

WHERE DOES OUR



HELP COME FROM?

**Bible Studies from the
Book of 1 Samuel**





WHERE DOES OUR HELP COME FROM?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL

TERM 4 MORNING TEACHING SERIES

PRIMARY AIM

To explore the nature of God's sovereignty at a personal and wider perspective.

SUBSIDIARY AIMS

- To reflect on what God values and the kind of person God desires to lead his people.
- To reflect on our sinful human tendency to seek fallen leaders.
- To gain greater familiarity with 1 Samuel as it fits into the wider canon and God's salvation history.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS

The 10am Congregation will embark on a 6-week teaching series in the book of 1 Samuel. This book was chosen because there is much happening in the world and in our lives that can lead us to feel like that our God is not in control. However, by dwelling on God's sovereignty and character, we can build our trust in God to provide for us in all circumstances. Further, a focus on what kind of King God desires provides good preparation for the church season of Advent when we look to the arrival of King Jesus.

Note each week there is also a bracketed portion of scripture. This is to indicate the broader narrative section to draw upon for each sermon.

STRUCTURE AND TOPICS

| WEEK | DATE | TOPIC | READING |
|------|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Oct-6 | Because I asked the Lord for him | 1 Sam 1:1-20 (1 Sam 1-3) |
| | Oct-13 | - <i>Mission Sunday</i> - | |
| 2 | Oct-20 | Give us a King | 1 Sam 8:1-22 (1 Sam 8-10) |
| | Oct-27 | - <i>CAFMs Sunday</i> - | |
| 3 | Nov-3 | Unfit to Rule | 1 Sam 15:1-35 (1 Sam 11; 13; 15) |
| 4 | Nov-10 | The Lord looks at the Heart | 1 Sam 16:1-13 (1 Sam 16-17) |
| 5 | Nov-17 | Saving the King | 1 Sam 25:1-44 (1 Sam 18; 24-26) |
| 6 | Nov-24 | Success is found in God | 1 Sam 30:1-30 (1 Sam 30-31) |

1 **1 Samuel 1-3**

“BECAUSE I ASKED OF THE LORD FOR HIM”

1. Watch the Bible Project’s overview of 1 & 2 Samuel.
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-samuel/>
2. Pray and read 1 Samuel 1:1-28.
3. What do we learn about Elkannah from this chapter?
4. What do we learn about Hannah and how she responded in her deep anguish?

5. Hannah most likely makes a Nazirite vow in verse 11. For its background, look up Numbers 6:1–21, Judges 13:5, and also Lk 1:15. What does her vow tell us or not tell us about Hannah and her faith in God?

6. Think of a time when you have been in great need and desperation. Did you bring it to God or not, and if so how did you bring it to God?

7. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-36.

8. What parts of Hannah's Song in verses 2:1-11 resonate with her experiences from chapter 1?

9. Why does God judge the house of Eli (2:30-36)?

10. What parts of Hannah's Song foreshadows the fall of Eli's house?

11. Read 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1.

12. How does Samuel prove faithful to God?

13. As you look back over chapters 1-3, what do we learn about God in how he deals with his people, both in his character and purpose?

14. What is one insight that you have learnt from this study?

15. Pray for each other.

2 **1 Samuel 8-10**

"GIVE US A KING"

1. Pray and read 1 Samuel 8:1-22.
2. What reasons did the elders of Israel give for asking Samuel to appoint a king over them (v.5, 19-20)?
3. Why was Samuel displeased with this request?
4. What does God say and not say in his instructions to Samuel (v.7-9)?
5. Samuel warns the elders of what a king will claim as his rights (v.11-18). Is the same or different with what Moses warned in Deuteronomy 17:14-20?

6. What are some of the key dynamics between a people and their leaders that can lead to such abuses of power?

7. How can we guard against these dynamics?

8. If appointing a king like other nations could bring such grief on Israel, why does God instruct Samuel to 'give them a king' (v.21)?

9. If you imagine for a minute that you were one of the elders, knowing what you know now about God and human leaders, what kind of king would you be asking for and why?

10. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-10:27.

11. Saul was likely from an influential family, who owned slaves and donkeys, who was a man of standing (9:1, literally 'an impressive young man'), tall and handsome. How does the choice of Saul match the qualities of a king that the elders were looking for?

12. Look over 9:3-10:16. What events in this narrative confirm God's choice of Saul as king?

13. Why is God's choice of Saul important for the reader to know?

14. Reflecting back over chapters 8-10:
 - a) what do we learn about God?

 - b) What do we learn about people?

15. What is one insight that could you put into action?

16. Pray for each other.

3 **1 Samuel 11; 13; 15**

UNFIT TO RULE

1. Share a time when you or someone else you know only partially did what they were asked. What was the motivation behind their actions?
2. Pray for God to speak through his Spirit as you think about his scripture.
3. Briefly look at chapters 11 and 13, and summarise the narrative.
4. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35.

5. What reasons are given by God for punishing the Amalekites? (v.2-3, 18; cf. Ex 17:8-16)

6. Saul defeats the Amalekites but all is not well. In what ways is Saul disobedient to God?

7. What answer does Saul give in verses 20-21 in response to Samuel's accusation of disobedience? What does this reveal of Saul's heart?

8. Note verses 22-23. What does Samuel mean and what do we learn about God in these verses?

9. Are there times in our lives when we promote our behaviour as 'doing it for God', but we have failed to submit to God in obedience? How can we discern when this is happening?

10. In verse 28, why is it important for God to remove his endorsement of Saul as king?

11. How does Samuel demonstrate obedience to God in his dealings with Saul and Agag?

12. Obedience to God was a vital part of the role of King. Compare Saul's example as king to Jesus' example as king, drawing on Philippians 2:3-11.

13. What role does obedience play in our faith in Christ today?

14. What can we do to intentionally grow in our obedience and humility towards God?

15. Pray for each other.

4

1 Samuel 16:1-13

THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART

1. What qualities do people look for in a leader when they vote for them and why?
2. Pray and read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.
3. Who decided that David was to be the next king of Israel (v.1)?
4. Why were the elders and Samuel fearful? Why was it important for Samuel's visit to be secretive (v.2-5)?

5. What were the desired qualities for a king, according to God and according to the people (v.6-13; esp. 7)?

6. What qualities of David are mentioned by the narrator in verses 12-13? Why?

7. Look up the following references to 'heart' in Scripture. How do these verses enrich our understanding of the heart and its role in our faith?
 - a. Genesis 6:5
 - b. Exodus 8:15
 - c. Deuteronomy 6:5
 - d. Psalm 51:10
 - e. Proverbs 3:5; 4:23
 - f. Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - g. Ezekiel 36:26
 - h. Matthew 5:8
 - i. Luke 8:15
 - j. Hebrews 4:12

8. Given the heart's importance, how might we assess our own heart?

9. 'People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart' (v.7). Is it possible to discern the hearts of others? If so, then why would we and what are the dangers of this? Discuss.

10. How might we let God's Spirit transform our hearts in our daily life?

11. Pray for each other.

5

1 Samuel 25:1-44

SAVING THE KING

1. Have you ever done something nice for someone and then they turned around and were mean to you? Or maybe you were on the other end. How did it make you feel?
2. Pray and read 1 Samuel 25:1-44
3. What do we know of Nabal and Abigail from their introduction in verses 2-3?
4. Was David's request of Nabal reasonable (v.4-8)? Why or why not?

5. Why is David so angry with Nabal's reponse (v.13 & 21-22)?

6. Look over Abigail's response to the conflict (v.18-19, 23-31, 36). In what ways does she demonstrate wisdom?

7. In verses 32-35, what is David's response to Abigail? Why is he thankful?

8. What might we learn about God's through this story?

9. Note Abigail's use of power. In what ways can Abigail be an example to us?

10. How does David compare with Jesus as a leader in his use of power, his response to injustice and expression of anger?

11. What role does wisdom play in the exercise of power?

12. Hypothetically, if you were David's life coach, what advice would you give him in how to deal with his strong anger?

13. Is there a situation in your life where you might be able to be a peacemaker to others? If comfortable, then bring this situation to God in prayer.

14. Pray for each other.

6

1 Samuel 30:1-30

SUCCESS IS FOUND IN GOD

1. Think back over situations where you have felt overwhelmed and desperate, or you have been with others in those situations. What is your response and where did you look for help?
2. Pray for the Spirit to speak as we study God's Word.
3. Briefly look back at the previous few chapters. Try to summarise the story up to the end of chapter 29.
4. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-30.

5. What was the initial reaction of David and his men to the taking of their families by the Amalekites (3-6)?

6. Why is it significant to know that David inquires of the Lord (7-8)? How does David's response compare to Saul's (refer to 1 Sam 28:3-25)?

7. How does David meeting the Egyptian (11-15) relate to David's prayer?

8. What was the miracle in verses 19 and 20?

9. How does David deal with the advice that the plunder should not be shared with the men who were too exhausted to fight (21-24)?

10. What is David's understanding of the source of their victory (25-26) and how does this compare to Saul?

11. What do we learn about God, his character and purposes in this account?

12. What do we learn about David and his men?

13. What kinds of things can we do to help ourselves and each other to turn to God in hard times?

14. As we finish exploring 1 Samuel, share one thing that has stood out to you or something that you feel you have learned or grown in.

15. Pray for each other.



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