

Life of David

Lesson 1

Text

1 Samuel 1:1 - 1 Samuel 2:11

Background

The last verse in Judges (Judges 21:25) reads, **“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”** This verse accurately summarizes the plight of the people of Israel after their arrival in the promised land that eventually devolved into the events of the book of Judges. Israel was supposed to be faithful to God and obey the covenant they made at Mount Sinai, but that doesn’t happen. In fact, they failed big time.

This brings us to the book of 1 Samuel and the continuation of the story. Overall, the book of Samuel (both 1 and 2nd Samuel) focuses on the rise and fall of three individuals: Samuel the prophet, Saul, and eventually David. It gives us the story of how Israel goes from the scattered tribes at the end of Judges to the unified kingdom ruled by David in Jerusalem.

It begins with Samuel the prophet. Actually, it begins with his mother, Hannah. Let’s dive into this week’s reading and learn about the birth of Samuel and the faith of his mother Hannah.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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? (**Hint: Look at Hannah's song in chapter 2 closely.**)

[illegible]

Day 4 - Additional Study

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

[illegible]

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. **(Recommended: Look up the names Samuel, Hannah, Elkanah, and Peninnah. How does this change your understanding of the narrative?)**

[illegible]

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:** What does Hannah's example in 1 Samuel 1 teach us about keeping our promises, especially promises to God?

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: _____

Life of David

Lesson 2

Text

1 Samuel 2:12 - 1 Samuel 2:36

Background

In lesson 1, we learned about the faithfulness of Samuel's mother, Hannah. Even though Hannah's womb was closed and she was provoked by Elkanah's other wife, she remained faithful to the Lord and prayed earnestly for a son to be born. Out of her faithfulness came Samuel, whose name means "God listened."

Now that Samuel is born the focus of 1 Samuel turns to Eli and his despicable sons, Hophni and Phinehas. We meet Eli in chapter 1. He is the Levite priest that accuses Hannah of being drunk when she was praying to the Lord for a son. Unfortunately for Eli, his sons were corrupt and did not know the Lord. This would ultimately spell doom for the priesthood being handed down to Eli's sons. Being sovereign as He is, God would make other plans. How does Samuel fit into this? Read about this and more in our reading for this week.

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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? (**Hint: Consider 1 Samuel 2:26**)

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

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10. **Application:** Consider Eli and his lack of putting a stop to the wicked and corrupt things his sons were doing. Are there opportunities for you being in a similar position as Eli to put a stop to wickedness and corruption around you? Are you fighting against it or just letting it happen?

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

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

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Teacher: _____ Date: _____

Life of David

Lesson 3

Text

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Background

In lesson 2 we studied and learned about Eli and his despicable sons. We learned that they did not know the Lord even though they came from the house of Aaron. Even worse was the fact that Eli didn't do much to restrain or correct his sons from the sin mentioned in 2:17, which reads, "the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD." This is truly a warning to all parents to actively correct and discipline our children.

The result? Verse 27 tells us a man of God visits Eli and informs him of the end of his sons, that they will both die on the same day, and that God will raise up a faithful priest in their place. Enter Samuel. Samuel is not a Levite, but he is the faithful priest that God will raise up to replace the corrupt Levite line. Read on in chapter 3 about Samuel, the prophecy to Eli, and more and we continue our study of this wonderful book.

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Day 4 - Additional Study

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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:** 1 Samuel 3:1 says, “**And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.**” This phrase hearkens back to the end of Judges which states, “**In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**” Thinking about your own walk with the Lord, is the word of the Lord rare? Are you doing what is right in your own eyes? If so, what steps can you take to realign with God’s purpose for your life? If not, how can you prevent yourself from regressing to that place of no revelation and disobedience?

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:** _____

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Life of David

Lesson 4

Text

1 Samuel 4:1 - 1 Samuel 5:12

Background

In lesson 3 we learn about the ascension of Samuel as somebody that the Lord speaks to and as somebody who hears from the Lord. Verse 20 tells us, “**And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.**” In his first order of business as God’s prophet, Samuel has to deliver the news to Eli that God will be enacting the judgment against his house that he promised back in chapter 2 (2:34). Being a prophet was rarely a fun occupation!

As we move into lesson 4, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy come to fruition, as promised. As for how this happens and the other details of 1 Samuel 4:1 - 1 Samuel 5:12, I will leave that up to you to discover as you study this week’s passage.

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Day 2 - Observing the Text

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Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

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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:** When Eli dies, it tells us that his eyes were dim (4:15) and that he was heavy (4:18). These details are there for a reason! Some scholars see this as a metaphor for spiritual blindness and a lack of spiritual discipline on Eli’s part. What can we learn from Eli’s deficiencies as we continue to walk in this life and how does this challenge you in your walk with the Lord?

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

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

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Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 5

Text

1 Samuel 6:1 - 1 Samuel 7:2

Background

Last week's reading is the result of that old saying, "If you play stupid games, you get stupid prizes." 1 Samuel 4:1 - 1 Samuel 5:12 is filled with the consequences of Eli's spiritual blindness and Eli's sons' outright mockery of not only the role of priest, but mockery of the one, true God! As Israel goes into battle with the Philistines, we see the Ark of the Covenant being treated as a "lucky rabbit's foot" as it's brought into battle by Hophni and Phineas. The result was a deathwave of Israelites (30,000 to be exact) including Hophni and Phineas and the capture of the ark by the enemy Philistines. Upon news of the capture of the ark, we even see the heartbreaking demise of Eli as he falls over, breaks his neck from the fall, and dies.

In this story, as tragic as it is, we still see the might of God at work within the Philistine temple that the ark was brought into. While trying to put the ark on display as another "god" conquered by them, God made sure the Philistines knew who the true God was by removing the head and feet off the statue of Dagon. This is yet another example of how God will "crush the head of the serpent" as promised in Genesis.

Where do we go from here? The Philistines decided that holding onto the ark is a bad idea and returned it to Israel. Read on in **1 Samuel 6:1 - 1 Samuel 7:2** to see what happens next.

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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 Philistines priests and diviners made a critical mistake in 6:5. They recognized that God has jurisdiction over their gods, but they failed to encourage worship of Him and instead sought to “lighten His hand from them, and their gods.” They didn’t want to abandon their gods for the true God. **Is there something in your life that you don’t want to abandon that is hindering your outright worship of the one, true God?**

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 6

Text

1 Samuel 7:3 - 1 Samuel 7:17

Background

In last week's study we see the Philistines, after 7 months, had enough of holding onto the Ark of the Covenant. They saw the ark as a trophy of another conquered "god", but realized through it all that this God is not conquerable. They decided they wanted to return the ark and seek forgiveness in their own ways of the God they offended. Enter the Philistines priests and diviners. Through their "expertise" in such matters, they devise a plan to return the ark along with a "trespass offering" so that God's wrath would be mitigated and His hand would be lightened against them.

The first place they came to was Beth Shemesh. The Philistines' plan was to offload the ark and return home. The people of Beth Shemesh were elated as the ark was in their town. They prepared offerings and made sacrifices to the Lord that day. However, they made a critical error in verse 19 as they looked into the ark. This act of disobedience cost Beth Shemesh the lives of 50,000 plus men. We read toward the end of our reading that Beth Shemesh sent messengers to Kirjath Jearim, the ark was taken back to their land, brought into the house of Abinadab, was watched over by Eleazar his son, and remained there 20 years.

With the ark now back in Israel's possession, the story shifts back to Samuel as we dig into this week's study.

Day 1 - Read and Listen

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Day 2 - Observing the Text

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Day 4 - Additional Study

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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:** Israel, after giving up their idols and false gods, were faced with the Philistine aggression again. This time, they shouted in verse 8, “**Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of**

the Philistines.” Are you facing hardships right now? Are you treating God like a “lucky rabbit’s foot” similar to chapter 4 or are you truly leaning on His hand to deliver you from it? Think and pray on this and write any reflections on the lines below.

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 7

Text

1 Samuel 8:1-22

Background

Up until 1 Samuel 7:2, Israel has been in chaos. Following the birth of Samuel they had been under Eli the priest of Shiloh and suffered the rampage of his awful sons. After the death of Eli and his household, we enter into a time when the Ark of the Covenant, one of the most symbolic symbols of God's presence, was captured by Israel's greatest enemy, the Philistines. Even during this time, God showed that He didn't need Israel's help to flex His power by supernaturally cutting off the head and hands of the Philistine god's statue. Seven months later the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Israel.

Israel was clearly on a downswing in their cyclical obedience to the one, true God. The return of the Ark along with the downfall of the corrupted priest leadership and the Godly Samuel provided a measure in the right direction.

Enter a now fully grown and fully in tune man of God in Samuel. Chapter 7 shows Samuel instructing the people of Israel to return to Yahweh, disregard their foreign gods, and yet again serve and worship Him. As is the cyclical nature of Israel, they enter into a time of serving God as they are judged by the man of God Samuel for years. As always, this sort of peace and communion with God would change with the leadership.

As we enter chapter 8, we see that Samuel is growing old, he has sons that have turned away from God, and Israel is on the cusp of repeating history in the worst way. With that, Israel demands a king...

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Day 2 - Observing the Text

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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

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10. Application: The price to serve an earthly king is very costly as it comes to freedom, money, possessions, and time. The price to serve the King of

Kings is obedience to Him. Yes, our obedience might/will cost us our earthly treasures, but those don't compare to our heavenly treasures. Think about who you are serving and consider the costs. Are you serving an earthly king or are you serving Jesus? Write down your thoughts or self-examining questions below.

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

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

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Life of David

Lesson 8

Text

1 Samuel 9:1 - 1 Samuel 10:27

Background

A few weeks we learned that Samuel ushered in a period of faithfulness to the Lord for Israel and during our reading from last week we see that Samuel is growing old. It's time for the kids to take over. Surely, Samuel's sons are going to continue leading Israel in a Godly way just like their dad, right? Wrong!

We learn that his sons did not walk in the ways of the Lord and were corrupt to the point of taking bribes and perverting justice. You get a sense that Israel had enough of this leadership and decided it was time to be like all the other nations around them and answer to a king (v5). It says that Samuel was displeased with this request. Why? Because they wanted a king? Perhaps. The more likely source of displeasure is that Israel wanted to be like all the nations around them and look to this king to judge them and fight their battles for them and not look to God for this very thing.

Despite lengthy warnings and realities of appointing a king delivered by Samuel, Israel decided it was the course they wanted to take. Verse 22 tells us that God would oblige with their request.

Now it's time to find a king to rule Israel. Let's read in chapters 9 and 10 to see the outcome of this search.

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Day 4 - Additional Study

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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:** Saul had all the markings of a leader. He was tall, put together, comes from a wealthy family, and was handsome to boot. When a person looks

at him, he checks all the boxes. God doesn't work this way though. 1 Corinthians 1:27 tells us that God uses the weak to shame the strong. We will see this later with David's selection as God's king. Think about man's criteria for decision making and compare/contrast this to God's criteria. Write down your thoughts on this and how understanding this changes or reaffirms your perspective on how God works.

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

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

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Life of David

Lesson 9

Text

1 Samuel 11:1 - 1 Samuel 12:25

Background

Israel has demanded a king to rule over them and to fight their battles! In chapters 9 and 10 we get the story of how Saul was selected by the Lord to be Israel's king. We learn that Saul comes from the tribe of Benjamin and that he had all the markings of what a leader looks like from outward appearances. He was tall, handsome, and seemed to have the appropriate pedigree to lead and rule over Israel. Most of Israel were satisfied with Saul's selection and anointing as their king.

Samuel calls all Israel together at Mizpah and it is here that he proclaims Saul the next king of Israel, but it doesn't come without a strong rebuke. 1 Samuel 10:18-19 tells us, **"I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you." But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.'** "

And so the kingdom begins. As we head into chapters 11 and 12, we see that it starts pretty well for Israel from a military standpoint. We also get a farewell address from Samuel. Let's dig into this week's chapters and learn more.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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:** Titus 1:7-8 tells us, as leaders, that we must be above reproach. **“For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.”** As we look at Samuel’s farewell address in 1 Samuel 12, you will notice in verses 1-5 that being above reproach was important to Samuel. One could say it was required of him. Think about this passage in light of the Titus

passage above. How does this encourage you as you consider the fact that you are a leader and God requires you to be above reproach?

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 10

Text

1 Samuel 13:1 - 1 Samuel 14:23

Background

As we move into chapter 11, we see immediate dividends of the newly proclaimed leader of Israel. Nahash the Ammonite came all the way up to Jabesh-Gilead to overtake the Israelites. After bargaining for a short respite, word was sent out to the Israelite regions and eventually reached the ears of Saul. When Saul hears this, it says **“And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.”** In a move reflected in Samuel’s warning in chapter 8, Saul “convinces” the people of Israel to fight with him and together they defeat the Ammonites. It seems like Israel is back on track and they celebrate the victory.

Chapter 12 gives us Samuel’s farewell address to Israel. In it, Samuel reflects on his leadership over Israel and how he did so in a God honoring way. He didn’t defraud them nor oppress them. As we move toward the end of his address, he leaves Israel with this, **“ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”**

What a fitting send off for Samuel as we consider the cyclical nature of Israel’s faithfulness to Yahweh. What started out seemingly promising will start to turn. Let’s see how the wheels start falling off as we study chapters 13 and 14 this week. It’s not all bad, we do meet Saul’s son Jonathan!

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: One of the downfalls of Saul was his rashness to take action and to not instead wait on the Lord or seek the Lord. Does this sound familiar to you? Are you quick to act when you should wait? Are you working in your own power and not seeking the Lord instead? Reflect on this and write your observations or challenges below.

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 11

Text

1 Samuel 14:24 - 1 Samuel 15:35

Background

Last week we read about Saul officially being crowned king over Israel and then also read about the beginnings of the downfall of his reign. One thing is clear despite this. Saul has tremendous military success against Israel's archenemy in the Philistines and Israel's other enemies (the Moabites, the Ammonites, Edom, and others).

In the early parts of last week's passage, we are introduced to his son Jonathan and learn he plays a key role in Saul's conflict with the Philistines. We read about his heroism in defeating the Philistines at Geba and even see Jonathan partake in a covert operation with his armor bearer against a Philistine garrison. It's clear that God is using Saul to gain victory over their enemies.

With all this success, we see the beginnings of Saul's rashness and impatience and his reluctance to fully rely on the Lord. This becomes very apparent in chapter 13 when Saul takes on the role of priest and offers sacrifices because Samuel was running late. We get this message from Samuel to Saul, **"And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.'"**

In this passage we get an obvious (for us) reference to Saul's successor in David. For that succession to take place, more would need to happen as Saul continues to fall short as the ruler of Israel. Let's read on in this week's passage to learn about another rash vow by Saul and his ultimate rejection by the Lord.

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.

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

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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.

you've made now or in the past. What sort of ramifications did those rash decisions have? Why is waiting and seeking clarification from the Lord so important in our decision making?

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 12

Text

1 Samuel 16:1-23

Background

Mixed into the list of victories Saul had over the enemies of Israel is a couple accounts of Saul's lack of obedience to the Lord. Not only was Saul susceptible to making rash vows, but his concern with making Israel happy with him over his own obedience to the Lord was his final downfall. Facing what seemed to be a final test of sorts, Saul was tasked with utterly destroying the Amalekites. Not only did he spare the king of the Amalekites, but he held back the prime sheep and oxen for what he said would be a sacrifice to the Lord.

Whether this was the intention or not, Saul was disobedient. God was looking for a sacrifice, he was looking for Saul to obey Him. Samuel tells Saul, **“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.”** Saul showed a track record of not obeying the Lord. This is just the latest example. For that, Samuel tells him, **“Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.”**

We ended last week's reading with Samuel doing what Saul was supposed to. Samuel kills Agag and then goes to grieve over Saul. As we dig into this week's reading in chapter 16, we get our first glimpse of the eventual replacement of Saul as king over Israel. This, of course, is the aforementioned “man after his own heart”, David.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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:** Man, even Godly man, can be deceived by appearances! Verse 7 tells us, “**For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.**” How does this truth change the way you look at those around you? What about leaders around you? Write some reflections below on this truth.

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: _____

Life of David

Lesson 13

Text

1 Samuel 17:1-58

Background

We left off before Christmas with Saul grieving over the failure of Saul. The bottom line was that Saul was rejected by God as Israel's king and would ultimately be replaced by God with a "man after His own heart".

Toward the end of chapter 16, Paul was tormented by a harmful spirit that was allowed into his life by God Himself. Hearing about a young man that was skillful in playing the lyre, Saul's servants suggested bringing David into Saul's service in order to play the lyre when the harmful spirit tormented him. On top of being skillful with the lyre, David was described as "a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." Saul commands that David remain in his service.

Little did Saul know that God's providence was at work here. We left chapter 16 with the next king of Israel in service to the current king of Israel without the current king knowing this is the case. David was waiting in the wings, so to speak. The situation turns explosive once that's uncovered.

Before that, we move into a very familiar story about a young future king and a giant of a man named Goliath. What truths can we pull out of this story? Let's dig in together.

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.

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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.
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4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.
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Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.
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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?
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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:** One of the more obvious themes of this passage is David’s unquenching faith in God to use him to take down Goliath. Reflect on David’s faith in this story and how you can demonstrate the faith of David in your own life. Write down those reflections or create a challenging question you can ask yourself in light of this.

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: _____

Life of David

Lesson 14

Text

1 Samuel 18:1-30

Background

Last week we looked at the familiar story of David and Goliath. Faced down with a familiar foe, the Israelites were cowering before a man of Gath that stood somewhere near 9 feet tall. The challenge from Goliath was simple, Israel was to send out their greatest champion to face him. The loser would serve the winner.

Verse 11 tells us all we need to know about the state of Israel upon this challenge, “When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.” Enter David. Since he was set up for lyre playing service to Saul, he has been back and forth between his duties with Saul and his duties with his father, Jesse. At this point, David is with his father, who sends David to the frontline of battle with provisions for the men.

When David gets to the frontlines and witnesses the cowering Israel and the towering giant, he realizes that Israel is fear stricken and offers himself as the champion to slay the giant. It wasn’t because of his size, his fighting prowess, or anything other than God’s power that would bring the victory.

As the story goes, David indeed slays Goliath in what is a major victory for Israel. In one fling of a stone, David shows the courage and faith necessary to lead a nation. As we move into chapter 18, we see the beginnings of trouble for David, but also see the beginnings of a sweet friendship. Let’s dig in together.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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:** As we read through the next chapters, we will see more about the friendship between David and Jonathan. You will see them lifting each other up and helping each other through hard times. Think about this in light of your own life. Reflect on the friendships you have and the type of friend you are to those around you. Write out your thoughts about this and perhaps a challenging question on how you can be a Jonathan to a David in your life (or vice versa).

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 15

Text

1 Samuel 19:1-24 (also read Psalm 59:1-17)

Background

Last week, verse 7 changed everything for David. It reads, “And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, ‘Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’” From that point, Saul’s attitude toward David changed and jealousy was a primary condition. It tells us further in verse 9, “And Saul eyed David from that day on.” Let the scheming and attempts on taking David’s life begin!

Intertwined in this is the blossoming friendship with Saul’s son Jonathan and David. This friendship is really God’s providence as it was used to save David from a variety of troubles imposed by Saul. You can read more about that in the coming chapters. Keep an eye on the friendship of these two men. The men of the church need more of this type of friendship more than ever!

The first attempt at David’s life was also documented in chapter 18. Simply put, while David was ministering to Saul with his lyre, Saul tried to impale David to the wall with a spear. Jealousy is truly an ugly and dangerous sinful condition! When that didn’t work, Saul schemed to get him killed at the hand of the Philistines by distracting him with the marriage to his daughter, Michal. All in all, Saul’s attempts continue to backfire and at the end of chapter 18 we read, “Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David’s enemy continually.” As we will soon see, Saul wasn’t done. Let’s read on in chapter 19 and see what he gets up to there.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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:** Read Psalm 59 in light of 1 Samuel 9:11. Write down your reflections on what you can learn from David’s writings (Psalm 59) in light of distressing times in your own 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: _____

Life of David

Lesson 16

Text

1 Samuel 20:1-42

Background

Last week we saw the depths of Saul's jealousy and anger towards David. At this point, he is completely blinded by this horrible sin to the point that he cannot move past it or not have it consume him, even in periods of what seem to be clarity.

Chapter 19 starts with Jonathan intervening with Saul on David's behalf and trying to talk some sense to him. He pointed to the fact that David has not sinned against Saul, he struck down the giant and the Philistines, and that God was working a great salvation for all Israel because of these actions. Saul seemed to have this aforementioned clarity and swore, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death." Either it was disingenuous, or short-lived.

As the Philistines were up to no good again, war commenced. It tells us that David went out and fought the Philistines and again secured victory against them. All this victory does for Saul is to fan the flames of jealousy. Instead of rejoicing in the victory, he once again sought to impale David against the wall, and failed.

From that point, Saul goes all out against David as he now employs his messengers to track David down. Michael, who wised up to the scheme, warned David and he escaped into the night and fled to Samuel in Ramah. Saul continues to be humbled by God in his attempts to kill David. He swore an oath earlier in the chapter that David will not be put to death, as the Lord lives. He truly doesn't realize how true that statement was. As we journey into chapter 20, let's see the depths Saul's jealousy will take him in his pursuit of killing 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:** At this point jealousy has consumed Saul. Reflect on this in your own life. Is there a sin you are dealing with that has consumed you or is in

danger of consuming you? It is never too late to push back on this sin with God's help. Write down some thoughts and reflections or a prayer asking God for help with this seemingly impossible task.

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: _____

Life of David

Lesson 17

Text

1 Samuel 21 - 1 Samuel 22:23 (Psalm 34, Psalm 57, Psalm 142, 1 Chronicles 12:8-18)

Background

In chapter 20, we see David continuing to fear for his life at the hand of Saul. In meeting up with Jonathan, David wonders why Saul is so deadset on taking David's life as he hasn't sinned against Saul nor is guilty of any crime.

With all this being true, David still had his service to the jealous King Saul. He had his duties, but he wasn't sure that returning to the service of Saul was the correct move. This is where Jonathan comes in and intercedes for David. They devise a plan to gauge the temperature of the king and whether it would be safe for David to return.

The plan was simple, David would hide from Saul while Jonathan would be in the presence of his father during their customary meals. If Saul still showed murderous intentions, then Jonathan would warn David through a cleverly crafted plan involving arrows and a young boy. To nobody's surprise, Saul was still very intent on ending David's life.

It is confirmed, David would continue to be on the run. See where the story goes next as we dig into this week's chapters. **Be sure to also check out the supplementary reading listed above. These verses will enrich the story you are studying this week.**

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.

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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.
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4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.
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Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.
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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?
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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:** Read Psalm 57. This Psalm was written in response to David’s time hiding out in the cave in chapter 22. What can you learn from David from this writing in how we respond to tough situations in your life? Write down a challenging question or a resolution that you will consider going forward.

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: _____

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

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

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

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.

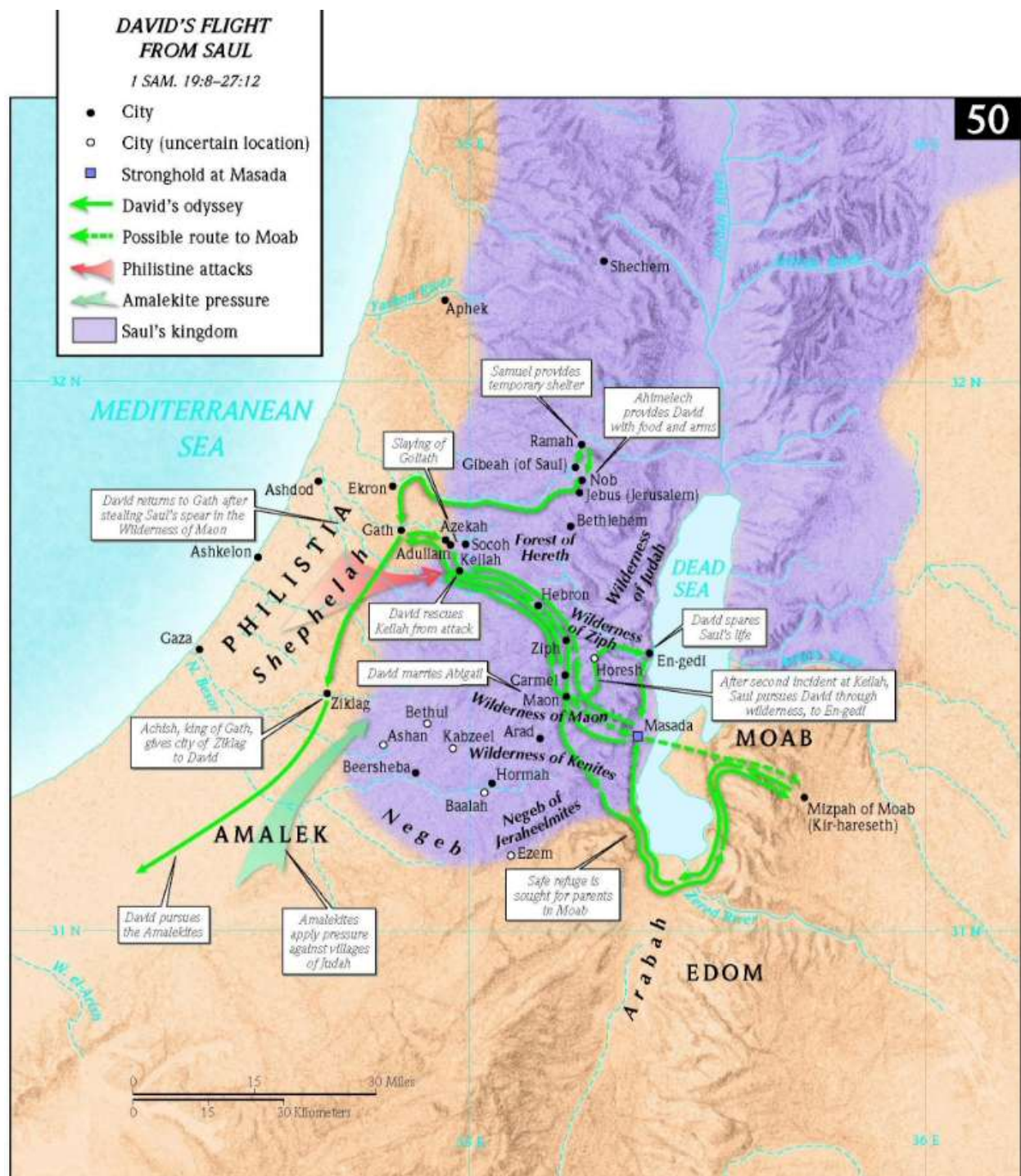
Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

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.)



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.

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

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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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 20

Text

1 Samuel 26:1 - 1 Samuel 27:12 (1 Chronicles 12:1-7)

Background

After sparing Saul's life and returning with his men to the stronghold, we read about the death of Samuel. Think back on Samuel's life for a moment. Think back to the story of faithful Hannah, the barren wife, who bore Samuel and then promised him to serve the Lord in return. Think back to how God used Samuel in dealing with the stiffnecked nation of Israel, in anointing Saul as king, announcing to Saul he was no longer going to be king, and eventually his work in bringing David into the fold as the next king of Israel. Reflect on the life of Samuel for a few moments.

As our story progresses, we now see David venturing on to the wilderness of Paran (remember to pull out your map from a few weeks ago) where he encounters Nabal and Nabal's wife Abigail. Nabal was a wealthy man that benefitted from the protection of David over his shepherds and flocks, but when David sought remuneration he was refused by Nabal. David did not take this refusal lightly and prepared 400 men to destroy Nabal and his estate.

Enter another faithful woman in the person of Abigail. In short, Abigail intercedes for her husband and quells the inevitable destruction coming to Nabal, showing faithfulness not only to her drunken husband, but also to all the shepherds and flocks that were in line of David's destruction. It took courage from Abigail to do this, as she risked her life to save primarily a name whose name means "fool."

While Nabal wasn't destroyed by David's hand, he was ultimately judged and punished by God. Abigail's intervention did not stop the hand of God from taking Nabal's life. At the end, David marries the widow of Nabal. As a side note, we also learn that David's other wife, Michal, was given to another man in marriage. Let's continue the story as we cover chapters 26 and 27 this week. Be sure to hop over to 1 Chronicles 12:1-7 for more context.

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: Even the great “man after God’s own heart” David battled a sinful nature as shown in his deception of Achish in the latter part of chapter 27. The end of Psalm 14:3 tells us, “there is none who does good, not even one.” With these truths in mind, write down some thoughts on how these truths apply to you, how the enemy will use them against you, and how you can remind the enemy what Jesus did for you!

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 21

Text

1 Samuel 28:1-25

Background

After marrying his two new wives, Abigail and Ahinoam, we find David hiding in the hills of Hachilah and the Ziphites ratting him out to Saul. It's safe to say all the "oh David, I'm so sorry for trying to kill you" talk from Saul from chapter 24 was a long gone memory. Either that, or Saul is just crazy. It's probably both of those sprinkled with paranoia!

Chapter 26 provides us with a little deja vu. Again, David had the opportunity to kill Saul where he slept and again David refused for the same reason. Verse 9 tells us, **"But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?'"** Instead of killing Saul, David took a couple souvenirs (Saul's spear and water jug) and fled to a distance away from Saul. After getting the attention of Abner and Saul, David again shows the mercy he showed to Saul, asks what crimes he's committed against him, and attempts to reason with him. Saul's reaction is like before as we read in verse 21, **"Then Saul said, 'I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake.'"**

Realizing that Saul is paranoid, David realizes that he cannot continue to stay in the territories ruled by Saul, so he does something that would make the wisest man scratch his beard. He decides to pursue residence with the very kingdom that produced Goliath and is the enemy of the Israelites, the Philistines. During his time with the Philistines, David finds favor with Achish, the king, and gains the territory of Ziklag as his place to live. Much happened during his 16 months in Ziklag including deception by David towards Achish, which was studied last week. Now, as we head into chapter 28, let's see where the story picks up as we start getting towards the end of 1 Samuel.

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

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

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10. **Application:** Desperation caused Saul to lean into something that was ultimately unsafe and to be avoided, in consulting a medium to speak to Samuel. As a

believer, there are times in life where we become desperate. Write down a time in your life where you were desperate for an answer, a healing, or anything else. What did you seek out in this desperation? Would you have done anything different?

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 22

Text

1 Samuel 29:1 - 1 Samuel 30:31 (Psalm 56; 1 Chronicles 12:1-22)

Background

Chapter 28 begins the climatic end of 1 Samuel as it moves towards a great battle between Israel and the Philistines. We see that the Philistines have mustered their forces in the north most likely in an attempt to cut Saul off from his northern tribes. This also gave the Philistines a great advantage as they could now fight on level ground where the Philistine chariots would give them a great advantage.

This drives Saul into a state of desperation. When all attempts to hear from Yahweh fail, Saul decides to seek the help of a medium of Endor (no Ewoks here!) in order to gain the help from a recently deceased Samuel. While the biblical author doesn't condemn the use of mediums, it shouldn't be overlooked that this practice was not something that was permitted and should be avoided for obvious reasons. The author's intent here was to portray the desperation of Saul here.

Through the medium, Samuel reminds Saul of this truth, **“And Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”**

The prophecy of Saul's fall was on the horizon of coming to fruition. It tells us that Saul was filled with fear, he had no strength in him, and didn't eat all day or night. The end was near! Also in the mix here, is David's deceptive existence with Achish, who is leading the attack. Let's read on and learn of the beginning of the end of Saul and his reign as king of Israel.

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.

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

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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: “Bring me the ephod”. During a time of great distress, David sought out the Lord and sought to gain Godly wisdom in the way he should act. What are you doing in times of distress? Are you seeking out the “ephod” and looking to gain God’s wisdom or are you doing it on your own strength? Write down your thoughts or a challenging question to yourself.

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:** _____

Life of David

Lesson 23

Text

1 Samuel 31:1-13 (1 Chronicles 10:1-14; 1 Chronicles 9:40-44; 2 Samuel 4:4)

Background

Through chapter 28, David was living amongst the Philistines in Ziklag and doing so while under a cloud of deception. As we move into chapter 29, it all comes to a head as the Philistines prepare to go to battle against Saul and Israel. On the eve of battle, Achish's commanders could smell a rat with David in tow and demand that David be sent back to Ziklag lest he turns sides during battle and help deliver the victory to Saul. Reluctantly, Achish sends David back to Ziklag.

As David travels back, he finds that the Amalekites had raided both Negeb and Ziklag, and amongst the captured were David's two wives, Ahinoam and Abigail. In his distress, David seeks the wisdom of the Lord to determine what he should do next, pursue or not.

Not only is David able to track down the Amalekites, with the help of a young Egyptian servant, but he is able, with God's blessing and help, to defeat the Amalekites and return all the spoils taken during the raid.

This is where we leave David for the rest of 1 Samuel. In chapter 31, we have the climatic end to Saul's reign and when we pick back up in 2 Samuel, we have the beginnings of David taking his place as king of Judah and Israel. Before we get there, chapter 31. Let's dig in and see how Saul's reign ends.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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:** Think about the legacy left by Saul and consider the legacy left by Samuel (think of the application question from a few weeks ago). In the end, we all die. All of us. Reflect on the legacy you want to leave your family after you. Do you desire to have a legacy centered around obedience to God or one centered around fulfilling your flesh or outright disobedience to God? Are you going to be remembered as a Saul or a Samuel? Write your thoughts and reflections below.

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:** _____
