

Life of David

Lesson 18

Text

1 Samuel 23:1 - 1 Samuel 24:22 (Psalm 54)

Background

In chapter 20, we see that David's life while Saul continued to be king would be a life lived in fear of his life and a life on the run. As David looks to seek refuge, his journey takes him to some unexpected places, seeking refuge with some unexpected people, and behaving in some unexpected ways.

Upon departing from Jonathan, David comes to Nob, a city due east of Jerusalem. Here David, in order to protect himself, lies to the priest Ahimelech about how and why David came to the city. Hungry, David requests sustenance from the priest, and it is granted to him in the form of the bread of the Presence. David also requests arms from Ahimelech and in response he is provided the very sword that was used by Goliath and also used to behead the giant. Watching all of this from the background is a certain Edomite name Doeg. Later on, this would be the death of the priests of Nob.

From here, David travels west and heads to the very hometown of Goliath himself, the city of Gath. In this town, Achish the king recognizes David which strikes fear into David's heart. As a result, David acts unexpectedly like a madman to make Achish believe it wasn't really him. Chapter 22 shows us that David finally establishes for himself a base of operations east of Gath in the cave of Adullam. Here, he gathers his family and anybody on his side to join him there. We end the chapter on a solemn note. The lies of David have deadly consequences. Having heard that David was previously in Nod, Saul pursues him there. Hearing how the priests helped David through the testimony of Doeg, Saul orders the priests of Nod to be slaughtered with only Abiathar escaping and catching up with David in the cave of Adullam. **This week, let's read chapters 23 and 24 to see what happens next. 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:** David spares Saul’s life in the cave near En-gedi. Meditate on this passage and the act of mercy displayed by David towards Saul. Write out a life

application that you can apply to your own life. Is there a type of Saul in your own life that could experience the mercy and grace that can only come from having Jesus in your life?

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: _____

Map taken from Holman Bible Atlas (Brisco, Thomas V. Holman Bible Atlas. Holman Reference. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998.)

