

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.

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:** 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:** _____
