

# SAMUEL & SAUL • A STUDY OF I SAMUEL

## PRETEST

1. Hannah made a vow that
  - A. she would never become drunk.
  - B. if the Lord gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord.
  - C. she would sacrifice the first thing that came out of her house.
  - D. she would give 1000 shekels to Samuel to prove her faith.
2. Samuel's first prophecy was that
  - A. Saul would lose the kingdom because of his sin at Amalek.
  - B. the Philistines would defeat Israel in battle.
  - C. the Lord would carry out His promise to kill Eli's sons and destroy his household.
  - D. David would succeed Saul as king of Israel.
3. After the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant,
  - A. they were victorious in all their succeeding battles against Israel.
  - B. they sent it to Egypt, where it remained undiscovered until the time of Indiana Jones.
  - C. their god Dagon kept falling over, and the Lord smote them with a plague.
  - D. it was rescued by David after he defeated Goliath.
4. One reason that the people of Israel wanted a king was that
  - A. Samuel was getting old and his sons were wicked and corrupt.
  - B. they wanted someone who would teach them from the law of the Lord.
  - C. they had a fervent desire to pay taxes to a government.
  - D. there was no other way to have a national draft for their military.
5. Samuel first met Saul when
  - A. Saul led a violent rebellion against Samuel at Ramah to take over the government of Israel.
  - B. Samuel cast an elaborate series of lots to choose a king, leading to Saul.
  - C. the Lord sent Samuel to the house of Saul's father, Kish.
  - D. Saul was hunting for his father's lost donkeys.
6. After he was anointed king, Saul rallied the support of the people by
  - A. hiring David to slay Goliath.
  - B. defeating Nahash the Ammonite and rescuing Jabesh-Gilead.
  - C. keeping the best of the spoil after destroying the Amalekites.
  - D. pledging, "Read my lips: No new taxes."
7. Saul's military progress early in his reign could best be described as
  - A. a complete failure as a result of this blatant disobedience to God.
  - B. a complete success as a result of his total reliance on God.
  - C. a complete success as a result of his bold, strong leadership on the battlefield.
  - D. mostly successful, but hindered by confusion, rash decisions and mistakes, reacting to situations rather than taking charge of them.

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8. After David was victorious in his fight with Goliath, Saul
  - A. suspected that David might try to take the kingdom from him.
  - B. immediately tried to kill David since he was a threat to his power.
  - C. gave David the reward that he had promised to whoever killed the giant.
  - D. employed David in his court to play the harp.
  
9. Saul ordered the massacre at Nob, in which 85 priests were murdered, as well as women, children, and livestock, because
  - A. the Lord commanded him to fulfill his prophecy against the house of Eli.
  - B. his advisors persuaded him that it would help him to find David.
  - C. Ahimelech did not admit to helping David flee from Saul.
  - D. the priests had violated God's law by allowing David and his men to eat consecrated bread.
  
10. Saul died when
  - A. David killed him with Goliath's sword in a struggle for the throne.
  - B. David killed him while he was sleeping in a cave in the wilderness.
  - C. a witch at Endor poisoned him since Saul had forbidden spiritual mediums from the land.
  - D. he committed suicide rather than be abused by the Philistines, who were about to capture him and his sons.

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## LESSON 1 - INTRODUCTION

### I. Pretest

### II. Historical Introduction

1. From the following verses in Judges summarize the political and spiritual condition of the people of Israel as the book of I Samuel opens:

2:1-2	10:6-7
3:7-8, 12	13:1
4:1-2	19:29-30
6:1	21:25

2. What are some similarities between our own society and the people of Israel during this period in history?

### III. Overview of I Samuel

The book of I Samuel is a book of history as are the books that precede it and the books that follow it. At this point, Israel is at a point of transition. Just as the book of Ruth closes with the birth of Obed to Ruth and Boaz, the book of I Samuel opens with the record of another Israelite woman desperately seeking to have a child. Jehovah blesses Hannah with a son, whom she in turn dedicates to God's service. Samuel, who serves as both prophet and judge, is the last in the line of judges chosen by God to deliver Israel from various surrounding enemies. He goes on to lead the nation from being a theocracy to a monarchy, anointing and counseling its first kings as directed by God.

Skim through I Samuel and list the main characters and events in these sections:

Chapter 1	Samuel's Birth
Chapters 2-3	Samuel's Faithful Service and Special Call
Chapters 4-7	Samuel's Leadership of Israel
Chapters 8-12	Transition to Monarchy
Chapters 13-16	God's Rejection of Saul
Chapters 17-31	Saul's Rebellion Against God

### IV. Major Themes in I Samuel

Read Hannah's prayer in I Samuel 2:1-10. Although we can see how parts of this prayer relate to her specific situation, there is more to the content of her song than merely her own experience. Make a list of lessons that are taught in this prayer and a list of examples of how those lessons are demonstrated in life. If you can, use examples from the stories in I Samuel wherever possible.

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## LESSON 2 - THE EARLY LIFE OF SAMUEL

### I. Historical Summary

- A. Samuel's Mother Hannah (1:1-2:10)
  - 1. Her Sorrow (1:1-8)
  - 2. Her Supplication (1:9-18)
  - 3. Her Son (1:19-23)
  - 4. Her Sacrifice (1:24-28)
  - 5. Her Song (2:1-10)
- B. Samuel's Childhood (2:11-36)
  - 1. Eli's Wicked Sons (2:11-17)
  - 2. Samuel & His Parents (2:18-21)
  - 3. Eli Attempts to Discipline his Sons (2:22-26)
  - 4. The Prophecy of the Man of God (2:27-36)
- C. Samuel's First Prophecy (3:1-21)
  - 1. The Lord's Calling (3:1-9)
  - 2. Samuel Receives & Delivers the Lord's Word (3:10-18)
  - 3. Samuel's Rise as a Prophet (3:19-21)

### II. Textual Questions

*Samuel's Mother Hannah (I Samuel 1:1-2:10)*

1. Describe the inter-family relationships in Elkanah's household.
  - Elkanah & Hannah
  - Elkanah & Peninnah
  - Peninnah & Hannah
2. Describe Hannah's countenance while she was in Shiloh.
  - What were the causes of her "mood?"
  - What solutions did she try and which of them worked?
3. Describe Hannah's petition and vow to the Lord.
  - How did Eli know that God would grant this petition?
  - How did God grant Hannah's petition?
4. When God granted Hannah's petition, Hannah also fulfilled her vow.
  - When and how was Hannah's vow fulfilled?
  - Do you think that Elkanah or Eli knew about the vow before Samuel was born?
5. Outline the prayer which Hannah offered to God.

*Samuel's Childhood (I Samuel 2:11-36)*

6. Describe the wickedness of Eli's sons.
  - What effect did this have on others' worship to God?

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- Describe Samuel's characteristics.
- Why do you suppose Samuel turned out so different from Eli's sons?
- How did Eli attempt to deal with his sons? Was this proper under the law?
7. Study the prophecy given to Eli by the man of God. List some interesting points presented in this prophecy.
- To what does God attribute the wickedness of Eli's sons?
- Who is Eli's father referred to in 2:27-31, 36?

## *Samuel's First Prophecy (I Samuel 3:1-21)*

8. Describe the events surrounding Samuel's first prophecy.
9. What was the prophecy?
- How does God describe the information contained in this prophecy?
- How does Samuel react?
- How does Eli react?
10. Explain the interesting phrases in 3:19-21.

## III. Discussion Questions

### A. Hannah's Spiritual Initiative

List some admirable characteristics of Hannah that are demonstrated by her actions in these chapters. How is Hannah different from other members of her society? Her family? How supportive are Elkanah (1:5, 8) and Eli (1:14, 17) to Hannah in her plight? Why does the Lord grant Hannah's petition?

### B. Eli's Parenting Skills

In view of the teaching of Ezekiel 18:20, how could the Lord punish Eli for the wickedness of his sons (2:30-31), particularly when Eli did not approve of their sin (2:23-25)? Explain how Samuel grew up to be a righteous man, even though he was raised by Eli, who also raised wicked Hophni and Phinehas. What can we conclude about the responsibilities of parents? The character of Eli?

### C. Samuel's First Prophecy

What made Samuel's prophecy against Eli so difficult for him? Why was this prophetic assignment appropriate as an early test for Samuel? What qualities enabled him to obey the Lord in this matter? Give some examples of how Christians today find ourselves in situations similar to this one.

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## LESSON 3 - THE PHILISTINE WAR AND SAMUEL'S REVIVAL

### I. Historical Summary

- A. The Philistines Capture the Ark of the Covenant (4: 1-22)
  - 1. The Defeat of Israel(4:1-11)
  - 2. The Death of Eli (4:12-18)
  - 3. The Birth of Ichabod (4:19-22)
- B. The Philistines Suffer because of the Ark (5:1-12)
  - 1. The Curse Against Dagon (5:1-5)
  - 2. The Plague Against the Cities of Philistia (5:6-12)
- C. The Philistines Return the Ark (6:1-7:2)
  - 1. The Philistines Propose a Plan (6:1-9)
  - 2. The Philistines Execute the Plan (6:10-18)
  - 3. The Israelites Receive the Ark (6:19-7:2)
- D. Samuel Leads Israel to Repentance (7:3-17)
  - 1. The Repentance of the People (7:3-6)
  - 2. The Philistines React & Israel Prevails (7:7-14)
  - 3. The Circuit Judgeship of Samuel (7:15-17)

### II. Textual Questions

*The Philistines Capture the Ark (1 Samuel 4:1-7:2)*

1. Describe the events surrounding the capture of the ark of the covenant.  
Who did the ark rally in the battle?  
Was it wrong for the Israelites to carry the ark into battle? (please back up your answer with Scripture)
2. What three things did the man of Benjamin tell Eli about the battle?  
Which of these messages caused Eli's death?  
Explain Eli's reaction.
3. Why is the story of Ichabod important to our understanding of this period in Israel's history?
4. What did the Philistines do with the ark of the covenant?  
Did the ark prove to be a "good luck charm" for the Philistines?  
What other encounters with God's power had the Philistines experienced in their places of worship?
5. What further evidence of the Lord's displeasure did the Philistines receive? How widespread was this pestilence?
6. What recommendations did the Philistine priests and diviners make concerning the ark?  
Were these men knowledgeable in Israel's history?  
Why was a cow drawn cart chosen to transport the ark?

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7. How did the people of Beth-shemesh react to the return of the ark?

Did these people fare any better in possessing the ark?

Who was finally able to keep the ark without incident?

*Samuel's Revival of the People (1 Samuel 7:2-17)*

8. Did the return of the ark change Israel's situation? How?

What event finally did change their situation?

How was Samuel instrumental in this change?

How did the Lord react to their change of heart?

9. What was the meaning of the "Ebenezer stone"?

10. Describe the years of Samuel's judgeship. Be sure to find the places on Samuel's "circuit."

Why were the Philistines subdued during these years?

Why was there peace in Israel?

### III. Discussion Questions

#### A. Attitudes Toward God & the Ark

Based on the Israelites' use of the ark in Chapter 4, what can we say about their attitude toward God? What about the Philistines' attitude? What are some ways that we can show similar attitudes toward God in our lives?

#### B. The Capture of the Ark

Discuss how the death of Eli and the birth of Ichabod were "appropriate" responses to the capture of the ark. How is this event a turning point in the history of Israel?

#### C. Communication from God

Make a list of the techniques that God uses to communicate to the Israelites and the Philistines in these chapters, and explain what God's message was in each case.

#### D. The Partiality of God

Compare and contrast how the Philistines and the Israelites appear in God's eyes during the events of Chapters 5 and 6. What can we who claim to be "God's people" learn from this story?

#### E. The Repentance of Israel

Identify several things from the story in Chapter 7 that prompted the repentance of the people. What similar things can happen to us to lead us to repent?

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## LESSON 4 - SAUL BECOMES KING OF ISRAEL

### I. Historical Summary

- A. The Israelites Request a King (8:1-22)
  - 1. The Problem with Samuel's Sons (8:1-3)
  - 2. The Request of the People for a King (8:4-9)
  - 3. The Response of the Lord through Samuel (8:10-18)
  - 4. The Decision of the Lord (8:19-22)
- B. The Lord Selects Saul (9:1-27)
  - 1. Saul Searches for the Lost Donkeys (9:1-10)
  - 2. Saul Approaches Samuel (9:11-14)
  - 3. The Lord Identifies Saul to Samuel (9:15-17)
  - 4. Samuel Meets Saul (9:18-21)
  - 5. Samuel Honors Saul at the Feast (9:22-24)
  - 6. Samuel Prepares to Anoint Saul (9:25-27)
- C. Saul Becomes King of Israel (10:1-27)
  - 1. Samuel Anoints Saul (10:1)
  - 2. Samuel Prophesies the Three Signs (10:2-8)
  - 3. Saul Witness the Three Signs (10:9-13)
  - 4. Saul Returns Home (10:14-16)
  - 5. Samuel Announces Saul is King (10:17-27)

### II. Textual Questions

1. Describe Samuel's Sons.
  - Were they "as bad" as Eli's sons?
  - Why or why not?
  - How did they influence Israel?
2. What was Samuel's reaction to the people's request for a king?
  - What was the Lord's answer to Samuel's prayer?
  - Why was the request for a king not surprising to the Lord?
  - Why would having a king be a rejection of the Lord?
  - What does the Lord charge Samuel to do?
3. Samuel warns the people about the nature of a king. List the warnings he gives.
4. How do the people respond to Samuel's warnings?
5. Why does Samuel send "every man to his city" before choosing a king?
6. In the first 14 verses of chapter 9, we receive an interesting look into the life of the young man Saul. List some details of the story which help you see Saul as a "real" person.
  - Why do you suppose Saul had so much trouble finding the donkeys?

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7. Why does the Lord indicate that He chose Saul?

List some characteristics of Saul which would make him a good choice in the Lord's eyes.

List some characteristics of Saul which would make him a good choice in the people's eyes.

8. Saul's first encounter with Samuel is quite memorable. What is the first thing that Samuel tells Saul?

How does Saul react?

What happens to Saul at the feast? (and why is the piece of meat which Saul ate significant?)

9. What sort of ceremony accompanied the anointing of Saul?

Describe how Samuel confirmed his words to Saul.

What effect did all this have on Saul?

Was Samuel's prophecy correct? How did those who knew Saul react?

10. How did Saul explain these happenings to his uncle?

11. Describe the "formal" proclamation of Saul as king.

Did the people understand the terms of this "contract" for a king? Why?

Was Saul accepted by everyone?

## III. Discussion Questions

A. Is the Lord Our King?

The Lord said in I Samuel 8 that in asking for a king, the Israelites had "rejected Me from being king over them." Consider the reasons given by the people for making their request. Give at least three examples of how we can deny God's kingship for the same kinds of reasons as these. What attitude is the root cause of this line of reasoning?

B. The Early Character of Saul

Summarize what we can learn about Saul's early character from the stories in Chapters 9 and 10. Some specific verses to look at include 9:2, 5, 7, 21 and 10:21-22, 27.

What qualities do you see in Saul that would appeal to the Lord? To the people?

C. God's Influence on Saul

Make a list of the ways that God influences and directs Saul in these stories. Consider 9:16; 10:6, 9-10, 26 for assistance. Give arguments to support both the idea that Saul was completely free to act at all times and the idea that God completely controlled the actions of Saul. Which idea is more correct?

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## LESSON 5 - SAUL'S FIRST SUCCESS AND FAILURE AS KING

### I. Historical Summary

- A. Saul Rescues Jabesh-gilead from the Ammonites (11:1-15)
  - 1. Nahash Besieges Jabesh-gilead (11:1-5)
  - 2. Saul Rallies the Israelites (11:6-10)
  - 3. Saul Conquers the Ammonites (11:11-13)
  - 4. Israel Renews the Kingdom (11:14-15)
- B. Samuel Gives his Farewell Address (12:1-25)
  - 1. He Defends his Record (12:1-5)
  - 2. He Reminds the People of their History (12:6-13)
  - 3. He Warns them to Obey God (12: 14-15)
  - 4. He Shows them a Sign of God's Disapproval (12:16-19)
  - 5. He Reassures the People (12:20-25)
- C. King Saul Fails to Obey God (13: 1-23)
  - 1. Fighting with the Philistines Breaks Out (13:1-4)
  - 2. The People Fear the Philistines & Flee (13:5-7)
  - 3. Saul Makes the Offering Before Samuel Arrives (13:8-9)
  - 4. Samuel Arrives (13:10-14)
  - 5. The Philistines Make Raids (13:15-18)
  - 6. The Philistines Hold a Monopoly on Metal Weapons (13:19-23)

### II. Textual Questions

#### Saul Rescues Jabesh-gilead from the Ammonites (Chapter 12)

1. What was the challenge issued to the men of Jabesh-gilead by Nahash the Ammonite?

What was the men of Jabesh-gilead's response?

Why do you suppose Nahash accepted the proposed terms?

2. What was Saul's reaction to the news about Nahash?

How did he unify all of Israel?

How did Israel respond?

3. Describe the ensuing battle between Saul and Nahash.

What action demonstrated that Saul was different from others who might have become king during this period of history?

#### Samuel Gives his Farewell Address (Chapter 12)

4. At this point, Saul stands in the eyes of the people as the undisputed leader of Israel. Samuel "fades" into the background beginning with chapter 12.

What choice does Samuel force the people to make in chapter 12?

What did Samuel verify about his relationship with the people?

What did he make clear about Israel's history? (list some of the examples which he cited.)

Did Samuel indicate that God would change his expectations for the people now that they had a king? What would God expect from them and their king?

5. What sign did God give the people concerning their decision to follow an earthly king?

Why was this sign particularly effective?

How did the people react?

How did Samuel describe God's continued care for Israel?

How about Samuel's care for the people?

#### King Saul Fails to Obey God (Chapter 13)

6. Who began Saul's first war with the Philistines?

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What was the outlook for the first major encounter with the Philistines?

What was the reaction of the people?

To whom did Saul turn for help?

Describe the events surrounding Saul's first recorded disobedience of God's law.

What were the consequences?

## III. Discussion Questions

- A. What things does Saul do right in his handling of the situation at Jabesh-gilead? How much of his success was a result of God's help, and how much was a result of his own decision making?
- B. What do the historical leaders of the people that Samuel mentions have in common with each other? What do they have in common with Saul? How are they different from Saul?
- C. The Lord makes it quite clear in this chapter that it was wicked for the people to ask for a king. Why does He grant their evil wish?
- D. What were the reasons for Saul's disobedience in chapter 13? How well did he handle his sin (13:11, 12)? What role did the Spirit of the Lord play in guiding Saul in this incident? What can we say about Saul's character from these events?

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## LESSON 6 - SAUL LOSES THE KINGDOM

### I. Historical Summary

- A. Saul's Inept Handling of the Philistine War (14:1-46)
  - 1. Jonathan Skirmishes with the Philistines (14:1-15)
  - 2. Saul Turns to God but then Attacks (14:16-23)
  - 3. Saul's Vow Regarding Food (14:24-30)
  - 4. The People Break Saul's Vow & God's Law (14:31-35)
  - 5. Saul's Vow Regarding his First Vow (14:36-42)
  - 6. The People Rescue Jonathan (14:43-46)
- B. Saul's Military Exploits (14:47-52)
- C. Saul's Failure Regarding the Amalekites (15:1-35)
  - 1. The Lord Commands Saul to Destroy Utterly (15:1-3)
  - 2. Saul Destroys Amalek but not Utterly (15:4-9)
  - 3. Samuel Confronts Saul and Saul Makes Excuses (15:10-19)
  - 4. The Lord Rejects Saul as King (15:20-23)
  - 5. Saul Confesses & Begs for Samuel's Public Support (15:24-31)
  - 6. Samuel Kills Agag, King of the Amalekites (15:32-33)
  - 7. Samuel & Saul Go Separate Ways (15:34-35)

### II. Textual Questions

#### *Saul's Rash Vows During Battle (Chapter 14)*

- 1. What did Jonathan decide to do in order to help the Israelites?
  - What was his reasoning?
  - What was Jonathan's plan of attack?
  - What happened?
- 2. How did Saul discover the absence of his son?
  - What was Saul prompted to do?
- 3. What oath did Saul make after the battle?
  - Who disobeyed Saul's command?
  - What did this disobedience prompt in the people?
  - What action did Saul then take?
- 4. Saul pressed the battle against the Philistines, but would not go on without God's approval. What did Saul conclude when God did not give him any word?
  - How did Saul find out who had sinned?
  - How did the people react?
  - Did Jonathan sin? Why or why not?
- 5. Summarize Saul's military exploits.

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## *Saul's Disobedience at Amalek (Chapter 15)*

6. Did Samuel's statement to Saul in 15.1 constitute a reversal of his statement in 13:13-14?
7. What charge did Samuel give to Saul?  
What resources did Saul have to help carry out this action?  
What people or things among the Amalekites did Saul spare?  
Why was this wrong (other than the fact that Saul had directly disobeyed God)?
8. How did God and Samuel react to Saul's actions?
9. Describe the encounter between Saul and Samuel in detail.
10. Now, go back and look at the "minor" details of this encounter and comment about their significance in understanding Saul's actions.
11. Does 15:25-26 indicate God will not pardon some repentant sinners? Why or why not?  
Why did Samuel "turn back" with Saul? (15:30)
12. Was God's will concerning the Amalekites accomplished?
13. What happened to Saul and Samuel's relationship? How?

### III. Discussion Questions

- A. Make a chart of the decisions that Saul makes in Chapter 14. Determine the reasons why he decides the way that he does, and whether the decision is good or bad. Finally, identify the results of each decision.
- B. Compare and contrast Saul's handling of the situation in Chapter 14 with his handling of the emergency at Jabesh-gilead described in Chapter 11. What qualities of Saul do we see in the later chapter that we do not in the earlier one?
- C. For each of the following passages, identify at least one characteristic of Saul that the passage illustrates.  
14:19, 35  
14:36  
15:8, 9  
15:12, 13  
15:15, 21  
15:20  
15:24, 25  
15:30  
From these verses, what seems to be Saul's basic problem?

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## LESSON 7 - DAVID REPLACES SAUL AS KING

### I. Historical Summary

- A. The Lord Sends Samuel to Anoint a New King (16:1-5)
- B. Samuel Anoints David, the Youngest Son of Jesse (16:6-13)
- C. Saul Employs David in his Royal Court (16:14-23)
- D. David Defeats Goliath (17:1-58)

### II. Textual Questions

*David is Anointed as King (Chapter 16)*

1. In 16:1-3, what did the Lord tell Samuel to do?  
What phrases indicate the emotional condition of Samuel?  
How did the Lord tell Samuel to protect himself from Saul?
2. What did the elders of Bethlehem ask Samuel when he arrived?  
Why? (7:15-16, 15:33)
3. When Eliab passed before Samuel, what did Samuel think?  
Why?  
How did the Lord respond to Samuel's reaction?
4. How many of Jesse's sons did Samuel reject?  
Who was finally chosen?
5. Summarize the characteristics of David found in verses 11 and 12.
6. What happened to David when Samuel anoint him with oil in verse 13?  
Not coincidentally, what happened to Saul in verse 14?  
At this point, who is King of Israel?
7. What did the Lord send upon Saul to terrorize him?  
What did Saul's servants suggest to relieve his terror?  
Whom did they suggest to fill this position?  
Do you think this was just a coincidence? Explain.  
Did this suggestion work? (23)
8. List all the details that describe the nature of the relationship between Saul and David in Chapter 16.

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*Saul & David & Goliath (Chapter 17)*

9. Summarize the events described in 17:1-30.
10. When Saul heard the words that David had spoken, he sent for him.

What did David tell Saul?

How did Saul respond?

Diagram David's arguments listed in verses 34-37.

What did Saul then tell David?

What did Saul try to do for David as he prepared to meet Goliath?

Did this work out very well?

11. Describe what happens in verses 40-54.
12. What question did Saul ask about David when David went out to kill Goliath?  
Describe when and under what circumstances this question was answered.  
Since Saul knew who David was, why did he ask this question? (17:25)
13. To this point, how would you describe Saul's feelings toward David?  
Is there any evidence of jealousy or hatred?

### III. Discussion Questions

- A. Explain the consequences of the evil spirit on the life of Saul in chapter 16. Does it affect Saul's attitude toward David? If so, how?

Show how this evil spirit accomplishes God's will with respect to Saul and David.

How does Saul later "use" the evil spirit for his purposes? (18:10, 11)

- B. Compare and contrast the behavior of David and the behavior of Saul in relation to the challenge of Goliath (17:11, 32; 33, 37; 38, 40). How is Saul's handling of this situation consistent with the character he has shown in earlier chapters?

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## LESSON 8 - SAUL TURNS AGAINST DAVID

### I. Historical Summary

- A. David and Jonathan Become Friends (18:1-4)
- B. Saul Begins to Fear David (18:5-16)
- C. David Marries Saul's Daughter (18:17-30)
- D. Jonathan Persuades Saul to Spare David (19:1-10)
- E. Michal Protects David from Saul (19:11-17)
- F. Samuel Provides Refuge to David from Saul (19:18-24)

### II. Textual Questions

1. Who was Jonathan, and what was his relationship to David? (18:1-4)
2. According to verse 5, how did David and Saul get along?  
When Saul and David returned from the killing of Goliath, who came out to greet them?  
What things were they doing?                      What words did they sing?  
What does this say about their opinion of David?  
How does Saul react to these words?  
How does this affect his relationship with David? Why?
3. According to verse 10, God sent an evil spirit upon Saul.  
What was done to try to relieve Saul's suffering?  
Was this an unusual occurrence? (see also 16:23)  
What does Saul do in this case? How many times?  
What emotion caused Saul to do this? Why did he feel this emotion?
4. What did Saul do with David in verse 13?  
What did the Lord do for David?  
How did this make Saul feel?  
How did the people regard David? How do you think this compares with their attitude toward Saul?
5. What does Saul offer to David in verse 17?  
Was David entitled to this offer? (15:25)  
What additional condition did Saul put upon this offer?  
What was his real motive in making this condition?  
How did David respond to this offer?
6. Who was Michal, and what did she tell Saul?  
How did Saul intend to use this information?  
What technique did Saul use to try to obtain David's cooperation?  
What reason did David give for not marrying Saul's daughter?  
What dowry did Saul ask for so that David could become his son-in-law?

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- Again, what was Saul's real motive?  
Did David accept Saul's offer this time? What dowry did he give Saul?
7. When Saul saw that the Lord was with David and that Michal loved him, how did this make Saul feel?  
How did this affect his attitude toward David?
8. How does verse 30 summarize David's performance under Saul?
9. At the beginning of Chapter 19, what instructions does Saul give to his son and his servants?  
How did Jonathan respond to these instructions?
10. What plan did Jonathan make with David?
11. Summarize Jonathan's conversation with Saul about David in verses 4-6.  
What resulted from this conversation?  
Is there any indication on how long the resulting relationship lasted?
12. What situation that we have seen before took place that caused Saul to change his mind once more?  
What did this cause David to do?  
What was apparently responsible for Saul's behavior in this incident and the one in Chapter 18 just like it? Who sent this influence upon Saul?  
Discuss the significance of the answers to these questions in view of God's relationship with Saul and David.
13. To this point (18:10), how many times has Saul changed his attitude about David since they first met in Chapter 16?
14. In verse 11, what orders did Saul give?
15. Describe the actions taken by Michal to protect David from Saul.  
How did Saul react to such behavior by his daughter?
16. To whom did David flee next? Where was he?
17. When Saul learned of David's whereabouts, what did he tell his messenger to do?  
What happened to them as they attempted to follow Saul's orders?  
How many times did Saul send out messengers? What happened to all of them?
18. Finally, what did Saul do himself?  
To what extent did Saul experience the fate of his messengers?  
What saying was started from this incident?
19. Comment on how this event demonstrates God's control in the lives of Saul and David and their relationship.

### III. Discussion Questions

- A. List the factors that cause Saul to become "David's enemy continually" (verse 29) in chapter 18. List the different ways that Saul attempts to eliminate David in this chapter. Why do these attempts fail?

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## LESSON 9 – SAUL BEGINS TO PURSUE DAVID

### I. Historical Summary

- A. Jonathan and David Make a Covenant (20:1-23)
- B. Saul and Jonathan Argue Over David (20:24-34)
- C. Jonathan Warns David to Flee from Saul (20:35-42)
- D. David Visits Ahimelech at the City of Priests (21:1-9)
- E. David Flees to the King of Gath for Protection (21:10-15)

### II. Textual Questions

#### *Chapter 20*

1. To whom does David flee at the beginning of Chapter 20?  
What did David tell him about Saul's intentions?  
Why does he not believe what David tells him?  
What argument does David give in response to support his position, and what does this tell us about his knowledge of Saul's tactics?
2. Describe what David asks Jonathan to do in verses 5-9.  
What does David say an angry response from Saul indicates?
3. Summarize the covenant that Jonathan makes with David in verses 12-17.
4. What method would Jonathan use to tell David of Saul's feelings? (18-23)
5. What does the fact that David was expected to be present at the new moon festival show us about David's official status in Saul's court? How can this be explained in light of the events of the previous chapters?
6. When the first day of the new moon came and David was not present at Saul's table, what reason did Saul think of to explain his absence?
7. When David was absent on the second day, what did Saul ask Jonathan?
8. How did Saul react to Jonathan's answer?  
What is significant about the language he uses in verse 30?  
What does Saul acknowledge about David's destiny in verse 31?  
What does he instruct Jonathan to do?  
What does Jonathan say in response?

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What does this incite Saul to do?

What did this act finally make Jonathan realize?

What does Jonathan then do, and why?

9. Does Jonathan follow the prearranged procedure to tell David of Saul's intentions?
10. How do the events of Chapter 20 mark a significant change in David's dealings with Saul?  
After this chapter, does David ever again hold the position in Saul's court that he held previously?

Describe how Saul's obsession with killing David is intensified in this chapter.

## *Chapter 21*

11. In Chapter 21, David flees to the city of Nob, a small town inhabited by priests, and sees Ahimelech. (Ahimelech, by the way, was the son of Ahitub according to 22:11, and is considered to be the same individual as Ahijah in 14:3, the son of Ahitub, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli.

What does David tell Ahimelech that he and his men are doing? Was this true?

What two things does David ask for?

Was this unusual? (See also Matthew 12:1-8)

What weapon does Ahimelech give David?

Was Ahimelech aware of Saul's feelings toward David?

Who was present in Nob when David was there? (verse 7)

12. When David fled to Achish the king of Gath, what problem did he run into? What did he do to escape from the Philistines?

## III. Discussion Questions

- A. Discuss the differences between the attitude of Jonathan and the attitude of Saul toward David. What accounts for these differences? Does David treat these two individuals in different ways? Give some examples of how people today can have different reactions to the same person.
- B. Make a list of the reasons why Saul hates David so intensely. What happens in these chapters to aggravate his hatred? Does there seem to be anyone that feels the same way toward David as Saul does? Yet, is there anyone who could possibly have similar reason to be against David?
- C. Explain how Saul's behavior toward David is consistent with his character and his behavior before David comes on the scene. What is different in his behavior now that David is in his life? Give evidence from these chapters that Saul is moving further away from serving God rather than coming closer.

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## LESSON 10 - SAUL CONTINUES TO PURSUE DAVID

### I. Historical Summary

- A. David Forms his Band of Men (22:1-5)
- B. Saul Slays the Priests of Nob (22:6-23)
- C. David Rescues Keilah from the Philistines (23:1-12)
- D. Saul Pursues David in the Wilderness of Ziph (23:13-29)
- E. David Spares Saul's Life at Engedi (24:1-22)
- F. Samuel Dies (25:1)
- G. The Story of David & Abigail (25:2-44)
- H. David Spares Saul's Life Again (26:1-25)

### II. Textual Questions

#### *Chapter 22*

1. In Chapter 22, when David came to the cave of Adullam, who were the people that gathered to him? How many were there?  
Where did David take his family, and why did he probably do this?  
What did the prophet Gad tell David to do? Did he do it?
2. What does Saul do in 22:7-8 to try to learn where David is? What do the things that he says about David affirm about his perception of David's future and of David's intentions in reference to Saul? How does Saul appeal to his men? Of what does he accuse them?
3. Who steps forward in verse 9 to tell Saul the whereabouts of David?
4. As a result, what does Saul do in verse 11?  
What does he accuse Ahimelech of? Summarize Ahimelech's defense.  
What does Saul order his guards to do? Did they do it?  
Who finally carries out Saul's order? What does he do?  
In addition, what does Saul have done to the city of Nob?
5. How does David hear about the events that just took place? Who was responsible for what had happened?
6. What purpose do the events surrounding the priests at Nob serve in God's overall plan?

#### *Chapter 23*

7. What were the Philistines doing in Chapter 23?  
What did David inquire of the Lord? How many times did he do this?  
What did the Lord tell him to do? Was he successful?
8. What did Saul do when he heard that David was at Keilah?
9. What had Abiathar the priest brought with him when he fled from Nob?  
How did David make use of this when he heard that Saul was coming?  
What did the Lord tell David that was going to happen?
10. Where did David and his men flee next? What did Saul do as a result?

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11. Who came to David in the wilderness, and what did he do there?
12. How did Saul learn of David's location? What instructions did he give to the Ziphites?
13. David heard of Saul's plan and then stayed in the wilderness of Maon. Saul heard about David's action and pursued him. Describe the pursuit.
14. What interrupted this chase? Where did David go?

## *Chapter 24*

15. At the beginning of Chapter 24, whom does Saul take with him to pursue David?
16. When Saul entered a cave to relieve himself, who was in the inner recesses of the cave?  
What did David's men tell him that the Lord had done for him?  
What did David do to Saul's robe? Why did this bother David's conscience?  
How did he tell his men that they should deal with Saul?
17. What did David do when Saul left the cave?  
Summarize what David tells Saul in verses 8-15. What are some significant points that he makes?
18. After realizing that David has spared his life, Saul recants his anger against David. What does he acknowledge once again about David's future?  
What does he ask David to swear to do?  
Based on Saul's track record, do you expect his "repentance" to last very long?

## *Chapter 25*

Please read the story of David and Abigail that makes up the bulk of chapter. There is nothing in this chapter that has any bearing on the lives of Samuel and Saul. Except -

19. What happens in verse 1?
20. What had Saul done with his daughter Michal, David's wife?

## *Chapter 26*

The story in Chapter 26, in which David spares the life of Saul, is strikingly similar to the one in Chapter 24, but there are enough differences to establish that these two events are separate and distinct. List as many differences between these two incidents as you can.

### III. Discussion Questions

- A. Describe Saul's perceptions of (a) his servants; (b) Jonathan; (c) David; and (d) Ahimelech, in Chapter 22. How realistic are these perceptions? What techniques does Saul use to motivate his men and how effective are these techniques?
- B. The following verses each describe an incident that reveals something about David's character. For each passage, find another passage in I Samuel that describes a similar situation that shows a facet of Saul's character. Discuss how Saul and David behave differently in these similar situations.  
22:21-22  
23:1-2, 9-12  
24:4-7; 26:8-9
- C. Summarize how the Lord "controls" the lives of Saul and David in these chapters. Give verses that demonstrate specific examples of God's influence over the course of events.

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## LESSON 11 - DAVID'S EXPLOITS AMONG THE PHILISTINES

### I. Review of Lesson 10

Referring to your answers to the Study Questions, make a table that summarizes the changes in Saul's attitude toward David from I Samuel 16:1 through 27:1. For each item in the table, list the event (or events) that caused Saul to change his feelings about David. Then, list the actions that Saul took as a result of his mood change. Finally, determine what involvement God had, directly or indirectly, in causing the events that influenced Saul to change. What characteristics of Saul made his perspective toward David so volatile?

### II. Historical Summary

- A. David Seeks Refuge from King Achish (27:1-28:2)
- B. David Escapes from Waging War Against Israel (29)
- C. David Destroys the Amalekites (30)

### III. Textual Questions

1. At the beginning of Chapter 27, does David believe that Saul no longer wants to kill him?  
What plan of action does David take to protect himself?  
Did this plan work? (27:4)
2. What did David ask from King Achish? Why?
3. Describe David's exploits recorded in Chapter 27. What did he tell Achish that he had been doing?
4. What dilemma did David face in Chapter 28 when the Philistines prepared to wage war against the Israelites?  
How did he handle this dilemma in 28:21?  
Explain how this issue was resolved in Chapter 29. Was this resolution a coincidence, or do you think that the Lord had a hand in it?
5. When David and his men returned to Ziklag in Chapter 30, what did they discover had happened while they were gone?  
How did the people with David react to this incident?  
What did David do in response? How did he determine what action to take next?
6. How did David find out the location of the Amalekites?  
Describe David's confrontation with the Amalekites. Did he utterly destroy them? What did he do with the spoil?
7. What problem arose when David and the men that went with him returned to the men that did not go with him? How was this problem resolved?
8. What did David do with some of the spoil in verses 26-31? Why is this event particularly important in view of what happens in Chapter 31?

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## LESSON 12 - THE DEATH OF SAUL

### I. Historical Summary

- A. Saul Consults the Medium at En-dor (28:3-25)
- B. The Death of Saul (31:1-13)
- C. The Effects of Saul's Sin Against the Gibeonites (II Samuel 24:1-14)

### II. Textual Questions

*Saul Consults the Medium at Endor (I Samuel 28:3-25)*

1. What two important facts are explained in 28:3?
2. What did Saul see happening that made him afraid? What are some reasons why this sight would frighten him?
3. What did Saul try first to help him deal with his fear? Why did this not work?
4. What did Saul attempt next? Was he consistent with his own action in verse 3?

Read Exodus 22:18 and Deuteronomy 18:10-12. Do you think the Lord approved of Saul's position in verse 3? What would the Lord think of Saul's behavior in verse 7? How does this event summarize Saul's fundamental shortcoming a king?

5. What did Saul do before going to see the woman at Endor? Why?
6. What did Saul ask to woman to do?  
How did she respond to his request?  
How did Saul reassure her?
7. Whom did Saul wish to have brought up?  
When this individual actually appears to her, what did the woman do?  
How did the woman then know the identity of Saul?  
How did Saul know that the "divine being" of verse 13 was Samuel?  
What did he do in honor to Samuel?
8. How does Saul explain his reasons for bringing up Samuel?
9. What was the question that Samuel asked Saul in verse 16? How can this question be applied in a more general sense to Saul's ill-fated pursuit of David in the latter half of this book?
10. In verses 17 and 18, Samuel repeats a portion of the last conversation that he had with Saul in Chapter 15. What are the key facts that Samuel states that explain why Saul's kingship failed? Did this detail confirm what Saul had already deduced?
11. What was the prophecy that Samuel gave to Saul in verse 19?
12. How did Saul react to Samuel's words? What did the woman of Endor do for Saul?

*The Death of Saul (I Samuel 31)*

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13. Describe the military engagement presented in the beginning of Chapter 31.
14. How was Samuel's prophecy fulfilled in verse 2? In verse 3, what was happening to Saul?
15. What did Saul tell his armor bearer to do?  
Why would the armor bearer not do what Saul told him?  
What did Saul finally do then?  
What were some reasons that he took this action?  
What did his armor bearer do as a result?
16. When they saw what Saul had done, what did the men of Israel do that fulfilled the prophecy of Samuel?
17. When the Philistines found Saul and his sons, what did they do with their weapons and their bodies?  
When the men of Jabesh-gilead heard of the actions of the Philistines what did they do?  
Why might they have taken this action for Saul? (11:1-11)

*After the Death of Saul (II Samuel 21:1-14)*

18. In II Samuel 21, why was there a famine in the land for three years?
19. Who were the Gibeonites, and what was their relationship to Israel?
20. Describe what David, now king of Israel, did to make atonement for Saul's sin regarding the Gibeonites.
21. Who was Rizpah, and what did she do in verse 10?
22. As a result of this incident, where was the "final resting place" of the bones of Saul and his sons?

### III. Discussion Questions

A. Chapter 28 describes the final encounter between Samuel and Saul. Consider this meeting in light of their previous meeting in chapter 15. Describe what is similar or different in these two chapters with respect to (a) the circumstances of their meeting, (b) Samuel's message, (c) Saul's response to that message, and (d) Saul's attitude toward himself and God.

B. Recall Hannah's prayer in I Samuel 2:1-10, which we mentioned in Lesson 1. For each of the following passages that we have studied, select at least one verse from Hannah's prayer that seems to describe it, and explain why.

1:2; 2:21

9:21, 22; 16:11, 12, 21, 22

15:12, 13

16:14, 15; 20:30-33; 28:20-23

17:50

23:1B 28:5,6

28:11-14; 31:4-6

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## FINAL

1. Hannah made a vow that
  - A. she would never become drunk.
  - B. if the Lord gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord.
  - C. she would sacrifice the first thing that came out of her house.
  - D. she would give 1000 shekels to Samuel to prove her faith.
2. Samuel's first prophecy was that
  - A. Saul would lose the kingdom because of his sin at Amalek.
  - B. the Philistines would defeat Israel in battle.
  - C. the Lord would carry out His promise to kill Eli's sons and destroy his household.
  - D. David would succeed Saul as king of Israel.
3. After the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant,
  - A. they were victorious in all their succeeding battles against Israel.
  - B. they sent it to Egypt, where it remained undiscovered until the time of Indiana Jones.
  - C. their god Dagon kept falling over, and the Lord smote them with a plague.
  - D. it was rescued by David after he defeated Goliath.
4. One reason that the people of Israel wanted a king was that
  - A. Samuel was getting old and his sons were wicked and corrupt.
  - B. they wanted someone who would teach them from the law of the Lord.
  - C. they had a fervent desire to pay taxes to a government.
  - D. there was no other way to have a national draft for their military.
5. Samuel first met Saul when
  - A. Saul led a violent rebellion against Samuel at Ramah to take over the government of Israel.
  - B. Samuel cast an elaborate series of lots to choose a king, leading to Saul.
  - C. the Lord sent Samuel to the house of Saul's father, Kish.
  - D. Saul was hunting for his father's lost donkeys.
6. After he was anointed king, Saul rallied the support of the people by
  - A. hiring David to slay Goliath.
  - B. defeating Nahash the Ammonite and rescuing Jabesh-Gilead.
  - C. keeping the best of the spoil after destroying the Amalekites.
  - D. pledging, "Read my lips: No new taxes."
7. Saul's military progress early in his reign could best be described as
  - A. a complete failure as a result of this blatant disobedience to God.
  - B. a complete success as a result of his total reliance on God.
  - C. a complete success as a result of his bold, strong leadership on the battlefield.
  - D. mostly successful, but hindered by confusion, rash decisions and mistakes, reacting to situations rather than taking charge of them.

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8. After David was victorious in his fight with Goliath, Saul
  - A. suspected that David might try to take the kingdom from him.
  - B. immediately tried to kill David since he was a threat to his power.
  - C. gave David the reward that he had promised to whoever killed the giant.
  - D. employed David in his court to play the harp.
9. Saul ordered the massacre at Nob, in which 85 priests were murdered, as well as women, children, and livestock, because
  - A. the Lord commanded him to fulfill his prophecy against the house of Eli.
  - B. his advisors persuaded him that it would help him to find David.
  - C. Ahimelech did not admit to helping David flee from Saul.
  - D. the priests had violated God's law by allowing David and his men to eat consecrated bread.
10. Saul died when
  - A. David killed him with Goliath's sword in a struggle for the throne.
  - B. David killed him while he was sleeping in a cave in the wilderness.
  - C. a witch at Endor poisoned him since Saul had forbidden spiritual mediums from the land.
  - D. he committed suicide rather than be abused by the Philistines, who were about to capture him and his sons.

## Event Chronology

Number the following events (1-22) in chronological order.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ____. Saul's first war with the Philistines.       | ____. Samuel starts a judicial circuit. |
| ____. The return of the ark of the covenant.       | ____. Samuel anoints David as king.     |
| ____. The matter of Saul and the Amalekites.       | ____. The death of Eli.                 |
| ____. The birth of Samuel.                         | ____. Samuel anoints Saul as king.      |
| ____. David spares Saul in the Wilderness of Ziph. | ____. The calling of Samuel.            |
| ____. Saul defeats Ammon at Jabesh-gilead.         | ____. The death of Saul.                |
| ____. The dedication of Samuel.                    | ____. Saul's unlawful sacrifice.        |
| ____. Saul's second war with the Philistines.      | ____. Israel demands a king.            |
| ____. David spares Saul in the cave at En-gedi.    | ____. Coronation of Saul as king.       |
| ____. The capture of the ark of the covenant.      | ____. The death of Samuel.              |
| ____. Saul's third war with the Philistines.       | ____. Saul begins to pursue David.      |

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## Characters

For each character description (1-17), match the letter (A-Q) of the character name in I Samuel that best meets that description.

- |    |  |   |           |
|----|--|---|-----------|
| 1  | First king of Israel; frequently failed to obey God; susceptible to evil spirits; had a love-hate relationship with David  | A | Abner     |
| 2  | First born son of Samuel. Did not walk in the ways of his father, but was exceedingly wicked, as was his brother Abijah.   | B | Ahimelech |
| 3  | One of Eli's wicked sons; grandfather of Ahimelech; killed in battle against the Philistines along with his brother Hophni.  | C | Doeg      |
| 4  | The chief of Saul's shepherds. Did a lot of Saul's dirty work, from intelligence gathering to massacring priests to tending sheep, which I hear can get pretty dirty at times.   | D | Eleazar   |
| 5  | Mother of Samuel. Could not have children, but vowed to give her son to the Lord if He would open her womb. And He did. And she fulfilled her vow.   | E | Eli       |
| 6  | A Benjamite who sent his son to find his lost donkeys.   | F | Elkanah   |
| 7  | Priest at Shiloh who raised Samuel and who died of a broken neck.  | G | Hannah    |
| 8  | Son of Abinadab who was consecrated by the men of Kiriath-jearim to keep the ark of the covenant after the Philistines returned it.  | H | Ichabod   |
| 9  | Saul's daughter and David's wife who lied to her father about her husband.   | I | Joel      |
| 10 | His mother died during his birth when she learned that the Philistines had captured the ark of the covenant.   | J | Jonathan  |
| 11 | Samuel's father, who thought himself better than ten sons to his wife Hannah.  | K | Kish      |
| 12 | Saul's cousin, who was the captain of his army.  | L | Michal    |
| 13 | When David was king and ordered some of the descendants of Saul's sons to be killed, he remembered the covenant he had made with this man, who had loved David and been his close friend until he was killed by the Philistines. | M | Nahash    |
| 14 | The woman that provoked Hannah because Hannah had no children.   | N | Peninnah  |
| 15 | King of the Ammonites who besieged Jabesh-Gilead.  | O | Phinehas  |
| 16 | As a result of David's deceit, this man and eight-five of his relatives were murdered at Saul's command.   | P | Samuel    |
| 17 | The last of the judges and Israel's first king-maker.  | Q | Saul      |