

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.

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:** 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: _____
