



A Walk Through First Samuel

First Samuel is a well-known, action-packed, historical narrative about Israel's first king, Saul, and the growth of character and leadership of Israel's soon-to-be greatest king, David. The young nation of Israel was experiencing growth pains as it matured and occupied the promise land given to the Israelites by God (see the book of Joshua). Israel did not follow all of God's plans and directives, and so went through successive cycles of worshipping other false gods, being occupied by other nations, calling out for help to God, and being rescued by a God-given hero of "judge" before repeating the cycle (see the book of Judges). At the time of First Samuel, Israel is again crying out for help with their last judge/leader/prophet Samuel. The people decide they want a king to rule over them and protect them. Despite God's warning about having a king through Samuel (1 Samuel 8:10-21) and God's earlier directive about what a king should do (Deuteronomy 17:14-20), Israel presses Samuel until a king is crowned. Saul does not have a solid faith and consistent pursuit of God so God's warnings of a king come true. First Samuel ends with the hope for Israel coming in a God-centered king named David. Originally written as one continuous narrative, First and Second Samuel has divided into two halves to fit on scrolls easier. (Note: First Samuel is often written as 1 Samuel but read out loud as "First Samuel" instead of "one Samuel".)

Each weekday over the course of the next five weeks, set aside 15 minutes to read the daily chapter or passage and then reflect upon what the Holy Spirit highlights for you.

To connect with the passage, try these six simple steps:

1. Find a quiet spot to read, mute your phone and set it down outside of your reach.
2. Take a deep breath in, hold it, and then release it. Ask God to talk to you through the passage you are reading.
3. Read the passage. Underline words or verses that get your attention, seem important, or repeat often.
4. When you are done, look back on the items you underlined and think through why they may have been important to you. How do they apply to your life today?
5. (Optional) Answer the questions for this passage. Try to use the text itself to answer the question before using any outside sources.
6. Pray again, thanking God for what He showed you in the passage. Pray for the Spirit to help bring these items into focus during the rest of your day.

Check off the passage. Repeat the next day!

Along the way, let us know how you are doing on your walk through First Samuel by emailing mike@mvfcolorado.com. If you have questions, text (720) 551-7080 and one of our pastors will reply.



Week 1	Day 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 1	Why did Hannah leave Samuel at the temple (v27)? Would you be able to do the same?
	Day 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 2	What were Eli's sons doing wrong? See Leviticus 7:22-36. What was Eli doing that deserved God's judgment?
	Day 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 3 & 4	How was Samuel's character different than Eli's sons? Why did God allow the Philistines to defeat Israel?
	Day 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 5:1-7:2	Why were the Israelites & Philistines focused on the Ark? What was it supposed to be? What had it become?
	Day 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 7:3-8:22	Why did the people want a king? Was it a wise choice? Who were the Israelites rejecting?

Week 2	Day 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 9	What were Saul's attributes for being king? What was missing?
	Day 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 10	What is Saul's reaction to being anointed and being selected to be king? Why might he act like this?
	Day 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 11 & 12	Happy 4th! Samuel leaves leadership so Saul can be fully king. Why is Samuel's farewell negative?
	Day 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 13	Saul allowed stress to overtake his obedience to God. What situations in your life make you copy Saul?
	Day 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 14:1-23	How did Jonathan exercise faith? How did Saul fail to exercise faith?

Week 3	Day 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 14:24-52	When did Saul consult God and when did Saul go on his own? What was the outcome of each decision?
	Day 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 15	Saul did what was right in his eyes instead of obeying God. How does verse 22 relate to your own life?
	Day 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 16	Verse 7 and David's anointing as king shows God's viewpoint of people. How do you judge a person's worth?
	Day 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 17:1-31	Saul had defeated armies before. Why was this time different? Why was there a stalemate for 40 days?
	Day 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 17:32-58	Why did Saul pick David to face Goliath? Who is the hero of this story?

Week 4	Day 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 18	Saul's jealousy of David grows in this chapter. Why was Saul jealous? What else was fueling Saul's emotions?
	Day 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 19	Saul repeatedly attempts to murder David. What character traits do you see in David in this chapter?
	Day 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 20	Why were David & Jonathan such close friends? What did they share? How can you gain a similar friendship?
	Day 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 21 & 22	Ahimlelech and many priests are murdered for helping David. What was David's reaction? Read Psalm 52
	Day 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 23	David consulted God repeatedly for direction. Do you consult God when faced with decisions? How?

Week 5	Day 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 24	David showed great restraint to Saul. What kept David from killing Saul? How did Saul react?
	Day 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 25	David didn't hurt Saul but was ready to kill Nabal. Why was it different? How do you view Abigail's actions?
	Day 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 26 & 27	God enabled David to kill Saul. Instead David honored God How do you honor God in difficult situations?
	Day 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 28 & 29	Saul falls further away from God by finding a witch. Why was this a horrible action?
	Day 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 30 & 31	These chapters contrast Saul & David. How would you summarize their lives? What is the key difference?

