

Life of David

Lesson 13

Text

1 Samuel 17:1-58

Background

We left off before Christmas with Saul grieving over the failure of Saul. The bottom line was that Saul was rejected by God as Israel's king and would ultimately be replaced by God with a "man after His own heart".

Toward the end of chapter 16, Paul was tormented by a harmful spirit that was allowed into his life by God Himself. Hearing about a young man that was skillful in playing the lyre, Saul's servants suggested bringing David into Saul's service in order to play the lyre when the harmful spirit tormented him. On top of being skillful with the lyre, David was described as "a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." Saul commands that David remain in his service.

Little did Saul know that God's providence was at work here. We left chapter 16 with the next king of Israel in service to the current king of Israel without the current king knowing this is the case. David was waiting in the wings, so to speak. The situation turns explosive once that's uncovered.

Before that, we move into a very familiar story about a young future king and a giant of a man named Goliath. What truths can we pull out of this story? 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:** One of the more obvious themes of this passage is David’s unquenching faith in God to use him to take down Goliath. Reflect on David’s faith in this story and how you can demonstrate the faith of David in your own life. Write down those reflections or create a challenging question you can ask yourself in light of this.

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:** _____
