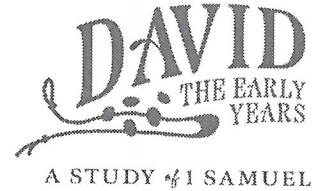


1 SAMUEL 12-13

January 26-27, 2022



1. List a few specific blessings in your life that are results of your obedience to God.
2. Samuel was a prophet who chose obedience to God. Read 1 Samuel 12:1-5. What point is Samuel making to the people of Israel in terms of his character?

Even though Samuel describes himself as old and gray, what should Israel recognize about Samuel's ability to continue to be used by God in their midst?

3. Samuel also speaks of the beginning of a monarchy in Israel in 1 Samuel 12:1-2. Samuel would be the final judge of Israel and Saul would be the first king of Israel. Who demanded to be ruled by a king as other nations were ruled, according to 12:1?

Why was this a very foolish demand? Read Deuteronomy 7:6 and 7:11 for insight.

4. Read 1 Samuel 12:6-11. Who was the faithful Hero of Israel in these verses, and what were some of His mighty acts?

List some of the faithless acts of Israel in 1 Samuel 12:6-11.

What is one of the most faithless acts of Israel, considering God's faithfulness? Read 1 Samuel 12:12-13.

What words would you use to describe the love of God in 1 Samuel 12:6-13?

5. In order for Israel to experience God's future blessings they would need to make specific choices. What are these choices, according to 1 Samuel 12:14-15?

In what ways have these verses proven true even in your life today?

6. Read 1 Samuel 12:16-19. What word does Samuel use to describe Israel's desire for a king?

Samuel wants Israel to recognize that God alone is the source of all their blessings. What did the people realize when they once again witnessed the power of God as He sent thunder and rain from heaven?

The consequences of our disobedience often feel like storms oppressing our lives. How can these experiences be used by God to grow us spiritually? Read Hebrews 12:7-11.

7. Read 1 Samuel 12:20-22. These verses display the reality that our past sin does not disqualify us from future blessings. When considering the actions Samuel presented to Israel in these verses, what actions restore our relationship with God?

Like God, Samuel also maintained a heart for the people of Israel. Read 1 Samuel 12:23-25 and list his promises and his warnings.

8. 1 Samuel 13:1 is best translated *Saul was ... years old when he began to reign and he reigned two years over Israel*. Read about King Saul's beginning battle with the Philistines in 1 Samuel 13:2-7. Record the details of the following events.

Saul organizing an army

Jonathan defeating the garrison of the Philistines

The Philistines' response to Israel's victory

The Israelites' response to the Philistines' actions

9. In 1 Samuel 10:8, Samuel had instructed Saul to wait for him in Gilgal to give offerings to the Lord. Read this verse along with 1 Samuel 13:8-14. What do we learn about Saul as he performed the priestly task of offering community sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel?

What will be the severe consequence of Saul's disobedience to God, according to Samuel?

What kind of man did God desire to lead His people Israel? Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14 again.

10. Read 1 Samuel 13:15-18. What do we realize about Israel's confidence in God when we read that only 600 men were still present with King Saul?

What might be the ways our obedience to God is connected to our confidence in God?

Israel's enemy raided them from three different directions. What are some of the inner enemies that attack us from all directions when we have lost confidence in God?

11. Read 1 Samuel 13:19-23 and record a major disadvantage Israel faced in this battle.

Why must we place our hope in God alone when facing life's battles? Read Psalm 27:1-3, 5.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

ALL WILL BE WELL or ALL WON'T BE WELL

1 Samuel 12-13

SAMUEL'S OBEDIENCE

1 Samuel 12:1-7

As Israel's final judge, Samuel obeyed God's command and anointed Saul as Israel's earthly king. The fate of Israel's king depended on his ability to fit in a system where the heavenly King still ruled. By agreeing Samuel served them with integrity, Israel made a case for God's system of government.

OBEDIENCE OBSERVATION: We obey God rather than _____, because God's way is best.

ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENCE

1 Samuel 12:8-25

Even in the face of Israel's constant rebellion, God responded with correction and rescue. Though God faithfully provided Israel with godly leaders and judges, they were a faithless people. Israel's demand for a king was contrary to the precise purposes and will of God. God graciously gave Israel another blueprint for future blessings- fear, serve, and obey Him. A heavenly sign authenticated Samuel's warnings of judgment and convicted Israel of their sins. Israel's past could not be undone, but their future could still be devoted to the Lord.

OBEDIENCE OBSERVATION: Our past sins do not _____ us from future blessings.

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

1 Samuel 13:1-23

Saul faced his first battle with the Philistines, but also began a battle with his pride. Even with their earthly king at their side, the Israelites were filled with terror. As king, Saul was to rule in submission to God. But Saul took matters into his own hands. God desired a prince over His people who would set his heart on loving and obeying Him. As a result of Saul's disobedience, his descendants would not serve as kings after him.

OBEDIENCE OBSERVATION: Our _____ should not dictate our ability to obey.

David – The Early Years – 1 Samuel 12-13

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EXODUS 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

1 SAMUEL 8:6-7 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.”

PSALM 119:30, 36-37, 78 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me. . . . Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. . . . Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

2 TIMOTHY 2:13 [I]f we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

ISAIAH 55:7 “[L]et the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

DEUTERONOMY 30:11, 14 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. . . . But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.”

PSALM 1:1-4 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

JOHN 14:23-24 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.”