



1 Samuel – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
I Samuel	Ch. 13
☐ ch. 1 ☐ ch. 3 ☐ ch. 8 ☐ ch. 9 ☐ ch. 10 ☐ 13:1-14 ☐ ch. 15 ☐ 16:1-13 ☐ ch. 17 ☐ ch. 18 ☐ 23:15-29 ☐ ch. 24 ☐ ch. 31	☐ Setting ☐ Themes of 1 Samuel ☐ David's Struggles with Saul

Study Guide for First Samuel

Chapter 1

- What did Hannah pray for? Why? What did she promise?
- How did God answer Hannah's prayer? What did she do with her son? What does this foreshadow about the child's future?

Chapter 3

- How does this chapter begin? What does that foreshadow about what is about to happen in the rest of the chapter?
- How did God call to Samuel? What enabled Samuel to recognize that it was God's voice?
- What did God tell Samuel at that time? Why? Why was Samuel reluctant to share this with Eli? How did Eli respond?
- How does the end of this chapter describe Samuel's character and ministry? What is significant about this?

Chapter 8

- Why did the people ask for a king? Why did this displease Samuel? Do you think this was a wise request? Why or why not?
- How did God respond to the request for a king? What reason did He give? What did He command Samuel to warn the people about? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?
- Describe what Samuel said a king would do to the people? Do you think these are good things or not? Why? Why do you think this was a danger they needed to be warned about? What difference does this make for us today?
- How did the people respond to the warnings? What did Samuel do in response?

(Continued on the next page)

Chapter 9

- How is Saul described in this chapter? What is the significance of this?
- Why did Saul inquire of the prophet? How had God prepared Samuel for this encounter? What specifically did He tell Samuel? What do we learn from this?
- What did Samuel tell Saul? How did Saul react? How did Samuel treat Saul?

Chapter 10

- What did Samuel do to Saul? What was the significance of this?
- What did Samuel predict Saul would experience? How and when were these things fulfilled?
- What does this chapter say about how God worked in Saul's life? What did Saul tell his family?
- What did Samuel tell the people at Mizpah? What is the significance of this message?
- How was the king chosen? How did Saul respond?
- How is Saul described in this chapter? What is the significance of this?
- How did the people respond to Saul being chosen as king?
- What did Samuel teach the people about the king? Why was this necessary?

Chapter 13:1-14

- How did the war with the Philistines start? How was Saul preparing for battle at Gilgal?
- What did Saul do when Samuel was late in arriving? Was this a good thing or not?
- What did Samuel say to Saul when he arrived? How did Saul respond?
- How did Samuel evaluate Saul's actions? What pronouncement did he make about Saul as a result? What does this tell us about Saul's character? What does this predict about the future leadership of Israel? Why is that significant?

Chapter 15

- What did Samuel command Saul to do? How did Saul respond?
- How does what Saul did compare with the precise instructions given to him by Samuel? How does this chapter explain the difference? What does this tell us about the character of Saul?
- What did God say to Samuel? What does this foreshadow about the later history? How did Samuel respond?
- What did Saul do at Carmel? What does this tell us about Saul's character? Why is this significant?
- What did Saul say to Samuel when they met? How did Samuel respond? What excuse/explanation did Saul give to Samuel?
- What message did Samuel give Saul from God? How did Saul respond?
- Describe the point of Samuel's reply to Saul in your own words. What does this predict about the future of Saul's leadership? What does this tell us about the character of God and what He expects from His people? How should we respond?
- How did Saul respond to Samuel's announcement? What does this demonstrate about Saul's character? What should we learn from this?
- How did Samuel respond to Saul's excuse and request? What does he tell us about God's character? Why is that significant? How does this apply?

(Continued on the next page)

- How did Saul respond to Samuel's latest pronouncement? What does this demonstrate about Saul's character?
- What did Samuel do to Agag? What reason did he give for this?
- How does this chapter end? What does this tell about the character of Saul, Samuel, and God?

Chapter 16:1-13

- What did God command Samuel to do? Why? How was he to do it? Why?
- What did Samuel conclude about Jesse's son? Was he correct?
- What did God say to Samuel about his choice? What should we learn from this? Why is this important? How does it apply to us today?
- How does this chapter describe David?
- What did Samuel do to David? Why? What happened to David afterward? What does this foreshadow about the rest of the story?

Chapter 17

- What setting and situation is introduced at the start of this chapter? How is Goliath described? Why is that significant for the story? What did Goliath do and say? How did Saul respond?
- How was Jesse's family involved in this war? How does this explain David's presence at the battle?
- What did David observe and hear when he was at the battleground? How did he respond? What does this tell about David's attitude and character? How did David's brothers react?
- What did David say to Saul? How did Saul respond? What did David say in response? What does this demonstrate about David's attitude and character?
- How did David prepare for the battle?
- What did Goliath say when he saw David? How did David respond? What does this tell us about David's character? What does this tell us about God's plan for His people?
- What happened in the fight between David and Goliath? What happened in the larger battle as a result? What do you think is the significance of this for the larger story?
- How did Saul react to David's triumph?

Chapter 18

- Describe the friendship that David had with Jonathan. What does this demonstrate about the character of Jonathan?
- What did David do in his service to Saul? How did the people respond? How did Saul respond? What does this show about the character of Saul?
- What does this chapter say about the growing success of David and the growing jealousy and violence of Saul toward him? How did the people feel about David? How does this fit into what has already been narrated about the future of the kingship?
- How did David become Saul's son-in-law? What was the significance of this? What does this demonstrate about David's character? How did Saul respond?

(Continued on the next page)

Chapter 23:15-29

- What did Jonathan say to David? What does this demonstrate about the character of Jonathan? What does this predict about the future of the kingship?
- How did Saul's army pursue David? How were they prevented from capturing Him? What is the significance of this?

Chapter 24

- What did David do when Saul was in the cave? What did he refuse to do? Why? What does this demonstrate about David's character? What does this demonstrate about the enmity between Saul and David? Why is this significant?
- What did David say to Saul? What does this demonstrate about the enmity between Saul and David? What does this demonstrate about David's character? What did David pray? How did Saul respond? What did he confess about the future of the kingship?

Chapter 31

- What happened in the battle with the Philistines? How did Saul die? How did the Israelites respond?
- What did the Philistines do to Saul? What did the people of Jabesh Gilead do in response? Why?
- What does the end of Saul's life imply about his kingship and character? How does this fulfill pronouncements given by God earlier in the story? What can we learn from all this? How does it apply today?

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 13

Background of 1 Samuel

Setting

- How does the textbook connect this book with the book of Judges? What is the implication of this for the content of 1 Samuel?
- Who was the main enemy of God's people in this period? How did the people attempt to solve this problem in this book?

Themes of 1 Samuel

- What was wrong with Eli's leadership and family? How did Samuel fill the void?
- According to the textbook, the beginning of the monarchy signaled the end of what? Why is this significant? Was this a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you think so?
- Why did Saul not continue as Israel's king?
- What did Samuel's anointing of David accomplish? What did it not accomplish? What was God doing to accomplish this?

Message of 1 Samuel

David's Struggles with Saul

- Why did Saul become jealous of David? How did this affect his attitude toward David?

(Continued on the next page)

- What are the five major events the textbook lists in David's struggles with Saul? What does each of these contribute to the story? What does each of these episodes tell us about Saul's character? What does each of these tell us about David's character and preparation for leadership?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter