

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: _____
