

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: _____
