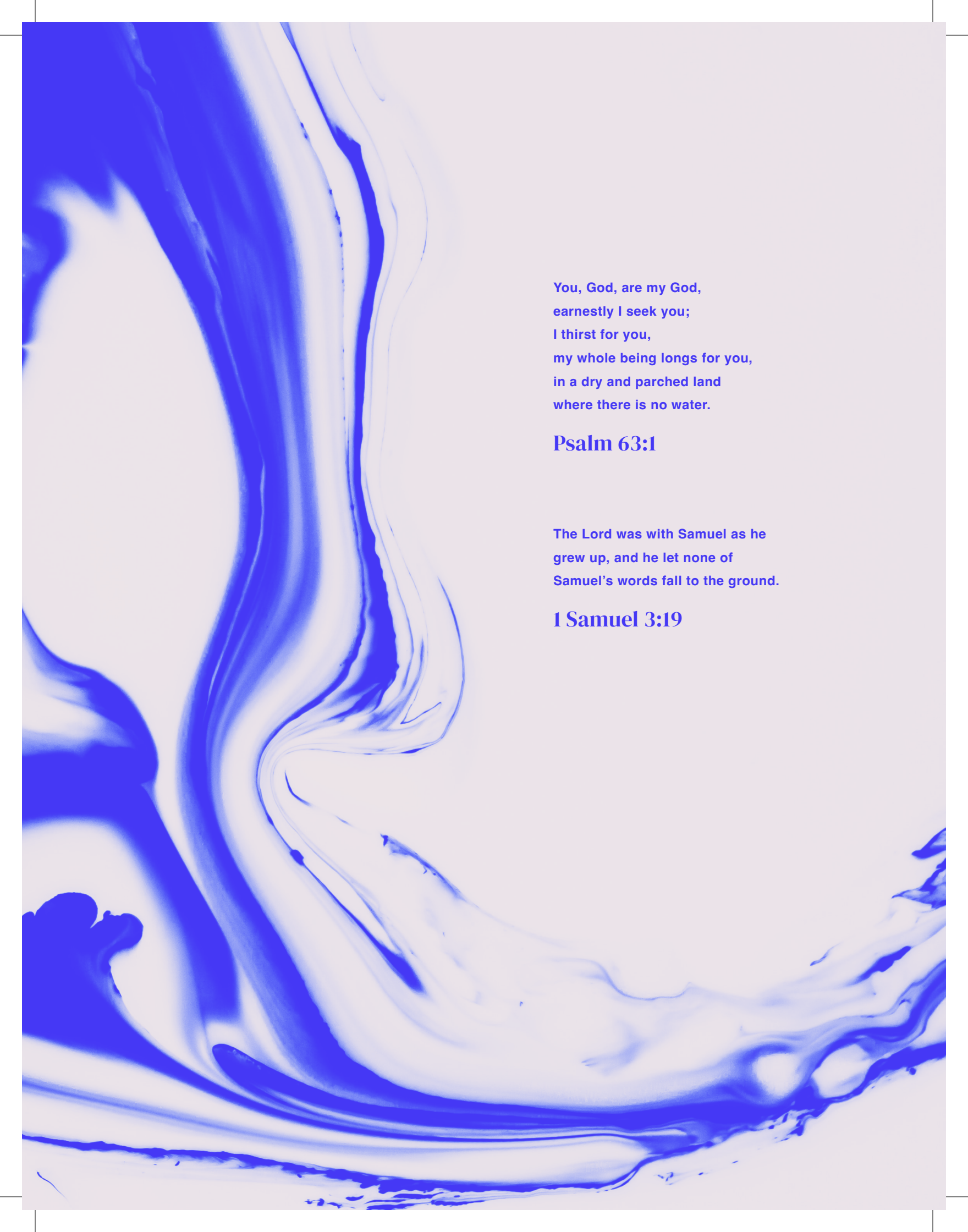




# A Man Devoted to God

A STUDY ON THE LIFE OF SAMUEL



You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.

### **Psalm 63:1**

The Lord was with Samuel as he  
grew up, and he let none of  
Samuel's words fall to the ground.

### **1 Samuel 3:19**



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## Get a Running Start

Each lesson in our study begins by asking you to meditate on the passage of Scripture you are studying that week. But what does it mean to meditate on Scripture? How do you make observations about a passage in the Bible? And why is this an important place to start your study of God's Word?

## Making Observations in Scripture

Being an observer of God's Word is no different than sitting on a bench at a busy park and noticing all the people there. Who are they? What are they doing? Who is with them? How are they relating to one another? Why are they there? When you take time to look and listen, there are so many things you can observe. The same is true of God's Word.

Observation is the act and art of noticing details. In its simplest form, it's asking these seven basic questions: who, what, when, where, why, how and wherefore? And with that initial understanding, we can be effective observers of God's Word if we are patient and disciplined to do so. If you are in a hurry or are just trying to complete a lesson you will miss out on seeing exciting details in God's message to you. Stop, slow down and see what isn't obvious to the casual reader. Make observation of God's Word a habit you enjoy.

## Meditating on a Bible Passage

Meditation is the act of pondering or thinking deeply. In the case of a believer, it's reflecting on the meaning, implication and application of a particular Bible passage. It provides the foundation for study by allowing God to reveal key verses, repeated words, phrases or ideas that point us to the message He has for us. Meditation comes naturally for some and is more difficult for others; but we are all called to meditate on God's Word often.

The challenges we face today are the many distractions and stresses in our daily lives. In order to effectively meditate on God's Word, we need the Holy Spirit's help in allowing us to block out worldly cares and to focus solely on His Word and its implications for our lives. Think of meditation as the quieting of your life to listen to God's voice. You may need a special place in your home that is away from others, or a particular time of day when no one else needs your attention. Either way, meditation doesn't just happen because we want it to. Just like effective observation, it must be intentional. Make meditation a priority and see what God can do in your life as you allow His word to sink into the very fibers of your soul.







# 1 Samuel

## 1:1-2:11

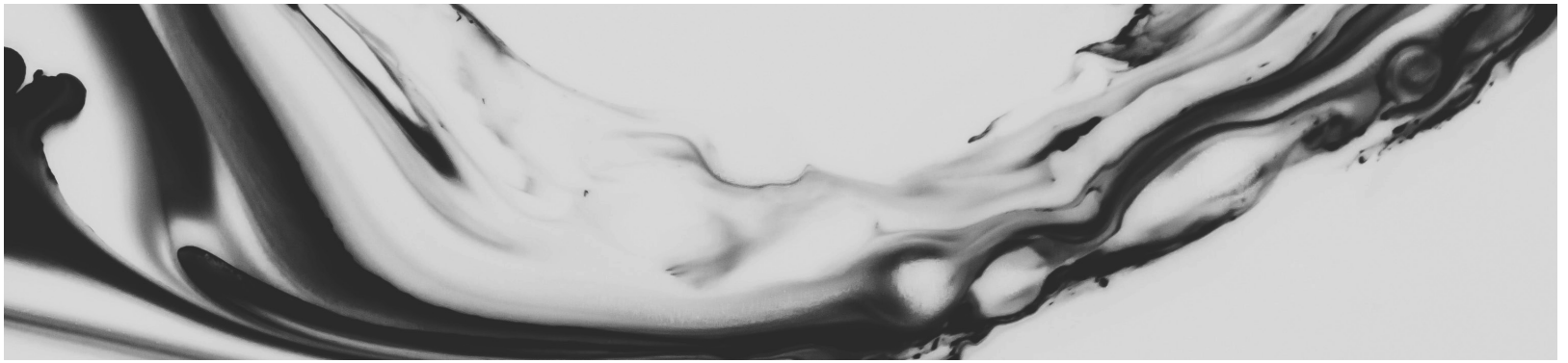
**1** There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. **2** He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

**3** Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. **4** On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. **5** But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. **6** And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. **7** So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. **8** And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

**9** After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. **10** She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. **11** And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

**12** As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. **13** Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. **14** And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” **15** But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have





been pouring out my soul before the Lord. <sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” <sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” <sup>18</sup> And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

<sup>19</sup> They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup> And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the Lord.”

<sup>21</sup> The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there forever.” <sup>23</sup> Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup> And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. <sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup> And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.”

And he worshiped the Lord there.

**2** And Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the Lord;  
my horn is exalted in the Lord.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>2</sup> “There is none holy like the Lord:  
for there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

<sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble bind on strength.

<sup>5</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.  
The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low and he exalts.

<sup>8</sup> He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,  
and on them he has set the world.

- <sup>9</sup>“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,  
for not by might shall a man prevail.
- <sup>10</sup> The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;  
against them he will thunder in heaven.  
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”
- <sup>11</sup> Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy was  
ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

LESSON 1

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN PRAYER** // *1 Samuel 1:1-2:11*

1. Meditate on 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
2. According to 1 Samuel 1:1-8, what do you learn about Elkanah and his family? (See also 1 Chronicles 6:31-38.)
3. What was the source of Hannah's distress, and what action did she take? What does scripture teach you about approaching God in prayer when you are brokenhearted? (See also Psalm 34:18; 62:8; 119:28; Isaiah 40:28; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.)
4. According to 1 Samuel 1:19-28, how did God answer Hannah's prayer? What was her response? (See also Psalm 66:19; 136:23; 1 John 5:14-15.)

- 5.** How did Hannah demonstrate her devotion to God? How does this challenge you? (See also 1 Samuel 1:11; Psalm 105:2; 2 Corinthians 12:9.)
  
- 6.** Compare 1 Samuel 1:8-11 with 2:1-10. What changes in Hannah's prayers do you see? What is your response when God answers your prayers? (See also Exodus 15:2; 1 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 92:1.)
  
- 7.** How did Hannah praise God and point us to Jesus through her song? Which attribute of God in Hannah's song is most personal to you, and why?
  
- 8.** Reflecting back on the entire passage, how did Hannah's view of her circumstances and of God change as she brought her sorrow to him through prayer?
  
- 9.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters, and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?





# 1 Samuel

## 2:12-3:21

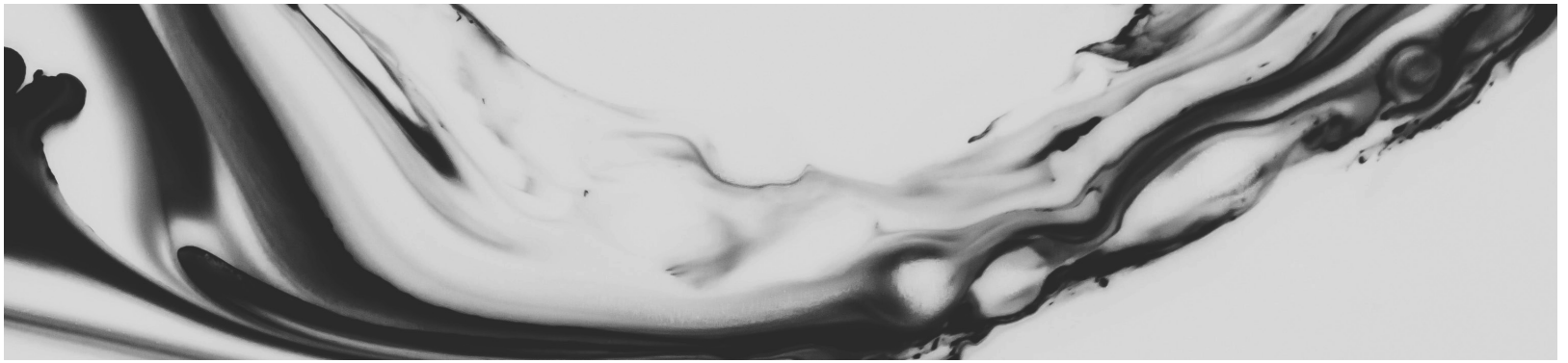
<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. <sup>13</sup> The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, <sup>14</sup> and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw." <sup>16</sup> And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force." <sup>17</sup> Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord." So then they would return to their home.

<sup>21</sup> Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>23</sup> And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. <sup>24</sup> No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the Lord spreading abroad. <sup>25</sup> If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death.





<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man.

<sup>27</sup> And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh? <sup>28</sup> Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel. <sup>29</sup> Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?’ <sup>30</sup> Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,’ but now the Lord declares: ‘Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. <sup>31</sup> Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. <sup>32</sup> Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever. <sup>33</sup> The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. <sup>34</sup> And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day. <sup>35</sup> And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever. <sup>36</sup> And everyone who is left in your house shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and shall say, “Please put me in one of the priests’ places, that I may eat a morsel of bread.””

**3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> And I declare to him that I am about to punish his

house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup> And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

LESSON 2

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN SUBMISSION // 1 Samuel 2:12-3:21**

1. Meditate on 1 Samuel 2:12-3:21. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
2. Describe the circumstances under which the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord according to 1 Samuel 2:12-26, 29. (See also Romans 16:17-18; Philippians 3:19.)
3. In what ways do you see God's hand on Samuel? Read 1 Samuel 2:26 and Luke 2:52. What similarities do you see, and why is this important?
4. According to 1 Samuel 2:27-36, how did God confront Eli? In the midst of the judgment pronounced on Eli and his descendants, what hope is given in verse 35? How does this ultimately point to the Lord Jesus Christ? (See also Hebrews 2:17; 4:14; 9:12-14.)
5. According to 1 Samuel 3:1-10, how did God call Samuel and use Eli in the process? How does God's pursuit of Samuel encourage you? (See also John 3:16-18.)

- 6.** How do God's words to Samuel affirm what the man of God told Eli in 1 Samuel 2:27-36? What does this teach you about God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7.** Define Submission. What was Samuel's response to the word of God as recorded in 1 Samuel 3:15-18, and why was he afraid to tell Eli what God had said? How does Eli's response challenge you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8.** What does 1 Samuel 3:19-21 say about the Lord? How does this point us to the gospel? (See Matthew 1:23; Luke 24:27; Hebrews 1:1-4.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9.** What hinders or distracts you from listening to God and submitting to his call in your own life? In what ways have you submitted to God? (See also Isaiah 6:8.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?





# 1 Samuel

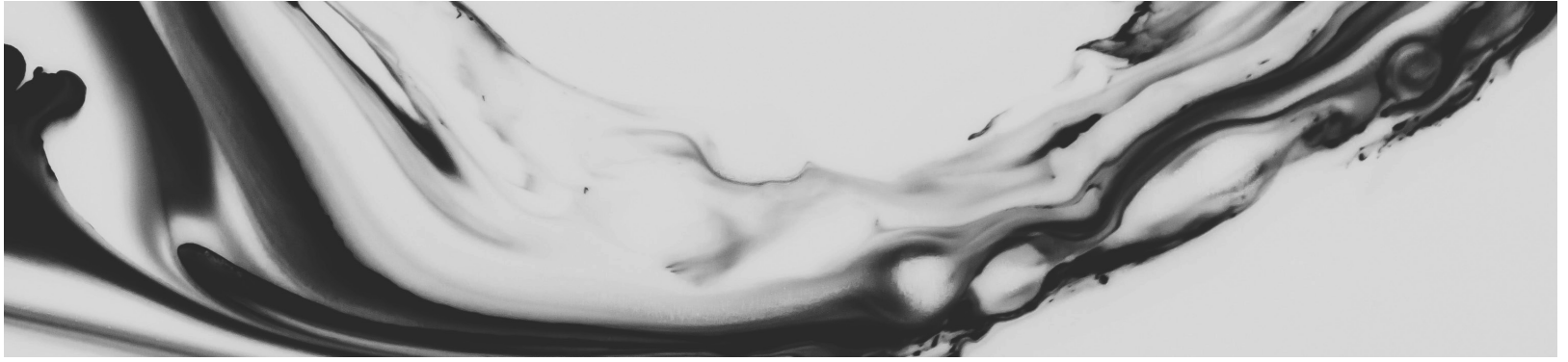
## 7:1-17

**7** And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” <sup>4</sup> So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the Lord only.

<sup>5</sup> Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.” <sup>6</sup> So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the Lord and fasted on that day and said there, “We have sinned against the Lord.” And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. <sup>7</sup> Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. <sup>8</sup> And the people of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines.” <sup>9</sup> So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. And Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him. <sup>10</sup> As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. <sup>11</sup> And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car.





<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us." <sup>13</sup> So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. <sup>14</sup> The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. <sup>16</sup> And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places. <sup>17</sup> Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there, and there also he judged Israel. And he built there an altar to the Lord.

LESSON 3

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN MINISTRY // 1 Samuel 7:1-17**

1. Skim 1 Samuel 4-6 and meditate on 1 Samuel 7. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
  
2. Read 1 Samuel 2:26, 31-34; 3:10-14, 19-21; 4:1, 12-18. How did God grow Samuel in his ministry to the people of Israel? What prophecies are fulfilled, and what does this teach you about the character of God?
  
3. According to 1 Sam 6:19-7:2, how and why did the ark of God end up in Kiriath-jearim? What does this reveal about the Israelites and God?
  
4. In what ways did Samuel point out Israel's unfaithfulness to the Lord in 1 Samuel 7:3-4? What idols in your life will you commit to put away? (See Jonah 2:8; Colossians 3:5.)
  
5. According to 1 Samuel 7:5-6, describe what took place at Mizpah. How does the assembly of believers in prayer and confession strengthen the church today?

- 6.** According to 1 Samuel 7:7-9, for what situation did Samuel cry out to the Lord?  
Who are you interceding for God to deliver?
  
- 7.** In 1 Samuel 7:10-11 what was God's response? How does this encourage you and strengthen your faith? (See also Exodus 24:24.)
  
- 8.** How was the stone in 1 Samuel 7:12-14 significant in Samuel's ministry to the people of Israel? In what ways do you remember what the Lord has done in your life?  
(See also Joshua 4:1-10; Luke 22:19.)
  
- 9.** How does 1 Samuel 7:15-16 summarize Samuel's ministry, and in what ways does this inspire you? Where is God calling you to serve him in your church?
  
- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why?  
How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?





# 1 Samuel

## 8:1-22

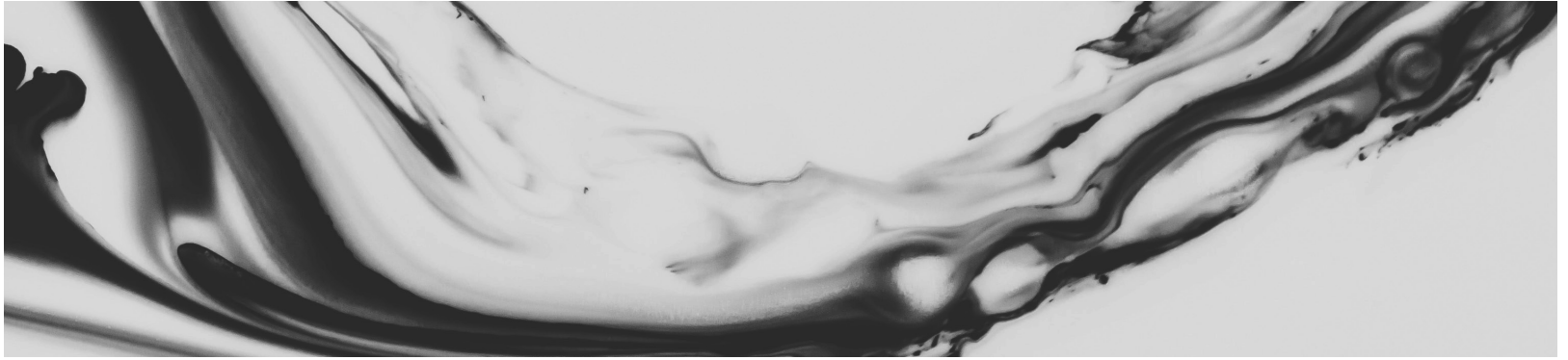
**8** When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah <sup>5</sup> and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

<sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

<sup>10</sup> So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him. <sup>11</sup> He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the



best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. <sup>15</sup> He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. <sup>16</sup> He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup> And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” <sup>21</sup> And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” Samuel then said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

LESSON 4

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN OBEDIENCE** // *1 Samuel 8:1-22*

1. Meditate on 1 Samuel 8:1-22. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
2. According to Exodus 18:21-26 and Deuteronomy 16:18-20, what character traits are God's people called to seek in a leader? In what ways did Samuel's sons fail to live up to these expectations?
3. According to 1 Samuel 8:4-5, what did the elders seek when they met with Samuel, and why? Did their reasons justify the request? If not, why not? (See also Exodus 19:4-5; Leviticus 20:26.)
4. How did Samuel respond to the Israelites' request for a king? What do you learn from his example that you can apply to your own life?
5. How could God's words have comforted and/or challenged Samuel in verses 6-9? How did God's response to Samuel indicate that there was not just a leadership problem, but a spiritual one? (See also Deuteronomy 28:1-2.)



- 6.** Who is our true king? (See Psalm 24:8-10; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:13-16.)  
What hinders your obedience to him?
  
- 7.** How did Samuel warn the people of Israel concerning a king in 1 Samuel 8:10-18?
  
- 8.** According to verses 19-20, what additional reasons did the Israelites give as they continued to demand a king? In what ways do you find yourself emulating the culture around you?
  
- 9.** In 1 Samuel 8:22, what does God's decision to give Israel a king after they reject Samuel's warning reveal about the character of God? (See Romans 1:18-32.)
  
- 10.** Reflecting on the entire passage, what stands out to you about Samuel's obedience, and why? In what ways are you encouraged or challenged by Samuel's example?
  
- 11.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why?  
How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?





# 1 Samuel

## 9:1-11:15

**9** There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. <sup>2</sup> And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

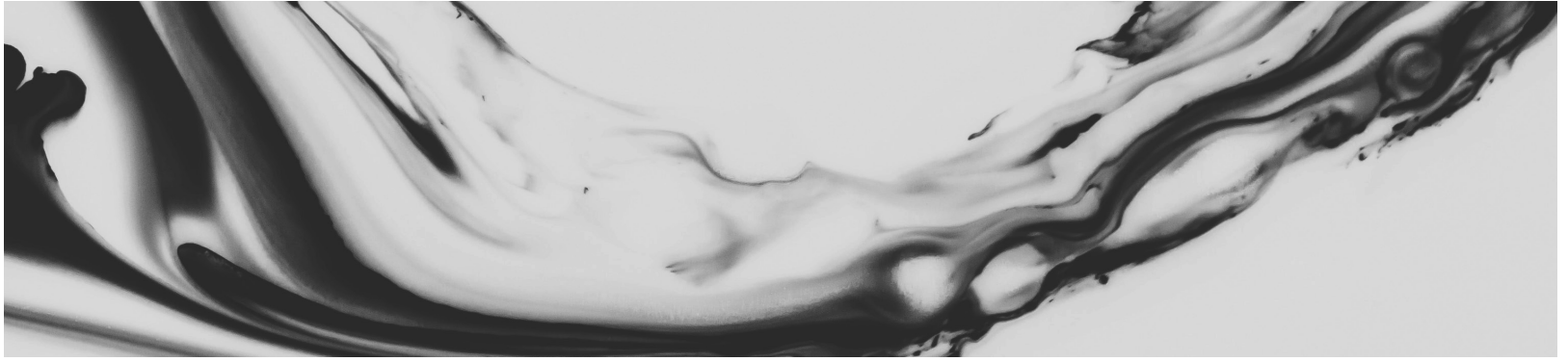
<sup>3</sup> Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." <sup>4</sup> And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

<sup>5</sup> When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us."

<sup>6</sup> But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go." <sup>7</sup> Then Saul said to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" <sup>8</sup> The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way." <sup>9</sup> (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.) <sup>10</sup> And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

<sup>11</sup> As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?" <sup>12</sup> They answered, "He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place." <sup>13</sup> As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately." <sup>14</sup> So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

<sup>15</sup> Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: <sup>16</sup> "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me." <sup>17</sup> When Samuel saw Saul,



the Lord told him, “Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.”<sup>18</sup> Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?”<sup>19</sup> Samuel answered Saul, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind.”<sup>20</sup> As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father’s house?”<sup>21</sup> Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?”

<sup>22</sup> Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons.<sup>23</sup> And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Put it aside.’”<sup>24</sup> So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And Samuel said, “See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests.”

So Saul ate with Samuel that day.<sup>25</sup> And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep.<sup>26</sup> Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, “Up, that I may send you on your way.” So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street.

<sup>27</sup> As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.”

**10** Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, “Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.<sup>2</sup> When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel’s tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, ‘The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, “What shall I do about my son?”’<sup>3</sup> Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying

a skin of wine. <sup>4</sup> And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. <sup>5</sup> After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. <sup>6</sup> Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. <sup>7</sup> Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. <sup>8</sup> Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do.”

<sup>9</sup> When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. <sup>10</sup> When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. <sup>11</sup> And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, “What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” <sup>12</sup> And a man of the place answered, “And who is their father?” Therefore it became a proverb, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” <sup>13</sup> When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

<sup>14</sup> Saul’s uncle said to him and to his servant, “Where did you go?” And he said, “To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel.” <sup>15</sup> And Saul’s uncle said, “Please tell me what Samuel said to you.” <sup>16</sup> And Saul said to his uncle, “He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found.” But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

<sup>17</sup> Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. <sup>18</sup> And he said to the people of Israel, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ <sup>19</sup> But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, ‘Set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.”

<sup>20</sup> Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. <sup>21</sup> He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. <sup>22</sup> So they inquired again of the Lord, “Is there a man still to come?” and the Lord said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.” <sup>23</sup> Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. <sup>24</sup> And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

<sup>25</sup> Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the Lord. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. <sup>26</sup> Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. <sup>27</sup> But some worthless fellows said, “How can this man save us?” And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

**11** Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.” <sup>2</sup> But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, “On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel.” <sup>3</sup> The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days’ respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you.” <sup>4</sup> When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud.

<sup>5</sup> Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, “What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?” So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh. <sup>6</sup> And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. <sup>7</sup> He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, “Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!” Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man. <sup>8</sup> When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. <sup>9</sup> And they said to the messengers who had come, “Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.’” When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad. <sup>10</sup> Therefore the men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you.” <sup>11</sup> And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

<sup>12</sup> Then the people said to Samuel, “Who is it that said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring the men, that we may put them to death.” <sup>13</sup> But Saul said, “Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel.” <sup>14</sup> Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.” <sup>15</sup> So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

LESSON 5

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN READINESS** // *1 Samuel 9:1-11:15*

1. Meditate on 1 Samuel 9:1-11:15. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
2. According to 1 Samuel 9:1-14, describe the succession of ordinary things that led Saul to the man of God? Based on the rest of the chapter, who is this man of God?
3. How did Samuel respond to what God had revealed to him the day prior to Saul's arrival? What does this teach you about God?
4. How did Samuel prepare for Saul's arrival according to 1 Samuel 9:22-10:1? What does this tell you about Samuel's readiness to receive God's chosen one?
5. In what ways does God call us to be ready for his purposes? What is hindering you from being ready? (See John 14:26; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:21; 1 Peter 1:15; 3:15.)



- 6.** Review all of the signs that Samuel gave to Saul and how they came to pass in 1 Samuel 10:2-16. What stood out to you about the signs? How do these show God's providence?
  
- 7.** Contrast Samuel's readiness with Saul's hesitance in the declaration of Israel's king in 1 Samuel 10:16-27. How do the following verses encourage you to trust God's calling: Romans 8:31; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17?
  
- 8.** Read 1 Samuel 11:1-11. What happened that brought Saul to the forefront as Israel's leader? Why is this significant?
  
- 9.** According to 1 Samuel 11:12-15, what is taking place at Gilgal? How does Samuel's readiness to establish Saul's kingship reflect his devotion to God?
  
- 10.** Define providence. How do you see God's providence in 1 Samuel 9-11? How does remembering God's providence in your life encourage you in your present circumstances? (See also Isaiah 46:9-10; Romans 8:28)
  
- 11.** What other characteristics of God stand out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing these truths about God make a difference in your life?



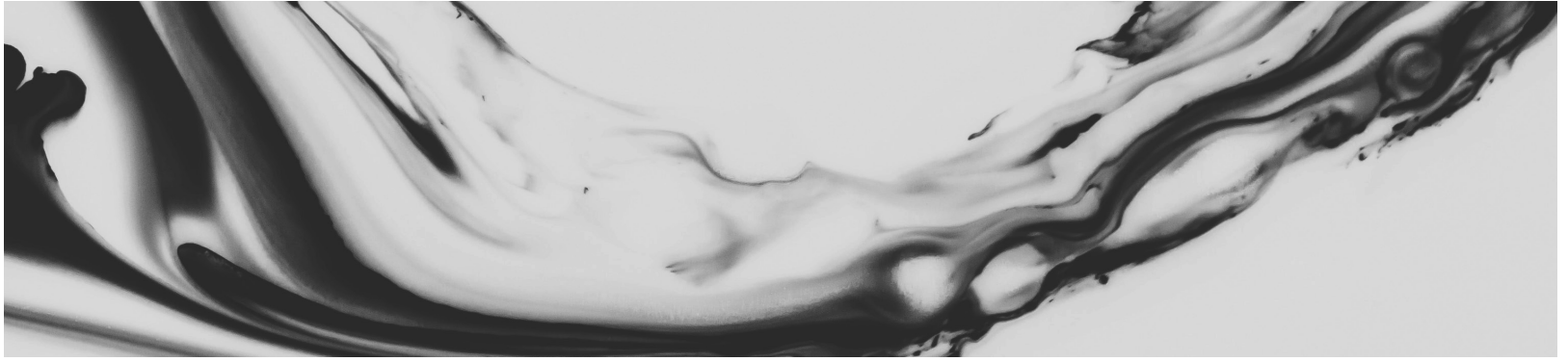


# 1 Samuel

## 12:1-25

**12** And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. <sup>2</sup> And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. <sup>3</sup> Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” <sup>4</sup> They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man’s hand.” <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they said, “He is witness.”

<sup>6</sup> And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and for your fathers. <sup>8</sup> When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. <sup>9</sup> But they forgot the Lord their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.’ <sup>11</sup> And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. <sup>12</sup> And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a



king shall reign over us,' when the Lord your God was your king. <sup>13</sup> And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup> If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. <sup>15</sup> But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king. <sup>16</sup> Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. <sup>17</sup> Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

<sup>19</sup> And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king." <sup>20</sup> And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. <sup>22</sup> For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself. <sup>23</sup> Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. <sup>24</sup> Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. <sup>25</sup> But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

LESSON 6

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN TESTAMENT // 1 Samuel 12:1-25**

- 1.** Meditate on 1 Samuel 12:1-25. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
- 2.** In what ways did Samuel testify about himself according to verses 1-5, and why was this testimony necessary? (See also Deuteronomy 16:19.)
- 3.** Starting in verses 6-11, what righteous deeds of the Lord did Samuel testify about to the Israelites? What was Samuel trying to teach the Israelites by reviewing their history? Why is it important for Christ followers to remember what God has done for us? (See also Exodus 2:23-25; Judges 3:7; 1 Corinthians 10:11.)
- 4.** According to verses 12-13, how did Israel follow in the same pattern of sin as their forefathers? What does this teach you about God?
- 5.** According to 1 Samuel 12:14-15, what encouragement, conditions and warning did Samuel give to the Israelites and their king? (See also Deuteronomy 6:2-5; 8:6; John 14:15, 2 Corinthians 5:11.) As Christ followers, what should be our testimony?

- 6.** In verses 16-19, how was Samuel leading Israel to repent of their sins, and what was their response? What is your response when God convicts you of sin?  
(See also Deuteronomy 9:7; Joshua 24:14; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9.)
  
- 7.** According to 1 Samuel 12:20-22, what comfort, commands and challenges did Samuel put before the people? How do these encourage and/or challenge you?  
(See also Deuteronomy 11:16; John 14:27; Romans 5:8-9.)
  
- 8.** Reflecting on the entire passage and specifically verse 23, how do you see Samuel's devotion to God? (See also Proverbs 4:11.) What lesson do you learn as a Christ follower, and how will you apply it to your life?
  
- 9.** What are the key points of verses 24-25? How does this challenge you in your walk with the Lord? (See also Proverbs 8:13; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Luke 1:50; Colossians 3:23.)
  
- 10.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in this chapter and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?







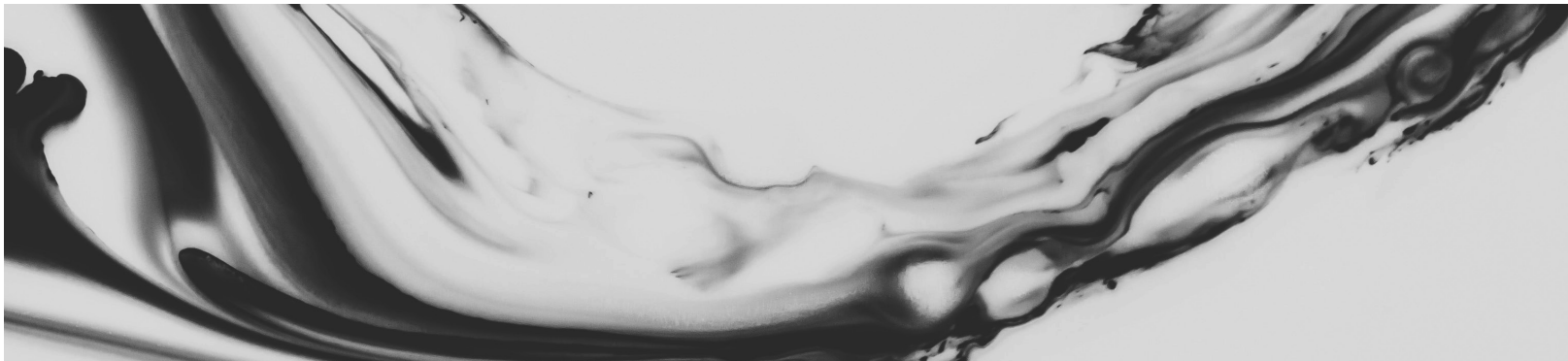
# 1 Samuel

## 13:1-15; 15:1-35

**13** Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel, <sup>2</sup> Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. <sup>3</sup> Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear.” <sup>4</sup> And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

<sup>5</sup> And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven. <sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, <sup>7</sup> and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

<sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. <sup>9</sup> So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup> As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. <sup>11</sup> Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.” <sup>13</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established



your kingdom over Israel forever. <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.” <sup>15</sup> And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal. The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin.

**15** And Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

<sup>4</sup> So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah. <sup>5</sup> And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley. <sup>6</sup> Then Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart; go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. <sup>7</sup> And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword. <sup>9</sup> But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

<sup>10</sup> The word of the Lord came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup> “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. <sup>12</sup> And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was

told Samuel, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal." <sup>13</sup> And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord." <sup>14</sup> And Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?" <sup>15</sup> Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction." <sup>16</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night." And he said to him, "Speak."

<sup>17</sup> And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' <sup>19</sup> Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" <sup>20</sup> And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. <sup>21</sup> But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." <sup>22</sup> And Samuel said,

"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,  
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?  
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to listen than the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is as the sin of divination,  
and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,  
he has also rejected you from being king."

<sup>24</sup> Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. <sup>25</sup> Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the Lord.” <sup>26</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.” <sup>27</sup> As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup> And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. <sup>29</sup> And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.” <sup>30</sup> Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the Lord your God.” <sup>31</sup> So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the Lord.

<sup>32</sup> Then Samuel said, “Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.” And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.” <sup>33</sup> And Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

<sup>34</sup> Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeath of Saul. <sup>35</sup> And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

LESSON 7

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN FAITHFULNESS // 1 Samuel 13:1-15; 15:1-35**

1. Meditate on 1 Samuel 13:1-15; 15:1-35. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
2. Define faithfulness. What does God's word say about being faithful? (See also 1 Samuel 12:24; Psalm 31:23; Proverbs 3:3-6.)
3. According to 1 Samuel 13:1-12, how was Saul unfaithful to what Samuel had instructed him to do in 1 Samuel 10:8, and how did he justify his actions? How do your actions reflect your view of God?
4. How did Samuel respond to Saul's defense in 1 Samuel 13:13-15? What was the judgment Samuel pronounced on Saul, and why? (See Leviticus 1:1-9.)
5. Whose words did Samuel speak in 1 Samuel 15:1-3, and why? (See also Genesis 12:3; Exodus 17:8-16; Numbers 24:20; Deuteronomy 25:17-19.)

- 6.** How did Saul carry out God's command in 1 Samuel 15:4-9, and why was this sinful? In what ways are you tempted to pick and choose which parts of God's commands you will obey?
  
- 7.** What caused Samuel to become angry in 1 Samuel 15:10-11? How does Samuel's response to his anger demonstrate his faithfulness to God? How can you apply this to your own life?
  
- 8.** Describe Samuel's meeting with Saul in 1 Samuel 15:12-21. In what circumstances do you find it difficult to obey the Lord fully? How does being obedient to the Lord sometimes involve confrontation?
  
- 9.** What delights the Lord according to 1 Samuel 15:22-23? How does this convict or challenge you?
  
- 10.** What words and actions of Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:24-35 reveal his faithfulness to God? What lessons do you learn concerning your own life?
  
- 11.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life?





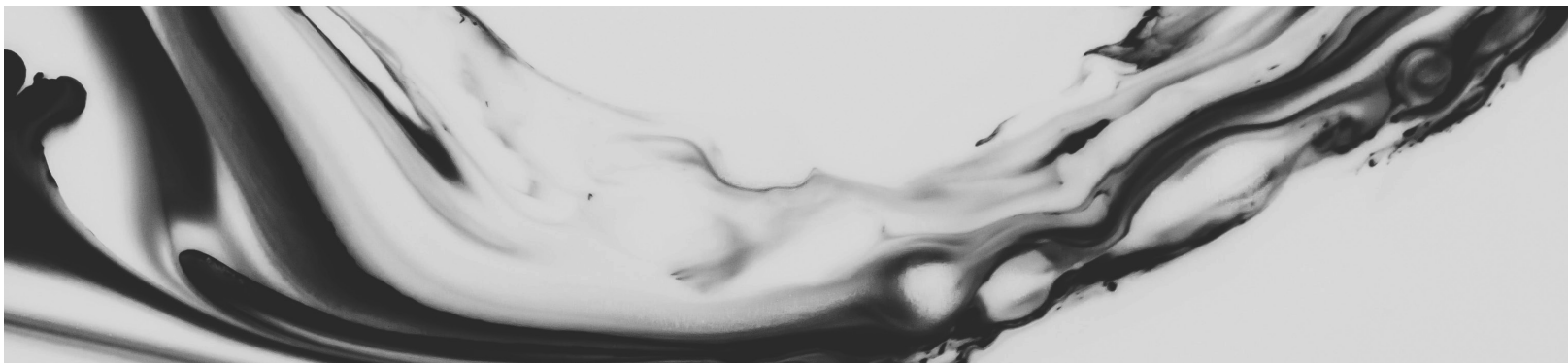


# 1 Samuel

## 16:1-13; 19:1-24; 25:1

**16** The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”<sup>2</sup> And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”<sup>3</sup> And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”<sup>5</sup> And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.”<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.”<sup>11</sup> Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.



**19** And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. <sup>2</sup> And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. <sup>3</sup> And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you." <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. <sup>5</sup> For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?" <sup>6</sup> And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death." <sup>7</sup> And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

<sup>8</sup> And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. <sup>9</sup> Then a harmful spirit from the Lord came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. <sup>10</sup> And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

<sup>11</sup> Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." <sup>12</sup> So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped. <sup>13</sup> Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes. <sup>14</sup> And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." <sup>15</sup> Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." <sup>16</sup> And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. <sup>17</sup> Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"

<sup>18</sup> Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth. <sup>19</sup> And it was told Saul, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." <sup>20</sup> Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. <sup>21</sup> When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. <sup>22</sup> Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." <sup>23</sup> And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. <sup>24</sup> And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

**25** Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah.

LESSON 8

**DEVOTED TO GOD: IN TRUSTWORTHINESS**

*// 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 19:1-24; 25:1*

1. Skim through 1 Samuel 16-19. Meditate on 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 19:1-24; 25:1. Read through the passage and list as many observations as you can find. What are the key points of the story?
2. According to 1 Samuel 16:1, why is Samuel grieved over Saul? (See also 1 Samuel 15:23, 26, 35.) What does the Lord instruct him to do?
3. Define trustworthiness. In what ways does Samuel's response to the Lord's command in 1 Samuel 16:2-5 challenge you? (See also Matthew 16:24; 1 Corinthians 15:58.)
4. According to 1 Samuel 16:6-11, what criteria was Samuel using to determine who God's anointed was? How did God correct Samuel's assessment? When have you been led to wrong conclusions by the appearance of people or circumstances? (See also Psalm 147:10-11; Isaiah 55:8.)

- 5.** According to 1 Samuel 16:12-13, what privilege did God give Samuel? What does this tell you about God's trust in Samuel?
  
- 6.** Read 1 Samuel 16:14; 18:10-12; 19:1-9. Why did David seek Samuel in 1 Samuel 19:18? Who do you seek or turn to when you are fearful or in trouble?
  
- 7.** How did God protect Samuel and David at Naioth as revealed in 1 Samuel 19:18-24? How did God's protection reveal his sovereignty? Where do you need to trust God's sovereignty?
  
- 8.** Considering Samuel's life, what might God have said to him after he died? (See 1 Samuel 25:1; Matthew 25:21.) How does this encourage you to grow in your devotion to God?
  
- 9.** What characteristic of God stands out to you the most in these chapters and why? How will knowing this truth about God make a difference in your life??







**REFLECTION ON**

**Samuel: A Man Devoted To God**

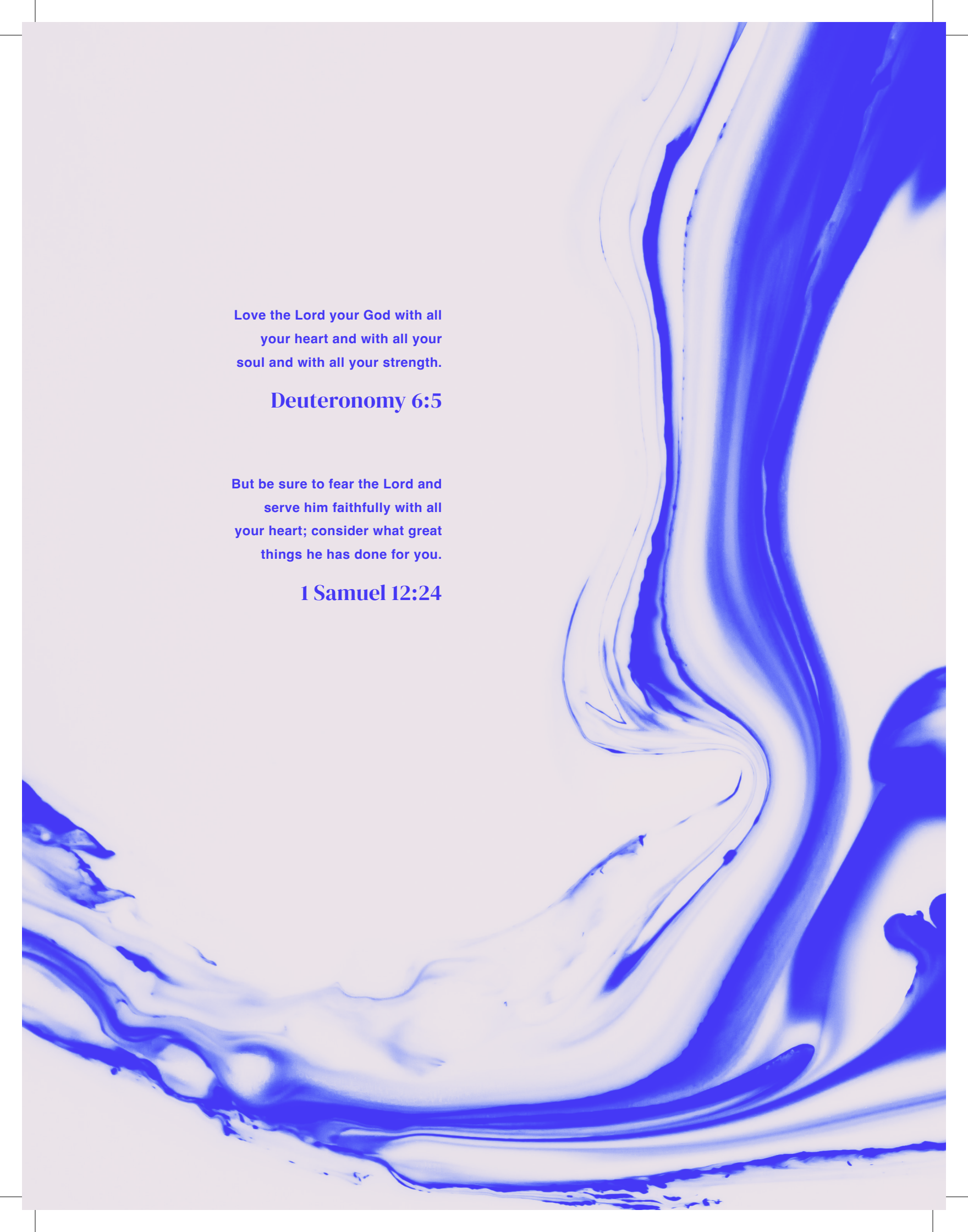
- 1.** What attributes of God stood out to you the most in your study of Samuel, and why? How has your understanding of who God is affected your devotion to Him?
- 2.** What are the most important and/or most personal lessons you have learned from this study?
- 3.** What difference has the study made in your beliefs, priorities, actions and affections for God and his people? Be specific.

**4.** Choose two words that describe Samuel demonstrating a life devoted to God. How can you begin to emulate his example?

**5.** What changes have you made in your life that reflect your devotion to God?

**6.** How can our small group pray for you as you seek to apply the truths you learned in your study of Samuel?





Love the Lord your God with all  
your heart and with all your  
soul and with all your strength.

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

But be sure to fear the Lord and  
serve him faithfully with all  
your heart; consider what great  
things he has done for you.

**1 Samuel 12:24**



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