Jonathan Saul hated David. Because Jonathan loved

David, he came to the field to let David know Saul was angry. It was not safe for David to come to the festival.

VERSES 38-40.

³⁸ Then he shouted, "Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!"

³⁹ The boy picked up the arrow and brought it back to his master. The boy knew nothing about what this meant. Only Jonathan and David knew.

⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy. He told him, "Go back to town."

The words that Jonathan said to the young servant were planned. They were a code. Only he and David knew what they meant. Jonathan let David know it was not safe to come to the festival. He gave the bow and arrows to the young boy. The boy returned to the town so Jonathan and David could talk privately.

Who is your best friend? _____

Write some words to tell why that person is your best friend.

Do you know if your friend is a Christian? YES NO.

If your friend is not a Christian, how would you tell your friend about your best friend named Jesus?

3. Friends Forever (1 Samuel 20:41-42)

VERSE 41.

⁴¹ When the boy left, David came out from the south side of the rock. He bowed face down on the ground before Jonathan three times. Then David and Jonathan kissed each other and cried together, but David cried the most.

This is a beautiful picture of a friendship between two men. When you see men from the Middle East, they often greet one another with a kiss. It is not a romantic kiss, but a gesture of respect for one another. This is true in other cultures, too.

David and Jonathan saw each other again, but this time they did not know if it would be the last time they were able to be together. Their friendship had grown out of respect for one another. It also grew because they were strong believers in God. They wanted God's plan to succeed.

As they said their good-byes, they promised their friendship to each other. They would continue to be friends no matter what happened.

VERSE 42.

⁴² Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace. We have promised by the LORD that we will be friends. We said, 'The LORD will be a witness between you and me, and between our descendants always.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to town.

Jonathan's friendship for David was strong. Jonathan knew that David had been anointed the king to follow Saul. That meant Jonathan would never be king. But that did not turn him against David. Jonathan was a godly man. He wanted to do what God wanted. Even though it meant he would not be the next king, he still loved David as his friend.

KEY DOCTRINE: *Christian Friendship*

What is the purpose of friends? Someone said a friend can help us when we have trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, "Two people are better than one." Why? If one is hurt, the other can help. When it's cold two can stay warm together. Yes, one reason to have friends is to help each other. Christian friends can help you stay faithful to God. If you begin to stray from God, your friend can warn you. If you stop going to church, your friend will say, "I missed you at church. Do you have a problem? I'm willing to help you." True friends help each other stay close to God.

As you studied this lesson, you learned about David's faithful friend. Write a few words that tell how you can be a faithful friend.

IN MY CONTEXT

In our Bible study today, we see a good example of true friendship. David and Jonathan were both godly men. Their story shows us true friendship.

Is it important to have Christian friends? YES NO.

Why are Christian friends important?

The Bible says Jonathan loved David more than himself. Why is that important? Look in verses 41-42. Copy the answer here:

Jonathan protected David. Jonathan's friendship for David was strong. He promised to protect David from his father, King Saul. Jonathan gave up what he wanted and protected his friend. This is a picture of a godly friendship. True friendship means we trust one another. It means we support one another.

Read these verses about friendship. Write a few words about what it means to be a friend.

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:24

John 15:13

John 15:15

In the Gospels, Jesus gave us the perfect example.

List some reasons why Jesus is your best friend:

MEMORY VERSE

“Jonathan made an agreement with David, because he loved David as much as himself.” —1 Samuel 18:3



Session 10

BLINDED

We must put God's plan and the lives of other people ahead of our own selfish desires.

1 SAMUEL 22:6-17

FIRST THOUGHTS

God rejected Saul, but Saul wanted to continue as king. He became jealous of David. Saul followed his own selfish desires and did not follow God.

Do you want to succeed in life? Wanting to succeed is not bad, but your desire must be the same as God's plan. We can be more successful if we follow God's plan. As a Christian, we should always want what God wants for us.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Saul was blinded by his jealousy of David. The word *blinded* does not mean he could not see with his eyes. It means he could not see other things that were important. He did not see the good in David or God's will. He only saw David as a threat to him and Jonathan becoming king.

In last week's lesson, Jonathan warned David that Saul was angry and wanted to kill him. David left his friend, Jonathan, and started a journey to escape from Saul.

Saul and his army looked for David. Saul learned where David was and Saul went to find him. But God protected David. God did not let Saul find David.

David waited for God to show him what to do. He trusted God to make him king at the right time—at God's time.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 22:6-17)

1. Saul Searched for David (1 Samuel 22:6-10)

VERSE 6.

⁶*Saul heard that David and his men had been seen. Saul was sitting under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, and all his officers were standing around him. He had a spear in his hand.*

One of Saul's spies knew where to find David. Saul was controlled by his desire to kill David. Saul was jealous of David. He thought his soldiers were supporting David.

BIBLE SKILL: *Saul's Spear*

When Saul had a spear in his hand, it often meant he was ready to go to war. These lessons in 1 Samuel give us a little picture of how a war was fought in Old Testament times. For long-range fighting they used bows and arrows, with accuracy up to 400 yards. Israel's best archers (men who used bows and arrows) came from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Chronicles 8:40, 2 Chronicles 17:17). Archers could shoot from the back of a chariot going at high speed. A slingshot, like David used on Goliath, was also good for long-range attacks (1 Samuel 17:34-50, Judges 20:16, 1 Chronicles 12:2). Spears were also thrown from a fast-moving chariot. Swords were both single and double edged (Psalm 149:6). Solomon used foot soldiers and men with horses and chariots (1 Kings 4:26; 10:29). Assyria had large armies that attacked and totally destroyed cities, stealing everything they could (Nahum 3:2-3; Habakkuk 1:6-11).

VERSE 7.

⁷ Saul said to them, "Listen, men of Benjamin! Do you think the son of Jesse will give all of you fields and vineyards? Will David make you commanders over thousands of men or hundreds of men?"

Saul worried that his soldiers might turn from him and follow David. In verse 7, Saul talked to men from the **tribe** of Benjamin. Saul was also from the tribe of Benjamin. They were from his family clan. But Saul did not trust them. He thought they were helping David. Saul reminded the men, "I am the king!" Only the king could give them land and farms. He said David would not help them. He wanted to turn the men against David.

VERSE 8.

⁸ You have all made plans against me! No one tells me when my son makes an agreement with the son of Jesse! No one cares about me! No one tells me when my son has encouraged my servant to ambush me this very day!"

Saul believed everyone had turned against him. He thought his son, Jonathan, was against him. Saul feared David. He worried that David might take his kingdom. His thoughts were always about David. He wanted to know what David was doing and where David was hiding. As you read 1 Samuel, do you see something missing? The Bible tells nothing about what Saul did as king, except to try to kill David! He ruled for many years, but we know little about what he did. Instead of living in a nice house, he spent much of his time outdoors looking for David. Jealousy caused Saul to miss the joy of serving as the king.

KEY DOCTRINE: *Spiritual Blindness*

Saul's pride and his rejection of God's leadership made him spiritually blind. He could not see the truth.

Find these verses and copy some words from each one to help you understand more about spiritual blindness:

Lamentations 4:14a _____

2 Corinthians 4:4 _____

John 3:19-20 _____

John 12:39-40 _____

Ephesians 4:17-19 _____

Worry is a negative word. **Concern** is a positive word that often means the same thing. When we are concerned, it shows we care about something and we can talk with God about it. Worry is not always sin, but it can lead to sin. When someone worries all the time about something, he is not trusting God. Worry takes your mind away from God. Worry focuses on yourself. You try to solve your problem alone. You begin to trust in your power, not God's power.

God's Spirit left Saul. Saul could not fight against God, so he accused everyone of trying to hurt him.

VERSES 9-10.

⁹ *Doeg the Edomite, who was standing there with Saul's officers, said, "I saw the son of Jesse. He came to see Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.*

¹⁰ *"Ahimelech prayed to the LORD for David and gave him food and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."*

There is always someone who wants to get the favor of the king. Doeg, who was an Edomite, was in the group of soldiers. Edomites were **descended** from Esau, the brother of Jacob.

What he said was true. Ahimelech was a priest. He gave David food and Goliath's sword (1 Samuel 21:1-9). God led many people to help David.

Do you wonder why God let Saul live and try to kill David? YES NO.

**How did David's experience with Saul train David to rule over Israel?
Write your answer here:**

2. David's Friend Helped Him (1 Samuel 22:11-15)

VERSE 11.

¹¹ *Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and for all of Ahimelech's relatives who were priests at Nob. And they all came to the king.*

King Saul did not trust anyone. He did not trust his son or his army. He thought everyone was against him. He sent for the priest, Ahimelech, and his all his family. Many men in this family were priests also.

VERSES 12-13.

¹² *Saul said to Ahimelech, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." Ahimelech answered, "Yes, master."*

¹³ *Saul said, "Why are you and Jesse's son against me? You gave him bread and a sword! You prayed to God for him. David has turned against me and is waiting to attack me even now!"*

Ahimelech and his relatives obeyed Saul and went to see him. When they arrived, Saul was filled with hate and fear. Because Ahimelech prayed for David, Saul accused him of helping David.

VERSES 14-15.

¹⁴ *Ahimelech answered, "You have no other servant who is as loyal as David, your own son-in-law and captain of your bodyguards. Everyone in your house respects him."*

¹⁵ *That was not the first time I prayed to God for David. Don't blame me or any of my relatives. I, your servant, know nothing about what is going on."*

Ahimelech was God's priest. His family was from the **tribe** of Levi. He was responsible to minister to Israel. He prayed for David in the past. He knew David was not trying to kill Saul. Ahimelech said David was the most **loyal** person in Israel. All of Saul's family knew this was true. But Saul feared David and refused to believe David was loyal.

David was a man of God. He trusted God to keep him safe. He gave us a good example. He did what God wanted him to do.

Read verses 14-15 again. What did Ahimelech say about David's loyalty? "You have no other servant who is as _____ as David."

3. Saul Killed David's Friend (1 Samuel 22:16-17)

VERSE 16.

¹⁶ *But the king said, "Ahimelech, you and all your relatives must die!"*

King Saul wanted to destroy everyone who supported David. He was willing to kill the priests, the servants of God.

The king was a man chosen by God. When God chose Saul as the king, Saul was a humble man. He was a young man. Now he became angry at David and ordered his soldiers to kill the priests. How did he become this angry? How did he become like this?

It began when he disobeyed God. First, he did not kill the cattle and sheep from the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:1-23). God told him to kill them, but Saul was king. He decided to keep the good sheep and cattle. Saul thought he could

make decisions. He had that authority. He also decided to make a monument to honor himself. But the king was under the rule of God. God decided what must be done. The king must honor God, not himself.

VERSE 17.

¹⁷ Then he told the guards at his side, “Go and kill the priests of the LORD, because they are on David’s side. They knew he was running away, but they didn’t tell me.”

Saul believed the priests supported David. They did not help Saul kill David. Because he was king, they must be killed. Why? Because they helped his enemy, David.

Saul ordered his guards to kill the priests. Can you think of a more terrible thing to happen to a believer? The priests were serving God. They helped the people to know God’s message. It is difficult to believe what King Saul ordered his soldiers to do!

King Saul was under the rule of God. But he stopped following God. He thought he could do anything he wanted to do because he was king. You and I are also under God’s rule.

Do you think God is happy when we stray from Him? YES NO.

Why is it important to have a close relationship with God? Think about that question and write your answer here:

IN MY CONTEXT

Read verses 18-23 for the rest of the story.

Ambition can be good. It can lead us to do great things. But wanting to do things that God is against is bad. Read verse 8. What do you believe Saul was thinking?

Was Saul's mind healthy? YES NO.

Saul said that Ahimelech the priest helped David. What did Ahimelech say about David in verse 14?

In verse 17, what did King Saul order his guards to do?

Did his guards obey the king's order? (See verses 18-19.) YES NO.

Write what you think was King Saul's mental problem.

┌
We must let God control our **ambition**. Ambition that is not controlled by God will lead to sin. That was Saul's problem. It can become our problem, too.

Think about yourself and your ambitions.

Write a list of your ambitions:

Make a check mark beside the ambitions that you have prayed about.

Are you waiting for God to lead you next? YES NO.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will be glad and rejoice in your love, because you saw my suffering; you knew my troubles." —Psalm 31:7



Session 11

PROTECTED

God guards the honor of His name and the steps of His people.

1 SAMUEL 25:14-17,32-38

FIRST THOUGHTS

God chose Saul as the first king. When Saul did not obey, God chose David as the next king. But God let Saul rule for many years. God protected David and did not let him kill innocent people. Because David was faithful to God, God led David on the right road.

When we are faithful to God, He will keep us from doing the wrong thing. God will guide us.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

David left Saul because it was dangerous to stay. David lived in the desert near the town of Carmel. About four hundred men joined him. David and his men protected Nabal's servants and sheep. Nabal never paid David or his men for their protection. David sent some men to ask for help from Nabal. Nabal insulted David, using words that were not polite. David and his men planned to kill Nabal and everyone in his house.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 25:14-17,32-38)

Read 1 Samuel 23:1–25:13 to understand the background for this lesson.

1. Trouble Is Near (1 Samuel 25:14-17)

VERSE 14.

¹⁴ *One of Nabal's servants said to Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the desert to greet our master, but Nabal insulted them."*

The servant told Nabal's wife, Abigail, what Nabal had said. The servant didn't know, but when he did this, he was serving God. Nabal was mean and selfish. The servant could not tell his master he was wrong. Nabal did not want to reward David for his kindness. Nabal was only interested in keeping his money.

Abigail was a wise woman. She knew what was right. Maybe you wonder why a smart woman married a man like Nabal. Marriages were arranged by parents. Her parents thought it was good to marry a wealthy man. That's why this smart woman was married to a foolish man.

BIBLE SKILL: *Abigail*

The name, *Abigail*, means "my father's happiness," but her marriage was probably not happy. Abigail is described as beautiful (verse 3). She is also described as wise (verse 33). Other Bible translations use the words intelligent, clever, or of good understanding. Her husband, Nabal, was rich, so she had many servants. They trusted her and followed her more than they followed their master, Nabal. This is why a servant told Abigail how Nabal insulted David and how David planned to attack Nabal.

Abigail was not just intelligent and beautiful, she was also brave. It was not easy for her to go to David with his army ready to destroy everyone and everything. She went to David and was very diplomatic and humble. She offered him a "peace offering." She gave David and his men a lot of food, and then she had an opportunity to speak to David.

Abigail was also brave, because if her husband learned what she did, he would become very angry. The next day, Abigail told Nabal everything she had done. God honored her courage by causing Nabal to become sick and die.

Abigail knew David was an “outlaw,” running from King Saul, but she spoke prophetic words about David and his future as king of Israel. Her speech is one of the longest speeches by a woman recorded in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 25:23-31).

The Bible does not tell us if Abigail and Nabal had children. She may have been young and not married very long to Nabal. David was quick to ask Abigail to become his wife (1 Samuel 25:39-42).

God used Abigail to help David and encourage him with her prophetic words.

VERSES 15-16.

¹⁵ *“These men were very good to us. They did not harm us. They stole nothing from us during all the time we were out in the field with them.*

¹⁶ *“Night and day they protected us. They were like a wall around us while we were with them caring for the sheep.”*

The servant explained how David’s men protected the servants and their sheep. Abigail knew there may be danger. It is never wise to insult someone with an army! But she did not know David was planning to kill everyone. She knew David’s men were good to Nabal’s servants. They took care of them while the servants were in the same area. David took nothing from them. Abigail knew it was right to repay David for his kindness to the servants.

KEY DOCTRINE: *Kindness to Strangers*

In our lesson, David was not a stranger to Abigail. Everyone in Israel and the nations around Israel knew David. Nabal knew him. He called David “the son of Jesse.” But he refused to help David.

We often see strangers who need help. The Bible tells us to help strangers, widows, and orphans. The Bible teaches us to help people who need our help. We should not try to judge if the need is real. God will do that. We need to listen to the Spirit of God. Serving other people is a gift from God (1 Peter 4:10).

VERSE 17.

¹⁷ *“Now think about it, and decide what you can do. Terrible trouble is coming to our master and all his family. Nabal is such a wicked man that no one can even talk to him.”*

The servant was a wise and mature man. He knew Nabal’s cruel words to David’s men would bring a hard and quick response. Something had to be done and only Abigail could do it.

The servant in verse 14 is not named. We don’t know if he is young or old. What did this wise servant do?

What did he advise Abigail to do in verse 17?

2. David Rewards His Friends (1 Samuel 25:32-35)

Read verses 18-31 to understand the complete story.

VERSE 32.

³² *David answered Abigail, “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me.*

David gathered his men. His plans were to kill Nabal and all his servants. In Old Testament times, a man’s honor was important. As a future king, anyone who disrespected him must be killed. Their death would be very painful. Nabal disrespected and insulted the king God anointed. Nabal also disrespected and insulted God.

VERSES 33-34.

³³ *May you be blessed for your wisdom. You have kept me from killing or punishing people today.*

³⁴ *As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, He has kept me from hurting you. If you hadn’t come quickly to meet me, not one of Nabal’s men would have lived until morning.”*

David began by praising God for Abigail’s wisdom. He knew God sent her to

him to explain about Nabal. James 1:17 says, “Every good action and every perfect gift is from God.” The wisdom God gave to Abigail saved her life and the lives of all her servants. Her quick thinking led her to meet David and stop him from killing innocent people.

Maybe Abigail didn’t know God was using her to save her servants. Sometimes God uses us in that way. Maybe you think of a friend while you are praying, or at any time. You don’t know why you thought of that person. God may want to use you to help that person. When that happens, what can you do? You can text the person and say, “I just thought of you. Is everything okay?” We should be open for God to use us to minister to other people.

A Deaf pastor sent a card to several friends. He wrote a note inside each card, “I am praying for you during this time.” He did not know about their problems, but soon each one said, “How did you know I had a **serious** problem?” We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. God’s Spirit will use us to bless someone else.

VERSE 35.

³⁵ Then David accepted Abigail’s gifts. He told her, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words, and I will do what you have asked.”

David accepted her gifts for his men. They had protected her servants. Abigail’s gift of food and supplies would help David keep Israel safe.

Read verse 33. What did Abigail keep David from doing?

3. God’s Judgment (1 Samuel 25:36-38)

VERSE 36.

³⁶ When Abigail went back to Nabal, he was in the house, eating like a king. He was very drunk and in a good mood. So she told him nothing until the next morning.

Abigail returned home. When she saw Nabal, he was eating like a king. This meant he had a lot of food. Maybe the table was filled with food, not food like his servants ate, but expensive food. There would have been large pieces of meat, many different vegetables, breads, and sweet desserts.

The Bible gives us a word picture of Nabal. He was not thankful to God for what he had. He did not care if other people had no food. He was not thankful for David’s men when they protected his sheep and servants. He was only interested in what he wanted. In Philippians 3:19, Paul said men like

Nabal “do whatever their bodies want, they are proud of their shameful acts, and they think only about earthly things.”

VERSE 37.

³⁷In the morning when he was not drunk, his wife told him everything. His heart stopped, and he became like stone.

Abigail did not tell Nabal what she had done until the next morning. When she returned to her home, he was too drunk to understand. She knew he would become angry and try to punish her. She waited until the next morning when he was sober. She told him the story. Did he realize she saved him from death by David’s men? Was he angry that she gave David so much food? The information was too much for Nabal. He became unconscious.

VERSE 38.

³⁸About ten days later the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

Maybe Nabal’s death was because of his **lifestyle** of eating rich food. Maybe fear caused his heart to stop. The Bible does not explain, but it tells us how God leads people who trust Him. It also tells how God punishes people who do not obey Him.

Nabal’s name means foolish. He was a foolish man. He did not trust God. He refused to help David. David was anointed as the next king by God. Abigail followed God when she helped David. God took care of Abigail and her family.

Our God can handle any problem we have. Sometimes God uses another person to stop us from making a mistake. He may use us to warn a friend.

After Nabal’s death, David asked Abigail to be his wife. A woman could not own property. Without children to take care of her, she would be poor. David asked her to be his wife and he took care of her.

Do you help other people when they need help? YES NO.

**Will you ask God to give you a kind heart to help other people?
YES NO.**

IN MY CONTEXT

The point of our lesson is God Protects His People. God takes care of His children. Nabal, a wealthy man, refused to give food to David's army. David helped Nabal in the past, but Nabal refused to help David now. David planned to punish Nabal, but God changed David's plans.

Read verse 14. Who told Nabal's wife what Nabal said about David?

How did David's men help Nabal's servants?

Think about what you know about the culture in the Old Testament. Did Abigail do something that was not usual in her culture? YES NO.

A woman was required to do what her husband told her to do. Her husband was the ruler of her family. But God led her to be brave and to repay David for his kindness.

Read verse 32. How did David respond?

Are you willing to do something that is different from what people “normally” do? YES NO.

Are you willing to do what is right, no matter if others don’t understand? YES NO.

When we suffer for Christ, we can be thankful. God will comfort us and we will feel His joy.

Are you sometimes aware God has protected you or your family? YES NO.

How can you show your thankfulness to God for His protection? Discuss this with your class members.

MEMORY VERSES

“David answered Abigail, “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel. He sent you to meet me. May you be blessed for your wisdom. You have kept me from killing or punishing people today.” —1 Samuel 25:32-33



Session 12

RESPECT

God is creator and Lord over everything.

1 SAMUEL 26:7-12,21-25

FIRST THOUGHTS

Human life is important to God. When the first laws were given to Israel, God said, “You must not murder anyone” (Exodus 20:13). God cares about the life of all people.

Because people are made like God, it is wrong to kill someone. It is wrong to kill unborn babies. God said that human life is important to Him.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Saul tried to find David. The only thing Saul thought about was how to destroy David. Killing David was always on Saul’s mind. The only way Saul could make his son king was for David to die.

Some people told Saul where David was. So Saul took three thousand soldiers to find David. That was almost ten times as many soldiers as David had. David heard that Saul came to the area. He sent spies to see if it was true. David took one of his men, Abishai, to Saul’s camp during the night. God caused Saul and his army to fall into a deep sleep.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 26:7-12,21-25)

Read 1 Samuel 26:1-6 for the background of this lesson.

1. David Had an Opportunity (1 Samuel 26:7-8)

VERSE 7.

⁷*So that night David and Abishai went into Saul's camp. Saul was asleep in the middle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the army were sleeping around Saul.*

God instructed David to go to Saul's camp. David took Abishai, his cousin. When they arrived at the camp, everyone was in a deep sleep. No one woke up to see David and Abishai walk to the center of the camp.

Three thousand soldiers were sleeping on the ground. King Saul was sleeping in the center of the large circle of sleeping soldiers. They protected the king. If someone attacked them, the king would be in the middle. The soldiers would protect him.

But David and Abishai walked into the center of the camp. What a strange sight it was for David. Saul was supposed to be safe. But David stood beside him. No one woke up or knew David was there. God continued to protect David. God gave him success to enter the camp without anyone seeing him.

VERSE 8.

⁸*Abishai said to David, "Today, God has handed your enemy over to you. Let me pin Saul to the ground with my spear. I'll only have to do it once. I won't need to hit him twice."*

Abishai knew it would be easy to kill the king. When he said, "Let me pin Saul to the ground," he meant "let me kill him." David would be finished with Saul and David would become king. Abishai wanted to help David kill the man who chased him. God had anointed David, so he would be the king when Saul was dead.

David found Saul in the center of the camp. Why was he in the center?

2. David Respected God (1 Samuel 26:9-12)

VERSE 9.

⁹ *But David said to Abishai, “Don’t kill Saul! No one can harm the LORD’s appointed king and still be innocent!”*

David respected God’s choice of Saul. He knew Saul disobeyed God. Saul became like the **pagan** kings of their enemies. Saul was rich. He owned much land in Israel. He wanted his son and grandsons to be king forever.

David knew God chose Saul as the king. Until God removed Saul as the king, David respected God’s choice.

VERSE 10.

¹⁰ *“As surely as the LORD lives, the LORD himself will punish Saul. Maybe Saul will die naturally, or maybe he will go into battle and be killed.”*

David reminded Abishai that it was God’s decision to punish Saul. God may let Saul be king for a long time. He might die of old age or he might be killed in a battle. But God would decide when Saul would die. That decision was not David’s decision.

VERSES 11-12.

¹¹ *“But may the Lord keep me from harming His appointed king! Take the spear and water jug that are near Saul’s head. Then let’s go.”*

¹² *So David took the spear and water jug that were near Saul’s head, and they left. No one saw them or knew about it or woke up, because the Lord had put them sound asleep.*

David said again that he believed it was wrong to hurt King Saul. Saul was God’s king. David said God’s plans are always right.

God said human life is valuable to God. The Ten Commandments say we must not kill people (Exodus 20:13). It is different in times of war. But we must always defend human life.

David told Abishai to take the spear and water jug. The spear was a symbol of Saul’s **authority** as king. Saul always had his spear with him.

Why would David not let Abishai kill Saul?

How did David and Abishai enter Saul’s camp without anyone waking?

3. Saul Was Sorry (1 Samuel 26:21)

Read verses 13-20 to get the full story.

VERSE 21.

²¹ Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Today you respected my life, so I will not try to hurt you. I have been very stupid and foolish."

Saul said these words many times before. Deep in his heart, Saul knew he was doing wrong by trying to kill David. In 1 Samuel 15:23, Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him. Saul knew his authority as king was gone. He wanted to keep his kingdom. He wanted his son to be king when he died. But God's Spirit left him. Saul did not have God's blessing. But if he could kill David and defeat Israel's enemies, maybe God would let his son become king.

BIBLE SKILL: *Sorry for Hurting Other People*

In our lesson today, Saul said he was sorry for trying to kill David. The Bible tells us to confess our sins. It is right to apologize to anyone we have hurt. As Christians, we should have good relationships with others. First Timothy 2:2 tells us that we should live quiet and peaceful lives with each other. We must be quick to ask forgiveness when we hurt someone. We must ask God to forgive us. We must ask God to help us be more loving to others.

Saul was king for many years. He was now old. He did not have many more years and he was tired. He looked at his life and his simple confession came out: "I have sinned." David honored God's choice of Saul. No matter that David was anointed as the next king, he did not try to kill Saul. Instead, David protected Saul. Now Saul said he would stop trying to kill David.

Saul was sorry he had tried to kill David. Fill in the blanks of the verses:

Saul said, "I have _____."

Then he said, "I have been very _____ and
_____."

4. David Trusted God (1 Samuel 26:22-25)

VERSES 22-23.

²² *David answered, "Here is your spear. Let one of your young men come here and get it.*

²³ *"The LORD rewards us for the things we do right and for our loyalty to him. The LORD handed you over to me today, but I wouldn't harm the LORD's appointed king."*

David's answer to Saul was always the same. He had no interest in hurting Saul. God is the one who decides guilt or innocence. God will judge us for the things we do. God gave David the opportunity to show he did not plan to hurt Saul.

The spear was the symbol of Saul's **authority** as the king. David took it, but he returned it to Saul. Saul continued to be the king for a short time.

VERSE 24.

²⁴ *"As I respected your life today, may the Lord also respect my life and save me from all trouble."*

God protected David from Saul and the enemies of Israel. In his battles with the kings of Israel's enemies, God gave David safety and victory. Now, David asked God for a blessing on his life. He asked God to protect him. God was always faithful to David. God is faithful to us, also.

KEY DOCTRINE: *God's Faithfulness*

In the story of David and Saul, we see how God was faithful to David. No matter what Saul planned, God told David what he should do. David knew God would protect him from Saul.

It is the same with us. When we obey God, He will guide us to do what is right.

Look back through your life.

Can you see how God guided you?

Did He protect you from danger?

Did He prevent you from making wrong decisions?

God is faithful to us through all our life.

VERSE 25.

²⁵ *Then Saul said to David, "You are blessed, my son David. You will do great things and succeed." So David went on his way, and Saul went back home.*

In this final meeting of Saul and David, they leave in peace. Saul said, "You are blessed, my son David."

God was faithful to David. God protected him as He said He would. We can be sure that God will be faithful to us, too.

Fill in the blanks: In verse 25, Saul said to David, "You will do _____ and _____."

In the time when David lived, most nations did not respect life. But God used David to show us how to respect human life. When Saul and David lived, human life was not important to people. Nations started wars often. They wanted to kill all their enemies. God gives us an example in David. Saul tried to kill him. Many times Saul used his army to search for David. David always respected Saul's life. He would not kill Saul as long as God let Saul continue to be the king.

IN MY CONTEXT

Read verse 8. What did Abishai want to do?

Now read verse 9. What was David's answer?

Are there times that your friend's words tempt you to get even with someone who hurt you? YES NO When you feel tempted, what can you do to resist that temptation?

What did David do to resist that temptation to kill Saul?

Earlier, in 1 Samuel 24:3-4, David had the opportunity in a cave to kill Saul. What did David do?

Do you have someone who may be trying to hurt you—maybe at

work someone does things to bother you, or a neighbor is not kind?
YES NO.

What can you do to show you do not want to “get even” and hurt that person?

Someone may say, “But we need to be against those who try to hurt us.” Yes, we do need to oppose what they do. What did David do? He opposed King Saul, but he trusted God. He knew God was in control.

Read Matthew 5:44. What does that verse tell you to do for your enemies?

MEMORY VERSE

But David said to Abishai, “Don’t kill Saul! No one can harm the LORD’s appointed king and still be innocent!” —1 Samuel 26:9



Session 13

VICTORY

Only God gives us a true and permanent victory.

1 SAMUEL 30:6-8,18-25

FIRST THOUGHTS

David did not lose many battles. Saul was never able to capture David. The **Philistines** and the **Amalekites** were never able to defeat David. The reason for his great success was because God led him. David always asked God what he should do. God will always win. If you and I obey God and do what He says, we will always win, too.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

For a while, David lived with the Philistines. He helped the Philistines fight against their enemies. But the Philistines did not trust David. They were planning to fight against Israel and thought David might join with Saul. The Philistines did not trust David to fight with them against Saul.

God spared David more sadness, because in this battle, Saul and Jonathan were killed by the Philistines. If David had gone with them, he might have been part of causing the death of Saul.

When the Philistines refused to let David's army fight against Saul, David

and his men returned to the city of Ziklag, where David and his men lived. Their families lived in the city. When David's men arrived, they saw the Amalekites had attacked while they were gone. They burned the city and took the wealth. They also took the families of David's men, including David's two wives.

This is what armies did when they defeated a town. They stole everything of value. The wives and children became slaves. When David and his men came to the city, they were sad because their families were taken captive. The men lost everything.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 30:6-8,18-25)

Read chapters 24–29 to complete the story between last week's lesson and today's lesson.

1. David's Enemies Destroyed His City (1 Samuel 30:6-8)

VERSE 6.

⁶*The men in the army were threatening to kill David with stones, which greatly upset David. Each man was sad and angry because his sons and daughters had been captured, but David found strength in the LORD his God.*

God knew the raid on Ziklag would happen. He used the distrust of the Philistine kings to lead David back home. God works in the lives of people who trust and obey Him.

But David found strength in his God. Men and women who trust God will always get strength from their faith in God. David knew that it is never **hopeless** when you trust and follow God.

David's men were shocked and felt a deep loss because their families were taken. They could not attack the Amalekites so they blamed David. They wanted to kill David with stones. Stoning was a method of execution. Acts 7:54-60 gives an example of stoning when Stephen was killed by a mob. But David was heartbroken, too. He also lost his family and all his wealth. Everything in the city was destroyed or stolen.

David's soldiers were foolish when they wanted to kill David. David was the only person who could lead the army to save their families and their wealth. David was the only one who had God's Spirit to lead them. If they killed David, they would not get their families back from the Amalekites.

VERSES 7-8.

⁷*David said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring me the holy vest."*

⁸Then David asked the LORD, “Should I chase the people who took our families? Will I catch them?” The LORD answered, “Chase them. You will catch them, and you will succeed in saving your families.”

David asked for the priest to bring the vest the priest wore while serving God. David knew only God could help them. He wanted the priest, Abiathar, to wear the holy **vest** called an **ephod**. Together, they asked the Lord to give them answers to their questions.

David asked if God wanted him to chase the Amalekites. God quickly answered, “Yes.” David’s second question was, “Will I catch them?” Again God answered and said they would catch the **Amalekites** and save their families. Again the answer was, “Yes, you will get back everything.”

KEY DOCTRINE: *Depending on God*

David depended on God to guide him in this battle. He often asked God if he should go into a battle. In our lesson this week, he asked if he should chase the Amalekites. David knew that he needed God to lead him in everything he did. David is known as the best king Israel ever had. That’s because he depended on God. You and I must depend on God, too. If we do, God will keep us from doing wrong things in life.

David and his men had just traveled back to the city of Ziklag. The men were tired but they were soldiers and left immediately. If they wanted to catch the Amalekites they must hurry. It didn’t matter if they were tired.

In verse 6, why was David upset?

In verses 7-8, what was David’s question to God?

What was God’s answer to David?

2. David Recovered Everything (1 Samuel 30:18-20)

Read verses 9-17 to understand the rest of this story.

VERSES 18-19.

¹⁸ *David got his two wives back and everything the Amalekites had taken.*

¹⁹ *Nothing was missing. David brought back everyone, young and old, sons and daughters. He recovered the valuable things and everything the Amalekites had taken.*

It was easy to find the Amalekite army. Why? The Amalekites left one of their slaves who was sick at a place called the Besor Ravine. His master thought the slave would die, but he lived. David asked the slave to lead them to the Amalekites. The man agreed to lead them if David did not give him back to his master. David promised him, and the man led David's army to the Amalekites.

The Amalekites did not expect David and his men to attack them. They were celebrating their victory. They did not think David would follow them. They did not have men watching. David and his men surprised the Amalekites. They destroyed all their army except four hundred who escaped.

God's word was right. David and his men caught the Amalekites. They also got back all the wealth that was taken. They got their families, too.

BIBLE SKILL: *David's Wives*

When some people read the Bible, they are bothered by stories like this about David having two wives. Genesis 2:24 clearly says that when God married Adam and Eve, He planned for marriage to be between one man and one woman. David had two wives at this time and other wives later. Samuel's father also had two wives. Sometimes, when a man married and his wife could not have children, he married a second wife. But Ephesians 5:31 says, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife." It is clear that God's plan is one husband and one wife.

VERSE 20.

²⁰ *David took all the sheep and cattle, and his men made these animals go in front, saying, "They are David's prize."*

David got back his wives and children. The soldiers said the cattle and sheep were David's prize.

Were David and his men successful? YES NO.

What did David and his men recover?

What was David's prize?

3. Victory Must Be Shared by All (1 Samuel 30:21-25)

VERSE 21.

²¹ *Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too tired to follow him, who had stayed at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. When he came near, David greeted the men at the ravine.*

When they went after the **Amalekites**, they stopped at a place named Besor Ravine (1 Samuel 30:9). Two hundred of David's men were too tired to continue. In the Hebrew language the words mean the soldiers were "dead on their feet." They were so tired they couldn't keep marching. They were too tired to fight. So David left them at Besor Ravine to rest and guard some of the army's supplies.

VERSE 22.

²² *But the evil men and troublemakers among those who followed David said, "Since these two hundred men didn't go with us, we shouldn't give them any of the things we recovered. Just let each man take his wife and children and go."*

When the army returned from defeating the Amalekites, some of the soldiers were selfish. They didn't want to share with the two hundred. They said only those who fought should get the wealth. The two hundred men should only get their families back.

VERSES 23-24.

²³ *David answered, “No, my brothers. Don’t do that after what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and given us the enemy who attacked us.*

²⁴ *“Who will listen to what you say? The share will be the same for the one who stayed with the supplies as for the one who went into battle. All will share alike.”*

David did not agree with the men. He knew the victory was not won by the soldiers. They won the battle because God was fighting on their side.

VERSE 25.

²⁵ *David made this an order and rule for Israel, which continues even today.*

David made this a rule for Israel. It continued to be a rule when he became king. And it continued to be the rule when others were king, too.

Why did the two hundred men stay at the Besor Ravine?

Some of the soldiers did not want to share with the two hundred men who did not go into battle. What rule did David make?

IN MY CONTEXT

In our lessons, we have seen how God directed Samuel from the time he was a young boy at the **tabernacle**. God directed Saul until he stopped obeying God. Then when David fought Goliath, God led him and gave him victory over Goliath. In this week's lesson, David asked God to lead him to find the **Amalekites** and give him victory in the battle.

Often we think God led only the people in the Bible. But John 16:13 says the Holy Spirit can be trusted to lead us in the right way. He will guide us through difficult times. He will also convict us when we stray away from God.

Read verse 6. The men served David for a long time. Why do you think they wanted to kill David?

Read verses 23-24. What did David say the Lord had given them?

Do you think we can trust God to guide us today? YES NO.

Find these verses about the work of the Holy Spirit. Write a few words to help you remember what the verse teaches you:

1 Corinthians 2:9-13 _____

1 Corinthians 12:4 _____

Ephesians 1:13-14 _____

Ephesians 3:16 _____

Ezekiel 36:27 _____

Galatians 5:16 _____

John 14:26 _____

Luke 2:26 _____

Luke 4:18 _____

Psalms 143:10 _____

Psalms 80:1 _____

Romans 15:13 _____

Romans 8:1-14 _____

Romans 8:26-27 _____

Zechariah 4:6 _____

Read the first few chapters of 1 Peter to prepare for a new series of lessons beginning next week.

MEMORY VERSE

“Each man was sad and angry because his sons and daughters had been taken as prisoners. But David found strength in the LORD his God.” —1 Samuel 30:6

Outline of 1 Samuel



Samuel's Birth (1:1–2:11)



Samuel's Call (2:12–3:21)



Samuel's Ministry (4:1–7:17)



Crying for a King (8:1–11:15)



Samuel's Warning (12:1–25)



Saul's Rise and Rebellion (13:1–15:35)



David's Selection (16:1–23)



David's Victory (17:1–58)



Saul's Conflict with David (18:1–26:25)



Saul's End (27:1–31:13)

WORD LIST

Abused—Hurt physically, mentally, or emotionally.

Amalekites—A nation that was often at war with Israel.

Ambition—Wanting to become famous, rich, or to reach a goal.

Anoint—Pouring oil on the head to show honor and to show a person has been chosen by God as the king.

Apostles—The twelve disciples Jesus chose for special work and leadership.

Archer—A soldier who uses a bow and arrow.

Ashtoreth—A goddess worshiped by other nations near Israel. She and Baal were often worshiped together, sometimes with immoral sex acts.

Assume—Believing something is true without proof; to guess.

Authority—The power to tell someone what to do and make decisions for others.

Beth Shemish—A city in Israel nearest to the Philistines.

Canaan—The area often called the promised land.

Canteen—A soldier's water bottle.

Coarse words—Words and speech that are not polite.

Concern—Caring about someone or something in a positive way. Worry is a negative word that means the same thing.

Confess—Admit doing wrong.

Confront—Standing up to someone doing wrong.

Consecrate—Dedicate, give to God.

Covenant—Agreement.

Dagon—An idol worshiped by many of the nations near Israel.

Descended—To be related by blood to someone.

Disobedience—Not obeying.

Entertain—Doing something to keep someone interested or make enjoyable.

Ephod—A sleeveless vest worn by a Jewish priest.

Ephrata—Another name for the city of Bethlehem.

Haman—An enemy of the Jews, recorded in the Book of Esther.

Honorable—Something that is right. Something that is respected.

Hopeless—Someone who cannot be helped. There is no chance that He will change. He will not succeed.

Idol—Often an image carved from stone, wood, or metal. Also, anything worshiped instead of God.

Lifestyle—The way a person lives.

Loyal—Being a true friend.

Manly—A strong man who enjoys men's activities; a man who enjoys sports and men's activities.

Nazirite vow—A special promise made to God. The promise can be made by a parent for their child (examples Hannah, John the Baptist, Sampson). Sometimes it is made by the person. It is a promise to give himself to God. He or she will not drink or eat anything made from grapes, will not cut their hair, and will not touch a dead body. The Nazirite vow can be for all their life or for a shorter time.

Outlaw—A person who is running away from the police or other law enforcement agency.

Pagan—A person who does not worship God, but worships idols.

Permissive will of God—When God lets people do what they want, even if it is against His plan and desire.

Philistines—A group of people who lived near Israel and often were at war with Israel.

Plague—A serious illness or other disaster sent by God to punish people.

Purim—A Jewish feast that celebrates the victory recorded in the Book of Esther.

Reject—To turn away from.

Repent—To be truly sorry for sin and confess the sin to God, then turn from the sin and obey God.

Respect—Honor.

Revenge—To punish someone because they hurt you.

Reverent fear—The sense of deep respect for God that leads us to obey Him.

Serious—Something that is important.

Sorcery—Using powers gained from evil spirits to do magic.

Sovereignty—God's power that is greater than any other power and requires our respect and obedience.

Tabernacle—A large tent that was the place where Israel worshiped. The temple Solomon built replaced the tabernacle.

Tradition—Historical writings other than the Bible.

Tribe—A group of people, all from the same family. The twelve sons of Abraham each became the father of one of the tribes of Israel.

Vest—A special garment worn by priests. The Hebrew word is ephod.

Vow—Promise.

Worthy—Something that is important and respected.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND LEADERS

On-Line Commentary: <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/index.htm>

Bible verses in this publication are from the New Century Version (NCV). This translation is available on-line at <http://www.biblegateway.com>.

The ASL Bible is produced by Deaf Missions and available at www.deafmissionsstore.com

The ASL Bible for mobile devices is available at www.DeafBible.com or www.Bible.is/Deaf

Let's Sign Hymnal and the ASL Bible are available at www.Letssignllc.com



Explore the Bible®

LEADER GUIDE

1 Samuel

Session 1

ANSWERED!

1 SAMUEL 1:10-18,26-28

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Ask _____ to study the introduction to 1 Samuel and summarize it for the class.

Secure a map and locate the places named in this lesson: Shiloh, Ramah.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, "I Know Whom I Have Believed" (Let's Sign Hymnal* #176).

Review the introduction.

Encourage class members to read all of the chapter(s) being studied each week so they can get the complete story and better understand the significance of the Bible verses selected for each week's study.

Review 1 Samuel 1:1-9. Genesis 2:24 shows that God wanted men to have only one wife. When a man had more than one wife, usually there was trouble between his wives.

Elkanah was a religious man. Israelite men must give sacrifices to God three times a year (Exodus 23:14-17). Elkanah went to the **tabernacle** in Shiloh. Shiloh was about fifteen miles east of Ramah. Help your class members locate these towns on a map.

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 1:10-18,26-28)

1. Hannah Prayed (1 Samuel 1:10-11)

Emphasize that these verses do not say Hannah's sin caused her not to have children.

DIG DEEPER: *The Nazirite Vow*

The word *Nazirite* means “consecrated or separated.” The rules for this promise are in Numbers 6:1-21. Samson was a Nazirite. His mother also abstained from wine during her pregnancy (Judges 13:2-25). Other writings from this period tell of Nazirite vows taken by people who were not Jews. John the Baptist was possibly a Nazirite, because of his way of life and dress (Matthew 3:1-4).

2. Eli Encouraged Hannah (1 Samuel 1:12-18)

Discuss how Hannah prayed. Was Hannah selfish? Encourage discussion of how to pray unselfishly when we ask God to do something for us.

3. Hannah Presented Samuel to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:26-28)

Briefly discuss anything in verses 12-25 that will help class members complete the story. In verse 19, “God remembered her” means God answered her prayer. Verses 19-25 set the context for Hannah’s conversation with Eli in verse 26. In those days, a woman fed her baby with breast milk for about three years.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Praying for God’s Will (1 Samuel 1:10-11)*

Hannah’s prayer shows she wanted to ask according to God’s will. That is the right way to ask God for something. How can we know God’s will? We have the Bible to help us (Psalm 119:9-16). We learn God’s will when we sincerely seek it through prayer (Philippians 4:6-7), through godly advice from mature Christians (Colossians 3:15-17), and from opportunities and interests (Psalm 37:3-4). The key is to have sincere faith.

IN MY CONTEXT

Encourage discussion of how we can approach God with our frustrations and heartfelt desires, knowing that we can trust Him to do what is best.

Ask class members to share their response in the last part of this section in the pupil material.

Encourage discussion of how we can encourage others by praying with them and sincerely sympathizing with their heartaches.

Session 2

CALLED

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10,17-21

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Use a map to locate the places named in this lesson: Dan, Beersheba.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Footsteps of Jesus” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #16).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 3:1-10,17-21)

Briefly discuss anything in 1 Samuel 2 that will help class members understand the complete story.

1. God’s Voice (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

God spoke to Samuel. How does God speak to us today? Encourage discussion.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Samuel*

Samuel lived in a time of great change. After Moses and Joshua, the people of Israel were ruled by several judges, reported in the Book of Judges. Samuel’s most important characteristic was his obedience to God (1 Samuel 2:26). God chose him for a special role. He was a good judge and settled the people’s disputes (1 Samuel 7:6). As a prophet, he anointed the first two kings of Israel (1 Samuel 10:1; 16:13). He warned the people to give up idols and serve the true God (1 Samuel 12:21). He told them if they and King Saul disobeyed, God would punish them (1 Samuel 12:13-14). Samuel’s faith and obedience are reported in Hebrews 11:32.

Because Eli was almost blind, Samuel probably did most of the work in the **tabernacle**. The Bible does not say he offered sacrifices, like a priest, but he did almost everything else.

Ask _____ to discuss the ark of the agreement from the Bible Skill in the pupil material.

Ask _____ to study Exodus 25:31-40 and Leviticus 24:1-4 about the lamp in the tabernacle (verse 3) and report to the class.

Encourage discussion about following God's call. When have you sensed that God was calling you to serve him? What fears and doubts prompt you to ignore God's call? When was the last time God gave you spiritual strength to do something you could not have done on your own?

2. God's Message (1 Samuel 3:17-18)

Review verses 11-16 to help class members understand the full story. Emphasize the significance of verse 14 when God said, "Your guilt will never be removed." How does this fit with the teaching of God's willingness to forgive? (They did not **repent**, therefore God did not forgive.)

DIG DEEPER: *Eli (1 Samuel 2:12-36)*

Eli was priest in Israel for forty years. This was a responsible position among the people of God. He was chosen by God to lead the people, but in his later years, he did not rule his own sons. Eli allowed his children to control him and misuse their role as priests. They were responsible to help the people worship God. Because of this, God rejected Eli and his sons. Samuel became the spiritual leader of Israel.

3. A Prophet (1 Samuel 3:19-21)

Locate Dan and Beersheba on a map.

Everyone in Israel recognized Samuel as a true prophet because everything Samuel said came true. Ask _____ to sign Deuteronomy 18:21-22. This is the test for a true prophet.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material to generate discussion related to the theme of this lesson: God's call.

Session 3

WORTHY!

1 SAMUEL 5:1-6; 6:11-16

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Use a map to show the location of the **Philistines** and the cities named in this lesson: Beth Shemesh, Ashdod, Ebenezer, and Ekron.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #155).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 5:1-6; 6:11-16)

Review chapter 4 to help class members understand the full story of the death of Eli and the theft of the ark of the agreement by the Philistines. (Be sure no one confuses the ark of the agreement with Noah’s ark!)

1. God Is Holy (1 Samuel 5:1-5)

DIG DEEPER: *The Philistines*

In the Old Testament books we read often about the Philistines. They were descendants of Noah’s son, Ham (Genesis 10:14; 1 Chronicles 1:12).

Delilah, who betrayed Samson, was a Philistine (Judges 16:4-5). Goliath was a Philistine (1 Samuel 17:4). The Philistines were enemies when the Israelites went into the promised land (Judges 13:1). King Saul was killed while fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:1-6). In Ezekiel 25:15-17, God condemned them for their treatment of the Israelites.

What is the significance of the idol falling as if it were bowing to the ark of the agreement? (When the Philistines won a battle, they stole the idols of

that nation. They put them in Dagon's temple to show how **Dagon** was more powerful than other gods. The idol of Dagon was probably on something higher than any other idol. This made him look powerful and important. The ark of the agreement represented God's presence. When Dagon's idol fell, it showed God is the greatest.)

Locate the cities of Beth Shemesh, Ashdod, Ebenezer, and Ekron on a map. Ashdod was about thirty miles from the place where the two armies fought. Beth Shemesh was the Israelite town nearest to the Philistine cities.

2. God's Judgment (1 Samuel 5:6)

Because the people of Ashdod failed to recognize God as holy, they experienced a terrible disease.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: "*Growths on Their Skin*"

Different ancient copies of the Hebrew Old Testament used different words for what happened to the Philistines. The growths in this verse were possibly some kind of tumor or skin growth. Some old copies suggest these were tumors in their "private parts." In some old copies, the Hebrew word is similar to the English word *hemorrhoids*.

Review the rest of chapter 5 to help your class understand the full story about how God judged the Philistines for their failure to worship Him.

3. God's Instructions (1 Samuel 6:11-12)

Review 1 Samuel 6:1-10 to show the instructions for returning the ark of the agreement to the Israelites.

4. Worship (1 Samuel 6:13-16)

When the ark of the agreement arrived unexpectedly in Beth Shemesh, the people worshiped God by offering sacrifices.

Emphasize the theme of this lesson: God Is Worthy. Anything we place above God will fail. Because God is holy, we must follow His directions completely. God is worthy of our very best in worship.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material to summarize and apply this lesson.

Session 4

KING?

1 SAMUEL 8:4-9,19-22

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Use a map to locate the places named in this lesson: Ramah, Beersheba, the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Lead On O King Eternal” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #253).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 8:4-9,19-22)

Review chapter 7 to complete the story about how the people of Israel worshiped Baal and **Ashtoreth**. These were the two main gods in the nations near Israel. Baal was the son of **Dagon**. He was the god of the harvest. Ashtoreth was the goddess of love. Worship of these idols involved sex acts.

1. The People Want a King (1 Samuel 8:4-5)

Use a map to show the location of towns named in verses 2 and 4: Ramah and Beersheba.

Review verses 1-3.

What was the reason the people wanted a king?

Ask _____ to sign verse 5 and verses 19-20. Is it a sin to want to be like “all the other people”?

DIG DEEPER: *God the King*

God is a great King (Malachi 1:14). Moses said God will be King forever (Exodus 15:18). David called God the glorious King in Psalm 24:10 and the King over all gods in Psalm 95:3. King Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel that he knew Daniel’s God was “the LORD of all the kings” (Daniel 2:47) and the “King of heaven” (Daniel 4:37).

Paul described God as the King that rules forever (1 Timothy 1:17). The Book of Revelation builds to a climax in 19:6 to declare that God almighty reigns! Proverbs has an interesting description of God's power over earthly kings: "The LORD can control a king's mind as He controls a river; He can direct it as He pleases!" (Proverbs 21:1).

Ask _____ to sign Judges 8:22-23. Gideon was one of the judges. The Israelites wanted him, his son, and his grandson to rule over them like a king. But Gideon said that God would rule over them.

Ask class members to find Deuteronomy 17:14-20 in their Bibles. What did God say a king should do or not do?

2. The People Reject God (1 Samuel 8:6-9)

At this time, Samuel was about 65-70 years old.

3. The People Rebel (1 Samuel 8:19-22)

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *The Kings of Israel*

In these lessons we will learn much about the first king, Saul. He was not a good king. After Saul, David served God faithfully. David's son, Solomon, was also a good king. Then the kingdom was divided. The Northern Kingdom, Israel, had twenty kings. None of them were really good. Several were very bad kings. The twenty kings in the Southern Kingdom, Judah, were not much better. Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah were better kings than the others. When we study about the kings, we understand how right God was. The people suffered much from these kings.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material to encourage discussion and application of this lesson.

Session 5

FEARED

1 SAMUEL 12:12-22

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Glorify Thy Name” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #100).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 12:12-22)

Review chapters 9-11 to help your class understand the continuing events.

What are you afraid of? Encourage discussion of fear, in this lesson, meaning **respect**, honor, and obedience.

1. God’s Covenant Continues (1 Samuel 12:12-15)

Emphasize that even though God let the Israelites have a king, the king and the people remained subject to the covenant’s requirements.

Review the Key Doctrine in the pupil material and other resources about God’s **covenant**. Did God ever fail to do what He promised in the covenant? (No.) Did the people of Israel ever fail to do what they promised? (Yes, often.)

DIG DEEPER: *Honor and Obey the Lord*

Sometimes the Bible uses the words *honor* and *obey*. Other times the words *fear* or *respect* are used. These have the same basic idea. This is the concept of reverence, honor, and respect for God. It does not mean we should be “afraid” of God. This attitude is commanded in Deuteronomy 10:12-13. Joshua encouraged the Israelites to respect the Lord and serve Him (Joshua 24:14). The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes said our duty is to fear God (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Peter said to do three things to show respect for all people, “Love the brothers and sisters of God’s family, respect God, honor the king” (1 Peter 2:17).

Do you feel American people have lost much respect for God, and also for our nation? What about respect for the church? Do church members today seem to lack respect for the church? Encourage discussion.

2. God Gives a Sign (1 Samuel 12:16-18)

Why did Samuel call for rain? (To show the people that he spoke for God and that God was in control.)

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Harvest Season*

The Jewish calendar was divided by days, weeks, and months, but also by seasons. Seasons began in the middle of a month. Harvest season was from April to June. Rain was rare during this time. Summer was from June to August. August to October was heat. Seed time was October to December. Winter was December to February. And February to April was the cold season.

3. God's Mercy and Grace (1 Samuel 12:19-22)

Encourage discussion of how the people of Israel continued to follow the pattern of sin, punishment, repentance, and God's forgiveness. Do we still follow that pattern in our lives today? God is full of mercy and grace, and He is faithful to keep His promises.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use questions in pupil material to encourage discussion and application of the theme of this lesson.

Session 6

JUDGED

1 SAMUEL 15:7-15,22-23

PLAN AHEAD

Use a map to locate the places named in this lesson: the area where the **Amalekites** lived, Harvilah, Shur, Carmel, Gilgal.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Follow On” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #93).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 15:7-15,22-23)

Review chapters 13 and 14 to continue this interesting story.

1. Saul Disobeyed God (1 Samuel 15:7-9)

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Amalekites*

The Amalekites lived in the area between Southern Israel and Egypt. They lived and moved about in tents and did not build many towns. They often attacked the Israelites and other nations. The Amalekites stole animals and crops from the farms.

When the Israelites left Egypt, the Amalekites tried to stop them (Exodus 17:8-16). This is why God said He would destroy them completely (Exodus 17:14; Deuteronomy 25:17-19). God said very clearly, “Do not save anything.”

One of the Jewish feasts is the festival of Purim. It is still celebrated today during the last of March or the first of April. It is a two-day festival. On each day, the people read 1 Samuel 15:8 and Exodus 17:8-16. They also read the Book of Esther. In the synagogues, when the name Haman is read, the people boo or shout, “May his name be blotted out!” Why? Read the story of Haman in Esther 9:16-32. Haman was an Amalekite.

2. Samuel Criticized Saul (1 Samuel 15:10-15)

God told Samuel to talk to Saul. Samuel went to several places before he found Saul. Locate these towns on a map.

DIG DEEPER: *Saul's Cities*

Saul was king over all of Israel, but most of the time he was involved in wars with the neighboring nations on the western border of Israel. Use a map to locate the towns named in this lesson and the distances between them: Harvilah, Shur (verse 7), Carmel, Gilgal (verse 12). Carmel will be discussed again in a later lesson.

Emphasize the need to **confront** a person in the church who is unwilling to follow God's direction, and to do so with grace and a view toward repentance.

What was Saul's sin? (Pride.) In chapters 10–11, we see that Saul was a humble man when he was young. But later, his power caused him to become proud. A proud person gives honor to himself, not to God.

3. God Rejected Saul (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

Samuel declared that Saul's **disobedience** led to God rejecting him as king. Saul was not immediately replaced, but his disobedience finally led to his death.

The Bible does not give us much information about the reign of Saul. He was anointed by Samuel about 1033 B.C. (1 Samuel 16:4-13). He united the twelve tribes into one nation and defended Israel from their enemies. The Bible tells us nothing about Saul's palace in Gibeah where David served Saul for about seven years. Much of 1 Samuel is about the four years Saul tried to kill David. Saul is named only in two other books of the Bible. His genealogy and brief history are in 1 Chronicles 8–10 and Acts 13:21.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use questions in the pupil material to summarize and apply this lesson.

Session 7

ANOINTED!

1 SAMUEL 16:4-13

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Use a map to locate the towns named in this lesson: Ramah, Bethlehem, Gibeah.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Wherever He Leads I’ll Go” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #477).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 16:4-13)

1. Samuel Anointed David as King (1 Samuel 16:4-5)

DIG DEEPER: *Bethlehem*

Bethlehem was a small town, but it has great importance in the Bible. Bethlehem was called the “city of David” because it was David’s home and the place where David was anointed king. Bethlehem was about five miles from Jerusalem. The town is first mentioned in Judges 17:7-13. Naomi, the mother-in-law of Ruth, was from Bethlehem and returned to Bethlehem after her husband died (Ruth 1:1-2, 19-22). Jacob’s wife, Rachel, was buried at Bethlehem (Genesis 35:19; 48:7). Bethlehem was honored as the birthplace of Jesus, just as it had been promised in the Old Testament (Luke 2:11, Micah 5:2).

Use a map to locate Bethlehem and Saul’s cities of Ramah and Gibeah.

2. God’s Requirements (1 Samuel 16:6-10)

God does not think like we do. God sees what people are like inside, in their

spirit. Ask _____ to sign Psalm 139:1-6.

God did not choose the older sons of Jesse. Does this mean David's brothers were not good men? (No, but God chose David.)

3. God Chose David (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

Encourage discussion of verse 12, "The LORD's Spirit worked in David." The Hebrew word means that the Spirit quickly came on David with power. The last part of verse 12 tells us the Spirit never left David.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *David's Character*

More is written in the Bible about David than any other person except Jesus. In today's lesson we read about David's physical appearance. Spiritually, David was not perfect, but he was a man who had a heart like God's (Acts 13:22). The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel tell us these things about David:

He depended on God to lead him (1 Samuel 23:2-13). We can read this also in many of the psalms.

He trusted God (1 Samuel 17:34-51).

He was loyal to other people (1 Samuel 20:41-42; 2 Samuel 9:1-7).

He respected people in authority (1 Samuel 24:1-7; 26:1-25).

He was courageous (2 Samuel 8:1-14).

He was a musician and poet (1 Samuel 16:23, many of the psalms).

He sinned (2 Samuel 11:2-4; 12:7-10), but he quickly repented (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51).

The story of David continues in the rest of 1 Samuel. It goes through all of 2 Samuel and finishes with David's death in 1 Kings 2:10.

Encourage discussion of the significance of the Holy Spirit coming upon David. Emphasize David ruled through the Spirit's power. Emphasize the difference of the Holy Spirit's role between the Old and New Testaments.

IN MY CONTEXT

Encourage discussion of how we can trust the Holy Spirit for daily guidance. Use the last part of this section in the pupil material to generate ideas.

Session 8

DELIVERED

1 SAMUEL 17:32-37,42-50

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Use a map to locate the places named in this lesson: Sucoh, Bethlehem.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Show Your Power” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #371).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 17:32-37,42-50)

Review 1 Samuel 16:14–17:31 for the continuation of this story.

Locate Sucoh and Bethlehem. Sucoh was about seventeen miles southwest of Jerusalem. The land belonged to the Israelites but the **Philistines** tried to take it. Ephrathah is another name for Bethlehem.

Three of David’s brothers were in Saul’s army. Jesse wanted to know if they were safe and how the battle was going. He sent David with some food for his brothers.

Goliath insulted the Israelite army twice a day for forty days. The Israelite soldiers were afraid.

1. David: Faith in God (1 Samuel 17:32-37)

Why did David have faith in God’s power? (David based his faith on his past experience.) Encourage discussion of how our faith will grow when we use it.

DIG DEEPER: *Giants*

The Bible refers to giants in a few places. The Anakites (meaning sons of Anak) were descended from a giant named Rapha (Deuteronomy 2:10). Rapha descended from the Nephalim giants (Deuteronomy 1:28; Numbers 13:32-33).

The term Nephilim is found in Genesis 6:1-4 (just before the flood) and Numbers 13:32-33 (after the flood). In Numbers 13, the ten spies sent by Moses into Canaan said they felt like grasshoppers before these giants. A giant named Og is mentioned in Deuteronomy 3:11.

2. Goliath: False Faith in Himself (1 Samuel 17:42-44)

Use the questions at the end of this section in the pupil material to generate discussion.

3. God's Victory (1 Samuel 17:45-50)

In the verses we just studied, we saw Goliath's pride. Now see how it led to his defeat. Encourage discussion of how David's faith led to his victory.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *In the Name of the Lord*

God's name represents His power. David often wrote or spoke about acting in the name of the Lord. This is like an ambassador in a foreign nation, acting and speaking in the name of his government. David also wrote often about God's power. Select a few of these verses and ask class members to sign them (in ASL!).

Psalm 124:8

Psalm 18:2

2 Chronicles 32:8

Psalm 20:6-7

Psalm 3:8

Psalm 125:1

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material to summarize and apply this lesson.

Encourage discussion of any special spiritual issues facing the Deaf people in your church: harassment at work because of their faith, family pressure against their church activity, or someone speaking badly about the church or the Deaf group in the church.

Session 9

FAITHFUL

1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 20:35-42

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “The Bond of Love” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #409).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 20:35-42)

1. True Friends (1 Samuel 18:1-5)

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Love for a Friend*

The Greek language has three words translated into English as love. *Eros* means romantic love. It is not used in the New Testament.

The word used for love in 1 Corinthians 13:1 is *agape*. It means the kind of love God has for us (1 John 4:8-9; Romans 5:8). It is the kind of love that gives to another person unselfishly.

Phileo is used several times in the New Testament to mean love between friends, as in our lesson today. This is also called brotherly love (Hebrews 13:1-2). It means to treat others as if they were a part of our family. A church should be filled with this brotherly love (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; Romans 12:10). Jesus gave a new commandment, to love one another (John 13:34). “Anyone who says, ‘I am in the light,’ but hates a brother or sister, is still in the darkness” (1 John 2:9). When there is true brotherly love in the church, it is easy to reach out and love others.

David found a faithful friend in Jonathan (Saul’s son) who was willing to place David above his own ambitions.

DIG DEEPER: *Jealousy (1 Samuel 18:5-8)*

Today's lesson jumps from 18:8 to 20:35. It is important to understand the next verses after 18:5. Because of David's popularity, Saul became jealous and for the next several years he tried to kill David.

Jealousy or envy is a terrible thing (Ecclesiastes 4:4). God calls it sin and says it will lead to more sins! It will always bring about sadness. Jealousy will "rot your bones" (Proverbs 14:30). True love is not jealous (1 Corinthians 13:4). Christians must not be jealous of other Christians (Galatians 5:26). Cain was jealous of his brother and this led to the first murder recorded in the Bible (Genesis 4:1-8). Jealousy led Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery (Genesis 37:11-36).

2. Tested Friends (1 Samuel 20:35-40)

Jonathan used arrows to signal to David that his life was in danger. The use of the arrow was planned, but only David and Jonathan knew what it meant.

Review 1 Samuel 18:6–20:34 to set the context of this passage.

In those days, when an army returned home, the women came to meet them. The women sang and danced to praise the leaders. When they praised David more than Saul, Saul became jealous. He was afraid the people would turn from him and follow David.

3. Friends Forever (1 Samuel 20:41-42)

David and Jonathan promised to be friends, no matter what happened in the future.

Encourage class discussion of the question at the end of this section in the pupil material.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material for review and application.

Make a list on the board of unsaved friends of class members. Lead in prayer for these friends and for opportunities for class members to witness to them.

Session 10

BLINDED

1 SAMUEL 22:6-17

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Use a map to locate the places named in this lesson: Edom, Nob, Gibeah.

For a time line of Saul's actions against David, see <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-maps-timeline-chronology-1samuel-21-31-saul-david-on-the-run-1012-1004bc.htm>

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, "Make Me a Servant" (Let's Sign Hymnal* # 277).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 22:6-17)

1. Saul Searched for David (1 Samuel 22:6-10)

Encourage discussion of why Saul continued to try to kill David.

DIG DEEPER: *Edomites*

Edom was an area along the Dead Sea, southwest of Judah. The Edomites were descendants of Abraham and Isaac through Esau, and the Israelites were descendants of Abraham and Isaac through Jacob (Genesis 36:40). The conflict between Jacob and Esau continued through the years. Amos wrote about the Edomites in Amos 1:11-12. The Edomites refused to let the Israelites go through their land to get to the promised land (Numbers 20:14-20). The Edomites often fought against the Jews (1 Samuel 14:47; 2 Samuel 8:13-14; 1 Kings 11:14). When Babylon attacked Jerusalem in 597 and 586 B.C., the Edomites joined them rather than helping Israel (Psalm 137:7).

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Doeg*

Saul's servants feared God more than they feared Saul, so they refused to murder the priests. Doeg was an Edomite, not a Jew. He did not hesitate to murder the priests and their families (1 Samuel 22:18-19). One of the sons of Ahimelech the priest escaped and ran to David. He told David that Saul had killed the Lord's priests. David told him to stay and David would protect him.

Read Psalm 52. In this psalm, David showed how he felt about this. The title of the Psalm is When Doeg the Edomite came to Saul and said to him, "David is in Ahimelech's house." David showed his anger against Doeg in verses 1-4. He showed his faith in God and God's judgment in verse 5. David showed his trust in God's love in verses 8-9.

2. David's Friend Helped Him (1 Samuel 22:11-15)

Encourage discussion of how innocent people suffer because of the sin of others. Note that not all suffering is the result of our own sin.

3. Saul Killed David's Friend (1 Samuel 22:16-17)

Encourage discussion of how a faithful follower of God will be brave when faced with suffering and death. Ask class members if they know of any current stories of believers suffering because of their faith. Use the Internet to read about Christians persecuted in other nations.

Review verses 18-19 to complete the story. Note that when the order was given, the king's servants refused to carry out his command, but Doeg, the Edomite, was willing to do it.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material to review and apply the lesson.

How does this lesson apply to you in your life today?

Session 11

PROTECTED

1 SAMUEL 25:14-17,32-38

PLAN AHEAD

Use a map to locate the place named in this lesson: Carmel.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #147).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 25:14-17,32-38)

Review chapters 23–24 to help class members understand the full story.

1. Trouble Is Near (1 Samuel 25:14-17)

This lesson is the story of three people: David, Nabal, and Abigail. Ask _____ to study Dig Deeper about Nabal and summarize it for the class. Ask _____ to do the same with Bible Skill in the pupil material about Abigail. This will explain some of the reasons and background for what happened in the verses in this lesson.

DIG DEEPER: *Nabal*

Nabal is described in 1 Samuel 25:2 as a rich land owner. He lived in the area of Carmel. The Bible does not tell anything about the earlier life of Nabal. He is identified as a Carmelite (from Carmel) and also as a Calebite (a descendant of Caleb).

Nabal was not a good man (verse 3). His wife, Abigail, was the opposite. She was very kind.

This story begins at the time David and his army were running from King Saul. Because David’s army needed food, David sent men to ask for help from Nabal. Nabal insulted David’s men. David responded by planning to attack Nabal, his family, and his servants.

When Abigail told Nabal what David planned to do, he became sick and died ten days later (verses 37-38).

Nabal's name means fool. The Hebrew word has the idea of dishonor, stupidity, no respect for God's law, wickedness, and sexual misconduct.

Nabal was an important man in the community. Some Bible teachers think Nabal was one of Saul's representatives in the area where Saul set up his monument (1 Samuel 15:12). This helps explain why he would not help David.

Emphasize that David had a strong enough army he could have taken what he wanted from Nabal, but he was gracious and asked humbly for help.

2. David Rewards His Friends (1 Samuel 25:32-35)

David's understanding of God's leadership is seen when David offered thanks to God for using Abigail to stop him from acting out of anger.

BIBLE SKILL: *God's Blessings*

God blesses us in many ways. David was blessed when Abigail explained to David about her husband. It prevented David from killing innocent people.

Sometimes God's blessings are simple.

An old hymn tells us to "count your blessings, name them one by one." One Deaf man signed this as, "name them 1, 2, 3."

Ask class members to name some recent blessings from God. List these on the board. Lead in prayer to say "thank you" to God.

3. God's Judgment (1 Samuel 25:36-38)

Point out that David rewarded Abigail by offering to care for her as his wife.

Ask someone to sign Deuteronomy 32:35 and Romans 12:19 about how God will deal with every wrong act. We must never try to get even with people who hurt us. We must do good things for them. We must trust the Lord to be a fair judge.

Ask someone to sign Psalm 112:5 and Proverbs 11:25; 22:9 about how God rewards people who are generous to others.

IN MY CONTEXT

Use the questions in the pupil material to review and apply the lesson.

Session 12

RESPECT

1 SAMUEL 26:7-12,21-25

PLAN AHEAD

Review the resources page for ideas to make your teaching more effective.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #344).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 26:7-12,21-25)

1. David Had an Opportunity (1 Samuel 26:7-8)

David again had an opportunity to kill Saul. Abishai was David’s relative and servant. He encouraged David to take advantage of the opportunity. But David never gave up his **respect** for the king God chose.

Encourage discussion of the need to respect our leaders in the church, in the community and state, and in the nation. We need to respect the office, even when we do not want to honor the person.

2. David Respected God (1 Samuel 26:9-12)

Note how God made it possible for David to go into the camp and no one knew it. Normally, Saul would have many men on guard outside and inside the camp.

DIG DEEPER: *Saul’s Spear and Water Jug*

David took Saul’s spear and water jug to show how easily it was for David to kill Saul. The water jug was as important as the spear for a soldier to survive in the desert. The spear was near him for physical protection. The water jug was near him to provide water during the hot night. Saul’s water jug was probably more expensive than the usual canteen of the soldier. His spear may have had a special design to show it belonged to a king.

Each soldier kept his spear near him in case of an attack during the night. He also kept his water near him in case he might need to leave quickly. He would not survive long in the desert without water.

The two items David took were symbolic. He took Saul's protection from his enemies (his spear) and his protection from the desert heat (his water jug).

3. Saul Was Sorry (1 Samuel 26:21)

Review verses 13-20.

After discovering David had the opportunity to kill him but chose not to do so, Saul expressed his sorrow for the way he had treated David. Saul announced that he would no longer seek to harm David.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *Did Saul Truly Repent?*

Saul admitted he was stupid and foolish, but did he truly repent? His behavior did not change. This suggests he was sorry, but he did not repent.

In Old Testament times, when people repented, they put on old clothing and shaved their heads (Isaiah 22:12). Saul did not do this. Ezekiel described repentance as when people changed their hearts and stopped sinning (Ezekiel 18:30-31). Prophets called for the people to repent and come back to the Lord and ask Him to take away all their sin (Hosea 14:2; Joel 2:12). Peter told the people to "change your hearts and lives. Come back to God" (Acts 3:19). All these verses give us a picture of the word *repentance*.

4. David Trusted God (1 Samuel 26:22-25)

This was the last time David saw Saul. Saul had tried for four years to kill David, but after this experience, he did not hunt for David again. But David did not go back to Saul's home or serve him as a soldier.

IN MY CONTEXT

Each of our opportunities must be weighed as we seek to understand God's principles and will.

Use the questions in the pupil material to summarize and apply the lesson.

Find a copy of the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (<http://www.prayerguide.org.uk/stfrancis.htm>). Ask _____ ahead of time to be prepared to sign it to close this session.

Session 13

VICTORY

1 SAMUEL 30:6-8,18-25

PLAN AHEAD

Use a map to locate places named in this lesson: Besor Ravine, Ziklag.

Ask _____ to sign the hymn, “Faith Is the Victory” (Let’s Sign Hymnal* #90).

EXPLORE THE TEXT (1 SAMUEL 30:6-8,18-25)

Ask _____ to review chapters 27-29 using Understanding the Context in the pupil material and other resources.

1. David’s Enemies Destroyed His City (1 Samuel 30:6-8)

Note this is one example of a time when David was the victim, not the victor. His hometown of Ziklag was attacked and burned by the **Amalekites**. David took time to ask God what to do.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *The Priest’s Vest*

The Hebrew word for vest in this verse is *ephod*. It was a special garment made for the priest to wear when he asked God for leadership. Exodus 28:1-42 gives a description of the ephod and other special items used by the priests. The ephod was made of linen and had threads of gold, blue, purple, and red (Exodus 28:6). It had jewels on the shoulders to represent each of the twelve tribes of Israel (Exodus 28:12). A breastplate was fastened to the ephod. Aaron, the first High Priest, wore the ephod with his robe. At one time, the people of Israel made an idol of a golden ephod (Judges 8:25-27).

When Samuel was a young boy, he wore a simple ephod (1 Samuel 2:18). David wore an ephod for special occasions (2 Samuel 6:14; 1 Chronicles 15:27).

DIG DEEPER: *Finding God's Will*

We do not need special garments or other items to know God's will today. We have the Bible and the Holy Spirit. If we read, study, and obey God's Word, the Holy Spirit will lead us.

Think about this: What do you do with your "smart phone"? You keep it with you all the time, right? What if you kept your Bible with you all the time?

You look at your phone often for a text message, so look at your Bible often!

Do you put your phone on the table while you eat, or on the couch near you while you watch television? What if you did that with your Bible?

You use your phone to get information you need, like travel directions, store addresses, and answers to other questions. Do you use your Bible as your spiritual GPS?

Your Bible has much more important information for you and it is much "smarter" than your phone.

2. David Recovered Everything (1 Samuel 30:18-20)

Review verses 9-17.

Encourage discussion of the possibility that God allowed the Amalekites to capture Ziklag to let David show he depended on God rather than his own army.

3. Victory Must Be Shared by All (1 Samuel 30:21-25)

Some soldiers questioned returning anything beyond their families to some soldiers who were unable to go fight the Amalekites. David made a law that every member of his army would receive an equal part of what was recovered because God gave the victory, not the army.

In chapter 31, Samuel recorded the death of Saul and his sons. This story will be studied in a lesson some time in the future.

IN MY CONTEXT

Review the three things we can learn from this lesson:

1. God can be trusted to lead us every day.
2. We need to thank God for providing all we need.
3. Every believer has an important place in God's work. Each person should be treated with equal **respect**.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

The Kingdom of Saul



1 Samuel

Beheadings! Greedy and immoral priests! Witchcraft! Murder and intrigue at the highest levels of government! Can you believe this is in Scripture? It's there, and sadly it was real life in the time of Samuel. Everyone did whatever they wanted—long before that became a modern slogan. God was there too. In one of the darkest periods of Israel's history, God was working to bring about humanity's salvation. He quietly gave a desperate, praying, childless woman a son named Samuel who grew up to become one of the greatest prophets, prayer-warriors, and kingmakers in Israel. God then used Samuel to call out a shepherd boy, David, to become Israel's most beloved king. In all of this, God was pointing to the time He would send His Son Jesus to be our Savior and King.



Let the Word dwell in you.