

FIGTREE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Called  
to follow

1 SAMUEL

LIFEGROUP STUDIES AND  
PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

# CALLED TO FOLLOW

## 10 STUDIES IN 1 SAMUEL

The studies in this series are part of an immersive reading plan for 1 Samuel. The plan comprises readings and messages in Church services, personal devotional times and these studies which may be used in the context of a LifeGroup or individually. Bible studies include a selection of studies taken and adapted with permission from 1 Samuel by George & Koula Athas originally published by Mountain Street Media.

### SERIES OVERVIEW

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### 1

*Judges 21:25 &  
1 Samuel 1-2:11*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 1:1-8

**Bible Study** - Judges 21

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 2:1-11

### 2

*1 Samuel 2:12-4:1a*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 3:1-4:1a

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 2:12-26

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 2:27-36

### 3

*1 Samuel 4:1b-6*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 5:1-12

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 4:1b-22

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 6:1-21

### 4

*1 Samuel 7-8:22*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 8:1-22

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 7-8:22

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 7

### 5

*1 Samuel 9-11*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 10:1-27

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 9- 10:16

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 11

### 6

*1 Samuel 12-15*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 13:1-15

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 13-15

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 14-15

### 7

*1 Samuel 16-20*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 20:1-42

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 18-20

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 16-18

### 8

*1 Samuel 21-24*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 24:1-22

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 21-24

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 22-23

### 9

*1 Samuel 25-27*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 25:1-44

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 25-27

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 27

### 10

*1 Samuel 28-31*

**Sermon** - 1 Sam 30:1-31

**Bible Study** - 1 Sam 28-31

**Devotions** - 1 Sam 28-29

## TIME ALONE WITH GOD

## PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

THE R.E.A.P METHOD	READINGS
<p><b>Try the REAP method:</b></p> <p>The REAP method of journaling outlines the essentials of reading and exploring what God is teaching you. There is no 'right or wrong' way to study the bible but writing down what you have learnt helps you remember it for longer and you can look back at what you learnt weeks, months or years later and reflect on how you've grown over that time. If you have never sat down and read the bible or prayed to God don't panic! We have a guide that will help you do it by yourself.</p> <p>Each of the four letters stand for a different aspect of journaling.</p>	<p><b>Week One</b> 1 Samuel 2:1-11</p> <p><b>Week Two</b> 1 Samuel 2:27-36</p> <p><b>Week Three</b> 1 Samuel 6:1-21</p> <p><b>Week Four</b> 1 Samuel 7</p>
<p><b>R IS FOR READ</b></p>	<p><b>Week Five</b> 1 Samuel 11</p>
<p>Read today's passages.</p>	<p><b>Week Six</b> 1 Samuel 14-15</p>
<p><b>E IS FOR EXPLORE</b></p>	<p><b>Week Seven</b> 1 Samuel 16-18</p>
<p>Write down the main points surrounding the verse you are reflecting on. What is the big idea?</p>	<p><b>Week Eight</b> 1 Samuel 22-23</p>
<p><b>A IS FOR APPLY</b></p>	<p><b>Week Nine</b> 1 Samuel 27</p>
<p>Write down how your life will be changed by what you have read today. What is one thing you will intentionally do to take steps of growth?</p>	<p><b>Week Ten</b> 1 Samuel 28-29</p>
<p><b>P IS FOR PRAY</b></p>	
<p>Write out a prayer around what you have learnt today. Thank God for what he is doing in your life and ask Him to help you put into practice what you have been learning.</p>	

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## WEEK ONE

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# IN THOSE DAYS...

## THE CONTEXT AND TIMES OF 1 SAMUEL

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### STUDY QUESTIONS

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Watch this youtube clip together:

<https://youtu.be/fW8amMCVAJQ>

Of all the people in the video, where do you think you'd find yourself?

**Read Judges 21**

**Israel is in turmoil! Judges 20 reports the tribes of Israel going to war against the tribe of Benjamin.**

1. How is the vow of Judges 21:1 a final blow against the tribe of Benjamin? (see verse 3)
2. Now that the war is over what is grieving the people of Israel? (verse 3-7)
3. Why do you think they ask the question they do in verse 8? (consider also verse 1)
  - a. What do they resolve to do with the tribe of Jabesh Gilead? (verse 10-12)
  - b. Explain in your own words the plan Israel has come up with to solve the problem we noted in question 2. (verse 11-14)
  - c. What's your moral assessment of the Israelite strategy?

Oh dear, not enough wives to go round! (verse 14) So phase two of *'make tribe Benjamin great'* again is proposed. Read, understand, and discuss the plans stated in verses 15-23

4. What is your moral assessment of the strategy?
5. What is the root cause of the dilemma (contrast verse 17 with verse 18)
6. Examine verse 22. What seems to be the most important value here? What is forgotten about? Who is being followed?

***"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit."***  
***(Judges 21:25)***

7. Did Israel have a leader(s)?
8. What was the problem?

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### DISCUSS

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**In a world that speaks much about Leadership, what qualities do you see emerging here for effective and importantly godly leadership?**

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## WEEK TWO

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# CORRUPTION & CALL

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

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You are on a road trip, you have not found your destination. Do ask for directions, or try to figure it out yourself? - Tell the truth!

### Read 1 Samuel 2:12-26

1. Who is Eli? ( 1 Samuel 1:3, 9)
2. How is Eli's leadership reflected in:
  - a. his sons' behaviour (Verses 2:12-17, 22-25, 29; 3:13)?
  - b. his obedience to the commandments in Deuteronomy 6:4-12?

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### THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

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**As a priest, Eli's role was to be the mediator in the relationship between God and humanity. He was to represent God in all his holiness to the people, and he was to represent the people to God by offering their sacrifices to God. If a priest failed in his role, then the relationship between God and his people would**

**break down. Here at the beginning of 1 Samuel we see Eli and his sons failing dismally in their leadership. Eli is a blind man leading the blind. God, though, is not satisfied with the breakdown in relationship with his people. It is for this reason that he acts upon the blind leadership of Eli's house.**

3. What do you notice about Eli's Sons (verses 12, 13-15, 17, 23-25)?
4. How does Samuel compare to Eli and his sons (verses 2:18, 21, 26; 3:19-21)?
5. How does the narrative of 1 Samuel 2 prepare us thematically for what we will see in Samuel as a leader?
6. Considering what we observe in Samuel, what are traits that anyone who wishes to be a godly influencer would also seek to cultivate?

**Work together to think through, and list what steps you wish to take to nurture the traits you listed above**

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## WEEK THREE

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# ICHABOD!

(GLORY DEPARTED)

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

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What do you think would be most dangerous about a compass that points just a degree or two off north?

### Read 1 Samuel 4

1. What are the headlines? What happens?

### Go back and Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10

2. How do you see the theme of Hannah's prayer at work in chapter 4?
3. What is the mood at the end of chapter 4? (Think in terms of the promises to Abraham.)

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## REVERSAL OF FORTUNES

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**Hannah's prayer sets the pattern for things to come. Hannah describes the LORD as a God who reverses fortunes: bringing the mighty low and exalting the humble. However, He does not do this randomly. He does it to preserve his relationship with His people. In the rest of 1 Samuel, keep an eye out to see whether the LORD follows this pattern.**

### Read 1 Samuel 4:3

- a. How do the Elders demonstrate an understanding of the theme of Hannah's prayer?

- b. What is missing from their next actions? (verses 3b-4). What have they misunderstood about God?

- c. Read verse 5-8, what do Israel and the Philistines share in common regarding the ark of the covenant?

4. Considering the events thus far, what do you think has been missing?

5. What is the consequence of the death of Eli?

6. The birth of a son for the wife Phinehas was thought to be a sign of hope (verse 20). How does the naming of the child 'Ichabod' reflect the events of the chapter?

- a. With regard to the priesthood in Eli's house?

- b. With regard to how Israel has viewed God?

7. Return to the themes you learnt from Hannah's prayer, where did it go wrong for Israel?

8. How does the 'Glory of God' fundamentally change the way we approach the God who is powerful over all things?

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## WEEK FOUR

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# THEY ASKED...

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

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### The Last of the 'Judges'

Have you ever had a time where you sincerely regretted getting exactly what you asked for?

#### Read 1 Samuel 7:1-15

1. What are the hallmarks of Samuel's time as Israel's leader? (Consider verses 2-3, v5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 17)
2. Recall the culture of Israel in the previous study, how have things changed?
3. What do you note about God's activity, and how is it reminiscent of Exodus 14:14?
4. Take a pause, what do you suppose the author wants us to understand regarding the leadership of Israel?

#### Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9

5. Samuel is old, what is his succession plan? (verse 1-2) Where have you seen this kind of plan fail previously (1 Sam 2:1)? What is the common element?
6. Samuel is old and his sons 'don't follow his example', what is the succession plan of the elders (verse 4-5)? What are your initial feelings about the plan

#### Carefully examine verses 6-9

7. What are Samuel's first reactions (verse 6)? What do you learn?
8. What is God's response? Recall question 4 above, what is confirmed?

9. Why do you suppose God is willing to grant the request of the elders of Israel?

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### A BRAND NEW OFFICE

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**In the book so far God's people have been under two different offices of leadership. The 'Priestly office' occupied by Eli, followed by the 'office of the Prophet' occupied by Samuel. Though he trained under Eli, Samuel's role under God is quite different as he will continue to bring God's word to bear as he judges / leads Israel. Now we are to see a third office of leadership introduced, that of King. What becomes abundantly clear throughout the book is that regardless of the office that God may choose to work through, the leader is only ever fruitful when they lead as a follower of God himself, and lead others to do likewise.**

#### Read 1 Samuel 8:10-22

10. What is the repeated warning regarding a King?
11. How is this fundamentally different to God? (Gen 1:29, Gen 12:1-3, Ex 14:14, Ex 19:4-6, Deut 1:31, Deut 4:, Josh 1:6,)
12. Read again verses 18- 20: Why do you suppose the people were so adamant about their request? What are the things they have forgotten?
13. Where do you think God's people can make similar mistakes with regard to leaders today?

## WEEK FIVE

## THE LORD'S ANOINTED

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Have you ever had an experience where your first impression of somebody was way off?

**Read 1 Samuel 9:1 – 10:16**

## TOWN OF RENOWN

**While we may have mixed emotions about Israel's request for a king, we are still hopeful for their future. After all, God has consented to give them the king they ask for. But as God rolls out the red carpet for Israel's new king, we discover that, of all places in Israel, he comes from Gibeah of Benjamin. Judges 19 – 21 recounts how the residents of Gibeah had raped a Levite's concubine and left her to die. This appalling crime had led to a civil war in which the tribe of Benjamin was nearly annihilated. We are left wondering whether Israel's king-to-be actually has anything going for him.**

1. What makes Saul stand out from the rest of the Israelites? (1 Samuel 9:2)
2. Who takes initiative during the search for the donkeys? (1 Samuel 9:5-10)

3. Give Saul a score out of 10 for the following qualities:
  - a. Determination
  - b. Creative thinking
  - c. Speaking ability
  - d. Ability to instruct others
4. In light of this, how would you rate Saul's competency to rule as king?
5. How does Samuel seek to prepare Saul for kingship? (1 Samuel 9:27 - 10:1)
6. Why do you suppose Samuel kissed Saul? What may we learn of leadership from Samuel at this point (1 Samuel 10:1, see also Psalm 2:11-12)
7. How do you think one can be sure of God's call to lead?
8. What role does the Spirit of God play in this episode? (1 Samuel 10:6 & 1 Samuel 10:10)
9. What does this teach us about faithful leadership?



## WEEK SIX

## THE LORD'S REJECTED

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Think of some famous leaders who "fell from grace"? What caused their downfall?

Read 1 Samuel 13:1-23

## SAUL'S REIGN

We do not know exactly how old Saul was when he became king, or for how long he reigned. The Hebrew text of the Bible that we have today has lost these particular details at 1 Sam 13.1. We can, however, make some good guesses. When Samuel anoints Saul in chapter 9, he is described as a 'man'. This means that Saul was probably at least 20 years old, because 'man' usually refers to males of fighting age (over 20 years); and, after all, the elders of Israel had demanded a king who could lead them into battle. We also know that Saul eventually had four sons, and that at least three of them were of fighting age while he was still alive (Saul also had two daughters). Thus, by chapter 13, Saul had probably been king for a little over 20 years.

the LORD, had the most important office in the nation. Even the king was to be subject to the word of the LORD's prophet. In Deuteronomy 18:15-22, the LORD had promised to raise up a prophet like Moses to guide the nation of Israel, and the nation was to show complete obedience to the prophet's word. Although this promise ultimately finds its fulfilment in the Lord Jesus, the LORD did indeed raise up numerous prophets to bring His word to Israel. Samuel was one such prophet. For Saul, this presented a dilemma. Saul took a course of action that to him seemed perfectly logical—it made good sense. And clear, logical thinking is what any nation would want from their leader. However, Saul also had to contend with the direct word of the prophet. Thus, for Saul, we have a problem: to what extent could he himself follow his own logical instincts? How much authority did his own good ideas and commands carry? In other words, did Saul have the authority of a prophet? Was Saul also among the prophets?

1. What factors lead to Israel's fear? (Verses 13:5-7 & 13:19-23)
2. Do you think Saul is wise or foolish in offering the sacrifices? (Verses 13:8-13)

## KING AND PROPHET

Israel was a nation that was ruled by the word of the LORD. As such, the prophet, who delivered the word of

## Read 1 Samuel 14

3. How does Jonathan's behaviour contrast with Saul's? (Verses 14:1-7)?
4. What is Jonathan's reasoning for his actions? What is the result? (Verses 14:6-7 & 14:14-23)
5. Why was Saul's vow foolish? (Verses 14:30 & 14:32-34)

Study six continues on page 10

6. What does God's Law say about broken vows (Deut 5:11, 23:21-23)? How does this reflect on Saul and his vow?

### Read 1 Samuel 15

7. What does Samuel instruct Saul to do? Why? (Verses 15:2-3, 18)
8. Does Saul follow through on God's instructions given through Samuel? Why or why not? (Verses 15:7-9 & 15:14-15)

## SACRED BAN

The LORD brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to give them the land of Canaan, just as he had promised to Abraham. God gave Israel the land by pouring out his fearsome judgement on the pagan inhabitants of Canaan for their terrible sinfulness. He used Israel to do this by having them execute a 'sacred ban'—that is, God demanded that Israel devote the inhabitants to him for destruction: men, women, children and all their possessions (Deut 7).

To us today this sounds like a harsh and even criminal measure, similar to the atrocity of ethnic cleansing. However, God takes sin very seriously (compare Jesus' shocking words in Mat 5:29-30) and demanded that Israel be a holy nation—that is, an especially distinguished nation. As such, he ordered a thorough purge of sin from Israel's midst. A sacred ban was not so much 'ethnic cleansing' as 'sin cleansing'. And by annihilating absolutely everything, the LORD made sure that there was nothing left over to lead his people Israel into pagan sinfulness. Furthermore, to allow anyone or anything to survive

**a sacred ban was to stifle God's righteous judgement—in effect, to obstruct justice. Anyone who failed to carry out a sacred ban was guilty of obstructing justice and being in contempt of the LORD. When Israel first entered Canaan, an Israelite named Achan kept some of the spoil from a sacred ban (Josh 7). As such, he tainted all of Israel with sin and obstructed God's righteous judgement. As a consequence, the LORD's righteous judgement fell on Achan and his entire clan—in other words, the sacred ban fell on Achan and all that was his. He and his family were stoned to death and their bodies and possessions were burned.**

9. With what does Saul seem to be preoccupied? (Verses 15:12 & 30)
10. How does the LORD respond to Saul's actions? (Verses 15:10-11, 15:22-23 & 15:26-28)
11. Has Saul's kingship been doomed from the start? (Consider 1 Samuel 8:18, 10:19, 12:14-15 & 13:13-14)
12. At this point, how are things looking for God's people and God's promises to Abraham? (1 Samuel 12:22, 13:14 & 15:28)
13. What place do the following characteristics have in leadership?
- Obedience
  - Popularity
  - Rationality
  - Initiative
14. How does the picture of God seen throughout this study compare with popular perceptions of God today?

**WEEK SEVEN**

**WHEN KINGDOMS COLLIDE**

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

What makes an opinion worth listening to? **Read 1 Samuel 18:1 – 20:1**

1. What is the difference between David and Saul’s situation?  
(1 Samuel 18:12 & 16:13-14)

2. Fill out the following table to determine the opinion that various figures have of David.

Passage	Who	Opinion of David	Evidence of opinion
1 Sam 18:1-4 1 Sam 19: 1-7	Jonathan	for / against	
1 Sam 18: 6-7	The women of Israel	for / against	
1 Sam 18:14	The Lord	for / against	
1 Sam 18:16	All Israel and Judah	for / against	
1 Sam 18:20 1 Sam 18: 28-29 1 Sam 19:11-17	Michal	for / against	
1 Sam 19:18	Samuel	for / against	
1 Sam 18:7-9, 10-15 & 17 1 Sam 18:20-29 1 Sam 19:9-11 1 Sam 19:14-15	Saul	for / against	

3. How does Saul follow through with his promises in?  
a. 1 Sam 17:25 & 1 Sam 18:17-19  
b. 1 Sam 19:6 & 1 Sam 19:15

**Read 1 Samuel 20:1-42**

4. Is David a loyal citizen of the kingdom?  
5. How does Jonathan realise his father’s intentions? (Verses 20:30-33)  
6. What is so amazing about Jonathan’s speech in verses 20:12-17?  
7. What is the outcome of David and Jonathan’s plan? (verses 20:41-42)  
Think it through

8. Is Jonathan a loyal citizen of the kingdom?  
9. What do Jonathan’s actions in this chapter teach us about:  
a. loyalty to friends  
b. loyalty to family  
c. loyalty to God  
d. priorities in relationships  
10. Jonathan’s loyalty to the Lord’s anointed comes at great personal cost. What has following Christ cost you? What does Jesus have to say about the cost in Mark 10:28-30?

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**WEEK EIGHT**


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# THE WANDERING KING

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

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Have you ever been stuck in a situation where you thought there was no way out?  
What happened?

**Read 1 Samuel 21:1 – 22:23 and 1 Samuel 23:15-28**

Chapters 21-23 depict David fleeing from Saul.  
Fill in the following table about these incidents.

Place of Refuge	Who Assists David?	Dilemma	Outcome
Nob (1 Samuel 21:1)	1 Samuel 21:4-9	1 Samuel 21:3-6	1 Samuel 22:9-10
		1 Samuel 21:7	1 Samuel 22:16-23
Gath (1 Samuel 21:10)	1 Samuel 21:13	1 Samuel 21:11-12	1 Sam 21:15-22:1
The Cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1)	1 Samuel 22:1	—	1 Samuel 22:2
Mizpeh of Moab (1 Samuel 22:3)	1 Samuel 22:4	1 Samuel 22:3	1 Samuel 22:4
	1 Samuel 22:5		1 Samuel 22:5
The Wilderness of Ziph (1 Samuel 23:14)	1 Samuel 23:14	1 Samuel 23:14	1 Samuel 23:14
Horesh (1 Samuel 23:15)	1 Samuel 23:16-17	1 Samuel 23:15	1 Samuel 23:16,18
The Wilderness of Maon (1 Samuel 23:24-25)	1 Samuel 23:25	1 Samuel 23:26	1 Samuel 23:27-29

Study eight continues on page 13

1. How does Saul's treatment of Nob compare with his treatment of the Amalekites? (1 Samuel 15:15-16 & 1 Samuel 22:18-19)

## AGAINST THE LORD'S ANOINTED

**In the midst of his rage against David, Saul commits a heinous crime: he has 85 anointed priests and their families killed (1 Sam 22:16-19). The scandal of this massacre is not just the loss of life, but that Saul lays his hand against men anointed to mediate the relationship between the Lord and his people. Rather than leading the nation under God, Saul has assaulted God himself by murdering his anointed ones. He has just jeopardised God's covenant with Israel. What's more, Saul is now hunting another anointed one: David.**

### Read 1 Samuel 23:1-14

2. What crisis does Keilah face? (Verse 1)
3. What is David's purpose in coming to Keilah (verses 2-4)? What is Saul's purpose in coming to Keilah? (verse 8)
4. How do David and Saul each relate to God in this episode? What does this tell us about relating to God?
5. In what ways are you like David when you relate to God? In what ways are you like Saul?

### Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22

6. How determined is Saul to capture David? (Compare 1 Samuel 23:13 with 1 Samuel 24:1-2.)
7. How do David's men react when they see Saul in David's cave? (1 Samuel 24:4)

8. How does David treat Saul and why (1 Sam 24:6-13 & 1 Sam 22:17-19)?

9. What does Saul finally realise? (1 Sam 24:16-22 & 1 Sam 15:28)

10. What is the significance of David cutting Saul's robe? (See 1 Samuel 15:27-28)

11. When Jesus was crucified, the soldiers gambled for his clothing (John 19:23-24). In doing this, they unwittingly fulfilled Psalm 22:18. When it came to Jesus' tunic, the soldiers did not tear it. Although this fulfilment is widely recognised by readers of the Bible, many forget to ask what exactly is the meaning of the garments. Thinking about the role garments play in 1 Samuel, what might be the significance of the fact that Jesus' tunic remained untoned?

12. Throughout this study we have seen various people reading God's hand into their specific circumstances (e.g. Saul at Keilah, David's men in the cave). Is it right for us to read God into our circumstances? How do David's actions in this study help us to answer this? (see also 1 Thess 5:15-22, Rom 8:28-29).

13. Certain Psalms are set during this part of David's life. They are Psalms 18, 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 63 and 142. These Psalms give us a glimpse into David's thoughts and emotions, much like diary. Read Psalm 57. What is the context of the Psalm (in the title)? What is David's attitude to God and his own enemies?

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## WEEK NINE

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# WHEN KINGDOMS DIVIDE

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

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Have you ever made a “fool of yourself”? What happened?

### Read 1 Samuel 25:1-44

1. What major event happens in 1 Samuel 25:1? What does this now mean for the nation of Israel?
2. How is Nabal and his wife, Abigail described? (Verse 25:3) How do they each show their character in this episode (1 Samuel 25:9-12 & 14-23)
3. What do Abigail's words (verses 25:23-31) imply about:
  - a. The LORD?
  - b. David?
  - c. Nabal?
  - d. Saul?
4. Why is David grateful to Abigail? (1 Samuel 25:32-34)
5. What happens after Abigail's meeting David? (1 Samuel 25:36-42). Think it through
6. What significance does the phrase 'like a king' (verse 25:36) have?

### Read 1 Samuel 26:1 – 27:1

7. What obstacles does David face as he enters Saul's camp ( 1 Samuel 26:5-7)?
8. Why does David refuse to attack Saul? (1 Samuel 26:8-11 & 23-24)

9. What is Saul's response to David when he finds out that David spared his life again (verse 26:21)?

10. Was David foolish for not killing Saul?

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## OPPOSING THE CHOSEN

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**King David had no need to attack Nabal since God himself struck Nabal dead. Nabal had been acting 'like a king' with total contempt for David. He serves as a warning of how God will deal with those who do not acknowledge the LORD's chosen king, but rather set themselves up in opposition to him. This sounds a sombre note for Saul (26:10).**

### Read 1 Samuel 27:1-12

11. Does David trust Saul's words in 1 Samuel 26:21? How does he indicate this? (Verse 27:1-4)
12. How does David gain the trust of Achish? (Verse 27:8-12)
13. This is now the second time that David acts with apparent deceit towards the Philistines. How should we evaluate David's behaviour in chapter 27? To what extent can it serve as a model for us?

## WEEK TEN

## STRENGTH IN THE LORD

## STUDY QUESTIONS

Name a movie where the ending didn't feel quite right. What was wrong with it?

**Read 1 Samuel 28-29**

1. What does the news in verse 1 mean for David (verse 28:1-2)? How do the lords of the Philistines respond? (1 Samuel 29:1-11)
2. What does Achish understand David to be saying (verse 29:8)? Is this what David actually means (1 Samuel 24:8; 26:17 & 19)?
3. What is Saul's predicament and how does he try to resolve it (verse 28:3-8)? What light does Deuteronomy 18:9-12 shed on Saul's course of action?
4. Compare the relationship between Saul and the LORD and David and the LORD? (1 Samuel 22:5, 23:4, 23:10-12, 28:6, 28:15 & 30:8)

## GRAVE NEWS

**Saul goes to extreme measures to extract some scrap of guidance from God, but God is completely silent. This is dramatically different to God's prompt and precise answers to David's enquiries. Just when it appears that some morsel of guidance is about to come his way, Saul instead receives grave news.**

5. What does the spirit of Samuel tell Saul? (1 Samuel 28:16-19)
6. Do you feel any sympathy for Saul and Israel? Why or why not?

**The craft of mediums and necromancers involved subtle acts of trickery. It is little wonder therefore, that the medium is shocked when the spirit of Samuel actually appears (28:12). Her response reinforces the enormity of the message. In confronting Saul Samuel pronounces that God is Saul's enemy (28:16). The Hebrew word here implies a persistent and ever-present enemy—a 'nemesis'. Samuel confirms that God has deliberately allied himself against Saul because he failed to wipe out Amalek. The Lord's unspent judgement on Amalek is diverted onto Saul. The armies of Israel are inevitably caught up in the fate of their leader.**

**Read 1 Samuel 30**

7. Who does David defeat? How does this victory reflect on Saul?

**Read 1 Samuel 31**

8. What is particularly tragic about this battle? (1 Samuel 31:1-6)
9. Why do the people of Jabesh recover Saul's remains? (1 Samuel 31:8-13 & 1 Samuel 11: 1-11)

**Throughout 1 Samuel David had numerous opportunities to seize the kingship yet refused to do so. Even now with Saul dead David holds back. Instead David mourns the deaths of Saul and Jonathan in the moving lament of 2 Samuel 1:17-27.**

**Study ten continues on page 16**

10. What situation does the nation of Israel now find itself in? (1 Samuel 31:7; Compare Genesis 17:1-8)
11. What hope is there for Israel?
12. Re-read the Song of Hannah (1 Sam 2:1-10). Where have you seen the reversal of fortunes in 1 Samuel?
13. In light of 1 Samuel, is it possible that God deliberately raises bad leaders and governments? (Consider Acts 4:24-30 & 1 Peter 2:13-14).

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### THE LORD'S ANOINTED

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**More to come 1 Samuel ends on a tragic note. The king is dead, Israel's land is being over-run, they have rejected God as their king and God seems very far away. David presents a ray of hope but despite his merits he still has a flawed character. We have seen how Israel's fortunes are closely tied to its king's destiny. They need a king who is not merely popular by their standards but one who obeys God. He must be favoured**

**by God and promote the LORD as the true king. Only with such a king will the promises of God and the hopes of Israel be fulfilled.**

14. Read the following verses and note what they say about Jesus. How does Jesus compare with Saul and David as the LORD's anointed?
  - a. Luke 1:26-33
  - b. Luke 23:35-41
  - c. Acts 10:36-43
  - d. Acts 13:17-23, 32-37
  - e. Romans 1:1-4
  - f. Philippians 2:5-11
  - g. Revelation 19:11-16
15. In light of these passages how should the kingship of Jesus affect your thinking and your actions? Are there areas in which you need to change?





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