

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.

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.

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

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: _____
