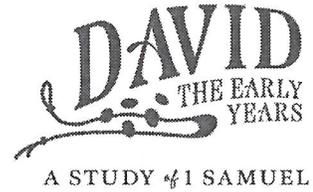


# Introduction to 1 Samuel

January 12-13, 2022



1. Share a short personal story from your Christmas season.
2. The book of 1 Samuel continues to tell God's beautiful story of love and salvation for humankind as He establishes the monarchy in Israel. His story is told through three main people: Samuel, Saul and David. Read 1 Samuel 1:5, 8-20 to learn about the birth of Samuel, the last judge. What did Hannah, Samuel's mother, do about her distress from being childless?
3. When Samuel is a young child, Hannah honors her vow of dedicating Samuel to the Lord and leaves him with Eli the priest. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-3, which is part of Hannah's prayer of praise. List the characteristics of God in these verses.

Why do you think praising God is so important?

Share some ways you incorporate praising God into your daily life.

4. What do the following verses reveal about Samuel's relationship with God? 1 Samuel 2:18-21, 26; 3:19-21; 7:7-9, 15-17.

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-7. After God ruled Israel through judges for over 300 years, what do the people of Israel ask for now? What do they say are the reasons for their request?

In 1 Samuel 8:10-18, Samuel tells them the hardships that will occur under the reign of a king, but they still ask for a king. What deeper meaning for their request do you find in 1 Samuel 8:19-22?

5. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-4. Discuss all you learn about Saul from these verses.
6. Read 1 Samuel 9:5-10. What is Samuel's reputation among the Israelites?
7. Read 1 Samuel 9:15-17. God makes it clear to Samuel that He has chosen Saul to reign over Israel. What characteristics of God do you see in these verses? Share some specific times in your life when you have been aware of these attributes of God.
8. Read 1 Samuel 9:18-21. What positive character quality do you see in Saul's response to Samuel?
9. Thinking back over this lesson, what one thing about Samuel do you most admire?

# God's Gracious Plan

1 Samuel 1-9

## God's Continuing Story of Love and Salvation in 1 Samuel

The message of 1 Samuel is the gracious plan of God in establishing the monarchy in Israel.

God's story in 1 Samuel is told through the stories of real men and women.

The outline of 1 Samuel is seen in the interwoven lives of three main people –

Samuel – the last judge and first prophet in chapters 1 - 8

Saul – the first anointed king of Israel in chapters 9 – 15

David – the second and greatest king of Israel in chapters 16 – 31

Themes in 1 Samuel include:

God never \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ and in control over all things.

Sin has devastating effects, both individually and corporately.

Obedience to God is \_\_\_\_\_ for success.

### Samuel

Ch. 1-8

- Samuel is dedicated to God by Hannah, his godly mother.
- Samuel is called by God, and he listens to God.
- Samuel is committed to God and cries out to God all his life on Israel's behalf.
- Samuel obeys God even when Israel rejects Samuel and God by asking for an earthly king.
- Samuel's faithfulness and spiritual leadership results in God's blessing for Israel.

### Saul

Ch. 9

- Saul is obedient to his father as he looks for the lost donkeys with persistence.
- Saul listens to his servant's plan to look for Samuel, and he agrees to do it.
- Saul responds humbly to Samuel's announcement that Saul would rule Israel.
- Saul did not meet God's ultimate requirements, but God graciously grants Israel's demand.

How do we participate in God's plan and share in His joy?

\_\_\_\_\_ in your knowledge of God by looking for Him in 1 Samuel.

\_\_\_\_\_ your story is in the midst of God's story.

\_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord wholeheartedly, trusting in His perfect plan for you.

Key: abandons, sovereign, essential, Grow, Recognize, Walk

**David – The Early Years – 1 Samuel 1 – 9**  
**January 12-13, 2022**

**PROVERBS 2:3-5 [Y]es, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.**

**JUDGES 2:11-12a And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt.**

**JUDGES 2:16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.**

**GENESIS 17:6 “I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.”**

**GENESIS 49:10a “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet.”**

**LUKE 1:32-33 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

**DEUTERONOMY 17:15a “[Y]ou may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose.”**

**JEREMIAH 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”**