

Life of David

Lesson 19

Text

1 Samuel 25:1-44

Background

Last week, we read about David deciding to take action against the Philistines that were fighting against Keilah. Not only were they attacking Keilah, but they were looking to decimate them. Ultimately, David was obedient to the Lord, attacked the Philistines in Keilah and saved the people. The news of this attack made its way back to Saul, and Saul directed his pursuit of David towards that city.

As David started bouncing between different cities and wildernesses in the region, you can hear the trust that he has in the Lord to deliver him from Saul. Psalm 54 details his response to finding out that the Ziphites alerted Saul to David's presence in their city. The Psalm reads, **“O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might. O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them. With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good. For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.”**

As David sat in a cave in En-gedi, he was presented with a golden opportunity to end the pursuit once and for all. Unbeknownst to Saul, he entered a cave that David was hiding in. David had every opportunity to end Saul's life, but David wisely said, **“He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed.”** Instead, David took a portion of Saul's robe and presented it to Saul as a sign to him that David did not seek to end his life. This event gave David a short reprieve from Saul's pursuit. **As we enter chapter 25, we begin with the death of a major character and continue on to learn about a new wife for David. Let's dig in!**

Day 1 - Read and Listen

1. Read and/or listen to the passage twice. If possible, use different translations. I highly recommend having the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Day 2 - Observing the Text

- 2. Who are the characters listed in the passage? As much as the passage tells you, write down any titles, traits, or additional information about each of the characters in the narrative.

- 3. Where does the narrative take place? List out any locations mentioned. To be more specific, study a map from the timeframe of 1 Samuel (approximately 1105 - 971 BC) and see if you can find the locations on a map. Write down any observations from this exercise.

- 4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.

Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

- 5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.

6. How does the narrative fit into what you already learned about 1 Samuel?
Consider, if applicable, the following: How does the narrative tie to the larger picture of a coming royal priesthood? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus as King?

Day 4 - Additional Study

7. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

8. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.

9. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up any words of your choice in the passage. Be prepared to share your findings with your group. Remember, this is the Old Testament. You will be looking up Hebrew words.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

10. Application: The first few words of chapter 25 tells us that Samuel dies. It tells us that all Israel assembled and mourned for him. Samuel obviously left quite the legacy for all those left after his death. Think about the legacy you want to leave when you die. What is that legacy and is it like Samuels, centered on obedience to God? Write your thoughts below and discuss your answer with your group.

11. Optional: Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from the Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
