

Life of David

Lesson 1

Text

1 Samuel 1:1 - 1 Samuel 2:11

Background

The last verse in Judges (Judges 21:25) reads, **“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”** This verse accurately summarizes the plight of the people of Israel after their arrival in the promised land that eventually devolved into the events of the book of Judges. Israel was supposed to be faithful to God and obey the covenant they made at Mount Sinai, but that doesn’t happen. In fact, they failed big time.

This brings us to the book of 1 Samuel and the continuation of the story. Overall, the book of Samuel (both 1 and 2nd Samuel) focuses on the rise and fall of three individuals: Samuel the prophet, Saul, and eventually David. It gives us the story of how Israel goes from the scattered tribes at the end of Judges to the unified kingdom ruled by David in Jerusalem.

It begins with Samuel the prophet. Actually, it begins with his mother, Hannah. Let’s dive into this week’s reading and learn about the birth of Samuel and the faith of his mother Hannah.

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? **(Hint: Look at Hannah's song in chapter 2 closely.)**

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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. **(Recommended: Look up the names Samuel, Hannah, Elkanah, and Peninnah. How does this change your understanding of the narrative?)**

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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:** What does Hannah's example in 1 Samuel 1 teach us about keeping our promises, especially promises to 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: _____
