

1 Samuel
Leader Guide
(NASB AND ESV)

GOD'S SEARCH FOR A MAN
AFTER HIS OWN HEART

1 Samuel Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

© 2003, 2008, 2014 Precept Ministries International

Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®

© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)

© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

4th Edition (6/2014)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out

When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

PRINTED PAGE NO.	L E S S O N S	PDF PAGE NO.
1	LESSON ONE: I Samuel 1–3	5
9	LESSON TWO: I Samuel 4–7	13
17	LESSON THREE: I Samuel 8–12	21
25	LESSON FOUR: I Samuel 13–15	29
33	LESSON FIVE: I Samuel 16–20	37
41	LESSON SIX: I Samuel 21–23	45
47	LESSON SEVEN: I Samuel 24–26	51
55	LESSON EIGHT: I Samuel 27–31	59

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

1 SAMUEL LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 1–3

HISTORICAL SETTING

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group when the events of 1 Samuel took place. Tell them to look at the chart in the lesson “The Period of the Judges” as a visual aid.

1 Samuel 4:18; 7:15-17

The beginning of 1 Samuel was during the time of Judges before Israel’s first king. Eli judged for 40 years, and Samuel judged all his life.

What was the time of the judges like? Ask what they learned from the cross-references.

Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1 and 21:25

There was no king in Israel, and people did what was right in their own eyes.

Judges 2:11-19

It was a time of evil, forsaking / abandoning God, idolatry.
God put enemies over Israel until they cried to Him.
Then He raised up a judge to deliver them from the enemies.
When the judge died, they went back to idolatry.

1 Samuel 8:1-5 and 9:15-17

Israel wanted a king to judge them like the nations had.
Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel.

1 Samuel is the record of the transition from judges to kings.

1 SAMUEL 1

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart, and ask what they noted as the theme of chapter 1.

Probably something like:

Hannah prayed for a son—Samuel; Eli priest in God’s house at Shiloh

NOTE: You can ask your group what this chapter is about, and let them discuss. If they don’t bring up all the main points, you can ask some of the following questions.

Tell them to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-2

How does this book begin? Who is this chapter about?

Elkanah was from Ramah (ESV—Ramathaim-zophim) in the hill country of Ephraim, and he, or his great-great grandfather Zuph, was referred to as an Ephraimite / Ephrathite.

1 Chronicles 6:22-28, 31-35

This gives his lineage as the tribe of Levi, a Kohathite.

NOTE: Some in your group might remember that the Levites were to live among the other tribes and teach God’s laws to the people of Israel. The Levites had no land inheritance of their own.

Elkanah had two wives, Hannah, who had no children, and Peninnah.

Verses 3-20

What are the events of these verses?

Elkanah went to Shiloh yearly to worship the Lord of hosts.
At that time the Lord’s house, also called temple in this chapter, was at Shiloh.

NOTE: Although the tabernacle was referred to as the “temple” in this chapter, it was still the tabernacle which had been with Israel since they constructed it after coming out of Egypt. But it had been in Shiloh since the time of Joshua.

Exodus 34:18-24

The Lord had commanded all the men of Israel to go before Him three times a year to worship at certain Feasts.

Tell your group to look at the chart “The Feasts of Israel” in the lesson and ask what the main feasts were.

1st month

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is sometimes called Passover.

3rd month

The Feast of Weeks is for the first fruits of the wheat harvest.
In the New Testament this feast is referred to as Pentecost.

7th month

Then the Feast of the Ingathering is referred to also as the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Samuel 1.

Ask what they learned about Hannah.

When Elkanah took his two wives yearly to Shiloh, Peninnah provoked and irritated Hannah because she had no children. Hannah wept, wouldn't eat, and was sad of heart.

“sad”—*ra'a*, to be evil or bad; can designate “experiences which entail physical pain . . . or emotional pain”¹; “means to spoil by breaking to pieces”²

From the context of 1 Samuel 1 it could be either hurt or resentment.

She was greatly / deeply distressed, but a praying woman, trusting God to answer her petition.

You might ask your group where they turn in their times of distress.

In her petition for a son, Hannah made a vow to the Lord.

NOTE: Some in your group might know the vow of a Nazirite from Numbers 6. This was one set apart or dedicated to the Lord for a specific time, which could be a whole lifetime as with Samson and probably John the Baptist. No razor on the head or fruit of the vine was part of keeping the vow.

Eli was the priest, with his two sons Hophni and Phinehas.

After Eli discovered Hannah was not drunk but pouring out her heart to the Lord in prayer, he blessed her by saying “the God of Israel grant your petition.”

After that word from him, Hannah's face was sad no longer. Hearing Eli's words encouraged her.

The Lord remembered Hannah and gave her a son. She named him Samuel which can mean “heard of God,”³ “name of God,”⁴ or “God is exalted.”⁵

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about other births.

Genesis 11:29-30; 15:2-4; 17:15-19; 18:9-14

The Lord promised Isaac to Abraham and his barren wife Sarah.

¹ R. L. Harris, et. al., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1999), p. 854.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2366, H7489.

³ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), H8050.

⁴ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition*, H8050 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981) H8050.

⁵ Chris Church, “Samuel” in *Holman Bible Dictionary*, ed. Trent C. Butler (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), p. 1227.

Genesis 25:19-26

Isaac prayed on behalf of his barren wife Rebekah, and the Lord answered him by giving them twins, Esau and Jacob.

Genesis 29:30-32; 30:1-2, 22-24

Jacob's wife Rachel was barren until the Lord opened her womb.

Judges 13:1-7, 24-25

Samson's mother was barren until the angel of the Lord appeared to her and promised a son. She was told he would be a Nazirite from the womb.

Luke 1:5-17

Elizabeth was barren until the angel of the Lord appeared to her husband the priest Zacharias / Zechariah and promised him a son by her. That son was John the Baptist, also one who was set apart in the womb.

Ruth 4:13

The Lord enabled Ruth to conceive and bear a son.

Deuteronomy 32:39 and Psalm 139:13-16

God gives life.

Before people are born, He weaves them together in their mother's wombs.

At any point in this discussion, give your group opportunity to discuss relevant application.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Samuel 1.

Verses 21-28

What are these verses about?

Hannah did not go back to Shiloh until Samuel was weaned, maybe 3 to 5 years.

When he was weaned, she took him to the Lord's house in Shiloh to live.

She dedicated / lent him to the Lord for as long as he lived, and he worshiped there.

1 SAMUEL 2

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart, and ask what they noted as the theme for this chapter.

Probably something like:

Hannah's prayer; Eli's sons' sins

How does this chapter connect with 1 Samuel 1?

Hannah prayed this at the time she took Samuel to the Lord's house; 1:24 and 2:11.

Verses 1-10

Who and what was Hannah's prayer about?

This prayer contains a lot of statements about who the Lord God is.

Hannah's heart exulted in the Lord though the son she prayed for was given to live his life at God's house and not with her.

She exalted the Lord in this prayer; it is her praise of Him who answered her. She rejoiced in His salvation for her.

There is no one holy like Him, no one besides the Rock.

Verses 1, 3, and 5 might relate to Peninnah's treatment of Hannah before she had Samuel.

God is a God of knowledge—some consider only the emotions when “worshiping” the Lord. Actions are weighed by Him.

He kills and makes alive, makes rich or poor.
He brings low and exalts whomever He pleases.

He is Creator of all the earth.

Men don't prevail by their own might before Him. He will silence in darkness the wicked, those who contend with Him. He will judge.

In the times of the judges, Hannah praised the holy LORD of hosts because He is the Judge. His anointed king is also mentioned here.

Verses 11-26

Who and what is this part of the chapter about? Discuss the cross-reference.

Although they were priests in the Lord's house, Hophni and Phinehas were worthless men who did not know Him. They didn't believe He was holy and would judge them for despising His offering.

Leviticus 10:1-7

The Lord had given very specific directions as to how offerings were to be handled by the priests. Even Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu were killed by the Lord for not treating Him as holy and offering strange fire before Him.

Hophni and Phinehas took part of the offerings which the priests were not to have. All of the fat belonged to the Lord, and the priests were to eat the cooked meat, not take the raw. Hophni and Phinehas even committed adultery with the women at God's house.

The Lord was going to put them to death for their actions, verses 3, 9-10, and 25.

How did Samuel contrast with Eli's sons?

Samuel, dedicated to the Lord, was growing before the Lord and in favor with Him, ministering before Him.

What happened to Hannah?

She had other sons and daughters.

Verses 27-36

How does this chapter end?

These verses are the word of the Lord to Eli from a man of God.

The Lord reminded Eli that the priests were chosen by Him, a particular family and tribe of Israel— from the tribe of Levi and Aaron's line.

Eli had honored his sons above the Lord and taken the choicest of the offerings instead of those offerings going to the Lord.

The Lord told Eli both of his sons would die in one day as a sign of his whole house never having an old man again.

There is a contrast in verses 35-36. He would raise up a faithful priest who would do what was in God's heart and soul. He would have an enduring / sure house. More study will be done later in this course about who this priest might be.

1 SAMUEL 3

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts again, and ask what they noted as the theme for chapter 3.

Samuel heard God's word, a prophet

Verses 1-18

What happened in these verses? What were the times like?

During the time of the judges when every man was doing what was right in his own eyes, word from the Lord was rare and visions from Him were infrequent.

Verse 7 states that as a boy Samuel did not know the Lord until He revealed Himself to him in this chapter.

Eli told Samuel how to answer the Lord as His obedient servant.

The first message given to Samuel from the Lord was one of judgment for Eli and his house. Although Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli, Eli asked that he not hide any of it but speak all of the Lord's words.

Verse 13 says Eli did not rebuke / restrain his sons.

Eli's resolution or acceptance is stated in verse 18. He already knew what the Lord was going to do because of what the man of God had told him in 1 Samuel 2:27-36.

Verses 19-21

How does this chapter end? Ask what your group learned from cross-references.

The Lord was with Samuel, and let none of his words fail (ESV—fall to the ground). In other words, all Samuel spoke prophetically came true.

That is what confirmed / established him as a prophet, to all Israel.
He appeared again and revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh.

Genesis 20:7

Abraham was a prophet.

Exodus 7:1 and Deuteronomy 18:15-22; 34:10

As Aaron spoke for Moses to Pharaoh, the Lord's prophets are to speak from Him. Moses was God's prophet like whom there has been none other. But He promised to raise up another like Moses—that one was Jesus.

Numbers 12:6

The Lord made Himself known to Old Testament prophets in visions and dreams. His people were to listen to His prophets; it was how He spoke to His people then.

Judges 6:8

There were prophets during the times of the judges, but it was a rare thing and the people of Israel didn't listen to those prophets.

Deuteronomy 18:15-22; Deuteronomy 13:1-5

If something prophesied did not come true, then the one who spoke was a false prophet not from the Lord. All false prophets were to be killed.

If something prophesied comes true, but the prophet leads away from God, then people are not to listen to anything he says. That is a test from the Lord.

Listen only to His voice—now His Word the Bible is His voice by which to judge all who claim to speak for Him.

To end this discussion, ask your group what lessons they learned for their lives. Give time for them to share.

1 SAMUEL LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 4–7
- The Philistines and the ark of the covenant

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at the At a Glance chart and “The Period of the Judges” chart. Review the historical setting of 1 Samuel by asking what they remember from Lesson 1. Also ask about the main events of 1 Samuel 1–3.

1 Samuel begins with the time of the judges, a time when Israel did evil, everyone doing what is right in his own eyes instead of what is right in God’s eyes.

There had been over 300 years of a downward cycle.

Israel sinned by turning away from the Lord to the gods of the nations. The Lord gave them into the hands of those nations, their enemies. Then oppressed Israel would cry to the Lord for deliverance. He heard their cry and raised up a judge to deliver them from enemies. The Lord was with the judge, but the people didn’t listen to him.

After the judge died, the cycle kept going, getting worse than before.

Samson was the last judge in Judges, and Samuel was a judge at the same time.

1 Samuel is the transition book from the judges of Israel to the kings of Israel.

Samuel was called and confirmed / established as a prophet of the Lord to the nation of Israel. He was at the house of the Lord in Shiloh when chapter 3 ended, and all Israel knew he was the Lord’s prophet.

1 SAMUEL 4

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

They might have something similar to:

Philistines defeated Israel, took the ark; glory departed Israel

Verses 1-4

Tell them to look at the maps “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” and “Israel’s Territories: Ancient and Modern” as visual aids for this discussion. How does this chapter begin?

The Philistines were camped at Aphek while Israel camped at Ebenezer for battle.
The Philistines killed 4,000 of Israel in the battle.

Ask what your group learned about the Philistines.

Genesis 10:6-14

The Philistines were descended from Ham through his son Mizraim, Canaan’s brother. Therefore, they were not native to the land of Canaan.

Genesis 21:32-34

Abraham had dealings with the Philistines when he made a covenant with Abimelech who was their king at that time. Abraham stayed in Abimelech’s part of the land for a while.

Exodus 13:17

When the Lord led Israel out of Egypt, He didn’t lead them by the land of the Philistines. He foresaw a war with them since they inhabited the land He had promised to give Israel. They were part of the nations to be driven out of the land by Israel.

Exodus 23:28-33

The boundaries of Israel’s land given to them by the Lord were from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, the Mediterranean.

Israel was told not to make any covenants with the peoples of the land; instead they were to drive them out. The Lord would deliver those inhabitants, including the Philistines, into Israel’s hand. Otherwise, they would lead Israel astray from Him.

At the time of judges, the Philistines were still in the land and were leading the Lord’s people astray.

Joshua 13:1-3

Joshua conquered the main cities of the nations, but left some of the land to be taken and possessed by the tribes who inherited it. The Philistines were some of those Israel did not completely drive out.

Judges 10:6-11

The Lord had delivered Israel from the Philistines even before the time of Samson. But at that time they still oppressed Israel.

Judges 14:1-4; 16:30

Samson took a wife from the Philistines, which men of Israel were not to do. But the Lord used that as an occasion against the Philistines. He began to deliver Israel from them. Samson killed many, including the lords of the Philistines, at his death.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Samuel 4.

What happened after the Philistines defeated Israel in the battle?

Israel asked “Why?” Then they sent for the ark of the Lord’s covenant, thinking that there was power in its presence to deliver them from their enemies.

Why did Israel think what they did about the ark and battle? Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about this.

Exodus 25:8-22

The tabernacle was to be the Lord’s dwelling among His people. The ark was the first piece He told Moses to construct. It was in the tabernacle and contained the testimony or covenant of the Lord. On top of the ark was the mercy seat which was where the Lord met with Moses and spoke to him the commandments for Israel.

Exodus 29:42-43; 40:34-35

The “tent of meeting” was another term for the tabernacle, which was covered by the “tent.” It was where the Lord God met with His people. When the tabernacle was completed by Moses and the people, the cloud of the Lord’s glory filled the tabernacle. The Presence of the Lord, His glory, was associated with the cloud which was over the mercy seat on top of the ark.

Numbers 10:33-36

The ark led when Israel moved from place to place as the Lord directed their journeys.

Compare Moses’ words when the ark moved with what happened in 1 Samuel 4. The ark in front of Israel, and the enemies of the Lord scattered.

Joshua 3:1-17

The setting of this passage was when Israel first entered the promised land of Canaan. The ark led the way, and a miracle happened. The waters of the Jordan River at flood stage stood and rose in one heap while Israel crossed on dry land.

The ark is called here “the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth,” and He demonstrated for His people that He is the Lord of all the earth.

Joshua 6:1-10, 15-16, 20

In the battle of Jericho, which the Lord fought for Israel, the ark of the covenant led Israel in the victory of taking the city.

But it was the Lord who gave Jericho to Israel, not the ark alone—it had no power apart from the will and leading of the Lord.

Why was Israel defeated?

Relate what happened at Jericho and the significance of the ark to 1 Samuel 4.

After Israel suffered defeat, they wanted to be delivered from their enemies. They thought of the ark as the article of deliverance.

Hophni and Phinehas, the priests, accompanied the ark into the camp. They were evil men who did not care for the things of the Lord, and like most of the people of Israel, were doing what was right in their own eyes, not the Lord's.

Ask about any application for today.

Today people treat certain objects in a similar manner, such as a cross or an item that has been prayed over or “blessed” by someone. These things are treated as good luck charms, rather than the person asking God for wisdom and protection.

Verses 5-11

What happened in these verses?

Even the Philistines associated the presence of the ark with the God who delivered Israel from Egypt over 300 years earlier.

As the Philistines encouraged one another to fight so they wouldn't become the Hebrews' slaves, Israel deceived themselves by thinking that the ark would deliver them.

30,000 more men of Israel were killed in the battle.

The Philistines took the ark, and Hophni and Phinehas were killed.

Relate this to 1 Samuel 2:34 and 3:11-14.

Verses 12-19

How does this chapter end?

When Eli heard about the ark being taken, he fell and died.
He had judged Israel for 40 years. He was 98 when he died.

Phinehas's son was named Ichabod because the glory departed from Israel; the ark had been taken. The glory of the Lord was directly associated with the ark.

This was a major event in Israel's history. The Lord demonstrated to them that He wanted their attention. To them it was as if He had left them.

You might ask if there is more application to discuss from this chapter.

1 SAMUEL 5

Ask your group to look at their At a Glance chart to see what they put as the theme for this chapter.

Maybe something like:
Ark in Philistia, God against Philistines

Verses 1-5

How does this continue from chapter 4?

The Philistines placed the ark in the temple of their idol Dagon as a symbol that their god defeated the Hebrews' God. Relate this to Judges 16:23.

They realized otherwise when Dagon fell before the ark with his head and hands severed. Dagon was no god at all, no head to lead and no hands to deliver.

Verses 6-12

What happened?

But the true Lord God of all the earth does have a hand, and it was heavy on the Philistines. When they took the ark to Ashdod, He ravaged / terrified its people and afflicted them with tumors.

The same thing happened when the ark was taken to Gath. The whole city was in great confusion because of the Lord's hand against it. The tumors broke out on the people.

When it was sent to Ekron, there was a deadly confusion throughout the city because of the death and tumors from the hand of the Lord.

“tumors”—*ōphel*, “from *‘āphal*...to be lifted up. A tower, hill. *‘Ōphel* is applied to military strongholds; a watchtower... *‘ōphel* was descriptive of a hemorrhoid because of the swollen tissue associated with that affliction”¹

“broke out”—*sathar*, “to burst”² or “to break out (as an eruption)”³

Ask your group what they think about the possibility of this being the bubonic plague as some Bible scholars and commentators think. You might also ask what they think about God's judgment on a people or nation.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2351. H6076.

² R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition*, H8368 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

³ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Hebrew Dictionary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1985), H8368, p. 122.

The link of mice and the tumors is in chapter 6.

The “hand of the Lord” against a nation or city or people is a disastrous thing; it’s His judgment, deadly and devastating.

1 SAMUEL 6

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme for this chapter.

Ark sent back to Israel

Verses 1-18

What are the events of these verses? When do they take place? Where?

After 7 months the Philistines sent the ark back to Israel and sent offerings with it, golden tumors and golden mice. In that way they thought they were giving glory to the God of Israel.

They didn’t want to harden their hearts as Pharaoh did and suffer more of the same kind of judgment as Egypt.

When they sent the ark away, they wanted to be sure the Lord was the one who had afflicted them. They prepared offerings to give Him glory, but weren’t sure it was really Him who had struck them.

When the ark went to Beth-shemesh, the five lords of the Philistines knew for sure it was the Lord who had struck them with the mice and tumors and death.

When the ark came to Israel’s land of Beth-shemesh, the Levites took it off the cart, used that wood to burn the cows as offerings, and sacrificed to the Lord.

Verses 19-21

What happened at Beth-shemesh?

Some of the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark, and the Lord killed them; probably seventy men. (ESV says seventy, but NASB says 50,070.)

NOTE: The number 50,070 in the NASB is debated among Bible scholars. The Septuagint and Josephus both omit the 50,000 and state that it was 70 men who were killed in Beth-shemesh that day. There is more information found on this in Gleason Archer’s Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties.¹

¹ Gleason L. Archer, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982), p. 169.

What was in the ark?

Deuteronomy 10:1-5; 31:24-26; Hebrews 9:4

The Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets and Moses put them in the ark. Also in the ark were a golden jar of manna and Aaron's rod which budded. The book of the Law which Moses wrote was put beside the ark of the covenant as a witness.

The covenant was the "old covenant" of the Law. The people of Israel had entered into the covenant with the Lord. The book of the Law was a witness that they agreed to keep His Law.

Numbers 4:1-4, 15-20

It was recorded in the Law that even the Kohathites could not touch or see the holy things or they would die. Only the priests of Aaron could cover the holy things when they were ready to move the tabernacle.

The men of Beth-shemesh realized the Lord is a holy God and none is able to stand before Him.

So the ark was sent to Kiriath-jearim.

Ask your group what they think about God's holiness.
Compare this to Hannah's prayer in 2:2, 9-10.

1 SAMUEL 7

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart.

Ark at Kiriath-jearim; Samuel judged Israel at Mizpah; God against Philistines

Verses 1-2

How does this continue from chapter 6?

The ark rested in Abinadab's house on a hill in Kiriath-jearim for a long time, until the time of David. The 20 years mentioned is probably the time from when the ark was sent there until the repentance of Israel in verses 3-6.

Verses 3-6

Who and what are these verses about?

Samuel is again the main character in this chapter.
He had grown into a man who spoke the Word of the Lord to Israel.

He called them to serve the Lord from their hearts in verse 3, and verse 4 records that they removed all the idols and served the Lord alone—the first time since the days of Joshua, more than 300 years earlier.

Samuel prayed for Israel and they confessed their sin.
He judged them there at Mizpah.

Verses 7-14

What else happened at Mizpah?

Israel feared the Philistines who came against them again.

This time Israel sought deliverance from the Lord Himself as they asked Samuel to cry to the Lord to save them.

Samuel did cry to the Lord, and He answered him, just as He had answered his mother.
The Lord answers prayer—prayer according to His will and His Word.

The Lord fought for Israel on that day with a great thunder. The Philistines were confused and routed before Israel. Relate this to 1 Samuel 2:10.

Samuel named the stone he set up “Ebenezer,” which means “stone of the help.”¹ This stone was set between Mizpah and Shen, not the same place as 4:1 and 5:1. It was named such because “Thus far (ESV—Till now) the Lord has helped us.”

The Lord’s hand was against the Philistines all Samuel’s life, and the land they had taken from Israel was returned.

Israel also had peace with the Amorites.

Verses 15-17

How does this chapter end?

Samuel judged Israel all his life and made an annual circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah to judge them. His home, though, was in Ramah.

To end this discussion, you might ask what your group learned about God.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (1 Sa 7:12) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

**1 SAMUEL
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 8–12
- Saul being made king of Israel

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about the transition or change in this part of 1 Samuel. What are the segments? What is the change of main characters in chapters 8–12?

1 Samuel 1–7 Samuel, the last judge of Israel

Chapters 1–3, Samuel’s birth

He was a prophet

Chapters 4–7, The ark was taken by the Philistines

Samuel was a judge

1 Samuel 8–12 Saul, the first king of Israel

8—Israel asked for a king

9—Saul to deliver and rule Israel

10—Samuel anointed Saul

11—Saul was made king at Gilgal

12—Samuel warned Israel, they had sinned in asking for a king

The historical significance of 1 Samuel is the transition from judges to kings.

1 SAMUEL 8

Verses 1-9

How does this chapter begin? Tell your group to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as a visual aid for this discussion.

When Samuel was old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel.

According to 7:16-17, Samuel judged from his home in Ramah but also in Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah.

His sons, Joel and Abijah, were judges in Beersheba.

They were dishonest, took bribes, and perverted justice.

The elders told Samuel they wanted a king to judge them.
He was old.
His sons didn't walk in his ways.
Israel wanted a king like all the nations.

Samuel was displeased and prayed.

The Lord's response is in verses 7-9.
Twice He told Samuel to obey the peoples' request.
They had rejected the Lord from being their king.
And they were also rejecting Samuel as their judge.
Samuel was to warn them about having a king reign over them.

NOTE: Melek "means a king, a ruler, a prince . . . Officials of many levels were designated by this title . . . a concept which was shared by many Oriental cultures . . . from an emperor of an empire . . . to the chieftain of a tiny city-state."¹

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about Israel and kings.

Genesis 17:1-6; 15-16

The Lord told Abram that kings would come from Sarah and him. The "nations" and "peoples" refer to those other than Israel which came from Abraham and Sarah; for example, the Edomites came from Esau, their grandson.

Genesis 35:10-11

The Lord promised kings would come from Jacob, Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

God prophesied through Moses that Israel would ask for a king like the nations around them. That king was to be chosen by the Lord and from the men of Israel. He was to write a copy of the law for himself and read it daily, carefully following the commands of the Lord, so he and his sons could continue long in the kingdom or rule of Israel.

Tell your group to look at "The Period of the Judges" chart from Lesson 2 as another visual aid.

Judges 8-9

During the times of the judges, Israel asked Gideon (Jerubbaal), a judge, to rule over them. His response was that the Lord was to be their Ruler. But one of his sons, Abimelech, was made king in Shechem and ruled Israel for 3 years, Judges 9:22. He was not chosen by the Lord, and he was an evil man.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Samuel 8.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2332, H4428.

Verses 10-18

What did Samuel tell the people about a king?

He would take their sons and daughters for various jobs of service to him.
He would take the best of their fields, vineyards, groves, and produce for his servants.
He would take 1/10 of their seed and flocks for his use.

Verse 18 is prophetic. Israel would cry because of the king, as they cried because their enemies ruled over them, but the Lord would not answer in that day as He had before.

Verses 19-22

How did the people respond to the warning?

Israel refused to listen to the warning, and still asked for a king to be like the nations.
They wanted a king to judge and fight their battles.

The Lord had fought Israel's battles for them; compare this to 7:10. He used thunder to fight for Israel. They were rejecting the holy Almighty God in favor of being like everyone else.

Ask about application and give time for discussion.

1 SAMUEL 9

What happened in this chapter? Who becomes a main character in this book?

Verses 1-2

Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin, and his father Kish was a “mighty man of valor / wealth.”

Saul was a choice and handsome man who was a head taller than others in Israel.

Verses 3-14

Tell your group to look at the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” as a visual aid. How did Saul get to Samuel?

Kish's donkeys got lost, and Saul and his servant went to find them. They went to the land of Zuph in Ephraim where Ramah was, Samuel's home.

Samuel is called the “seer” in this chapter, another term for a prophet at that time.

Saul and his servant went to ask the man of God, Samuel, where to look for the donkeys.

Verses 15-27

What are these verses about?

The Lord revealed to Samuel the day before Saul’s coming that a man from Benjamin would come to him. He was to anoint that man as the “prince” over Israel. He was the one to rule them and deliver them from the Philistines.

prince—*nagid*, can mean “leader, ruler, captain, prince”¹

Saul didn’t understand the special treatment from Samuel until the next day when Samuel spoke the Lord’s Word to him.

Saul’s servant was sent ahead of him while Saul stayed back with Samuel to hear God’s Word.

1 SAMUEL 10

How does this chapter continue with the events?

Verses 1-8

Samuel anointed Saul with oil saying the Lord had anointed him as ruler / prince (*nagid*) over His inheritance, Israel.

anointed—*mashach*, “to rub with oil, i.e. to anoint; by impl. to consecrate”²
In their culture “the anointed individual was separated for God’s service and chosen by Him. It was a very serious responsibility, and God was the authorizing agent. The Spirit of God accompanied that person.”³

Then he told Saul what would happen to him that day.

The Spirit of the Lord would come upon him mightily, and he would prophesy with a group of prophets and be changed into another man. These are called “signs” in the text.

prophesy—*naba* or *nava*, “to pour forth words abundantly”⁴; “speak (or sing) by inspiration (in prediction or simple discourse).”⁵

Saul was instructed to do what the occasion required when these signs came to him.

¹ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001), H5057.

² James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996), H4886.

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2335, H4886.

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2337, H5012.

⁵ James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996), H5012.

Samuel also told Saul to go to Gilgal and wait seven days for him to come there and offer offerings. He would show Saul what to do when he came.

Verses 9-13

What happened when Saul turned to leave Samuel?

God changed his heart. All those “signs” came on him that day; relate this to verses 6-7.

When he met the group of prophets, the Lord’s Spirit came on him and he prophesied among them. The people knew Saul was changed because he prophesied with the prophets.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about the Spirit of the Lord.

Numbers 11:17, 25-26, 29

The Spirit was on Moses, and the Lord also put the Spirit on the 70 elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, even the two who remained in the camp.

Numbers 24:2

Balak, the king of Moab, hired Balaam the prophet to curse Israel, but the Lord would not allow it. The Spirit of God came on Balaam.

Numbers 27:18

The Spirit was in Joshua, Israel’s leader after Moses.

Judges 3-15

The Lord’s Spirit came on judges of Israel.

Othniel, the first judge (3:10)

Gideon (6:34)

Jephthah (11:29)

Samson (13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14)

When the Spirit of God came on Saul, the saying came about that he was among the prophets.

The text put that in the form of a question. It doesn’t say he was a prophet, but that he prophesied when the Spirit came on him at that time.

But Samuel was a prophet from the time the Lord first spoke to him in chapter 3.

Verses 14-16

Who and what are these verses about?

Saul met his uncle and was asked where he and his servant had gone.

Then Saul told him they went to Samuel after they couldn’t find the donkeys.

His uncle wanted to know what Samuel told Saul, but Saul only told about the donkeys.

Saul's uncle was told about the time with Samuel except for the prophecy about Saul becoming king.

Verses 17-27

How does this chapter end? What event?

Samuel called Israel together at Mizpah and again confronted them about their sin of rejecting God by asking for a king to rule over them.

He showed them the man the Lord chose to be king. It was done by lot—the tribe, family, and then the specific man.

Saul hid in the baggage, but he was found and presented to the people. They were impressed by his height, his outward appearance.

Samuel wrote a book of the ordinances / rights and duties of the kingdom / kingship and placed it before the Lord.

These verses end with a contrast: the valiant men whose hearts had been touched by the Lord to follow Saul to Gibeah and the worthless men who questioned how he could deliver / save Israel.

1 SAMUEL 11

What is this chapter about?

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson, “Saul’s Ascent to Kingship,” as a visual aid.

Verses 1-11

Ammonites besieged Jabesh-gilead, and the men of Jabesh offered to make a covenant with Nahash the king of the Ammonites. Some in your group might remember that Israel was not to make a covenant with any of the nations.

The condition of the covenant was so strong that Jabesh asked for seven days to find out if deliverance would come from their brothers of Israel.

When messengers came to Gibeah and Saul heard it, the Spirit of God came upon him mightily again, and he was angry.

Saul gathered the men of Israel and Judah to Bezek. Messengers informed Jabesh that there would be deliverance for them on the next day.

Israel struck and scattered the Ammonites under Saul’s leadership. Saul had been anointed as king and presented before the people, but he was not the king at that time.

Verses 12-15

The people wanted to put to death those worthless men mentioned at the end of chapter 10 who questioned whether Saul could deliver / save Israel. Saul prevented their deaths that day and gave the praise for the deliverance to the Lord.

Samuel gathered the people at Gilgal and made Saul king there. Israel rejoiced greatly because of their new tall king who had led in deliverance.

Saul himself rejoiced greatly, even if he had appeared to be hesitant about being king when hiding in the baggage.

1 SAMUEL 12

You might ask how this chapter relates to chapter 11, and what the main event is.

Verses 1-5

Samuel spoke to Israel as they rejoiced greatly, 11:15. He told them they were witnesses that he had led them from his youth and now he was old, and they had a king as they had asked. He referred to Saul as the Lord's anointed.

Samuel said the Lord and His anointed were witnesses that he had taken nothing, nor had he defrauded or oppressed anyone. They agreed.

Verses 6-18

Then Samuel reminded the people about the Lord's righteous acts in delivering Israel in the past. God appointed Moses and Aaron, Jerubbaal and Bedan or Barak and Jephthah and himself—Samuel.

Each time God delivered Israel, they had turned back to sin.

Then he reminded them of what had just happened when Nahash came against them. Even though the Lord was their king and deliverer, they had asked for an earthly king.

Then he gave a warning for them and their king to listen to the Lord and not rebel against Him.

If they feared the Lord, served Him, listened to Him, and didn't rebel, then both they and their king would follow the Lord.

If they didn't listen to the Lord but rebelled, then He would be against them as He had been against those before them, verse 9.

Verses 16-18, a great thing took place and caused them to fear God. It was the wheat harvest during which time it did not rain and thunder. By doing just that, the Lord got their attention on that day. They realized by that event their great wickedness in asking for a king.

Verses 19-25

How does this chapter end?

They asked Samuel to pray for them. They confessed their sin, and Samuel cautioned them not to turn from the Lord again, but serve Him wholeheartedly.

Verse 22 tells why the Lord didn't abandon His people. It was because of His great name, because it pleased Him to make them His people. Considering the great things He had done for them, they should serve and fear Him.

If they continued in wickedness, then both they and their king would be swept away.

To end this discussion, ask your group what lessons for life they learned from this study. Give time for them to share.

**1 SAMUEL
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 13–15

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart. Ask what the main segments of 1 Samuel 1–12 are.

1–7 Samuel, the last judge of Israel

8–15 Saul, the first king of Israel

This segment continues through chapter 15.

1 Samuel is about the transition from judges to kings in Israel’s history.

In chapter 8, Israel rejected the Lord from being their king because they wanted to be like the nations—their enemies. They wanted a king to lead them in battle and deliver them from enemies.

1 SAMUEL 13

Ask what they noted as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Maybe something like:

Philistines mustered; Saul didn’t wait for Samuel, lost kingdom

Verses 1-7

How does this chapter begin? Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson as a visual aid.

NASB—Saul was 30 when he began to reign and reigned 42 years over Israel.

ESV—Saul lived one year, and then became king, and when he had reigned two years...

NOTE: The numbers in verse 1 are debated among scholars. According to Acts 13:21 Saul ruled Israel for 40 years. Therefore, the second number is guessed by some to be “forty-two.” Some think Saul reigned two years when he chose the 3,000 men of verse 2.

Saul had 2,000 of the 3,000 men stationed with him at Michmash.

This is the first time Jonathan, Saul’s son, is mentioned, and he was old enough to be leading 1,000 men in battle against the Philistines. He took their garrison in Geba, and when the Philistines heard of it, Israel became odious / a stench to them.

Then Saul called the people to Gilgal; compare this with 10:8. And the Philistines then camped at Michmash, where Saul had been.

Some of the people of Israel became so frightened that they hid in caves, thickets, cliffs, cellars, and pits. Others crossed the Jordan River to go to their brothers' land in Gad or Gilead. Even those who remained at Gilgal with Saul trembled.

Verses 8-14

What happened in these verses?

Saul waited for the seven days appointed by Samuel, 10:8, but as the people were frightened and scattering because of the Philistines, he grew impatient. When Samuel had not come to him by the 7th day, Saul made the offerings himself.

When Samuel came and asked what he had done, Saul gave the above reasons and said he forced himself to make the offering because of what he saw—the people scattering.

In verse 13 Samuel confronted Saul with his disobedience. He had acted foolishly because he went against the very specific command of the Lord to wait for Samuel.

The consequence of his sin was that his kingdom, line of kings from his family, was not going to continue after him. The Lord sought a man after His own heart to be the king of His people—a man who would obey Him.

You might ask your group if they examined their hearts as they studied this lesson. Are they after God's heart, obedient? Even when they feel or think that they should take matters into their own hands?

Verses 15-23

What were things like before the battle?

Samuel left Gilgal and went to Gibeah.

These verses give more detail leading to the battle with the Philistines. There were only 600 men left with Saul in Geba where Jonathan and 1,000 men had taken the Philistine garrison, verses 2-3.

One company of the Philistine raiders turned north toward Ophrah. Another company turned southwest toward Beth-horon, while the third company turned toward the valley of Zeboim, south in the wilderness. This would have cut off Saul and his men in Gilgal from much of Israel.

On the day of battle only Saul and Jonathan had sword or spear because of no blacksmiths in Israel. The upcoming battle for Israel looked very bad.

You might ask your group if they have ever felt like they were in a similar situation and what they did. Did they look to the Lord of hosts to fight their battle?

1 SAMUEL 14

What is the theme of this chapter? Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart.

Probably something similar to:

Jonathan, Saul's oath; God delivered / saved Israel

Verses 1-15

How does this chapter continue from 1 Samuel 13?

Jonathan is the main character in this part of this chapter. It was the same time as chapter 13. The Philistines were ready for battle and Israel was so fearful that most had left or hidden, and only Saul and Jonathan were armed for battle.

While Saul and the 600 were at Gibeah, further south and away from Michmash than Geba, Jonathan and his armor-bearer went to the Philistine garrison.

Saul had the priest, Ahijah, and the ark with him at Gibeah.

Jonathan's statement about the Lord being able to save by few or by many shows the faith he had in the Lord and what he knew about Him. Jonathan was a brave and faithful man who knew of the Lord's ability to deliver Israel.

His plan was for the Philistines to think Jonathan and his servant were some of those who had hidden. The two of them killed about 20 at that garrison.

Verse 15 records another way the Lord fought that day, an earthquake which caused trembling in the Philistine camp.

Verses 16-23

What are the events in these verses?

Saul's watchmen saw the number of Philistines melt away. After finding that Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there, Saul called for the ark.

Saul told the priest to withdraw his hand. It seems that Saul interrupted the priest because the commotion had increased among the Philistines.

Deuteronomy 20:1-4

God instructed Israel through Moses concerning when they went to battle. The priest was to speak to the people, reminding them that the Lord their God went with them to fight.

There was so much confusion in the Philistines' camp that even those of Israel who had been frightened and hiding before joined in the battle with Saul.

It was truly the Lord who delivered Israel on that day.

Verses 24-46

Who and what are these verses about?

Saul made a troublesome oath that day causing the men to be so hungry they ate raw meat.

Jonathan ate honey earlier in the day because he was unaware of the oath. When he found out, he said his father had troubled the land because the people could have fought better if they'd eaten.

Verse 35 tells about the first altar Saul built. He made provision for the men to eat properly. God had commanded in His law for Israel not to eat blood.

Saul wanted to go immediately and kill all the Philistines, and his men were agreeable. But the priest said they should draw near to the Lord there. It was only then that Saul inquired of the Lord about whether or not they should go after the Philistines. God didn't answer that day.

Then Saul wanted to find out why God didn't answer—what sin was in the camp.

The lots showed Jonathan as the one, and he confessed to his father what he had done. He was ready to be put to death for breaking Saul's oath. But the people spared Jonathan. He had been the one who began the great deliverance from the Philistines. They could see he was working with God.

Ask what your group learned from their study of "lots" and the "Urim and Thummim."

"lot" (Leviticus 16:8)—*gowral* or *goral*, "Probably the noun is related to Arabic *garwal* 'pebble' (KB) and by metonymy came to be used for 'lot' because little stones were used in casting lots. . . . It refers then to some article like a stone which was thrown or allowed to fall in a way to determine a choice."¹

Leviticus 16:8

The Lord used the casting of lots as far back as Mt. Sinai. Lots were used at the tabernacle for the selection of the scapegoat / Azazel.

¹ Earl S. Kalland, "גורל 381," ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 171.

Numbers 26:55-56

The Lord told Moses that the distribution of the promised land was to be divided by lot. The tribes were to receive their inheritance of land in Canaan by lot.

Joshua 7:14

The one who had transgressed God's covenant by taking things under the ban was taken by lot, revealed, and burned with fire.

Proverbs 16:33 and 18:18

Lots were cast into laps some of the time. But all of the decisions were from the Lord. They put an end to strife and even decided between those of might.

Jonah 1:7 and Luke 1:9

Two men selected by lot were Jonah and John the Baptist's father, Zacharias. The Lord showed Jonah by lot as the cause of the storm at sea. Zacharias was selected for his priestly duty in the temple.

In 1 Samuel 10, Saul was chosen as king by lot.

“Urim”—“The etymological information of ‘lights and perfections’ may suggest shining precious stones.”¹

“Thummim”—“It may mean perfection(s), truth, integrity.”²

Exodus 28:27-30

The Urim and Thummim were in the breastpiece of judgment which the priest wore over his heart when he went before the Lord. The breastpiece had 12 stones on it, one for each of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Lord Himself gave instruction for the Urim and Thummim when He gave instructions for the priestly garments and the tabernacle.

Numbers 27:18-21

The Urim was used by Eleazar the priest for Joshua to inquire of the Lord. Joshua was commissioned as the leader of Israel after Moses, and Eleazar was Aaron's son who was priest after him. The lights of the Urim led Joshua to go out and come in at the Lord's command, when to move to battle, and when to come from battle.

In this same way the Lord showed that Jonathan was the one who had broken the oath on the day of battle with the Philistines. But usually the tribe was selected first, then the family, and finally the man. Saul, though, only divided between the people and Jonathan and himself, so there were only two choices from the beginning.

¹ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

² Warren Baker and Eugene E. Carpenter, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2003), 1233, H8550.

Verses 47-52

How does this chapter end? Tell your group to look at “Saul’s Family Tree” as a visual aid and also the map “Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David.”

These verses are about Saul, his enemies, and his family.

Verses 47-48 and 52 focus on the enemies “on every side” whom he fought and punished:
Moab, Ammon, Edom.

These were to Israel’s east and make up the modern country of Jordan.

Zobah was to the north.

Philistines, severe war all the time Saul ruled

Their land was to the west along the coast.

He delivered Israel from their enemies, those who had come against them during the time of the judges. He brought the punishment of the Lord on those evil nations—which Israel was to have done from the time of Joshua’s death, the beginning of the time of the judges.

He also defeated the Amalekites, chapter 15, from Havilah to Shur, south of Israel.

Verses 49-51 tell about Saul’s family. He had 3 sons and 2 daughters by one wife. His captain of the army was his cousin, Abner.

Give your group time to discuss what they think about Saul’s relationship with the Lord. Suggest that they think about any similar areas of rushing ahead, acting on feelings or circumstances, making rash oaths. Those things are not pleasing to God and they get people in trouble.

1 SAMUEL 15

Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

They might have put something like:

Amalek; Saul’s disobedience; Lord regretted making Saul king

Verses 1-3

How does this chapter begin?

The Lord spoke through Samuel and told Saul to punish Amalek for what he did to Israel. Saul was to destroy all of Amalek, people and animals.

Ask what your group learned about Amalek from the cross-references.

Genesis 12:2-3

When the Lord told Abram that He would make a great nation, Israel, from him, He also said whoever cursed him would be cursed by God.

Exodus 17:8-16

Amalek fought Israel when they came out of Egypt. The Lord delivered Israel in battle as Joshua led and Moses prayed with his hands lifted.

There was a prophecy against Amalek because of that attack on Israel. The Lord promised to blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. The Lord Himself would war against Amalek.

Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Moses recounted what happened with Amalek. They attacked the stragglers when Israel was faint and weary. Amalek didn't fear God, the Defender of Israel. Moses told Israel before they entered their land that they must not forget the Lord would blot out Amalek.

God used His people Israel to punish the evil nations.

Verses 4-9

What did Israel do?

210,000 were called to Telaim to go against Amalek.

The Kenites were spared because they had had no part in what Amalek did.

Saul defeated Amalek, but didn't utterly destroy them. He captured Agag king of the Amalekites, and the people destroyed only what was worthless and despised.

Verses 10-19

What were the results?

The Lord told Samuel He regretted making Saul king because Saul had turned from following Him. Saul had even set up a monument for himself at Carmel.

Samuel was extremely distressed; then he confronted Saul at Gilgal.

Saul said he obeyed, but he hadn't. He said the people spared animals for sacrifices to the Lord. Samuel plainly told him that by taking the spoil, Saul hadn't obeyed the Lord.

Verses 20-31

What did Samuel and Saul say to each other? What do these verses teach about God, about obeying Him?

Saul again said he obeyed, but the people took the spoil.

The Lord God wants obedience more than sacrifice. Rebellion is like divination. Insubordination is iniquity and like idolatry.

Ask your group how important obedience is to them.

Saul's rejection of God's Word led to God rejecting him from being king. He had been told previously that his descendants would not be kings of Israel because of his disobedience, then for the same reason the kingdom was taken away from him.

He confessed he had sinned, but it was too late. Verse 29, the Lord is called the "Glory of Israel." He doesn't lie or change His mind. To understand the Lord one cannot use the human mind. Saul confessed, but still wanted to be honored before the elders and the people.

Verses 32-35

How does this chapter end?

Samuel carried out God's command by killing Agag.

Then he went to his home in Ramah and didn't see Saul again until the day he, Samuel, died. But he grieved over him.

The Lord regretted He had made Saul king. Saul had been disobedient and foolish almost from the beginning. He looked good on the outside, but not on the inside.

You might ask your group what they've learned about obeying what God says. Give time for them to share.

**1 SAMUEL
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 16–20
- David

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about the segments of 1 Samuel 1–20.

1 Samuel presents the transition from judges to kings in Israel's history.

1–7 Samuel, the last judge

8–15 Saul, the first king

16–20 David anointed as the next king of Israel

At this point, you can also ask about the themes of 1 Samuel 16–20.

Possibilities are:

16—Samuel anointed David in Bethlehem, Spirit on him from that day

17—David killed Goliath

18—Saul tried to kill David

19—Jonathan and Michal saved David from Saul's plans

20—Saul said David must die

Back to your review; ask what they remember about Saul from 13:13-14 and 15:28.

Saul was foolish and didn't keep the Lord's commands.

Therefore, the Lord said through Samuel that his kingdom would not last.

The Lord wanted a man after His heart, but Saul was disobedient—doing what was right in his heart, not the Lord's.

The Lord tore the kingdom from Saul after the battle with the Amalekites.

He told Saul through Samuel that He was giving it to one better than him.

In 1 Samuel 16–20 that one is revealed as David, the one after the Lord's heart.

As a visual aid for this discussion, you can list some of the main facts about the Lord and David. See the last page of this lesson's guide for an example.

1 SAMUEL 16

Ask your group what they learned from their study of this chapter.

Verses 1-5

Where did Samuel go? Why?

The Lord told Samuel He had selected a king for Himself from Jesse’s sons.
Samuel was sent to Bethlehem to anoint the designated one.

Verses 6-13

Who and what are these verses about?

The Lord cautioned Samuel about looking at outward appearances.

David, the youngest, was not even considered by his father as the one to be anointed by Samuel. David, like Saul, had a good outward appearance, but it was not the only description of him.

When Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord came on him from that day forward.

You can ask your group what they learned about appearances. How does the Lord look at people? How should they?

Verses 14-23

What is the contrast between verses 13 and 14?

The Spirit came upon David from that day until the rest of his life, but the Spirit departed from Saul. Another contrast—an evil / harmful spirit terrorized / tormented him.

Saul seemed to be overtaken by sudden fear when the spirit came to him. But the music from David’s harp calmed Saul, and he would be refreshed, and the spirit would depart.

Contrast this with David in verses 16 and 18. The Lord was with him.

Ask your group what they learned about the Lord of hosts from these verses. Who rules all?

1 SAMUEL 17

Tell your group to look at their map and ask what this chapter is about.

Verses 1-11

Another battle was about to take place with the Philistines.
The valley of Elah is famous because of this battle.

Goliath was 6 cubits and a span, about 9 feet and 9 inches tall.
His armor / coat weighed about 125 pounds, and his spearhead was 15-17 pounds.
His challenge was for one man of Israel to fight him instead of their armies doing battle.
The loser would serve the winner.

His challenge caused dismay and great fear to Saul and all Israel.

Verses 12-23

Where did David go, and what did he hear?

These verses record how and why David went to the battlefield and heard Goliath.

For 40 days the giant had been speaking to Israel's army asking for a volunteer to fight him.

Verses 24-40

What effect did Goliath have on Israel's army? What happened in these verses?

All of Israel were greatly afraid when they saw Goliath, but David was not because he knew the living God who was the God of Israel's armies.

Saul promised 3 things to the man who killed Goliath:

- riches
- his daughter in marriage
- freedom for his father's house

In verse 32 David tried to encourage Saul by his words of faith, but Saul tried to discourage David because he was only a youth. That was when David told of killing the lion and bear to save his father's sheep.

David didn't like that Goliath was taunting / defying the armies of the living God. This God had delivered him from the lion and bear. Israel had not looked to the Lord to deliver them until David came on the scene.

He knew the Lord would deliver, and not by the armor or weapon.
Relate this to 1 Samuel 14:6. David's response was based on faith, not sight.

David took his own weapon to kill Goliath.

Verses 41-54

What was the difference in David and the giant?

Goliath disdained David because a youth had come out against him. David spoke confidently to his giant enemy that he came in the name of the Lord of hosts.

David told Goliath the Lord would deliver the giant to him, a youth, so all would know there is a God in Israel and He doesn't deliver by sword or spear. The battle is His.

Encourage your group to memorize verse 47—it is relevant to their lives when they come up against the “giants” who try to destroy them. Help them understand that David was a real person like they are. He knew who His God is, like they can.

David killed Goliath with one stone in his forehead. David then took Goliath's own sword and cut off his head.

NOTE: There is no contradiction between verses 50 and 51 about how David killed Goliath. Verse 51 gives more detail about how Goliath was killed.

The Philistine army ran when they saw their champion was dead. They had put their trust in him. The Israelite army took the rest of the Philistines, since their fear seemed to be gone. Seeing David's faith and how God worked through him must have been an encouragement to them.

God can use our faith as an example to others today as he uses us in seemingly impossible situations.

David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but put his weapons in his tent.

Ask your group what they learned about faith from David's example. Do they fear the “giants” in their lives or trust in the Lord of hosts?

Verses 55-58

How does this chapter end?

Saul asked about David's father, maybe because of his promise in verse 25.

1 Samuel 16:21-22 seems to indicate Saul already knew Jesse was his father. But several years had probably passed since the time of chapter 16.

1 SAMUEL 18

Verses 1-5

Ask about the timing of the first part of this chapter, then for the main events.

It was after David finished speaking with Saul in chapter 17 that Jonathan's soul was knit to David's.

Compare how the two of them did battle and what they knew of the Lord, 14:10.

Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him.

Covenant— *beriyth*, “a pledge or agreement,”¹ “league; confederacy”²

Made— *karath*, “to cut . . . specifically to *covenant* (i.e. make an alliance or bargain, originally by cutting flesh and passing between the pieces)”³

When Jonathan gave his robe and armor to David, that might have been part of the symbolism of covenant. Some commentators say it signified Jonathan relinquishing his right to the throne, as he knew David was going to be the next king.

David didn’t return to his father’s house but went wherever Saul sent him. He was put over the men of war. The people and Saul’s servants were pleased by David.

Verses 6-30

Who recognized David’s success, and what happened as a result of it?

Saul was angry and jealous because of David’s recognition from the people of Israel. He also knew the kingdom had been taken away from him and another would arise to take his place as king.

His emotions changed rather sharply from 16:21 to 18:8-9.

Saul was suspicious from the day they returned from killing Goliath, and with the evil / harmful spirit coming upon him the next day, he began trying to kill David.

He was afraid of David and removed him from his presence.

Not only did Saul personally throw spears at David, but he also tried to have him killed in battle.

Everyone else loved David as he prospered greatly because the Lord was with him.

Saul gave David his daughter Michal for his wife.

Although Saul was afraid of David and became his continual enemy, David displayed wise behavior and was highly esteemed by the people of Israel.

Ask your group what they learn from this part of David’s life that they can apply to theirs.

¹ R. L. Harris, et. al., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1999), p. 128, H1285.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2306, H1285.

³ James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996), H3772.

1 SAMUEL 19

Verses 1-7

Who and what are these verses about?

Saul told those around him to kill David, but Jonathan warned David and reasoned with his father. Saul listened to his son at that point, but only temporarily.

David was, at that time, brought back to be in Saul's presence as before, playing the harp for him, etc.

Verses 8-17

How did Saul's actions change again?

When there was war with the Philistines, David was again sent and defeated them.

Then Saul tried to kill David again, although in verse 6 he vowed to Jonathan that David wouldn't be killed.

Saul even sent men to David's house to have him killed, but his own daughter helped her husband escape.

The Lord was with David, and He had said David was to be the next king of Israel. Therefore, Saul was not going to kill him—it wasn't God's plan.

Verses 18-24

Where and to whom did David go? What did Saul do?

David went to Samuel in Ramah where he lived.

Saul sent 3 groups of messengers to get David and even went himself. Each time the Spirit came on all of them and they began prophesying.

The Lord is in control of all events—Saul could not have David killed because it was not the Lord's plan. Compare 10:10-11 with 19:24.

How does Psalm 59 tell about David's knowledge and trust in God at this time in his life?

He asked for deliverance because God was his stronghold / fortress.

He knew God's lovingkindness / steadfast love toward him.

He trusted the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel as the one who rules all.

1 SAMUEL 20

Verses 1-11

How does this chapter continue from the events of chapter 19?

David left Ramah to go back to where Jonathan was.
Jonathan believed his father's vow when he said he wouldn't have David killed.

Jonathan and David formed a plan to get to the truth of the matter. David reminded Jonathan of the covenant between them and asked that he be the one to kill him if there was reason for it.

Verses 12-23

What happened in these verses?

Their plan centered on David's absence from Saul's table at the new moon feast, but their mutual concern for David's safety centered on their covenant. Jonathan would protect David from Jonathan's own father.

Jonathan made a covenant with David's house, his descendants, while they were in the field. At that point, David's enemy was Saul. Jonathan was saying he would rather Saul be killed than David.

David was to stay in the field for 3 days, then go the stone of Ezel to meet Jonathan with the news of Saul's plans.

But they parted with Jonathan reminding of the agreement, covenant. The Lord was between them forever in the covenant they had made.

Verses 24-34

What was Saul's reaction to David's absence?

On the second day of the new moon Saul's anger burned at Jonathan because of David's absence. He even threw a spear at his own son. His fear was evident in the statement he made indicating that he knew David was to be the next king.

Jonathan knew his father had broken his vow to him and planned to kill David.
Jonathan's grief was because of Saul dishonoring David who had served him faithfully.

Verses 35-42

How does this chapter end?

Jonathan informed David of Saul's intent to kill him. They knew that it might be the last time they saw each other. There was much sorrow as they wept, kissed each other, and remembered their covenant.

The Lord was between them and their descendants / offspring forever.

Relate this to Genesis 31:43-53, the covenant between Laban and Jacob. It was a covenant for protection from the other party. When David would become king, he was obligated to treat with lovingkindness / steadfast love Jonathan and his descendants / offspring, as Jonathan had done for David.

You might end your discussion by asking your group how they can grow in their faith as David did, trusting the Lord as their deliverer.

THE LORD FOUGHT FOR DAVID	
<u>The Lord</u>	<u>David</u>
Rejected Saul	Brave warrior, skillful musician Prudent speech
Does not see as man sees Looks on the heart	Knew— the Lord, His Name He would deliver the battle was the Lord's
Chose David	Behaved wisely
Spirit came upon David departed from Saul	Highly esteemed
Fought for David against Goliath	
Protected David from Saul	

**1 SAMUEL
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 21–23
- How David handled stress

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about the segments of 1 Samuel 1–20. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart for a visual aid.

1 Samuel is a history book which records Israel’s transition from judges to kings.

Chapters 1–7	Samuel, prophet and judge
Chapters 8–15	Saul, the first king
Chapters 16–20	David, anointed as king

How does chapter 20 end?

Jonathan and David had a very sorrowful departure from each other, and they didn’t know if they would ever see each other again because of Saul wanting to kill David.

1 SAMUEL 21

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

David to Nob, ate consecrated bread, and to Gath, insane

Tell your group to look at their map in the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-9

Where did David go when he fled from Saul? What are these verses about?

After his departure from his covenant friend Jonathan, David went to the priest Ahimelech at Nob, a city perhaps on Mount Scopus, where the priests lived, approximately 2 miles, 3km, from where David had been.

Some in your group might have a problem with David being a man after God’s heart, but lying to the priest. David wasn’t perfect, but was in the faith-building process of trials.

Doeg the Edomite was there at the same time the priest gave help to David. Ahimelech gave David the consecrated / holy bread and Goliath’s sword.

Verses 10-15

What happened in these verses?

David headed to Saul’s enemies for protection. He went about 23 to 30 miles, 50 km, to Gath.

When he got to Gath, his reception was neither pleasant nor protecting. The servants of Achish the king spoke of the song about David as they called him the king of the land.

Verse 12 says David greatly feared (ESV—was much afraid of) Achish because of the servants’ words. He pretended to be insane.

Psalm 56

How does this psalm relate to the events at Gath?

The introduction of this psalm says the Philistines seized David in Gath.

The word “afraid” is mentioned three times, but “trust” is mentioned also. David wrote this as he was learning to put his trust in the Lord when he was afraid.

Give time for your group to discuss application from these events and this psalm. Do David’s situations relate to their lives? Help them to understand what he was going through as he sought to become a man after God’s heart. They can overcome the same kinds of fears he did.

David called on the Lord to be gracious to him in that situation. In spite of the situation, he remembered that the Lord was for him. In verse 12 his mind turned to thanksgiving.

Psalm 34

What does this psalm say that helps us understand the events of David’s life at this time?

This psalm also gives insight into how David handled his fear. The introduction relates it to the same time as 1 Samuel 21:10-15.

NOTE: “Abimelech may have been an official title for Philistine kings.”¹ Two other Philistine kings had the same name, or title, in Genesis 20–21 and 26. Achish was the name of the king of Gath, but his title could have been Abimelech, which means, “My father is king.”

“Fear” and “deliver” are key words repeated in this psalm written by David. It seems like this psalm was written as the Lord answered his petition of Psalm 56. This is a psalm of praise for overcoming fear by the Lord’s deliverance.

This is one of many psalms in which David states that he took his refuge in the Lord.

¹ Trent C. Butler, General Ed. *Holman Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), p. 6.

What instructions are in these two psalms which help the righteous, believers, in overcoming fears?

When afraid, trust in God, Psalm 56:3.
Know that He is for you, 56:9.
Praise His Word, 56:10.
Render thanks, 56:12.

Bless and praise the Lord, Psalm 34:1.
Seek Him, 34:4.
Take refuge in Him, 34:8 and 22.
Depart / turn away from evil, 34:14.
Do good, 34:14.
Seek and pursue peace, 34:14.

Give time for application discussion.

1 SAMUEL 22

Ask what your group noted as the theme of this chapter.

David to Adullam, Moab, Hereth; Saul killed priests and people of Nob

Verses 1-2

Where did David flee next? What happened?

David escaped Gath to the cave of Adullam, about 10 miles away.

His family and others joined him there.

Others who were distressed, discontent / bitter in soul, and in debt also came to him.

Relate this to 1 Samuel 8:9-18; perhaps these were discontent / bitter because of their king and his demands, in debt because of the king taking the best, distressed because of their situation.

Psalm 142

Does this psalm relate to 1 Samuel 22:1-2?

The introduction states that David wrote this psalm when he was in the cave. It might have been the cave of Adullam, or another cave.

Verses 1 and 5 tell of David's cry to the Lord. When his spirit was overwhelmed / faint and no one cared for his soul, he cried to the Lord to deliver him.

In verse 5 he again said the Lord was his refuge.

He was brought low at this time of his life, but he turned his focus on the Lord and gave thanks to His name.

Give time for your group to discuss any application.

Direct them back to the setting and events of 1 Samuel 22.

Verses 3-5

Where did David go next, and what happened?

There were about 400 men in all when David left to go to Mizpah / Mizpeh of Moab. He left his parents with the king of Moab.

NOTE: David's great grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabitess. Moab was also Saul's enemy. These could have been reasons for David seeking shelter for his parents there, the land of Jesse's grandmother, Ruth 4.

David then went to the stronghold.
The exact location of this stronghold is not known. Some think it might be Masada.

What does 1 Chronicles 12 say about this time in David's life?

1 Chronicles 12:8-18

When David was in the stronghold, more men came to him, mighty men of valor from the tribe of Gad who were trained for war. But also from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah men came to him. Someone in your group might remember that Saul was of Benjamin.

Lead your discussion back to the events of 1 Samuel 22. Where did David go next and why?

David left the stronghold and went to the forest of Hereth, because the prophet Gad told him to leave the stronghold and go back to Judah.

Saul was in Judah, but David did what the prophet told him to.

Verses 6-19

What happened in these verses?

David's location was reported to Saul.

Saul accused his servants of conspiracy against him, but Doeg the Edomite related seeing David with the priest in Nob.

After questioning the priest Ahimelech, Saul determined that all of the priests should be killed. Saul's servants knew these men were priests of the Lord God, holy men to be respected. They refused to kill the priests, but the man from Edom, the country of Esau, had no fear of the Lord and killed 85 priests, plus the men, women, and children of Nob.

Verses 20-23

What happened?

Abiathar, one of Ahimelech's sons, escaped to David and reported what Saul had done.

He was welcomed by David—Saul wanted to kill both of them.

In Saul's jealousy, fear, and anger, he was sinking lower and lower into sin. To murder the priests of the Lord was a shocking act.

Psalm 52

How does this psalm relate to the context of 1 Samuel 22? You might ask about the contrast between David and this evil man.

The introduction states that this psalm was written by David at this time.

This is about a mighty, evil, and deceitful man who trusted in his riches and would not make God his refuge. Some think the evil man referred to Doeg; others think it referred to Saul. The text doesn't say which, except that the introduction mentions both names.

Verses 8-9 are about David himself at this time, trusting in God, thanking Him, and waiting on Him.

1 SAMUEL 23

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

David delivered Keilah, Saul pursued, David to Engedi

Ask what your group learned from their study of this chapter and related cross-references from James 1 and Psalm 54.

When David was informed of the Philistines plundering / robbing Keilah, he inquired of the Lord if he should go deliver Keilah. Abiathar the priest had brought with him the ephod. Let your group tell what they remember about the purpose of the ephod.

He went because the Lord said he would deliver them.

David also sought the Lord when he knew Saul plotted to take him at Keilah. The Lord told David that Saul would come there after him and the men of Keilah would surrender him to Saul.

James 1:1-8

This should be an encouragement to your group when they are in a trial like David was. He was a living example of these verses. He asked the Lord for wisdom, and God gave it to him without reproach. David knew his God well and knew He would answer with guidance.

Ask your group if they have a heart to know God’s will, but also to do the Lord’s will when they know it.

Ask what they learned from the rest of 1 Samuel 23.

Verse 13 says that about 600 men had gathered with David by that time. They left Keilah and went to the wilderness of Ziph to stay in strongholds in the hill country.

Saul sought David every day, but God did not deliver him, verse 14. You might ask how this relates to 22:5.

Jonathan visited David to encourage him with his words that he knew David would be king over Israel. As David’s covenant partner, Jonathan would be at his side.

They made another covenant while at Horesh, then parted for the last time.

When the Ziphites told Saul where David was, they also offered to surrender him to Saul.

From verses 25-26 it seems like Saul would have overtaken David in the wilderness of Maon. But the Philistines made a raid in Israel, and Saul left to take care of that threat.

David and his men then went to strongholds in Engedi.

At this point, you might ask your group if their lives have ever looked like David’s did (if you traced all of his journeys in these three chapters on the map). How did he repeatedly handle fleeing for his life?

Psalm 54

The introduction says David wrote this psalm when the Ziphites told Saul that David was hiding among them.

It’s a prayer for deliverance from the strangers who rose against him.
His eyes turned toward his God, his Helper.

Verse 7 tells the story of David’s life from the time Saul began pursuing him to kill him. The Lord delivered David from all his trouble, and David looked with satisfaction / triumph on his enemies. He didn’t seem to fear them at this point.

Getting to know God better and training oneself to focus on Him puts all situations of life in their proper perspective, God’s perspective.

To end, ask how these psalms reflect a heart for God. How can these truths be applied now?

**1 SAMUEL
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 24–26
- “the Lord’s anointed”

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group who the main characters are and what the main segments are of 1 Samuel 1–23. Tell them to look at the At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

1–7 Samuel, a prophet and judge

8–15 Saul was king

16–26 David was anointed as king

18–26 Saul pursued David

23:14 says Saul looked for David in the wilderness of Ziph every day, but God didn’t let Saul find him.

At the end of chapter 23, Saul had almost overtaken David in the wilderness of Maon, but he left there because the Philistines raided the land.

David fled to Engedi with the 600 men who were with him at that time.

Tell your group to look at the map “David’s Journeys” as a visual aid for this discussion.

1 SAMUEL 24

Ask what they noted on the At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

David cut Saul’s robe in a cave, but didn’t touch the Lord’s anointed

Verses 1-7

How does this chapter begin? How does this continue from previous chapters?

Saul was still trying to find David to kill him.

Saul had 3,000 men to help him pursue David with his 600 men.

In one of the caves at Engedi David had an opportunity to take vengeance against Saul and kill him, but he didn't because he was "the Lord's anointed."

David also prevented his men from harming Saul.

Ask what your group learned about "anointed" from the definition and cross-references.

"Anoint" means "to smear,"¹ "spread a liquid,"² "to *rub* with oil."³

To set apart or consecrate people or things

Genesis 31:13

Jacob anointed a pillar where he made a vow to the Lord.

Exodus 29:29; 40:13-15

Aaron and his sons were anointed as the priests.

Numbers 7:1, 84

The tabernacle and its furnishings were anointed, and the altar and its utensils also.

Ezekiel 28:14

The anointed cherub who covers, the devil before his sin, was on God's holy mountain.

Zechariah 4:14

Two anointed ones, olive trees, standing by the Lord

"Literally, sons of fresh oil"—different Hebrew word used (*yishar*).⁴

Ruth 3:3 and Amos 6:6

Ruth 3:3, a different context and different Hebrew word, *cawk*; a more common rubbing with oil.

When associated with putting on special clothes or the finest of oils, it still speaks of doing more than the ordinary.

Luke 7:46, Mark 14:8, Acts 4:27; 10:38, and Hebrews 1:9

Jesus was anointed. Two references are about women anointing His feet or head with oil, but three are concerning His anointing by the Father, God, with the Holy Spirit, with power, and with the oil of gladness. In these passages three different Greek words are translated "anoint."

¹ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries*: Updated Edition, H4886 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

² R. L. Harris, et. al., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1999), p. 530.

³ James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996). H4886.

⁴ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Zech. 4:14) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

2 Corinthians 1:21

Paul wrote Paul that Silvanus, Timothy, and he had been anointed by God.

1 John 2:20 and 27; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; and Ephesians 1:13-14

All believers, Christians, have an anointing from the Holy One. The anointing abides within and teaches the individual believer. This anointing is the Holy Spirit who sets apart, sanctifies, consecrates all Christians as priests to God.

There is no group of special Christians who have an anointing that other believers do not have.

Revelation 3:18

This is a call to anoint eyes with salve for healing.

Psalm 105:15

The statement about not touching the Lord's anointed seems to refer to Israel in this context.

1 Samuel 9:16 and 2 Samuel 22:51

Both Saul and David were anointed as kings of Israel.

Psalm 57

How does this psalm fit the context of 1 Samuel 24:1-7? How does it relate to David's life from chapter 18 to this point?

David wrote that he took refuge in the Lord when his soul was "among lions," when his soul was bowed down, when he felt like his enemies had dug a pit for him to fall into.

His heart was steadfast. When David was being pursued by his enemies, he turned his focus toward the Lord God. He asked Him to be gracious toward him in the situations; he asked for deliverance; he gave thanks and praised.

Ask your group how this applies to them. Give them time to discuss application.

Cry to the Lord when times are bad; take refuge in Him.

His lovingkindness / steadfast love is great to the heavens; His glory is above / over all. He is God and the only one who can do anything to help a believer's situations of life.

Encourage your group to know and love the Lord like David did.

In the psalm, David wrote that he felt like his enemies were breathing fire toward him (ESV—were fiery beasts). Saul was in constant pursuit of him for no reason but jealousy. David had done no wrong to Saul.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Samuel 24:8-22.

What happened next?

David's conscience bothered him for cutting off the edge of Saul's robe although the men with him encouraged him to take vengeance against Saul when he had the chance to kill him. This shows David was a man of integrity.

David spoke to Saul after Saul left the cave. He showed reverence for Saul by bowing, but he confronted him by asking why he believed David wanted to harm him.

He called on the Lord to judge between them, to avenge him, and to deliver him from Saul.

Saul cried and confessed that David was righteous and that he had been wicked / evil toward David. He also said he knew David would be the king of Israel.
Relate this to 23:17; Jonathan also said he knew David would be king.

Saul asked David to swear to him he would not destroy his name, cut off his descendants / offspring after him when David became king. David swore to him, and they parted.

David did not ask Saul to promise him anything.

David continued to wait on God to bring his kingship.

You might ask your group if they are willing to wait on God and act only in obedience to Him like David did, rather than running ahead to make things happen in their own strength.

1 SAMUEL 25

Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a theme for this chapter.

Maybe something like: Samuel died; David, Nabal, and Abigail

Verse 1

How does this chapter begin?

Only one statement is made about Samuel's death, though he was the main character of the first part of this book. He was buried in Ramah where he lived, and all Israel gathered to mourn for him.

Relate this to 1 Samuel 3:20. He was the prophet on whom the whole nation relied for counsel from the Lord. He was the one who anointed both Saul as the first king and David as the next king of Israel.

Then David went to Paran.

Verses 2-13

Who and what are these verses about?

Nabal, of Caleb's family and the tribe of Judah, the same tribe as David
He was from Maon and was shearing his 3,000 sheep in Carmel.

NOTE: This was not Mount Carmel in the north, and probably the same place as in 15:12.

David sent a message to him, requesting whatever Nabal had on hand to share with David and his men.

Nabal was a harsh and evil / badly behaved man. He refused to give anything to David and questioned who David was although they were from the same tribe of Israel. Nabal's name meant foolish / folly, and his refusal was a foolish thing to do.

David's request had not been unreasonable since his men had kept Nabal's men safe from harm the whole time they had been in the area.

Verses 13, 21-22 tell David's response to Nabal's refusal. He was ready to take vengeance, acting on feelings.

Ask your group if feelings ever dictate how they respond, rather than responding according to God's Word. Do they ever want to take revenge?

Verses 14-31

Who did the Lord use to stop David?

He sent Abigail. She was Nabal's intelligent / discerning and beautiful wife who displayed wisdom in her actions. She spared her husband's life and prevented David from doing something which he would have regretted later.

In the previous chapter, David refused to take vengeance against the Lord's anointed, trusting the Lord in his situation. In chapter 26 the same thing is repeated. But in this chapter he was on his way to revenge.

Abigail based her plea on the Lord, verses 26-31. She told David the Lord had restrained him from shedding blood. She referenced the fact that David was fighting the battles of the Lord. She also knew he was to be the next king of Israel. Abigail was a woman of discernment from the Lord.

Verses 32-38

What was David's response? What are the events in these verses?

Verse 33 states David's return to reason; he realized he was about to avenge himself by his own hand instead of trusting the Lord to take care of the situation. He was willing to listen to Abigail and admit he was wrong.

You could ask your group if they are willing to listen to warning or correction by another person.

Verses 36-38 describe Nabal's death. It says his heart died within him; then 10 days later the Lord struck him and he died. Compare this with 1 Samuel 2:1-10. The Lord returned his evil on his own head.

Verses 39-43

Who and what are these verses about?

Then David asked Abigail to be his wife, and she agreed.

These verses list David's wives:

Abigail

Ahinoam of Jezreel

Michal, Saul's daughter, had been given to another man.

David had more than one wife and was a man after God's heart, a man of integrity.

NOTE: Be aware that some in your group might want to discuss why David had more than one wife, but this lesson doesn't address that. Watch your time because there is more in this lesson to discuss.

1 SAMUEL 26

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

David went into Saul's camp, took his spear, but didn't touch the Lord's anointed

Verses 1-12

What happened in these verses?

The Ziphites informed Saul that David was in the hill of Hachilah.

Saul took his 3,000 men again to look for David.

David with Abishai entered Saul's camp while the men were sleeping; the Lord kept them sound asleep.

Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David refused to let him stretch / put out his hand against the Lord's anointed.

David knew he was to be the next king. Saul would die. But David would not be the agent of his death.

They took Saul's spear, not his life.

Saul had thrown his spear at David on more than one occasion, and at Jonathan also.

Verses 13-25

How does this chapter end?

David again spoke out loud after leaving Saul's presence. This time he spoke to Abner who was to be guarding the king. When Saul heard David, he recognized his voice.

David asked why Saul was pursuing him, what evil he had done.

Saul confessed that he had sinned against David, asked him to return, and said he would not harm him.

Evidently David did not believe Saul, because he didn't return with him but stayed away.

He relied on the Lord only. He was righteous and faithful and had spared Saul's life. The Lord valued David's life and would deliver him from all of his distresses / tribulation.

Saul knew David would accomplish much and prevail / succeed.

Ask your group what they have learned about the Lord from this study.

**1 SAMUEL
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis:

- 1 Samuel 27–31

REVIEW

To begin, ask your group about the main purpose, characters, and segments of 1 Samuel. Tell them to look at the At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

Transition in Israel’s history from judges to kings

- 1–7 Samuel, prophet to Israel and the last judge
- 8–15 Saul, the first king of Israel
- 16–31 David, anointed as the next king of Israel

While they are looking at the At a Glance chart, ask about the themes of chapters 27–31.

- 27 David raided Philistines, lived in Ziklag over 1 year
- 28 Saul went to medium at Endor
- 29 Philistines did not let David go to battle with them
- 30 David recovered what Amalek raiders took from Ziklag
- 31 Philistines killed Saul and sons, defeated Israel

1 SAMUEL 27

Ask your group what they learned from their study of this chapter and the related cross-references. Tell them to look at the map “David’s Journeys” as a visual aid.

After Saul and David parted for the last time at the end of chapter 26, David and his six hundred men went to Achish the king of Gath for protection. They lived there for a while, and Saul gave up his chase of David.

David appealed to Achish for a city in the country where he, his men, and their families could live. He reasoned that they should not live in the royal city with the king. Achish gave the city of Ziklag to David.

David lived there for a total of one year and four months.

Ziklag still belonged to the kings of Judah at the time when 1 Samuel was written.

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson “The Gathering of David’s Army.”

1 Chronicles 12:1-7

This tells of mighty men equipped for war who came to help David while he lived at Ziklag. Some were from the tribe of Benjamin, Saul's tribe.

They came from Gibeah, Anathoth, Gibeon, Gederah, and other places not on the map.

Verses 8-12

What did David and his men do? Tell your group to look at the map "Ziklag and the Spoils."

David raided the Geshurites, Girzites, and Amalekites. He destroyed the people and took everything else. No one was left alive to report to the Philistines what David was up to. Achish believed David was raiding the Negev / Negeb.

David was fulfilling the Lord's command to destroy Israel's enemies.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about the Amalekites and Geshurites.

Genesis 36:12

Amalek was the grandson of Esau, by his son Eliphaz and his concubine Timna.

Numbers 13:28-29

Amalekites lived in the Negev / Negeb area of Canaan.

Numbers 24:20

Amalek was cursed by Balaam as one of Israel's enemies. Their end is destruction.

There are a couple of different ways the statement about Amalek being the first of the nations is interpreted. One is that they were the first nation to attack Israel, and another is that they considered themselves the oldest or the best of the nations.

Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Amalek did not fear God and attacked the stragglers (ESV—those lagging behind) when Israel was faint and weary after coming out of Egypt. Therefore, the Lord told Israel to blot out the memory of Amalek, destroy them.

1 Samuel 15

The Lord told Saul to utterly destroy Amalek to punish them for what they had done to Israel. Saul defeated the Amalekites, but did not utterly destroy them. He spared their king Agag and the best of the spoils. Samuel was the one who killed Agag the king of the Amalekites.

Joshua 13:13

The Geshurites were also enemies within the land whom Israel did not dispossess when they came into the land of promise.

1 SAMUEL 28

Tell your group to look at the map “The Gathering of David’s Army” for this chapter.

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

Achish so trusted David that he assured David he would go to battle with him as his bodyguard for life, literally—“keeper of my head.”¹

Verses 3-7

Who are these verses about?

Samuel was dead.

He was the one to whom Saul had gone to hear from the Lord, but the prophet was dead.

Saul had removed all of the mediums and spiritists / necromancers, as he should have.

Leviticus 20:27 and Deuteronomy 18:9-22

God said in His Law that one who calls up the dead, mediums and spiritists / necromancers was to be stoned to death. The Lord detests those things.

The Philistines gathered against Israel in Shunem.

Israel gathered and camped in Gilboa, a mountain from where Saul could see the Philistine camp. When he did, he was afraid and his heart trembled.

The Lord did not answer Saul when he inquired of Him. It seems his fear grew as there was no comfort or guidance for him.

Then Saul asked for a medium to be found, and there was one in Endor.

Verses 8-19

What happened when Saul went to the medium?

Saul went in disguise at night and asked the medium to bring up Samuel.

When she saw Samuel, she knew Saul deceived her. He assured her he would not do to her what God said in the law; she would suffer no punishment from him.

Saul continued in disobedience to what he knew God said.

She described Samuel to Saul and he bowed in reverence. Some think it was not Samuel, but a demon who appeared. But the text says it was Samuel.

¹ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (1 Samuel 28:2) LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

There is no other similar event recorded in Scripture.

Samuel was disturbed by being brought up.

Ask your group if they think the cross-references in Luke and 2 Corinthians relate to this.
Ask what they learned about life after death.

Luke 16:19-31

According to this passage, Samuel would have been in Abraham's bosom when he was disturbed.

Jesus told about two men who died and were in two different places after death. There was a great chasm between these two places and no one could cross from one to the other.

One of the men was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom where he was comforted.

The other man, rich before death, was in Hades. He was in torment and agony in flames. He could hear Abraham speak to him, but could not pass over to Abraham.

The man had no way of communicating with his brothers who were still alive. No one brought him up like Samuel had been. He wanted to warn his family about the place, and his reasoning was that one from the dead could convince them to repent, which he himself had not done. He was not a believer. Abraham said his brothers had the Word of God, at that time the Law of Moses and the Prophets, like Samuel.

2 Corinthians 5:8

When New Testament believers die, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, they are absent from the body and at home with the Lord.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Samuel 28:15.

What did Saul tell Samuel?

The Lord had departed from him and no longer answered him. Therefore, Saul sought Samuel for direction, as he had done before the incident with Agag and the Amalekites. Samuel was a prophet—Acts 13:20; 1 Samuel 3:20 and 9:5-14.

Samuel told Saul the Lord was his adversary / enemy, and had torn the kingdom from him to give it to David.

The reason the Philistines gathered against Israel was because of Saul's disobedience in not executing / carrying out the Lord's wrath on Amalek.

Samuel told Saul that he and his sons would be dead the next day, and Israel would be defeated by the Philistines.

Verses 20-25

How did Saul react to Samuel’s words?

Saul was even more afraid after hearing from Samuel; he was terrified.

After eating something to strengthen himself, he and his servants left the medium that night.

Ask your group what they think about mediums, fortune-tellers, spiritists / necromancers, etc. Then ask what God says about seeking counsel from them. Give time for application discussion.

1 SAMUEL 29

How does this chapter continue from the previous one? Continue to refer to the map “The Gathering of David’s Army” as a visual aid for the places in this chapter.

The Philistines gathered to Aphek, and Israel was by the spring in Jezreel, close to Mount Gilboa. It seems this chapter might tell what happened before Saul saw the Philistine army gathered at Shunem in 28:4-5.

The other lords of the Philistines were more alert to what David could do in the battle than Achish was. He so trusted David that he didn’t realize how David could fight against the Philistines in the battle.

After their dispute, David left to return to Ziklag while the Philistines went to Jezreel for battle with Israel.

1 Chronicles 12:19-22

Seven men from the tribe and area of Manasseh turned from Saul to follow David and went to Ziklag.

Verse 22 says men came daily to David until he had a great army like the army of God—which it actually was as he was following God and fighting His enemies. But this was a gradual process. His army was not that numerous in 1 Samuel 29–30.

You might ask your group how Jesus’ prayer in John 17 spoke to them. Give time to discuss application.

John 17:9-21

Jesus prayed for His own, those whom the Father gave Him out of the world. His request was for the Father to keep them. While Jesus was with the eleven, those with Him at the time of the prayer, He kept and guarded them. Another request was for them to be sanctified in the truth of God’s Word.

In verse 20 He prayed for those who would believe through the testimony of the eleven; that is all believers after them. Jesus prayed for those believers in your group.

Jesus was among enemies; believers are among the world. Believers are not taken out of the world, but kept while being hated by the world—as David was kept while being hated and persecuted by enemies.

1 SAMUEL 30

Verses 1-20

What happened when David returned to Ziklag? Refer to the map “Ziklag and the Spoils.”

While David and his men had been going with the Philistines toward the battle, Ziklag had been raided by some Amalekites.

David was greatly distressed because of the situation, and the people spoke of stoning him.

He strengthened himself in the Lord.

Contrast this with Saul’s actions when he was fearful of the Philistines.

David inquired of the Lord through the priest and the ephod. He asked God what to do and did as He said. God did not answer Saul when he inquired of Him; Saul had not obeyed when the Lord had told him what to do. The Lord, the priest, and the ephod were with David, not Saul.

David took his six hundred men with him and pursued the raiders. He recovered all the people and the spoils with the help of an Egyptian servant of an Amalekite.

Verses 21-31

What did David do?

Verses 21-25 show David’s wisdom in leadership. He made those who took the spoils share with those who stayed with the baggage.

Verses 26-31 tell of how David sent some of the spoil from the Amalekites to the elders of Judah and his friends in Israel; a gift, from the spoils of the Lord’s enemies.

He sent to all the places he and his men were accustomed to go in Israel.

David was attacking and destroying the Lord’s enemies because his heart was to follow the Lord, and he inquired of the Lord, doing what He said.

Contrast this with Saul.

Saul was in the process of being defeated by the Lord’s enemies because he did not follow what the Lord had told him to do, and God no longer answered him.

1 SAMUEL 31

How does this chapter relate to what Samuel told Saul in chapter 28?

Tell your group to look at “Saul’s Family Tree” along with the map as visual aids.

Israel ran from the Philistines in battle, and they were killed on Mount Gilboa.

Saul, although wounded by the enemy, died by his own hand.

His sons Jonathan, Abinadab (Ishvi), and Malchi-shua were also killed on Mount Gilboa.

He and his sons died on the day after Samuel’s prophecy.

The men of Israel in the cities fled when they knew what happened in the battle.
And the Philistines then inhabited the cities.

The Philistines cut off Saul’s head and sent it throughout their land to announce the battle victory, and his weapons were put in the temple of Ashtaroath. His and his sons’ bodies were hung to the wall of Beth-shan, a nearby city to Mount Gilboa.

The bodies were taken down and burned by the men of Jabesh-gilead; relate to 1 Samuel 11:1-11. After burning the bodies, they buried the bones at Jabesh.

Saul died and was mourned for seven days by the men of Jabesh.

1 Chronicles 10:1-14

These verses give more detail of Saul’s death.

His three sons were killed in battle before he was wounded. And verse 6 says his entire house died together, meaning those who fought in that battle.

Saul’s head was left in the house or temple of Dagon, a Philistine god.

Saul died for his trespasses; he didn’t keep the Lord’s Word, and he inquired of a medium. Therefore, the Lord killed him and gave the kingdom to David.

You might end your discussion by asking your group what they learned from David’s life as an example for them.

Seeking the Lord by studying His Word and then doing what He says is the way to follow His heart like David did.

As time allows, give your group an opportunity to share how God has used the study of 1 Samuel in their lives.