

Introduction

The book of 1 Samuel transitions the nation from the time of the judges to the time of kings. Expressed most simply, the book is a defense for the kingship of David. Samuel's story is told because he anoints King David, whose legitimacy hangs on the legitimacy of Samuel's role as prophet. As a prophet, Samuel spoke for God, and thus his selection of David signified God's selection of David. Saul's story is told so it would be clear that God had rejected his kingship and dynasty. While moral lessons can certainly be learned along the way, the main point must be kept in mind in reading through the book: God is choosing a king to lead the nation in fulfillment of His good promises.

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This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week's verse is Isaiah 40:18...
"To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?"

Day One

Read 1 Samuel 1–3; **God's Prophet and Judge**

1. In 1 Samuel 1, what stands out to you about Hannah's character, especially within the context of the time of Judges when Samuel was born?
 - a. In 1:20, what does God's opening Hannah's womb show?
2. From 1:21–28, considering the state of worship at the tabernacle and the leadership of Eli the High Priest and his sons (1 Samuel 2:12–17 and 22), what did Hannah display in keeping her vow and sending Samuel to serve there?
3. From 1 Samuel 2:1–10, what do you find interesting or remarkable about her prayer? (Remember what Scripture Hannah had and what revelation of God she knew from His care for Israel.)
 - a. What hints about Israel's future do you see in Hannah's prayer?
 - b. Share with your group a time when the Lord answered one of your prayers, and take time to thank Him for His care and provision for you.
4. From our previous study, what did the tabernacle signify, and why was the sin of Eli and his sons so serious?
 - a. In 1 Samuel 2:21–36, what prophecy was given concerning Eli and his family?
 - b. From 3:18, how would you characterize Eli's response to the prophecy? (See also 3:2–9.)
 - c. How should believers respond when shown sin in our lives? What steps can you take to be prepared to have a biblical response? (Cite Scripture to support your answer.)

Day Two

NOTE: 1 Samuel 4–6 chronicles the capture of the Ark and the death of Eli and his sons.

*Read 1 Samuel 7 and 8; **Israel Asks for King***

1. From 1 Samuel 3:20 and 7:3–17, how did God establish Samuel as His prophet and judge?
2. According to Genesis 17:6 and 49:8–12, Deuteronomy 17:14–20, and 1 Samuel 2:10, did God have a plan for Israel to have a king?
3. From 1 Samuel 8:4–6, why was Samuel displeased with the Israelites' request for a king?
4. From 8:11–18, what will be the consequences for Israel rejecting God and seeking a king of their own choosing?
5. How do you reject God's authority and instructions in your own life? Where do you find it "too hard" to obey? What steps can you take to repent and what can you do to change?
6. According to 1 Samuel 9:1–2 and 21, and 10:1, who was chosen as the king, and how is he described?

Day Three

*Read 1 Samuel 12 and 15; **Samuel's Farewell and Saul's Rejection as King***

1. In 1 Samuel 12:9–12, what recurring themes do you see, and how does this connect back to the overall message in the book of Deuteronomy?
2. In 12:13–15, how is Yahweh's character revealed in His response to the people's demand for a king?
3. In 1 Samuel 12:14–18, what does the Lord demonstrate through the destruction of the wheat crop?
4. From 12:19–25, what was Samuel's attitude and response toward the people?
 - a. How can Samuel's response be an example for you in some practical areas of your spiritual life such as how to respond when wronged, for whom to pray and how, and what you can teach to others?
5. From 1 Samuel 15, why does the Lord reject Saul as king?

6. According to 15:22–23 and 26, what importance does the Lord place on his Word? Has that changed for believers today?
 - a. How can you improve in listening to the Lord (1 Samuel 15:22) and obeying Him?
 - b. What practical steps will you take to make this a reality?

Day Four

Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13; David—God's King

1. From 1 Samuel 16, why did God choose David as king? What is revealed about David's lineage? (See verse 1.)
2. What principle can you draw from God's words to Samuel in verse 7?
 - a. When have outward appearances led you to make wrong conclusions? How can you focus more on developing a godly perspective this week?
3. From verse 11, what were the circumstances of David's position in the home and his responsibilities?
 - a. As David served God faithfully in an insignificant and unseen role, take time to consider what motivates your service to the Lord. How faithful are you when no one sees you? How can you follow David's example and grow in faithful service to the Lord?

Day Five

Read 1 Samuel 18:1–16 and 22:1–23:29; David, the Fugitive

1. In 1 Samuel 18:1–5, how did Jonathan, the king's son, respond to David, God's choice to become Israel's next king?
2. In 1 Samuel 18:6–29, how did Saul seek to kill David, and why?
3. In 1 Samuel 22:6–23, what did Saul's jealousy drive him to do? Who escaped?
4. Read 1 Samuel 23:1–5. What did David do for Keilah, and how did they respond?
 - a. In verses 9–14, how did David respond when he learned that Keilah would turn him over to Saul? What principle does this illustrate?
 - b. In 1 Samuel 23:15–19 as David ran from Saul and experienced great turmoil and discouragement, how was Jonathan a godly friend to David?

5. Skim 1 Samuel 24 and 26. What do these chapters teach about David's attitude toward Saul and waiting on the Lord's timing?

6. Throughout 1 Samuel, David, though a sinner, was ultimately concerned about God's glory, while Saul was ultimately concerned for his own glory. Take time to consider how you can cultivate a heart that seeks God's glory and not your own. Share that with your group.