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**Adult
Bible Study
in
Simplified
English**

**Study
Guide**



1st and 2nd Samuel
FOLLOWING GOD IN CHANGING TIMES
INCLUDES BONUS EASTER LESSON

Don Raney, Ph.D.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH **Study Guide**

1st and 2nd Samuel: **Following God in Changing Times**

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Introduction

1st and 2nd Samuel:

Following God in Changing Times

First and 2nd Samuel are important books. They describe a time of great change in Israel. As 1st Samuel begins, Israel was divided into tribes. There was no leader over the people. Different nations invaded parts of Canaan. There was no peace. The people needed a king. By the end of 2nd Samuel, the people were united. David was king. Their enemies were defeated. The land had peace.

We will learn about three main men. **Samuel** was a prophet. He grew up in the Temple as a helper to the priest. God called Samuel to be a leader. He anointed Israel's first two kings. **Saul** was Israel's first king. He was a tall and handsome man. But Saul did not act wisely. He often sinned against God. God chose **David** to replace Saul as king. David became a great king. He defeated all of Israel's enemies. He brought peace to the land. David was a man who depended on God. But later, David's sins caused problems for his family. All three were great men, but none were perfect.

Everyone has times when they obey God and times when they do not. The books of 1st and 2nd Samuel give us stories we can learn from. We can learn what God expects from us and how to deal with change. We can learn how God punishes and rewards us. These old stories about God's early followers still teach His followers today.

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1st and 2nd Samuel: Following God in Changing Times

Word List

Unit 1

Lesson 1

keep (kept): to guard as in *kept safe*; to perform as in *keep a promise*; to continue in faith as in *keep the faith*

make fun of (or made fun of): to mock, ridicule, or tease

overcome: exhausted by, overwhelmed

Lesson 2

assigned: appointed, designated

dedicate: to set something apart as special to God

recognize: identify, take notice of

Lesson 3

disaster: a very bad event

pagan: something related to false religion

repent: to decide to stop sinning

security: feeling of being safe

Unit 2

Lesson 4

confused: mentally uncertain; unsure

ordinary: having common ability

reject: to refuse to accept

unworthy: having no value

Lesson 5

cycle: a series of events that is repeated many times

reject: throw out as useless

remind: cause to remember

Lesson 6

disappoint: to fail to do what someone expects you to do

excuses: to give a reason for why something happened; to try to explain

oath: a promise

Word List

Unit 3

Lesson 7

anoint: to put a small amount of oil on someone as a way of showing honor or setting apart for a holy reason

humble: not proud

impress: to act in a way that makes others have a good opinion of you

Lesson 8

avoid: to keep away from

compare: check for likeness or difference

covenant: a promise or holy agreement

destructive: causing ruin

Lesson 9

comfort: to give hope to

protect: to shield from hurt or danger

react: to respond to

Lesson 10

mercy: to have pity on someone; to show kindness to someone

refuse: to choose not to accept someone or something

temporary: that which lasts only a short time

truce: an agreement to stop fighting

Lesson 11

intentions: what you plan to do

mobile: capable of being moved

prophet: a man who heard directly from God and told His people what He said

security: safe from dangers

symbol: something that stands for or suggests something else

Unit 4

Lesson 12

adultery: sexual sin; sex outside of marriage

resist: to fight against, to refuse, to try to overcome or stand firm against

tempt: to try to persuade a person to do something, usually something evil, for pleasure or gain

temptation: a thing, an experience, or an event which causes someone to want to sin

Lesson 13

discipline: to punish or correct

inaction: not doing anything about a problem

tragedy: a very bad event

Bonus Easter Lesson

amazed: filled with wonder

message: news, information

recognize: to know previously

◊ 1st and 2nd Samuel ◊



*Adult Bible Study
in SimplifiedEnglish*

**Samuel:
Delivering the Message**

Lesson 1

Hope from Despair
1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:1a

Lesson 2

Listen and Tell
1 Samuel 3:1 to 4:1a

Lesson 3

Ebenezer Living
1 Samuel 7:2-17

SAMUEL: DELIVERING THE MESSAGE

The book of Judges ends with the statement, “In those days there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.” The people of Israel were in trouble without a king to lead them. People began to sin and worship idols. They needed a leader to help them obey God.

God sent Samuel to lead them. From his birth, Samuel had a special place in God’s plan. His mother, Hannah, dedicated Samuel to God. He grew up in the Temple. Samuel always prayed to God about what he should do. Samuel gave God’s message to the people. Samuel tried to teach them to obey God. First Samuel 1-7 teaches us how to receive and deliver God’s Word.

Dr. Don Raney wrote the 13 lessons in this quarter of study material, plus the bonus Easter lesson. Don is pastor of Westlake Chapel in Graham, Texas. He has a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Southwestern Seminary and has taught at Southwestern, Texas Christian University, and Mid-America Christian University. A native of Alabama, he and his wife, Robin, have two children, Katie and Joseph.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:1a

Memory Verse

“He watches over the steps of His good people. But the sinful ones will be made quiet in darkness. For a man will not win by strength.”

(1 Samuel 2:9)

Word List

keep (kept): to guard as in *kept safe*; to perform as in *keep a promise*; to continue in faith as in *keep the faith*

make fun of (or made fun of): to mock, ridicule, or tease

overcome: exhausted by, overwhelmed

From Hope to Despair

We all know what it feels like to lose hope. It happens when some tragedy occurs. Time seems to slow down. Every day seems to be dark and lonely. It seems that nothing can make us happy again. God seems to be far away. Sometimes we pray, but answers do not seem to come. We want things, but we cannot seem to get them. We often call this feeling *despair*.

In 1 Samuel, we meet a woman who was in despair. Her name was Hannah. She wanted to have children but did not have any. The people of Israel were also in despair. They did not have a king or leader. God helped Hannah and the people. He gave Hannah a son. That son grew up to be a leader for Israel.

Painful Portrait: Favorite but Not Favored (1 Samuel 1:1-8)

A man named Elkanah lived in the northern part of Israel. He had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah was Elkanah’s favorite. She had no children. In Bible times, this meant Elkanah could marry another woman. Peninnah had several children. She always **made fun of** Hannah because Hannah had no children. Every year the family went to Shiloh for the religious feasts. They went to worship God. They went to offer sacrifices to God. Elkanah always gave Hannah more of the meat from the sacrifice. This made Peninnah **make fun of** Hannah even more. Hannah became very upset. Elkanah tried to comfort her, but Hannah was very sad.

Passionate Prayer: Not Drunk, Just Desperate (1:9-18)

After years of despair, Hannah was desperate to have a

Things to Think About

1. Have you ever made a promise to God during a time of despair? Have you kept it?
2. Through what other unlikely people has God chosen to do great ways?
3. How can the church best help couples who want children but do not have any?
4. Can you think of specific prayers that God has answered for you?

child. Every day she would pray for God to give her a child. Her sadness showed on her face. She cried as she prayed. Yet God did not seem to answer her. One day she was praying in the temple at Shiloh. Her heart was in great pain. She made a promise to God. She asked God for a son. Then she promised to give her son back to God for special service. In verse 11 she promises not to cut her son's hair. This was a part of a special vow called the Nazarite vow (Numbers 6:2-8). A person who made this vow promised to serve God. It was unusual for a parent to make this vow for a child. This shows how desperate Hannah was. Only one other woman in the Bible did this: Samson's mother (Judges 13). But Samson failed to **keep** the vow.

As Hannah prayed, her lips moved, but she did not speak out loud. She was **overcome** by her emotions. The priest, Eli, was watching her. He thought Hannah must have been drunk. He told her that she should not get drunk. She told him that she was not drunk. She told him that she was in great despair. She said she was crying out to God. Eli blessed her. He told her to be at peace. He told her that God would answer her prayer. This made Hannah feel much better. She left the temple and ate. Then she went home and waited for God's answer.

Precious Promise: Dual-edged Sword (1:19-28)

After Hannah returned home, God remembered her vow. God answered Hannah's prayer. Hannah became pregnant. She had a son and named him Samuel. His name means *God has heard*. His name reminded others that God answered Hannah's prayers.

When the time came to go to Shiloh to worship God, Hannah did not go. Samuel was still too young. Hannah promised again to take Samuel when he was old enough. Elkanah agreed with her. He also encouraged her to remember her vow. She nursed and raised Samuel for three years. Those must have been difficult days. Hannah was happy to have a son, but she knew she could not keep him for long. She knew she had to keep her vow.

Finally, Hannah took Samuel to the temple. She also took things to sacrifice to God. After she worshipped God, she took Samuel to Eli. She reminded Eli that she was the woman who had cried in the temple. She told Eli about her vow. She told him that Samuel was to do service for God all of his life. The three of them worshipped God. It must have been hard for Hannah to leave Samuel. But she had **kept** her promise to God. She did not know the great ways Samuel would help Israel.

A Proud Parent's Perfect Praise (2:1-10)

Even though she was sad about leaving Samuel, Hannah praised God. She thanked God for giving her a son. She praised God for how Samuel would serve

God. She thanked God for using her to help bless Israel.

Even today, God chooses regular people for great things. Hannah was a woman in great despair. She kept her faith in God. She prayed for a son. God honored her faith and answered her prayer. Because Hannah kept her promise to God, God gave Israel a great leader. God is always able to give hope to those in despair.

1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:1a

1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

2 He had two wives. The name of one was Hannah. The name of the other was Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

3 This man would go from his city each year to worship and to give gifts on the altar in Shiloh to the Lord of All. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were the Lord's religious leaders there.

4 On the day when Elkanah killed animals on the altar in worship, he would give part of the gift to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters.

5 But he would give twice as much to Hannah, for he loved Hannah. But the Lord had made it so she could not have children.

6 Peninnah would try to make her very angry, because the Lord would not let her have

children.

7 So it happened, year after year, each time Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, Peninnah would make her angry. Hannah cried and would not eat.

8 Then her husband Elkanah said to her, “Hannah, why are you crying? Why are you not eating, and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”

9 Then Hannah stood up after they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh. Eli the religious leader was sitting on the seat by the door of the house of the Lord.

10 Hannah was very troubled. She prayed to the Lord and cried with sorrow.

11 Then she made a promise and said, “O Lord of All, be sure to look on the trouble of Your woman servant, and remember me. Do not forget Your woman servant, but give me a son. If You will, then I will give him to the Lord all his life. And no hair will ever be cut from his head.”

12 While she kept praying to the Lord, Eli was watching her mouth.

13 Hannah was speaking in her heart. Her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she had drunk too much.

14 Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put wine away from you.”

15 But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have not drunk wine or strong drink, but I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.

16 Do not think of your woman servant as a woman of no worth. For I have been speaking out of much trouble and pain in my spirit.”

17 Then Eli answered, “Go in peace. May the God of Israel do what you have asked of Him.”

18 And Hannah said, “Let your woman servant find favor in your eyes.” So she went her way

and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

19 The family got up early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord. Then they returned to their house in Ramah. Elkanah lay with his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her.

20 The Lord made it possible for her to have a child, and when the time came she gave birth to a son. She gave him the name Samuel, saying, “I have asked the Lord for him.”

21 Then Elkanah went up with all those of his house to give the Lord the gift on the altar in worship as he did each year, and to pay what he had promised.

22 But Hannah did not go. For she said to her husband, “I will not go up until the child no longer needs to be nursed. Then I will bring him before the Lord, to stay there forever.”

23 Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what you think is best. Stay here until he no longer needs to be nursed. Only may the Lord do as He has said.” So Hannah stayed and nursed her son until he no longer needed to be nursed.

24 When she had finished nursing him, she took him with her to the house of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was young.

25 She brought a three year old bull, one basket of flour and a jar of wine also. Then they killed the bull, and brought the boy to Eli.

26 Hannah said, “O, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord.

27 I prayed for this boy, and the Lord has given me what I asked of Him.

28 So I have given him to the Lord. He is given to the Lord as long as he lives.” And they worshiped the Lord there.

1 Samuel 2:1a

2:1a Then Hannah prayed and said, “My heart is happy in the Lord. My strength is honored in the Lord.”



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

Memory Verse

“Then the Lord came and stood and called as He did the other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for Your servant is listening.’ ”
(1 Samuel 3:10)

Word List

assigned: appointed, designated

dedicate: to set something apart as special to God

recognize: identify, take notice of

Listen and Tell

How can you tell when God is speaking to you? It is often hard to know. Sometimes we find something we want to do. It may seem like it would serve God. We want to know what God wants us to do. We pray about it. The answer seems to be *yes*. But how can we be sure the answer came from God? The answer might be from our own desires. Sometimes it is hard to hear God’s voice. Our lives are busy with jobs and family. We are always busy. We do not slow down to listen to God. Sometimes we do not **recognize** His voice.

Samuel faced these problems while he was still a child. His mother had **dedicated** him to God. He grew up living with the priest in the temple. But he still had not met with God personally. Then one night God spoke to Samuel. God changed Samuel’s life. We can learn a lot from Samuel about listening to God. We can also learn how to respond to God.

Poor Examples (1 Samuel 2:11-36)

The priest, Eli, had two sons. Their names were Hophni and Phinehas. They were **assigned** to help Eli in the temple. They displeased God in many ways. They committed sins in the temple. They stole parts of the sacrifices for themselves.

Samuel also helped Eli in the temple. But Samuel was different from Hophni and Phinehas. Samuel always did what was right. Samuel always tried to obey God. Samuel’s mother, Hannah, visited him at the temple every year. God blessed Hannah. She had five more children after Samuel. She brought

**Things to
Think About**

1. What might prevent someone from hearing God today?
2. Why do we not always speak God's truth?
3. What is the last thing God asked you to do that you have not yet done? Make a plan to do it.
4. How can we help others be able to hear God and do what He asks?

new clothes to Samuel every year.

Samuel grew up in the temple serving God. But Eli's sons continued to sin against God. Eli knew that his sons were doing bad things. He told them that they should stop. He told them that they should do what God said. He warned that God would punish them if they did not obey (2:22-25). But Eli did not stop them or punish them. Eli's sons did not listen to him. They kept sinning. One day a man of God came to see Eli. He told Eli that God would punish his sons. Eli's sons would both die on the same day. God also made a promise to Eli. God told Eli that He would raise up a priest. This priest would obey God.

God Calls Samuel (3:1-14)

During the time of Samuel, very few people became prophets or priests. This was not because God did not call people. People did not hear God call them. They were not listening to God. They were too busy. They were not obeying God. They did not want to hear God.

Eli could not see very well. Samuel helped him. One of Samuel's jobs was to light the lamp in the temple. This was where the Ark of the Covenant was. Samuel slept in that part of the temple. One night Samuel went to sleep. Later, he heard someone call his name. He thought that Eli needed help. He went to Eli. Eli said that he did not call Samuel. He sent Samuel back to bed. Samuel heard the voice again. He went to Eli again. Eli sent him back to bed once again. Samuel did not know that God was calling him. He had never heard God's voice before.

God called Samuel a third time. Samuel again went to Eli.

This time Eli understood what was happening. He knew Samuel was hearing God’s voice. He sent Samuel back to bed. He told Samuel to listen for the voice. He told him to answer when the voice called again. He told Samuel to say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” (v. 9). Now Samuel understood that God was calling him. He went back to bed. The voice called again. Samuel answered like Eli had told him to.

God gave Samuel very bad news. God told him that Eli’s sons had sinned against Him. Eli had not punished his sons. God was going to punish them. God told Samuel that He was going to kill Eli’s sons. This news was hard for young Samuel to hear. He probably could not sleep that night. He knew Eli would ask him what God had said to him. He did not want to tell Eli the bad news. What would Samuel do?

Clear Command (3:15-18)

Samuel was a teenager when he gave Eli the bad news. This prepared Samuel for giving bad news to people. Samuel would have to do this many times in his life. Samuel loved Eli. He did not want to make

Eli mad or upset him. Early the next morning, Eli called to Samuel. Samuel went to Eli. Eli wanted to know what God said to Samuel. Eli wanted Samuel to tell him the truth. Samuel told Eli all that God said. He told Eli that God was going to kill his sons. Eli accepted the bad news. He said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes” (v. 18). Eli knew he and his sons had sinned. He knew that God was right to punish them.

Clear Control (3:19-4:1a)

Samuel did the right thing. It was hard to do. He did not want to do it. He told Eli the truth. He obeyed God. Samuel pleased God. Samuel became a prophet. God spoke to Samuel many times. Samuel told the people all that God said. God still speaks to us today. We do not need to ask a prophet or priest about what God is saying. God speaks to each person. God always tells people the truth. Sometimes the truth is bad news. God always tells people what He wants them to do. We must be sure that we are always listening. We must always do what God asks us to do.

1 Samuel 3:1 to 4:1a

1 Now the boy Samuel was working for the Lord with Eli. There were few words from the Lord given in those days, and there were not many special dreams.

2 At that time Eli was lying down in his own place. His eyes had become weak and he could not see well.

3 The lamp of God had not gone out yet. And Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord where the special box of God was.

4 Then the Lord called Samuel, and Samuel said, "Here I am."

5 He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call you. Lie down again." So Samuel went and lay down.

6 The Lord called again, "Samuel!" So Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Lie down again."

7 Now Samuel did not know the Lord yet. And the Word of the Lord had not been made known to him.

8 The Lord called Samuel again for the third time. He got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the boy.

9 Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down. If He calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Then the Lord came and stood and called as He did the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

11 The Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about

to do a thing in Israel which will make both ears of everyone who hears it feel strange.

12 On that day I will do all I have said I will do against the family of Eli.

13 I have told him that I will punish his family forever for the sin he knew about. Because his sons brought the sin upon themselves, and Eli did not stop them.

14 So I swear to the family of Eli that the sin of his family will not be paid for with gifts given on the altar forever."

15 Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. But Samuel was afraid to tell Eli about the special dream.

16 Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And Samuel said, "Here I am."

17 Eli said, "What did the Lord tell you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more, if you hide anything from me of all He said to you."

18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, "It is the Lord. Let Him do what is good in His eyes."

19 Samuel grew. And the Lord was with him and made everything he said come true.

20 All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had become a man of God.

21 The Lord came again to Shiloh. For the Lord made Himself known to Samuel at Shiloh, by the Word of the Lord.

4:1a So the news of Samuel came to all Israel.



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Bible Text

1 Samuel 7:2-17

Memory Verse

“Then Samuel said to all the family of Israel, ‘Return to the Lord with all your heart. Put away the strange gods and the false goddess Ashtaroth from among you. Turn your hearts to the Lord and worship Him alone. Then He will save you from the Philistines.’ ”
(1 Samuel 7:3)

Word List

disaster: a very bad event

pagan: something related to false religion

repent: to decide to stop sinning

security: feeling of being safe

Ebenezer Living

We all like symbols. Symbols are things that remind us of bigger things. Mascots are symbols for sports teams. Logos are symbols for companies and organizations. The bald eagle and American flag are symbols of the United States. When we see one of these symbols we feel proud or excited. We often put our trust in the things that symbols represent. A symbol reminds us of that trust. We sometimes think that a symbol can help us. We think these things can save us from bad times. The people in the Old Testament also believed in symbols. The Ark of the Covenant was an important symbol. It reminded the people of God’s presence. It reminded them of God’s promises. Sometimes the people also believed in idols. These were symbols of false gods. God did not want the people to trust these symbols. God wanted the people to trust only Him. God used Samuel to teach the people to trust Him.

Symbol and Suffering (1 Samuel 4:1 to 7:1)

The Philistines were enemies of the Israelites. They wanted to take some of Israel’s land. They invaded Israel many times. The Israelites fought against the Philistines. The Israelites always took the Ark of the Covenant with them into battle. It reminded them that God was with them. They thought that it would protect them. One time the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. They took it back to their land. They put it in the temple of their god. Their god’s name was Dagon. God was mad that the Ark of the Covenant was in a **pagan** temple. God caused

**Things to
Think About**

1. List people or things that we sometimes trust. Why do we trust in these things instead of God?

2. What are some of the things in your life that help you remember to trust God? How do they help you remember?

the idol in the temple to fall and break. God also caused tumors to grow on the Philistines.

The Philistine leaders sent the Ark to a different city. The same **disasters** happened there. The Philistines were afraid of the Ark of the Covenant. They were sorry that they had taken it. They decided to send it back to the Israelites. They also sent gold offerings for Israel's God. The Israelites took the Ark to the town of Kiriath Jearim. They left it at the home of Abinadab. God blessed the family of Abinadab. The Ark stayed in his house for twenty years.

Submission and Sincerity (7:2-9)

For twenty years the people sinned against God. The Israelites forgot about God and the Ark. They worshipped idols. Baal and Ashtereth were false gods of the Canaanites. One day the people decided to turn back to God. They mourned because of their sin. They sought after the Lord. The Bible does not tell us why they changed. Maybe they began to listen to Samuel's message. Samuel told the people to throw away their idols. He told them to pray for God to forgive them. He told them to worship God only. They should not trust in symbols or idols. Then God would forgive them. God would save them. God would make the Philistines go away. The people did what Samuel said to do. They threw away their idols. They prayed to God.

Samuel called all of the Israelites to gather in Mizpah. Samuel prayed for the people. He told the people to pray and fast. He told them not to eat or drink while they prayed. He told them to make offerings to God. The people confessed their sins and

asked God to forgive them. The Philistines heard about the gathering. They thought this was a good time to attack the Israelites. They got their army together and went to Mizpah. The Israelites heard them coming. They were afraid. They thought the Philistines would attack them. Samuel told them to keep praying to God. That was the most important thing to do. He told them that God would save them. Samuel got a young lamb. He offered it to God as a sacrifice. He prayed to God. He asked God to save the Israelites. God heard their prayers and answered them.

Success and the Stone (7:10-17)

The Philistines came near Mizpah. They were ready to attack the Israelites. God caused a loud thunder that frightened the Philistines. The Philistine army became scared and confused. They began to run away. The Israelites chased them. God's people fought the Philistines as they ran away. They killed many Philistines soldiers. God gave the Israelites a great victory over their enemy. Samuel wanted the people to know the victory belonged to God. He wanted the people to remember the victory God gave them. Samuel took a

large stone and placed it where everyone could see it. He called it *Ebenezer*. This name means *stone of help*. This stone reminded the Israelites that God defeated the Philistines. This stone reminded them to always trust God to save them. It was not a symbol or an army that won the victory. God won the victory.

While Samuel was alive, God always saved the people from the Philistines. The Philistines even gave back some of Israel's land. God also helped other groups fight the Philistines. Samuel continued to lead Israel to trust God. Samuel traveled between four different cities and judged the people. He helped the people serve God. Many times the people sinned against God. Each time God punished them. God saved the people when they **repented**.

God used Samuel to save the people. But Samuel was not a king. The people began to ask for a king. They wanted to be like other nations. They still trusted in things and people instead of God. We are sometimes like them. We often trust the government or possessions for **security**. We must remember to always trust only God. He will always save us.

1 Samuel 7:2-17

2 The special box stayed in Kiriathjearim a long time, for it was twenty years. And all the family of Israel cried with sorrow for the Lord.

3 Then Samuel said to all the family of Israel, "Return to the Lord with all your heart. Put away the strange gods and the false goddess Ashtaroth from among you. Turn your hearts to the Lord and worship Him alone. Then He will save you from the Philistines."

4 So the people of Israel put away from among them the false gods of Baal and Ashtaroth and worshiped the Lord alone.

5 Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel together at Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you."

6 So they gathered at Mizpah. They got water and poured it out before the Lord as a gift, and did not eat that day. They said there, "We have sinned against the Lord." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah.

7 The Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, so the leaders of the Philistines went to battle against them. When the people of Israel heard about it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

8 The Israelites said to Samuel, "Do not stop crying to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the Philistines."

9 Samuel took a young lamb and gave it as a

whole burnt gift to the Lord. Samuel cried to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him.

10 As Samuel was burning the gift to the Lord, the Philistines came near to battle against Israel. But the Lord made a loud thunder that day against the Philistines, making them afraid. So they lost the battle with Israel.

11 The men of Israel left Mizpah and went after the Philistines, killing them almost as far as Bethcar.

12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen. He gave it the name Ebenezer, saying, "The Lord has helped us this far."

13 So the Philistines were beaten. They did not come into the land of Israel again. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel's life.

14 The cities the Philistines had taken from Israel were returned, from Ekron to Gath. Israel saved their land from the Philistines. So there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

15 Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

16 Every year he went around to Bethel, Gilgal and Mizpah, and he judged Israel in all these places.

17 Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there. He judged Israel there also, and built an altar to the Lord.

◊ 1st and 2nd Samuel ◊



*Adult Bible Study
in SimplifiedEnglish*

Saul:

What Might Have Been

Lesson 4

God's Surprising Choice

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 15-21;

10:9-24

Lesson 5

The Highest Allegiance

1 Samuel 12:1-25

Lesson 6

When Life Goes

Very Wrong

1 Samuel 15:10-31

SAUL: WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

The people of Israel saw that the nations around them had kings. These nations seemed powerful. The Israelites did not have a king. So they asked Samuel to find a king for them.

Samuel warned them that life would not be easy with a king. But the people wanted a man to be their king. They did not put their faith in God as their king. The people had a lot to learn about trusting God and walking in faith.

God showed Samuel that Saul would be the first king. He was handsome and a head taller than anyone else. He looked like a king. But he did not really want the job.

He never led the people as he should. A king over the people of God should lead the people toward greater obedience. But Saul was always disobeying God. Sometimes he disobeyed in small ways, sometimes in important matters.

The story of Saul teaches us that when God wants us to do a job, we should do it well. We should trust in God completely. We should ask for His guidance and strength. Only then can we do the job right.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 9:1-4,
15-21; 10:9-24

Memory Verse

“Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you with power. You will speak God’s Word with them and be changed into another man.”
(1 Samuel 10:6)

Word List

confused: mentally uncertain; unsure

ordinary: having common ability

reject: to refuse to accept

unworthy: having no value

God’s Surprising Choice

What do you think of when you hear the word *king*?

Maybe you think of big castles and a lot of money. Some think about fancy crowns and expensive clothing. Most kings are the sons of kings. When the Israelites asked for a king, God did not think about these things. God chose an **ordinary** man. God chose someone that most people would not think of as a king. God still chooses ordinary people to serve Him. People choose leaders who are famous or wealthy or attractive. God chooses people for different reasons. We should look at people God’s way.

Unlikely and Unknown (1 Samuel 9:1-27)

God’s people had not had a king since they left Egypt. God was their king. God used Joshua and the judges to lead the people. They helped the people obey God. God wanted each person to obey Him. God did not want the people to depend on a king. They people still sinned, even without a king. God then chose Samuel to lead the people. He tried to teach the people to obey God. He tried to lead the people to serve God only.

When Samuel got older, the people asked for a king. Samuel told the people that God was their king. He said they should follow God and not ask for a human king. A king might not always obey God. A king might lead the people away from God. The people kept asking for a king. God told Samuel to choose a king for them. He told Samuel the people had **rejected** God as their king. God showed Samuel who should be the king.

There was a man named Kish. He lived in the tribe of Benjamin. People respected Kish. He had a son named Saul. Saul

**Things to
Think About**

1. Do you think the Israelites were wrong to want a king? Why or why not?
2. Who are some of God's other surprising choices to be leaders?
3. How can we get over our feelings of being unworthy or unprepared for what God asks us to do?

was a very handsome man. He was also much taller than most of the people. One day Saul was looking for his father's donkeys. They had wandered away from home. Saul and his servants walked a long way looking for them. After two days Saul wanted to return home. He thought that his father would be worried. One servant told Saul that a prophet lived in the area. He said they should go ask him about the donkeys. The prophet could also tell them when to go home. The prophet was Samuel. Saul agreed to go see the prophet. They went to find Samuel. Before Saul arrived, God told Samuel that Saul would be the king.

Samuel told Saul he was the prophet that they were seeking. He invited Saul to his house. Saul ate and stayed the night with Samuel. Samuel told him that the donkeys had been found. Samuel told Saul that he was the answer to the Israelites' prayers. Saul knew this meant he would be king. He was surprised since his family was not important. He was from the smallest tribe of Benjamin. Samuel gave Saul and his servants a large feast. He gave them a place to sleep. The next morning they all prepared to leave. They walked to the edge of town. Samuel told Saul to send the servant ahead of them. He needed to give Saul a special message from God.

Unprepared and Unworthy (10:1-16)

After Saul's servant left, Samuel took a bottle of oil. He poured some oil on Saul's head. This was a sign that Saul was the new leader. God chose Saul for a special purpose. Samuel told Saul to go back to his father's house. Samuel told Saul that he would meet two men. These men would talk about finding the

donkeys. They would talk about how worried Saul's father was. Samuel told Saul he would also meet a group of prophets. Then the Spirit of God would come on Saul. Saul would be changed. He would be ready to be the new king. After this, Saul should go to Gilgal to meet Samuel.

Saul then left Samuel. Saul must have been **confused**. This all happened very quickly. A few days before, Saul was looking for donkeys. Now he was the new king. He was unprepared for this new role. All the things that Samuel said happened. After Saul left the prophets, he went home. His uncle met him. He asked Saul what had happened. Saul told him everything. But he did not tell his uncle he was the new king.

Uncertain and Unassuming (10:17-24)

Samuel gathered the Israelites at Mizpah. He told them they had **rejected** God as their king. He reminded them of all God had done. Again he told them not to choose a human king. But since the people had demanded a king, God would give them one. The tribe of Benjamin was chosen. Then Samuel named Saul, from the family of Kish, as God's choice.

They looked for Saul, but they did

not find him. They prayed to find out where he was. God told Samuel that Saul was hiding. The people went and found him. Samuel made Saul stand before the people. Samuel told the people that Saul was their king. The people cheered. Israel had its first king. Saul felt **unworthy** of this new job.

God often chooses leaders we would not choose. He shows His power through them. He helps the leaders He chooses.

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 15-21; 10:9-24

1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite. He was a powerful man of action.
2 He had a son whose name was Saul, a good-looking young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel who was better looking than he. He was a head taller than any of the people.
3 Now the donkeys of Saul's father Kish were lost. So Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants and go look for the donkeys."
4 They passed through the hill country of Ephraim and the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. They passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them.
9:15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had told Samuel,
16 "I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin about this time tomorrow. Choose him to be the leader of My people Israel. And he will save My people from the Philistines. For

I have seen the trouble of My people. I have heard their cry.”

17 When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, “Here is the man I told you about. He is the one who will rule over My people.”

18 Then Saul came to Samuel in the gate, and said, “Tell me, where is the man of God’s house?”

19 Samuel answered Saul and said, “I am the man of God. Go up before me to the high place. For you will eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let you go. And I will tell you all that is on your mind.

20 Do not worry about your donkeys which were lost three days ago, for they have been found. And for whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?”

21 Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest of the family groups of Israel? Is not my family the least important of all the families of Benjamin? Why then do you speak to me this way?”

10:9 When Saul turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart. And all these special things happened on that day.

10 When they came to the hill, a group of men who speak for God met him. The Spirit of God came upon him with power, so that he spoke God’s Word with them.

11 People who had known him before saw him doing this and asked one another, “What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul one of the men who speak God’s Word?”

12 One of the men there answered, “Now, who is their father?” So it became a saying: “Is Saul one of the men who speak God’s Word?”

13 When Saul had finished speaking the Word of God, he went to the altar at the high place.

14 The brother of Saul’s father said to him and

his servant, “Where have you been?” And Saul said, “To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they could not be found, we went to Samuel.”

15 The brother of Saul’s father said, “Tell me, what did Samuel say to you?”

16 Saul said to his father's brother, “He told us that the donkeys had been found.” But he did not tell him what Samuel had told him about being king.

17 Then Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah.

18 He said to the people of Israel, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel out of Egypt. I saved you from the power of the Egyptians, and from the power of all the nations that made it hard for you.’

19 But today you have turned away from your God, Who saves you from all your troubles. You have said, ‘No! Have a king rule over us!’ So now come before the Lord, by your family groups and by your thousands.”

20 When Samuel brought all the families of Israel near, the name of the family group of Benjamin was drawn.

21 Then he brought the family group of Benjamin near by its families, and the name of the Matrite family was drawn. Then the name of Saul the son of Kish was drawn. But when they looked for him, he could not be found.

22 So they asked the Lord, “Has the man come here yet?” The Lord said, “See, he is hiding among the bags.”

23 They ran and brought him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was a head taller than any of them.

24 Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? For sure there is no one like him among all the people.” So all the people called out and said, “Long live the king!”



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 12:1-25

Memory Verse

“The Lord will not leave His people alone, because of His great name. The Lord has been pleased to make you His people.”

(1 Samuel 12:22)

Word List

cycle: a series of events that is repeated many times

reject: throw out as useless

remind: cause to remember

The Highest Allegiance

We pledge our allegiance to many things. We pledge allegiance to our country. We pledge our allegiance to our spouse. We pledge our allegiance to our school. Christians pledge their allegiance to Jesus. To pledge allegiance means to make a promise. We promise to be loyal and faithful. Giving our allegiance to something means that it is more important than anything. We pledge our allegiance to many things. Which is most important? Which should have our highest allegiance? The Israelites had to answer this question after God gave them a king.

Allegiance to the Lord (1 Samuel 12:1-15)

After Samuel made Saul the king, the Ammonites attacked Jebesh-Gilead (1 Samuel 11). This was a city in Israel. The leaders of the city called for all Israelites to help them. Saul heard their message. He gathered a large army. Saul’s army defeated the Ammonites. All the Israelites supported Saul. They pledged their allegiance to him. They put their trust in their new king. Samuel gathered the people at Gilgal again. He knew the people were trusting Saul. He had to **remind** them to always trust God.

Samuel reminded them that he had been their leader since he was a boy. He had never cheated them. He had never stolen anything. He had never accepted bribes. He always judged fairly. He told them to say so if he had done anything wrong. The people agreed with Samuel. They said that he had always been fair. They told him that he had been a good leader. Samuel had always been faithful to God. Samuel had not led them like a king

**Things to
Think About**

1. Samuel had to deal with a change in his role as a leader. How can we deal with changes in leadership?
2. How can we always be sure to give God our highest allegiance?
3. What are some characteristics of good leaders?

would. He told them that a king would take from them (8:10-17). Now they had a king instead of Samuel.

Samuel reminded the people of their relationship with God. He told them about their history. He told them how God had chosen Moses and Aaron to lead them out of Egypt. God had led the people to their new land. God gave them the land. He helped them settle in the land. But the people had forgotten about God. They sinned against God. They had worshipped idols. God allowed their enemies to rule them. This happened many times.

Samuel reminded them of three examples of the judges. When an enemy conquered them, the people cried out to God. They confessed their sins. God sent another judge to save them. Each judge defeated the enemy and brought peace. Then the people sinned again. This **cycle** happened many times. Then the people asked for a king. They wanted someone to stop the cycle.

Now God had given them a king. Samuel warned them not to trust the king more than God. They needed to stay faithful to God. They needed to make the king stay faithful to God. God was still their real king. If the people and the king stayed faithful, good things would happen to them. God would bless them. If the king or the people sinned against God, God would punish them.

This is why Samuel had warned them not to choose a king. The king might sin against God. He might lead the people to sin against God. Then God would punish them. They always needed a king who would stay faithful to God.

Today we also need leaders who will stay faithful to God. Our leaders may sin against God. They may also lead others to sin against God. People often follow the example of their leaders.

They do not always think about their actions. Each person must be faithful to God. We cannot say someone made us sin. God wants each person to obey Him.

A Call for Full Allegiance (12:16-25)

God was still angry that the people had **rejected** Him. He did not like it that they wanted a king. Samuel told the people that they had sinned by asking for a king. God would show them His anger. God sent loud thunder and powerful rains during the wheat harvest. It never rained at that time of year. The storm damaged many of the crops. Much of the wheat was destroyed before it was harvested. They could not harvest while it was raining.

When the people saw the rain and heard the thunder, they were afraid. God was showing them His power. They knew God was angry. God always punished the people when they sinned.

The people asked Samuel to pray for God to stop the rain. The people told Samuel to pray to *his* God. The people still did not understand. God was *their* God. God wanted each person to know Him. He wanted each person to pray to Him. Samuel told the people not to fear. They had sinned,

but God would not destroy them. They needed to learn that God expected their allegiance.

A human king should not have had their allegiance. God only blesses obedience. God will punish people who do not obey. God's people needed to throw away their idols. God wanted to bless them. They needed to pledge their allegiance to Him. They needed to remember all God had done for them.

We need to remember all God has done for us, too. We must always remember to obey God. God alone should have our highest allegiance.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

1 Then Samuel said to all Israel, "See, I have listened to all you have said to me. I have chosen a king to rule over you.

2 Now see, the king walks in front of you. But I am old. My hair is growing white. See, my sons are with you. I have walked in front of you since I was young, until this day.

3 Here I am. Speak against me to the Lord and Saul His chosen one. Whose bull have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? To whom have I not been honest? For whom have I made it hard? From whose hand have I taken pay for closing my eyes to the truth? I will return it to you."

4 They said, "You have always been honest with us. You have not made it hard for us, or taken anything from any man's hand."

5 Samuel said to them, “The Lord has heard you. And His chosen one has heard this day that you have found nothing in my hand.” And they said, “The Lord has heard.”

6 Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is the One Who chose Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt.

7 Now stand where you are, that I may argue with you before the Lord about all His saving acts which He did for you and your fathers.

8 When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians made it hard for them, your fathers cried to the Lord. And the Lord sent Moses and Aaron. They brought your fathers out of Egypt, and had them live in this place.

9 But they forgot the Lord their God. So He sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain 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.

10 Then they cried out to the Lord and said, ‘We have sinned because we have turned away from the Lord. We have worshiped the false gods, the Baals and the Ashtaroath. But now save us from the power of those who hate us, and we will worship You.’

11 The Lord sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah and Samuel, and saved you from the power of those all around who hated you. So you were safe.

12 But then you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you. So you said to me, ‘No! A king must rule over us,’ when the Lord your God was your King.

13 Now see the king you have chosen, the king you have asked for. See, the Lord has given you a king.

14 Fear the Lord and worship Him. Listen to His voice and do not go against the Word of the

Lord. If both you and the king who rules over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.

15 But if you will not listen to the voice of the Lord, and go against the Lord’s Word, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

16 Now stand still and see this great thing which the Lord will do in front of your eyes.

17 Is it not the time to gather grain today? I will call to the Lord, and He will send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that you have done a bad sin in the eyes of the Lord by asking for a king.”

18 So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day. And all the people were very much afraid of the Lord and Samuel.

19 Then all the people said to Samuel, “Pray to the Lord your God for your servants, so we will not die. For we have added to all our sins this bad thing, to ask for a king.”

20 Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid. You have done all these sins. But do not turn aside from following the Lord. Worship the Lord with all your heart.

21 Do not turn aside after things that have no worth and cannot save you, for they are nothing.

22 The Lord will not leave His people alone, because of His great name. The Lord has been pleased to make you His people.

23 And as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by not praying for you. But I will teach you the good and the right way.

24 Only fear the Lord and be faithful to worship Him with all your heart. Think of the great things He has done for you.

25 But if you still sin, both you and your king will be destroyed.”



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 15:10-31

Memory Verse

“Samuel said, ‘Is the Lord pleased as much with burnt gifts as He is when He is obeyed? See, it is better to obey than to give gifts. It is better to listen than to give the fat of rams.’ ”
(1 Samuel 15:22)

Word List

disappoint: to fail to do what someone expects you to do
excuses: to give a reason for why something happened;
to try to explain
oath: a promise

When Life Goes Very Wrong

Saul was a man who disappointed God many times. God had a plan for Saul to be a great leader. But Saul sinned against God. So God had to punish Saul. God decided that Saul should not be king anymore.

Action and Arrogance (1 Samuel 13:1 to 14:52)

The first thing Saul did after he became king was to build an army. Samuel had warned that a king would take their sons to war. Israel had many enemies. These enemies attacked Israel many times. Saul needed an army to defend Israel. They would protect the people. Saul decided to fight against the Philistines. He took the army to Gilgal. Samuel told them to wait there. Samuel would go to Gilgal and bless the army. Samuel would also make sacrifices to God for the army. This would help them win the battle.

The army waited for Samuel for seven days. He did not come. Some of the men started to leave and go home. They did not want to fight. Saul decided to make the sacrifices for the army. God had said that only priests could make sacrifices. After Saul made the sacrifices, Samuel came to him. Samuel told Saul that he had sinned. He should have waited for Samuel to arrive. God was mad at Saul. God would choose someone else to be king. God wanted a king that would obey Him.

Saul still wanted to defeat the Philistines. He made the army take an **oath**. Each man promised not to eat anything until Saul defeated the Philistines. If anyone did eat, that person must die. Saul’s son was named Jonathan. He was one of the army

**Things to
Think About**

1. Do you think God was fair to take the throne away from Saul? Why or why not?
2. When do you think it is too late to repent?
3. What do you think would have happened if Saul had obeyed God?
4. How can we avoid God's punishment?

leaders. He trusted God more than Saul did. He led part of the army to attack the Philistines. Jonathan helped defeat the Philistines. After the battle Jonathan ate some wild honey. After he ate it he heard about the oath.

Saul wanted to chase the Philistines. A priest told him that he should not. He told Saul that someone had broken the oath. Saul learned that it was Jonathan. Saul was going to kill Jonathan for breaking the oath. The people liked Jonathan. They saved him from Saul. Saul had sinned again. He had made the people take an oath without asking God.

Regret and Rejection (15:1-35)

God told Saul to fight against the Amalekites. They had fought against Israel before. God wanted to punish them for the way they treated the Israelites. God told Saul to destroy the Amalekites. He said Saul should kill all of the people and their animals. Saul took the army and attacked the Amalekites. God gave Saul a great victory. Saul and the army killed most of the people and the animals. Saul captured the king of the Amalekites but did not kill him. They also took many of the animals instead of killing them. God was sad that Saul had not obeyed Him. God told Samuel what Saul had done. Samuel went to find Saul.

Saul went to Mount Carmel. He built a statue of himself. Saul was arrogant. He thought that he was a great leader. He forgot about God. He thought that he had won a great victory. When Samuel found Saul, he told Saul that God was unhappy. He told Saul that he had sinned against God again. Saul told Samuel that he had obeyed God. He lied and said he did all God had told him.

Samuel asked Saul about the extra animals that were there. Saul tried to explain. He blamed the soldiers. He said they had taken them as a sacrifice for God. Saul lied again and tried to make up **excuses** for his sin. Samuel told Saul to stop lying. Samuel knew that Saul had not done what God said. God did not tell Saul to save some animals for sacrifices. Saul had not done all God had said to do.

Now God was mad at Saul. God was going to take the throne away from Saul. Saul would not be king anymore. Saul's sons would not be king. Saul asked for forgiveness. He confessed his sins. But Saul kept on sinning. Saul always did what *he* wanted. He did not obey God completely. God had to punish him.

Samuel took the king of the Amalekites and killed him. He also killed the animals as God commanded. Then Samuel went home. Samuel was not happy that Saul sinned. He knew God would choose another man to be king. Samuel waited for God to tell him what to do.

Today we often make excuses for what we do. We think going to church is enough to make God happy. God wants us

to always obey Him. God wants us to worship Him everyday. God does not want our excuses. It is good to go to church. But we need to do more. We need to pray and study the Bible every day. We need to obey God every day. Then we will not **disappoint** Him. God will bless us.

1 Samuel 15:10-31

10 The Word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying,

11 "I am sorry that I have made Saul king. For he has turned away from following Me. He has not done what I told him to do."

Samuel was much troubled in his heart. He cried out to the Lord all night.

12 When Samuel got up early in the morning to meet Saul, he was told, "Saul came to Carmel and set up a stone in his honor. Then he turned and went down to Gilgal."

13 Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "May the Lord bring good to you. I have done what the Lord told me to do."

14 But Samuel said, "Then why do I hear the sounds of sheep and cattle?"

15 Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites. For the people saved the best of the sheep and cattle to give to the Lord your God. But we have destroyed all the

rest.”

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And Saul said to him, “Speak.”

17 Samuel said, “Is it not true that even when you were not important in your own eyes, you were made the head of the families of Israel? The Lord chose you to be king over Israel.

18 And the Lord sent you to go and destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are no more.

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? You rushed upon what was left after the battle and did what was sinful in the Lord’s eyes.”

20 Saul said to Samuel, “I did obey the voice of the Lord. I went where the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek. And I have destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took some of their things that were left. They took sheep and cattle and the best of the things to be destroyed, to give to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

22 Samuel said, “Is the Lord pleased as much with burnt gifts as He is when He is obeyed? See, it is better to obey than to give gifts. It is better to listen than to give the fat of rams.

23 To go against what you are told is like the sin of witchcraft. Not to obey is like the sin of

worshipping false gods. You have turned away from the Word of the Lord. So He has turned away from you being king.”

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I have sinned against the Word of the Lord and your words, because I was afraid of the people and listened to them.

25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.”

26 But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have turned away from the Word of the Lord. And the Lord has turned away from you being king over Israel.”

27 As Samuel turned to go, Saul took hold of part of his clothing, and it tore.

28 So Samuel said to him, “Today the Lord has torn the rule of Israel away from you. He has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.

29 And the shining greatness of Israel will not lie or change His mind. For He is not a man that He should change His mind.”

30 Saul said, “I have sinned. But I beg you, honor me now in front of the leaders of my people and in front of Israel. Return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.”

31 So Samuel returned with Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

◊ 1st and 2nd Samuel ◊



*Adult Bible Study
in SimplifiedEnglish*

David: From Shepherd to King

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DAVID: FROM SHEPHERD TO KING

In the first half of this study, we watched Saul rise to greatness as Israel's first king. But his sinful choices made him unworthy to continue as ruler of God's people.

In the next five lessons, we learn about the man who comes after Saul. David was probably just a boy when Samuel went to Bethlehem to discover who the Lord had chosen as the next king.

But David's rise to the throne would be difficult. Saul would try to kill him many times. David's friendship with the king's son would be tested. David would have to choose whether or not to kill Saul.

In the end, David's love for God guided him to make the right choices. His highest desire was to honor and obey God. David proved he was a man who would make a good king.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 16:1-13;
21-23

Memory Verse

“For the Lord does not look at the things man looks at. A man looks at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
(1 Samuel 16:7b)

Word List

anoint: to put a small amount of oil on someone as a way of showing honor or setting apart for a holy reason

humble: not proud
impress: to act in a way that makes others have a good opinion of you

The Image and the Heart

How do we choose our leaders? How can you tell who will be a good leader? We often choose people who are handsome or beautiful. We often choose people who are famous or wealthy. We choose people who are well-known and popular to be our leaders. God does not look at these things when He chooses leaders. When God chooses leaders for His people, He looks at the person’s heart. God looks at how the person lives. God does not look at how much the person owns. He does not look at how much money the person makes. God looks for someone who is **humble**. God looks for someone who will trust Him. God wants His leaders to always obey Him. Saul forgot the obey God. God chose another person to be king. In 1 Samuel 16, we can learn to be a person God can choose to be a leader. We can learn to see other people like God sees them.

Search for a New King (1 Samuel 16:1-5)

Samuel had warned the people not to choose a king. God was to be their king. But the people had insisted. Saul was chosen as the first king. Saul failed to be a good leader. Samuel was very sad. Samuel mourned when God told him Saul would not remain as king. God came to Samuel and told him to stop mourning for Saul. Saul had disobeyed God many times. It was time for a new king.

God needed a king who would obey Him. God had already chosen a new king for Israel. God told Samuel to get ready to go and **anoint** the new king. Samuel should get his supplies

**Things to
Think About**

1. What are the most important characteristics of a good leader?
2. What are some signs that a leader has forgotten how to be a good leader?
3. How are you being a servant to others?

together. He would go to Bethlehem. The new king was one of Jesse's sons. God told Samuel that He would show Samuel which son would be the new king. Samuel did what God said. He got his supplies and went to Bethlehem. Samuel met some of the leaders of the town. They knew who Samuel was. They were afraid that Samuel had bad news for them. Samuel told them not to be afraid. He did not have bad news. He told them he had come to make sacrifices to God. He invited them to join him. They also got Jesse and his family to join them.

The Way God Chooses (16:6-7)

Jesse had many sons. The oldest one was named Eliab. He was very tall and handsome. Samuel thought that he must be the new king. He looked like he would be a good king. God told Samuel not to look at what was on the outside. He should not look at how handsome or tall someone was. God is not **impressed** with outer looks. God looks at a person's heart.

Today we think the heart is the place of our emotions. Ancient Israelites thought the heart was the place of the mind or will. The heart showed how a person lived. The heart showed what a person thought was important. If a person was good and obeyed God, their heart was pure. If a person did not obey God, their heart was hard. The heart was where a person related to God. The heart helped a person obey God.

God wanted leaders with good hearts. Outer looks were not important to God if the heart was hard. Eliab was handsome on the outside, but his heart was not pure. God had chosen someone else in Jesse's family.

Seeing People with God's Eyes (16:8-13)

Jesse then asked each of his sons to come to Samuel. Seven boys came to Samuel. They were all tall and handsome men. Each time God told Samuel that this was not the one. When they had finished, Samuel asked if there were any other sons. Jesse told him there was one more. The only other son was the youngest. He was in the field taking care of the sheep. Even Jesse had almost forgotten about him. Samuel told Jesse to bring him inside.

Samuel must have been excited. He knew the new king would be one of Jesse's sons. He had already seen all except one. This last one must be the one. The youngest son's name was David. Since he was the youngest, no one thought he would be the one. The Bible says David was also handsome. We do not know how old he was when Samuel saw him. David was probably only about ten years old. When he came inside, God told Samuel that he was the one who would be the new king.

Samuel anointed David as the new king. All of David's family watched. The Spirit of God came on David. God started preparing David to be king. Samuel then

left and went to the town of Ramah.

**The Future King Works
for the Old King (16:21-23)**

After a short time, David went to live with Saul. He worked for Saul. He became a servant to Saul. He carried Saul's armor. This meant Saul trusted David. He also played the harp and sang for Saul. This helped Saul relax. Saul liked David. He thought David did good work.

David started at the lowest level. He was a servant. No one would have thought a servant could be king. Saul did not know David had been anointed as the next king. Apparently, David's family never told anyone. This helped David learn to be humble. He learned how to be a servant to others.

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that all leaders should be servants to others (Mark 9:35). David never complained about serving Saul. Starting out as a servant would teach David how to be a great leader. God knew David would be a man who would trust Him.

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 21-23

1 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you be filled with sorrow because of Saul, since I have turned away from him being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse of Bethlehem. For I have chosen a king for Myself among his sons.”

2 But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will kill me when he hears about it.” The Lord said, “Take a young cow with you, and say, ‘I have come to give a gift to the Lord.’”

3 Ask Jesse to come when you give the gift, and I will show you what you should do. You will choose for Me the one I name to you.”

4 So Samuel did what the Lord said, and came to Bethlehem. The leaders of the city came shaking with fear to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?”

5 Samuel said, “I have come in peace to give a gift to the Lord. Make yourselves holy and come with me as I give the gift.” He set apart Jesse and his sons also, and asked them to come to the gift-giving.

6 When they had come, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, “For sure he is the Lord’s chosen one who is standing before Him.”

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at the way he looks on the outside or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. For the Lord does not look at the things man looks at. A man looks at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him

pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one.”

9 Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one.”

10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.”

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are these all the children?” And Jesse said, “There is yet the youngest one. See, he is taking care of the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him. We will not sit down until he comes here.”

12 So he sent for him and brought him in. His youngest son had good color in his skin, beautiful eyes and was good-looking. The Lord said, “Rise up and choose him. For this is the one.”

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and poured the oil on him in front of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David with strength from that day on. And Samuel got up and went to Ramah.

21 David came to Saul and served him. Saul loved him very much, and he became the man who carried Saul’s battle-clothes.

22 Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, “Let David serve me, for he has found favor in my eyes.”

23 When the bad spirit sent from God came upon Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand. And Saul would receive new strength and be well. The bad spirit would leave him.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 18:1-16

Memory Verse

“David did well in all that he did, because the Lord was with him.” (1 Samuel 18:14)

Word List

avoid: to keep away from

compare: check for likeness or difference

covenant: a promise or holy agreement

destructive: causing ruin

Dealing with Envy

We are all guilty of envy. When we were children, our friends may have had toys we wish we had. When we got older, our friends went places we wished we could go. Now we may see other people do great things that we wish we could do. We see other people who have houses or cars that we wish we could have. In each case, we are guilty of envy.

Envy is one of the most difficult sins to **avoid**. It may hit us without warning. Because it attacks us so often and so quickly, it is often called the “green-eyed monster.” The Bible tells us that envy is a sin. We should not desire the things other people have. We should not **compare** ourselves to other people. God has a special plan for each person. It is different for each person. Some will do great things which many people see. Others will do great things which no one sees. But everyone is special to God. We should desire to obey God more than anything else.

God helped David do great things for Israel. The people cheered for David. King Saul wanted the people to cheer for him. King Saul envied David. He tried to kill David. But God always protected David.

This story teaches us about envy. It shows us how dangerous envy is. We can learn to avoid envy by being humble before God and trusting His plan for our lives.

A Journey Called Friendship (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

King Saul brought David into his household as a servant. Saul had a son named Jonathan. David and Jonathan spent a lot

**Things to
Think About**

1. Why is it so easy to envy others?
2. What are some ways you can avoid envy?
3. What are some other verses which help us deal with envy?

of time together. They became the best of friends.

Jonathan may have been much younger than David. He may have looked up to David as an older brother. David had killed the giant Goliath. Jonathan may have seen David as a hero. Jonathan may have asked Saul to let David live with them. David and Jonathan made a **covenant** with each other. They promised to protect each other. They promised to always be friends. They gave each other gifts. Jonathan gave his robe, tunic, sword, bow and belt to David. This robe was special. It showed everyone that he was the son of the king. Jonathan saw David as God saw David. Jonathan knew David would be a good king. Jonathan and David loved each other as brothers.

David Enjoys Success (18:5-9)

David was a great leader in Saul's army. God helped David win many victories. David led the army to defeat Israel's enemies. All the people liked David. All the soldiers in the army liked David as their leader. Saul gave David a high rank in the army. This made the people and the soldiers happy. They knew David would be a great leader. They knew David trusted God. They knew God was helping David.

Saul also led part of the army. When he went to the battles, he went through many towns. The people came out to greet him. They cheered for Saul. They sang songs about Saul and the army. They danced and played instruments. This was the way they celebrated victories over their enemies. Saul liked to hear the crowd sing about him. The people sang about the many victories Saul had won.

But in their celebrating, they also sang about how David had won many more battles than Saul. The people saw David as a mighty warrior. They saw David as a greater leader than Saul. This made Saul angry. He was jealous of David. Saul wanted the people to see him as the greatest leader. He thought the people would make David their new king. Saul let envy take over his life.

The Results of Envy (18:10-16)

Verse 10 tells us that God sent an evil spirit to Saul. At that time, people thought God caused both good and bad things to happen. They did not believe in Satan.

God is completely holy. There is no evil in Him. Therefore, God does not cause people to do evil. The spirit which came to Saul was from Satan. This spirit led Saul to hate David.

David played his harp to comfort Saul after battles. One day, Saul threw his spear at David and tried to kill him. God protected David. Saul knew God was with David. Saul knew God was not with him. This made Saul afraid of David.

Saul knew God would always help David. In battle, David kept winning many victories. The people loved David. God was always with David. God helped him win victories. God helped him become a great leader.

Saul continued to be afraid of David. Saul continued to try to kill David. Saul did all this because he envied David.

Envy is always very dangerous and very **destructive**. Envy always hurts the person who allows it to grow in their heart.

God calls each person to a special task. God wants us to be happy with our lives. God does not want us to desire to be someone else. God does not want us to envy someone else. The Bible calls envy a sin. We need to learn how to avoid envy. We need to learn to always obey God. We can learn to be happy with all the things God gives each of us.

1 Samuel 18:1-16

1 When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan became one with the soul of David. Jonathan loved him as himself.

2 Saul took David that day, and would not let him return to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan made an agreement with David, because he loved him as himself.

4 Jonathan took off his long coat and gave it to David. He gave him his battle-clothes, his sword, his bow and his belt also.

5 David went everywhere that Saul sent him, and did well. Saul had him lead the men of war. And it was pleasing to all the people and to Saul's servants.

6 When David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, playing songs of joy on timbrels.

7 The women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

8 Then Saul became very angry. This saying did not please him. He said, "They have given David honor for ten thousands, but for me only thousands. Now what more can he

have but to be king?"

9 And Saul was jealous and did not trust David from that day on.

10 The next day a bad spirit sent from God came upon Saul with power. He acted like a crazy man in his house, while David was playing the harp. Saul had a spear in his hand,

11 and he threw the spear, thinking, "I will nail David to the wall." But David jumped out of his way twice.

12 Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had left Saul.

13 So Saul made David go away from him, and had him lead a thousand men. And David went out to the people.

14 David did well in all that he did, because the Lord was with him.

15 When Saul saw how well he did, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

1 Samuel 20:1-18;
35-42

Memory Verse

“So be kind to your servant. For you have brought me into an agreement of the Lord with you.” (1 Samuel 20:8a)

Word List

comfort: to give hope to

protect: to shield from hurt or danger

react: to respond to

Loyalty Under Fire

We all need friends. Friends help us in many ways. A friend **comforts** us when we are sad. A friend celebrates with us when something good happens. A friend listens when we want to talk. A friend will always be honest. A friend always defends us. Friends are important. It is also important to be a friend to someone else. Loyalty is important between friends. Loyalty means friends can trust and depend on each other.

David and Jonathan were friends. They made a covenant and promised to **protect** each other. They promised to be loyal to each other. Jonathan’s father, King Saul, did not like David. Saul was afraid of David and tried to kill him. This tested the loyalty between David and Jonathan. Jonathan had to make some hard decisions. Should he be loyal to his father or David?

We learn about loyalty from this story. Sometimes we have loyalties to different people or groups. We can learn to make good choices by honoring our first loyalty to God.

Jonathan: Stuck in the Middle (1 Sam. 20:1-4)

David ran away after Saul tried to kill him. Later, David went to find Jonathan. David wanted to know why Saul tried to kill him. Jonathan did not believe his father would do that. Saul had promised Jonathan that he would not hurt David (1 Samuel 19:6). But Saul lied. He had not told Jonathan about his hatred. Saul did not want Jonathan to help David escape.

David told Jonathan what happened. Saul was not following God. Saul was doing what he wanted to do. Saul did

Things to Think About

1. What are some things or people that you are loyal to?
2. How can we stay loyal to God?
3. Have you ever had to choose between two people or groups you were loyal to? How did you choose? What happened?

not want David to be the next king. He wanted Jonathan to be the next king. Jonathan could not believe what David told him. But he was loyal to David. Jonathan agreed to help his friend. David wanted to show Jonathan the truth about Saul.

David and Jonathan Test Saul (20:5-23)

The next day was a special day. It was a day of a big feast. David usually ate with Saul and Jonathan. David told Jonathan that he would not be there for the feast. When Saul asked where David was, Jonathan should say David went to Bethlehem. Jonathan should watch how Saul **reacted**. If Saul was not angry, David would be safe. This would mean Saul did not want to kill David. If Saul got angry that David was not there, David would not be safe. This would mean Saul wanted to kill David.

Jonathan promised to do as David said. He would test Saul. He promised to tell David how Saul reacted. Jonathan promised to protect David. He asked David to promise to always protect him and his family. David and Jonathan renewed their promises to each other.

David wanted to know how Jonathan would send the message to him about Saul's reactions. Jonathan told David to hide in the field the next day. After Jonathan tested Saul, he would shoot three arrows into the field. Where the arrows landed would tell David if Saul was angry.

Jonathan's Loyalty to David (20:24-42)

The next day Jonathan sat with Saul at the feast. Saul asked Jonathan where David was. Jonathan told Saul that David had gone to Bethlehem. Saul became angry. Jonathan asked Saul

why he was angry with David. Saul became angry with Jonathan. Saul threw his spear at his son. Saul told him to go and get David. Jonathan was to bring David back to Saul. This was just what David had said. Jonathan knew then that Saul wanted to kill David. Jonathan knew Saul was not obeying God.

Jonathan chose to protect David from Saul. He sent a message to David in the field. He told David to run away. He told David that Saul was angry and wanted to kill him. David came to see Jonathan. David hugged Jonathan. He thanked Jonathan for saving his life. He thanked Jonathan for being a loyal friend. David and Jonathan wept. They knew they would have to be separated. Saul would try to kill Jonathan if he helped David. Jonathan and David wanted to protect each other from Saul. They trusted each other.

Jonathan made a hard choice. He felt he should be loyal to his father. But he was also loyal to his friend, David. Jonathan had to choose one or the other.

Jonathan was also loyal to God. He knew Saul was not obeying God. He knew God did not want Saul to kill David.

Jonathan wanted to please God. Jonathan chose to be loyal to David. God blessed David and Jonathan.

Sometimes we have to make hard choices. We need to always make choices that will please God. Sometimes we are loyal to different people or groups. We need to be loyal to God also. Our loyalty to God is our most important choice.

1 Samuel 20:1-18; 35-42

1 Then David ran from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said to Jonathan, “What have I done? What is my sin? What have I done wrong to your father, that he wants to kill me?”

2 Jonathan said to him, “Far from it, you will not die. See, my father does nothing big or small without telling me about it. So why should my father hide this from me? It is not so!”

3 But David answered, “Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes. He has said, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, because it would fill him with sorrow.’ But it is true. As the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is only a step between me and death.”

4 Then Jonathan said to David, “I will do for you whatever you say.”

5 David said to Jonathan, “See, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should sit down to eat with the king. But let me go. I will hide myself in the field until the third evening.

6 If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David asked me to let him leave to run to his

city Bethlehem. It is the time for the whole family to gather there for the gift given on the altar in worship each year.’

7 If he says, ‘Good!’ your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry, then you will know that he has decided to do what is bad.

8 So be kind to your servant. For you have brought me into an agreement of the Lord with you. But if I am guilty, kill me yourself. For why should you bring me to your father?”

9 Jonathan said, “Far be it from you! If I knew that my father has decided to do something bad to you, would I not tell you about it?”

10 Then David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me if your father is angry when he answers you?”

11 Jonathan said to David, “Come, let us go out into the field.” So both of them went out into the field.

12 Jonathan said to David, “May the Lord, the God of Israel, see it. I will speak with my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day. If he feels good about David, will I not send news to you and let you know it?”

13 But if my father wants to hurt you, may the Lord do the same to Jonathan and even more, if I do not let you know and send you away, so you may be safe. May the Lord be with you as He has been with my father.

14 If I am still alive, show me the faithful love of the Lord, that I may not die.

15 Do not stop being faithful to my house forever, not even when the Lord destroys from the earth all who hate David.

16 Do not let the name of Jonathan be lost from the family of David. And may the Lord punish

those who hate you.”

17 Jonathan made David promise again, by his love for him. For he loved him as he loved his own life.

18 Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the new moon. You will be missed because your seat will be empty.”

35 In the morning Jonathan went out to the field at the time he and David agreed to meet. A little boy was with him.

36 Jonathan said to his boy, “Run, find the arrows I shoot.” As the boy was running, he shot an arrow past him.

37 The boy came to the place where Jonathan had shot the arrow. Jonathan called to the boy and said, “Is not the arrow farther away?”

38 Jonathan called to the boy, “Hurry, be quick, do not stay!” Then Jonathan’s boy picked up the arrow and came to his owner.

39 The boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew what had happened.

40 Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to his boy and told him, “Go, take them to the city.”

41 When the boy was gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground. He bowed three times. Then they kissed each other and cried together, but David more.

42 Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace. For we have promised each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord will be between me and you, and between my children and your children forever.’ ” Then David got up and left, and Jonathan went into the city.



Adult Bible Study in
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Bible Text

1 Samuel 24:1-15;
26:6-12

Memory Verse

“May the Lord keep me from putting out my hand against the Lord’s chosen one.”
(1 Samuel 26:11a)

Word List

mercy: to have pity on someone; to show kindness to someone
refuse: to choose not to accept someone or something
temporary: that which lasts only a short time
truce: an agreement to stop fighting

Controlling Our Actions in a Violent World

Life is not always easy. Sometimes other people do bad things to us. Sometimes they hurt us. When this happens we sometimes get mad. We want to hurt them. That is not what God wants us to do. God wants us to do good to each other. God wants us to love people who hurt us. God wants us to pray for them. This can be very hard to do.

Saul hated David. Saul wanted to kill him. David was hiding from Saul. David had about 600 men with him. David knew God would protect him. He also knew God did not want him to hurt Saul. God had chosen David to be the next king. But Saul was still the king. David **refused** to hurt Saul. David set a good example. David controlled his actions. We learn a lot about controlling our actions when we study this story. We can learn to do good even when people hurt us.

Mercy Is a Choice (1 Sam. 24:1-7)

Saul tried to kill David several times. David ran away each time. David tried to hide from Saul. David knew God had chosen him to be the next king. David knew God would protect him.

One time, David hid near Engedi. This was an area with rocky cliffs and caves near the Dead Sea. The area had good water and food for David and his men. Someone told Saul where David was hiding. Saul got his army and went to find David. Saul had 3,000 men in his army. David found out Saul was coming. David and his men hid in one of the caves. When Saul got to

Things to Think About

1. Why is it hard to show mercy to people who cause us pain?
2. What are some ways that we can show mercy to those people?
3. Why do you think that it is important to show mercy?

Engedi, he went into a cave to relieve himself. It was the same cave which David and his men were in. The cave was deep and dark. Saul could not see David and his men. David's men told him to go kill Saul. They said God had led Saul there so David could kill him. David did not think God wanted him to kill Saul. Saul was still the king. No one should kill the king. David went and cut a piece off of Saul's royal robe.

When someone wants to hurt us, it is hard for us to refuse to hurt them. God wants us to show **mercy** to everyone. God shows us mercy. He wants us to do the same for others. But we must choose to obey God.

A Temporary Truce (24:8-15)

When he was finished, Saul went out of the cave. He did not know what David had done. David went out of the cave to see Saul. He called Saul, "My lord the king." David still honored Saul as the king. Saul saw David coming to him. Saul must have been surprised. David came and bowed in front of Saul. David asked Saul why he wanted to hurt David. He told Saul that he did not want to hurt him. He told Saul that he could have killed Saul in the cave. He showed him the piece of his robe. Saul knew David was right. David could have killed Saul. But David refused to do that. David respected Saul as the king. David thought no one should kill the king. David told Saul that he had never done anything to hurt the king. David promised to never hurt Saul.

Saul said David was a good man for not killing an enemy. Saul prayed God would bless David. Saul declared David would be the next king. He knew David would be a good king. Then

Saul led his army back home. David stayed with his men.

This **truce** did not last long. After Saul got home, he became angry with David again. He chased after David.

David Again Refuses to Kill Saul

(26:6-12)

David again hid from Saul. Another group told Saul where David was hiding. Saul got his army and went to get David. Saul still wanted to kill David. David found out Saul was coming to find him.

Saul's army set up their camp. David saw where the camp was. He wanted to go to the camp. He took one of his men with him. The man's name was Abishai. The two of them went to Saul's camp at night. Saul's army was asleep. David and Abishai found Saul's tent. Saul was asleep on the ground. His spear was nearby. Some of Saul's men were also asleep in the tent. Abishai told David that God had led Saul there so that David could kill him. David refused. Abishai said that he would kill Saul. David told Abishai not to hurt the king. He said God would cause Saul to die. No one except God should kill Saul. David

and Abishai took Saul's spear and a jug of water from the tent. They later used these to show Saul that they could have killed him again. David wanted Saul to know that he would not harm him. David wanted Saul to stop trying to kill him. David always showed mercy to Saul.

Sometimes if we choose to show mercy, we can put an end to fighting. Sometimes the truce is only **temporary**. God does not want us to fight with others. He wants us to always love our enemies. God wants us to always show mercy to people who try to hurt us.

1 Samuel 24:1-15; 26:6-12

- 1** When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "See, David is in the desert of Engedi."
- 2** Then Saul took 3,000 chosen men from all Israel, and went to find David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.
- 3** He came to the places where the sheep were kept on the way. There was a cave there, and Saul went in to get rid of his body waste. Now David and his men were sitting farther back in the cave.
- 4** David's men said to David, "See, this is the day the Lord told you, 'See, I am about to give the one who hates you into your hand. You will do to him what you think is best.'" Then David

got up and cut off a piece of Saul's clothing in secret.

5 After this, David felt guilty in his heart because he had cut off a piece of Saul's clothing.

6 So he said to his men, "May the Lord not let me put out my hand against my leader, for he is the Lord's chosen one."

7 David stopped his men with these words. He did not let them go against Saul. So Saul stood up and left the cave, and went on his way.

8 After this David got up and went out of the cave and called to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David put his face to the ground, showing much respect.

9 David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'David wants to hurt you'?"

10 See, your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you to me today in the cave. Some told me to kill you, but I had pity on you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my leader, for he is the Lord's chosen one.'

11 Now, my father, see the piece of your clothing in my hand. I cut off the piece of your clothing but did not kill you. So know and understand that I have no desire to do wrong to you. I have not sinned against you, yet you come wanting to kill me.

12 May the Lord judge between you and me. May He punish you for your action against me. But my hand will not be against you.

13 As the men of long ago said in their wisdom, 'Out of the sinful comes sin,' but my hand will not be against you.

14 After whom has the king come out? After whom are you running? After a dead dog? After a little bug?

15 May the Lord be the One to judge between you and me. May He see and help me, and save me from you."

1 Samuel 26:6-12

6 Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Joab's brother Abishai the son of Zeruiah, "Who will go down with me to the tents of Saul?" Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

7 So David and Abishai came to the people during the night. Saul lay sleeping in the center of the tents, with his spear in the ground at his head. Abner and the people were lying around him.

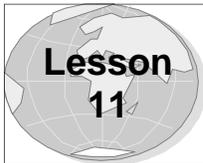
8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has given the one who hates you into your hand. Now let me nail him to the earth with the spear, hitting him just once. I will not hit him a second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him. For who can put his hand out against the Lord's chosen one and not be guilty?"

10 David said, "As the Lord lives, He will destroy him. Or his day will come to die. Or he will be killed in battle.

11 May the Lord keep me from putting out my hand against the Lord's chosen one. But take the spear that is at his head and the bottle of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the bottle of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away. But no one saw it, or knew it, and no one woke, for they were all sleeping. A deep sleep from the Lord had come upon them.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Memory Verse

“I have been with you in all the places you have gone. I have destroyed from in front of you all those who fought against you.” (2 Samuel 7:9a)

Word List

intentions: what you plan to do

mobile: capable of being moved

prophet: a man who heard directly from God and told His people what He said

security: safe from dangers

symbol: something that stands for or suggests something else

A Secure Future for God's People

We live in a world of change. We elect new leaders.

Congress passes new laws. New and improved products appear every day. We get married and have children. Changes like these sometimes make people afraid. We like things as they have been. We like to hold on to things which do not change. These things make us feel secure about the future.

The Bible teaches us that God does not change. God is the same today as He was when He created the heavens and earth. We can trust God to act the same every day. God's Word also does not change. His Word is truth, and truth cannot change. If God promises to do something, He will do it. We can trust that. We can hold on to that for our **security**.

In the Bible, God promises to always protect those who believe in Him. He promises to bless those who obey Him. God wants His people to live in security. God has a special plan for each person. Sometimes we want to do things for God that are not part of God's plan. We need to always ask God for directions. When we follow God's directions, our future is secure. We see in this study that David learned this lesson, too.

A Time for Every Purpose (7:1-3)

After Saul died, David became king of Israel. The people liked David. God was always with David. God helped David defeat all his enemies. Every time David led the army, they won a victory. After many battles, the people had peace. David had

**Things to
Think About**

1. Has God ever caused you to change your plans? What happened?
2. How does God's promise of future security affect your daily life?
3. What are some other promises God made in the Bible which we can claim today?

captured a lot of land. The Israelites settled in the new land. They built homes and lived in peace.

David also captured Jerusalem. He made Jerusalem his capital city. God continued to bless David. One day, David thought about how God had blessed him. God had given peace to the land. God had made David king. Now David lived in a big palace. But the Ark of the Covenant still had only a tent.

The Ark of the Covenant was a **symbol** of God's presence. The Israelites took the Ark with them into every battle. But there was no temple for the Ark. David thought this seemed wrong. He lived in a palace, but the symbol of God's presence lived only in a tent. David decided to build a temple for the Ark.

David wanted some advice. He asked Nathan to come to him. Nathan was a **prophet**. David asked Nathan if he should build a temple for the Ark. Nathan thought this was a good idea. This would be a great gift to God.

Many times we have good ideas. Many times we want to do something good for God. We need to remember to ask God about all of our ideas. We should pray first and let God guide us.

David Is Not the One (7:4-7)

That night, Nathan prayed. God told Nathan to tell David that he was not the person to build the temple. God had not told David to build a temple. God had not told anyone to build a temple. The Ark of God had lived in a tent for many years. This made it easy to take the Ark into battle. The tent reminded the people that God was **mobile**. God was not tied to one place. God was always with His people.

God was pleased that David wanted to do something great for God. But God had other plans. David needed to focus on something else. Israel still had enemies. David needed to keep the people safe. He needed to be ready to fight their enemies. The Ark still needed to be mobile. The Ark needed to stay in the tent. God told Nathan to tell these things to David.

God Promises Security (7:8-11)

God knew David had good **intentions**. He knew David always tried to obey Him. God reminded David that he had been a shepherd boy. God had chosen David as the next king. God reminded David that He had always protected him. He had always given David victory and success.

God now promised to make David's name great. He promised David that He would give the people peace in the land. Their enemies would no longer attack them. God would use David to give the people security. That was God's plan for David. He was God's man for bringing peace to the land. He was a great military leader. David was a man of war. But that was the

very reason why David should not build the temple for God.

A Son Will Build the Temple (7:12-17)

David had a great vision for building a temple for God. But God had other plans. A temple for God would be built in Jerusalem. But it was David's son who build God's Temple.

When God made this promise, David did not have a son yet. David would have a son, and he would become the next king! This promise made David very happy.

God also gave David a warning about his son. If his son sinned, God would punish him. He would cause an enemy to attack him. But God promised to always love David's son. God promised that He would not take the throne away from David's family. David's throne would last forever.

God always keeps His promises. He promises to protect everyone who obeys Him. He promises to give His people security. We can be sure that God will always keep His promises to us. When we obey God, He promises us a secure future.

2 Samuel 7:1-17

1 King David lived in his house. The Lord had given him rest from all those around him who hated him. At this time,

2 the king said to Nathan, the man who spoke for God, “See now, I live in a house of cedar wood. But the special box of God stays within tent curtains.”

3 Nathan said to the king, “Go and do all that is in your mind. For the Lord is with you.”

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying,

5 “Go and tell My servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says, “Are you the one who should build a house for Me to live in?’

6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought the people of Israel from Egypt to this day. But I have been moving about with a tent to live in.

7 In all the places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I say anything about this to any of the families of Israel which I told to shepherd My people? Did I say to any of them, ‘Why have you not built a house of cedar wood for Me?’

8 So now tell My servant David, ‘This is what the Lord of All says, “I took you from following the sheep in the field to be the ruler of My people Israel.

9 I have been with you in all the places you have gone. I have destroyed from in front of

you all those who fought against you. I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.

10 I will choose a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be troubled again. The sinful will not bring trouble to them any more, as they did before

11 since the day I told special people to rule My people Israel. I will give you rest from all those who hate you. And the Lord makes known to you that He will make a house for you.

12 When your days are done and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your son after you, who will be born from you. And I will build his nation.

13 He will build a house for My name, and I will build the throne of his nation to last forever.

14 I will be a Father to him and he will be a son to Me. When he sins, I will punish him with the stick of men. And I will let the sons of men hit him.

15 But My loving-kindness will not leave him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I took away from you.

16 Your house and your nation will be made sure before Me forever. Your throne will be built to last forever.” ’ ”

17 Nathan said to David all these words of this special dream.

◊ 1st and 2nd Samuel ◊



*Adult Bible Study
in Simplified English*

**David:
Trouble at Home**

Lesson 12

Momentary Delight,
Lifelong Disaster
2 Samuel 11:2-14,
12:1-14

Lesson 13

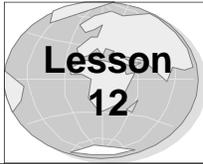
A Parent's Worst
Nightmare
2 Samuel 13:20-21,
30-33; 14:25-15:10;
18:6-15, 33

DAVID: TROUBLE AT HOME

Once David was king, he may have thought his troubles were over. But he soon brought trouble upon himself. He chose to sin against God. He sinned, then he sinned some more. David let one sin lead to another and another. Then his children began sinning against each other and against their father.

David did not act as a father should. He did not teach his children the results (or consequences) of sin. Sometimes, he did not offer forgiveness when he should have. He and his family suffered the consequences of that first sin for years to come.

David and his family are examples of how important it is to not sin against God. From David, we learn to always obey the Lord. We also learn that when we sin, our Father in heaven offers forgiveness. Also, we must offer forgiveness to those who sin against us.



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

2 Samuel 11:2-14,
12:1-14

Memory Verse

“You did it in secret.
But I will do this in
front of all Israel, and
under the sun.”
(2 Samuel 12:12)

Word List

adultery: sexual sin;
sex outside of
marriage

resist: to fight against,
to refuse, to try to
overcome or stand
firm against

tempt: to try to
persuade a person to
do something, usually
something evil, for
pleasure or gain

temptation: a thing,
an experience, or an
event which causes
someone to want to
sin

Momentary Delight, Lifelong Disaster

Our world holds many **temptations**. Temptations are things which lead us into sin. We can be **tempted** to lie, steal, or gossip. We can be tempted to do almost anything. At one time or another, everyone gives in to a temptation and sins. Many people blame the temptation for their sin. But the temptation does not make a person sin. Being tempted is not a sin. Sin happens when we give in to temptation and disobey God.

Often, one sin leads to more sins. When we are tempted, we need to pray and ask God to help us **resist** temptation. God will always give us the strength to resist. If we do not resist, God will punish us by letting us experience the results of our sin.

The story of David and Bathsheba gives a good example of how temptation happens and what happens if we do not resist.

David’s Sin (2 Sam. 11:2-14)

David sent his army to fight, but he stayed in Jerusalem. This is the first time David did not lead the army into battle. The Bible does not tell us why he stayed in Jerusalem. Maybe he was tired of fighting. Maybe he thought the army did not need him.

One night he was walking around his palace. He noticed a pretty woman taking a bath in a nearby house. David was tempted by her beauty. He wanted her. But she was married. Her father and husband were David’s friends. But David did not care. He sent his servants to bring her to him. Then David and Bathsheba sinned against God and committed **adultery**.

Things to Think About

1. In addition to reading the Bible and praying, what can we do to avoid or resist temptations?
2. If temptation promises to give us happiness, why do we try to hide our sin?
3. Think of something which tempts you. Pray now for the strength to resist this temptation in the future. Keep 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 close to your heart: "So watch yourself! The person who thinks he can stand against sin had better watch that he does not fall into sin. You have never been tempted to sin in any different way than other people. God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tempted more than you can take. But when you are tempted, He will make a way for you to keep from falling into sin."

When we are tempted, we must pray for strength to resist. Then we must get away from the temptation. David only thought about what he wanted. He failed to ask God for help in resisting temptation. He did not try to get away. He let the temptation control his heart. This led him to sin.

Later, Bathsheba found she was pregnant. After this first sin, David had two choices. He could confess his sin and ask God for forgiveness. God would have forgiven David. Or David could try and hide his sin. This is what David chose to do.

King David sent for Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to come home from battle and give a report. Then David told him to go home to Bathsheba. He wanted Uriah to sleep with Bathsheba. Uriah would think the baby was his. But Uriah refused to go home. He said he could not enjoy being with his wife while other soldiers were fighting. The next day, David made Uriah get drunk, but he still refused to go home to Bathsheba.

So David sent Uriah back to battle. David sent a message to Joab, the leader of the army. The message said to put Uriah in the worst part of the battle. Then leave him alone so he would be killed. Joab did what David said, and Uriah died.

From one temptation, David committed many sins. This all happened because David gave in to temptation. He did not ask God for help. This shows how much damage one temptation can bring. It can lead us far from God and into many sins.

God's Judgment (12:1-14)

God sent the prophet Nathan to talk to David. Nathan told David a story about a wealthy man who owned a lot of sheep.

But he stole a poor man's lamb to feed his guests. Nathan asked David what should be done. David said that the wealthy man should be punished.

Nathan surprised David by saying the story was about him! King David was the wealthy man. God had given David all he could want. But David had sinned. He had taken a poor man's wife. By David's own words, he should be punished. Nathan said God would punish David. He would face many family problems in the future.

David's own family members would fight against him. Though David committed his sin in secret, God would punish him before all the people.

David was truly sorry for what he did. He confessed his sin. Nathan told David that God had forgiven him. He wrote Psalm 51 after this time.

Many times we act like David. We think we can sin in secret. We think no one will ever know about it. But God always sees everything. We cannot hide from God. God will always punish people for their sin. Sins committed in private may have punishments that everyone sees. It all starts with a temptation. We must always be on

guard against temptation. We should ask God to help us resist temptation. Only He can give us the strength we need.

Also, if we are where God wants us to be, we will face fewer temptations. If David had been with the army, he would not have been at the palace to see Bathsheba bathing.

Strength to resist temptation comes from praying and reading the Bible every day. This is how we can learn to resist temptations when they come.

2 Samuel 11:2-14, 12:1-14

2 When evening came David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house. From the roof he saw a woman washing herself. The woman was very beautiful.

3 So David sent someone to ask about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Eliam's daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

4 David sent men and took her. When she came to him, he lay with her. After she had made herself clean again, she returned to her house.

5 She was going to have a baby, so she sent someone to tell David, "I am going to have a baby."

6 Then David sent men to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people were doing, and how the

war was going.

8 Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.” And Uriah left the king’s house, and a gift from the king was sent to him.

9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord. He did not go down to his house.

10 When they told David that Uriah did not go down to his house, David said to Uriah, “Have you not returned from traveling a long way? Why did you not go down to your house?”

11 Uriah said to David, “The special box of the Lord, and Israel and Judah, are staying in tents. My lord Joab and the servants of my lord are staying in the open field. Should I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.”

12 Then David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also. Tomorrow I will let you go.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next.

13 David called him, and he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to lie on his bed with his lord’s servants. He did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by Uriah.

12:1 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said, “There were two men in one city. One was rich and the other was poor.

2 The rich man had many flocks and cattle.

3 But the poor man had nothing except one little female lamb which he bought and fed. It grew up together with him and his children. It would eat his bread and drink from his cup and lie in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

4 Now a traveler came to the rich man. But the rich man was not willing to take from his own flock or his own cattle, to make food for the

traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the poor man’s female lamb and made it ready for the man who had come to him.”

5 David was very angry at the man, and said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, for sure the man who has done this should die.

6 And he must pay four times the worth of the lamb, because he did this thing without pity.”

7 Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord God of Israel says: ‘I chose you to be the king of Israel. I saved you from the hand of Saul.

8 I gave you Saul’s family and Saul’s wives into your care. I gave you the nations of Israel and Judah. And if this were too little, I would give you as much more.

9 Why have you hated the Word of the Lord by doing what is bad in His eyes? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife to be your wife. You have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

10 So now some from your family, even in the future, will die by the sword, because you have turned against Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

11 This is what the Lord says: ‘See, I will bring trouble against you from your own family. I will take your wives in front of your eyes and give them to your neighbor. He will lie with your wives in the light of day.

12 You did it in secret. But I will do this in front of all Israel, and under the sun.’ ”

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to him, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You will not die.

14 But by this act you have given those who hate the Lord a reason to speak against the Lord. The child that is born to you will die for sure.”



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

2 Samuel 13:20-21,
30-33;
14:25 to 15:10,
18:6-15, 33

Memory Verse

“The spirit of King David wanted very much to go out to Absalom. For he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead.” (2 Samuel 13:39)

Word List

discipline: to punish or correct

inaction: not doing anything about a problem

tragedy: a very bad event

A Parent's Worst Nightmare

Parents want to teach their children to be good people. They want to protect their children. They want to help them not make the same mistakes they made. How much should parents **discipline**? How can a parent teach the child so that he really learns and does not rebel? Being a parent can be hard work.

David was a great king. He did many great things for God and for the people. But David was not a good parent. He had many problems with his children. He did not discipline his children. David did not talk to his children about their problems. David shows us the wrong way to deal with family problems.

David's Inaction (2 Sam. 13:20-21)

David had several wives. Each wife had children by David. This created many problems and a lot of jealousy. One of David's sons was Amnon. His half-sister was beautiful Tamar. Amnon loved Tamar and wanted her. Amnon decided to trick Tamar by pretending to be sick. She brought food to Amnon's room. Then Amnon raped her.

King David was very angry with Amnon. But he did not discipline him. David did not even speak to Amnon.

Tamar's brother was Absalom. He was very angry at Amnon, too. But he was also angry at his father for doing nothing. Absalom took care of Tamar, but never forgave Amnon.

David should have punished Amnon. The family should have dealt with the problem. Instead, David's lack of action led to many more problems.

Absalom's Revenge (13:30-33)

Absalom hated Amnon. For two years, he planned how he

Things to Think About

1. What blessings or lessons did you get from your parents?
2. What blessings or lessons are you passing on to your children?
3. Do you have family relationships which need to be repaired? What can you do to help?
4. What things should David have done to avoid these problems?

would kill Amnon. One day, Absalom invited all of David's sons to a feast. Amnon got drunk. Absalom killed Amnon at the feast. The rest of David's sons got scared and ran away.

Someone told David that Absalom had killed all of his sons. David was very sad. Then David's nephew told him only Amnon was dead. Then all of David's sons came and wept for Amnon. Absalom knew David would be mad. He ran away to the land of Geshur for three years. Here again, David does nothing. He does not send a message to Absalom. He does not invite him to come home. David's **inaction** led to bigger problems.

David Calls for Absalom (14:25 to 15:10)

Joab was David's friend. He knew David missed Absalom. He knew David was very upset with Absalom. Joab told a wise woman from Tekoa to talk to David. She told him why he should bring Absalom home. So David sent a message to Absalom. He told Absalom to come to Jerusalem.

Absalom moved to Jerusalem. Yet David still did not speak to Absalom. He did not want to see Absalom. Absalom lived there for two years. He wanted to go back to Geshur. He sent a message to David and asked why he had to stay in Jerusalem. If David did not want to see him, he wanted to go back to Geshur. David invited Absalom to come to him. They met, but David did not speak to him. He did not forgive his son.

Absalom was a very handsome man. Many people liked Absalom more than David. Absalom built an army. He told people he would be a better king than David. One day, Absalom went to Hebron. The people there made Absalom their king.

When David heard this, he was afraid. So David and his men ran away from Jerusalem. They knew Absalom wanted to fight them. They knew Absalom wanted to be king. Later,

Absalom led his army to Jerusalem. He declared himself the king. But God had not chosen Absalom.

Absalom knew he still had to fight against David. Once again, David had failed to be a good father. He was running away from his own son. He did not talk to Absalom. This led to still more problems.

A Family Tragedy (18:6-15, 33)

Absalom kept chasing David. Their armies met and fought. God was with David and his army won. Absalom had to run away from the fight. David told Joab that no one should hurt Absalom. David still cared about Absalom. Joab thought Absalom should die. He thought the people would continue to rebel against David if Absalom was alive.

Joab found Absalom hanging in a tree. His long hair was stuck in the branches. Joab killed Absalom. David's army cheered when they heard Absalom was dead. But David was very sad. He wept for his son. Joab was mad at David and told him to stop weeping. David needed to be the king. He needed to lead the people. He should not weep for an enemy.

David's poor decisions as a father had led his family to **tragedy**.

2 Samuel 13:20-21, 30-33; 14:25 to 15:10; 18:6-15, 33

2 Samuel 13:20 Absalom her brother said to her, "Has your brother Amnon been with you? Be quiet now, my sister. He is your brother. Do not take this to heart." So Tamar stayed in her brother Absalom's house, sad and alone.

21 When King David heard about all this, he was very angry.

30 While they were on their way, the news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons. Not one of them is left."

31 The king got up and tore his clothes, and lay on the ground. And all his servants standing beside him tore their clothes.

32 But Jonadab, the son of David's brother Shimeah, said, "Do not let my lord think they have killed all the young men, the king's sons. Only Amnon is dead. Absalom has wanted to kill him since the day he put his sister Tamar to shame.

33 So do not let my lord the king take this to heart and think that all the king's sons are dead, for only Amnon is dead."

2 Samuel 14:25 Now there was no one in Israel as good looking and as much praised as Absalom. There was nothing wrong with him from the bottom of his foot to the top of his head.

26 At the end of every year he would cut the hair from his head, for it was heavy on him. When he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head. It weighed as much as 200 pieces of silver, by the king's weight.

27 Three sons were born to Absalom, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a beautiful woman.

28 Absalom lived two whole years in Jerusalem, and did not see the king's face.

29 Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king. But Joab would not come to him. So he sent for him a second time. But he would not come.

30 He said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants burned the field.

31 Then Joab got up and came to Absalom at his house, and said to him, “Why have your servants burned my field?”

32 Absalom answered Joab, “I sent for you, saying, ‘Come here, that I may send you to say to the king, “Why have I come from Geshur? It would have been better for me to stay there.”’ Now let me see the king’s face. If there is guilt in me, let him put me to death.”

33 Then Joab went to the king and told him. And he called for Absalom. So he came to the king and put his face to the ground in front of him. And the king kissed Absalom.

2 Samuel 15:1 After this, Absalom got a warwagon and horses, and fifty men to run in front of him.

2 He used to get up early and stand beside the way to the gate. When any man had a problem to be decided upon by the king, Absalom would call to him and say, “What city are you from?” And he would answer, “Your servant is from one of the families of Israel.”

3 Then Absalom would say to him, “Your side of the problem is good and right. But there is no man to listen to you for the king.”

4 And Absalom would say, “If only I were chosen to be the one to be judge in the land! Then every man who has a problem could come to me. And I would do for him what is right and fair.”

5 When a man came near to put his face to the ground in front of him, Absalom would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him.

6 He acted this way toward all those of Israel who came with a problem for the king to judge. So Absalom became friends with the men of Israel.

7 At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, “I ask you, let me go to Hebron and keep my promise that I have promised to the Lord.

8 For your servant made a promise while I was living at Geshur in Syria, saying, ‘If the Lord will bring me again to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.’ ”

9 And the king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he got up and went to Hebron.

10 But Absalom sent men to go in secret

through all the families of Israel. He said to them, “As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, then say, ‘Absalom is king at Hebron.’ ”

2 Samuel 18:6 Then the people went out into the field to fight against Israel. The battle was fought among the trees of Ephraim.

7 The people of Israel lost the fight there to the servants of David. Twenty thousand men were killed there that day.

8 The battle was spread over the whole country. Dangers from the trees destroyed more people that day than the sword.

9 Absalom met the servants of David. He was going on his horse, and the horse went under the many branches of a large oak tree.

Absalom’s hair caught in the branches of the oak. He was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the horse under him kept going.

10 When a certain man saw it, he told Joab, “I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.”

11 Joab said to the man, “You saw him! Why did you not kill him and let him fall to the ground? I would have given you ten pieces of silver and a belt.”

12 The man said to Joab, “Even for a thousand pieces of silver in my hand, I would not go against the king’s son. For we heard the king tell you and Abishai and Ittai, ‘Keep the young man Absalom safe for me.’

13 If I had gone against his life, there is nothing hidden from the king. And you would not have helped me.”

14 Then Joab said, “I will not waste time here with you.” He took three spears in his hand and threw them through Absalom’s heart while he was still alive in the oak.

15 And ten young men who carried Joab’s battle clothes gathered around and hit Absalom and killed him.

33 The king filled with much sorrow. He went up to the room above the gate and cried. As he walked he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”



Adult Bible Study in
Simplified English

Bible Text

Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

Memory Verse

“He is not here. He is risen. Do you not remember what He said to you when He was yet in Galilee?”
(Luke 24:6)

Word List

amazed: filled with wonder

message: news, information

recognize: to know previously

Believing on the Resurrected Jesus

Easter is the heart of the Christian message. The miracle that happened on Easter is the why we have hope. Jesus was raised from the dead! Many people today may not believe this happened. How could anyone overcome death? But the Bible tells us Jesus did.

The Bible also tells us that many people saw Jesus after He was resurrected. Jesus went to His followers. He wanted them to see Him. He wanted them to know He was alive. He wanted them to tell others that He was alive.

Luke tells us their stories. The resurrected Jesus met with people. He talked to them. He even ate with them. These stories help us believe today. They help us know Jesus did rise from the dead. This is the Good News of Easter. Christians worship a Savior Who is alive!

His Tomb Was Empty (Luke 24:1-12)

Jesus’ followers watched Him die on Friday. They saw where He was buried. They did not have time to prepare His body for burial. So they took the spices to His tomb on Sunday morning. Early Sunday morning, the group of women went to His tomb. They brought the things needed to finish Jesus’ burial.

When they got to the tomb, they saw it was open. The large stone was moved from the doorway. When they went in, they could not find Jesus’ body. They were very confused. They

**Things to
Think About**

1. What is your story about Jesus? Have you shared it recently? What happened?
2. Whose story or witness most helped you first believe?
3. How does your belief affect your daily life?

did not know what had happened.

Suddenly, two angels appeared. They told the women that Jesus was not there. They told them He had arisen. He was alive! They reminded the women of what Jesus had said. Jesus had told His followers that He would die. He also told them that He would arise from the dead. The women remembered Jesus' promises.

They left the tomb and went to find the apostles. They found them and told them what they had seen. The apostles could not believe the news. They were still sad about Jesus' death. They could not believe someone could rise from the dead. Peter went to the tomb. He wanted to see with his own eyes. He went in the tomb. He did not see anybody. Peter was amazed. He still did not know what had happened.

A Meeting on a Road (24:13-35)

When Jesus dies, His disciples were very sad. Many thought everything was over. They decided to go back to their homes. Two of them were walking on the road that went to Emmaus. They were talking about all that had happened. Jesus met them and walked with them. They were so sad that they did not recognize Him. Jesus asked them what they were talking about. They told Him all that had happened.

Jesus began to talk with them. He began to explain the Scriptures to them. They still did not know it was Jesus. When they came to the town, they asked Jesus to stay with them. They all went into a house to eat. Jesus took the bread and blessed it. He thanked God for it and gave it to the men. Then they knew this was Jesus. They were amazed. Jesus left them. They went

back to Jerusalem. The other disciples must be told! They told everyone that Jesus was alive.

The Apostles Meet the Risen Jesus (24:36-43)

The apostles had heard two stories about Jesus. The women who had gone to the tomb told them He was alive. But the women had not seen Jesus. Now two more followers told them Jesus was alive. They had seen Him. But the apostles were still unsure. They wanted to see Jesus with their own eyes.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared to them. The apostles were afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Then Jesus spoke to them. He told them not to be afraid. He told them they should believe. He showed them His hands and feet. They could see where the nails had been. Jesus told them to touch Him. A ghost does not have flesh. They could feel that He was a real person.

It was still hard for them to believe. They were very happy, but they were also still unsure. Jesus asked them for something to eat. Jesus wanted them to believe. He wanted to take away their doubts. They

gave Him some fish. Jesus ate it. Then Jesus began to teach them. He reminded them of what He had said before He died. He had told them that He must die. He had told them that He would rise again. As He taught them, they believed.

After this, Jesus returned to heaven. He left the disciples with a mission. They must spread the news of His resurrection. They did spread the message. This small group of disciples started the Christian church. Many of them were killed because of their preaching. But that did not stop the others. These disciples were determined to spread the message. It was a message they really believed. They had seen Jesus!

We can read their stories in the Bible. Their stories help us believe Jesus is alive.

That is what Easter is about. Jesus arose from the dead! Jesus now offers us eternal life. We only have to believe His message. When we do believe, He lives in us. He gives us eternal life. He calls us to also spread the message. God wants everyone to believe. When we let Jesus change our lives, we have a story to tell. Our stories can help other people believe.

Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

1 Early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the grave taking the spices they had made ready.

2 They found the stone had been pushed away from the grave.

3 They went in but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they wondered about what had happened, they saw two men standing by them in shining clothes.

5 They were very much afraid and got down with their faces to the ground. The men said to them, “Why do you look for the living One among those who are dead?

6 He is not here. He is risen. Do you not remember what He said to you when He was yet in Galilee?

7 He said, ‘The Son of Man must be given over into the hands of sinful men. He must be nailed to a cross. He will rise again three days later.’ ”

8 They remembered what He had said.

9 When they came back from the grave, they told all these things to the eleven followers and to all the others.

10 They were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James. Other women who were with them told these things to the followers also.

11 Their words sounded like foolish talk. The followers did not believe them.

12 But Peter got up and ran to the grave. He got down to look in and saw only the linen clothes. Then he went away, surprised about what had happened.

36 As they talked, Jesus Himself stood among them. He said, “May you have peace.”

37 But they were afraid and full of fear. They thought they saw a spirit.

38 Jesus said to them, “Why are you afraid? Why do you have doubts in your hearts?

39 Look at My hands and My feet. See! It is I, Myself! Touch Me and see for yourself. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as I have.”

40 When Jesus had said this, He showed them His hands and feet.

41 They still wondered. It was hard for them to believe it and yet it made them happy. Then He said to them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

42 They gave Jesus a piece of fish that had been cooked and some honey.

43 He took it and ate it in front of them.